



CONSERVATION: RETHINKING OUR PLANET

MEETINGS
NOW
START
AT 2:30

If you show up
at 3:00 when
we used to start,
we'll probably
just talk about
you behind your
back.

Next Meeting:
September 3
Charles Hess

Throughout the world various environmental organizations are doing work that is both admirable and heroic. They are all attempting to protect plant and animal species by preserving critically endangered habits. But are these efforts enough? What are the challenges we have yet to overcome?

Charles Hess has been raising orchids since the 1980's after discovering the beauty of the many Philippine orchid species during a five-year work assignment with Texas Instruments in Baguio City, Luzon. After retiring from TI in 1999, he pursued his artistic interests through the drawing of orchids from his imported collection.

He has produced over 50 watercolors of favorite orchids in his collection. To

capture the essence of an orchid in a painting requires the artist examine the subject very closely, from all angles, and for extended periods. This process led to an even deeper appreciation of the breathtaking beauty and seemingly endless variety to be found in the orchid world. In addition, completing Master Naturalist training led to an understanding of the fragile state of many environments where orchids are naturally found. For this reason, all his efforts today are devoted to conservation by raising funds through sales of his



limited edition orchid prints. All proceeds go to support Rainforest Trust, Orchid Conservation Alliance, and the North American Orchid Conservation Center at the Smithsonian.

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MINUTES

Kathi McKenzie

The meeting was called to order at 2:45. We had 37 in attendance, including several guests.

David Gould asked about interest in participating in a fall greenhouse tour. There was interest, and he will pursue that.

Our speaker, Emily Quinn, gave a great presentation on Summer Blooming Orchids. We also recognized our Silver Anniversary members, 6 of whom were in attendance. Nancy announced our show table winners prior to our adjournment at 4:25.

GREEN HOUSE TOUR?



There is going to be another greenhouse tour on October 15th. But first we need to know who wants to open their greenhouses for us to visit.

We did this last spring and everyone had a great time and saw lots of beautiful orchids and the places they were grown.

Ideally we would like 4 or 5 people who want

to show their greenhouse or their growing area be it a backyard or sun porch.

This is an extra activity and is not in place of our regular meeting.

It would be from 1 to 5 on October 15.

Let me know if you want to show everyone where you grow yours.

dave gould

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

August 6, 2017, Plant Table Results

Judges: Charlie Hess & Tim Carr

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (19 entries)

Blue – Blc. Chinese Bronze – Karl Varian
Red – C. Bactia 'Grape Wax' – Judy Cook
White – B. Little Stars – Judy Cook

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(9 entries)
Blue – Catesetum Peloatium
– George Bogard
Red – Den. Samarai – Karl Varian
White – Angraecum didieri – Vinh Du

ONCIDIUMS (10 entries)

Blue – Vuyl. Melissa Briannei 'Dark'
– Linda Horton
Red – Brsdm. Golden Gamine
– Don Brigham
White – Miltonia Sunset
– Ashley Nguyen

PAPHS & PHRAGS (1 entry)

Blue – Paph. Honey – Linda Horton

VANDAS & PHALS (11 entries)

Blue – Ascda. Motes Burning Sands
– Tham Johnson
Red – Rhv. Joan Dotter – Judy Cook
White – Christensonia vietnamica
– Tham Johnson

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Encyclia elongata – Judy Cook
Eria fragrans – Judy Cook
Phal. speciosa – Linda Horton

PEOPLES CHOICE

Catesetum Peloatium – George Bogard

50 total plant entries – another beautiful month!

ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling



Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. I get asked all the time:

“Why Won’t My Orchid Rebloom!”

We will meet in the greenhouse at 2:00 for 30 minutes so we can discuss that and also get all questions answered in time for the meeting at 2:30.

Nancy Cropp

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center Aug. 12, 2017

Three plants entered for consideration,
one award given:

Phal. (provisional) 'Pylo'

(Yin's Bellina Kaiulani
x LD's Bear Queen)

HCC 75 points,

owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Peter Lin,
Southlake

(will probably be registered as
Memoria Olie Garrison)





ARE WE FULLY AWAKE YET?

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess

We love our coffee in the mornings. For many of us it is what gets us going which attests to the common response when asked for something that requires mental activity: “I haven’t had my coffee yet”. So, you can imagine the extra jolt I got from the following Conservation International (CI)

headline.

“Future Demand and Climate Change Could Make Coffee a Driver of Deforestation”.

The article is a summary of their 2016 study on the coffee supply for the 21st century. I almost spilled my now guilt-filled cup of obviously “You-Just-Destroyed-The-Rainforest” brand coffee when I opened the link Trudy forwarded to me one morning. “I think you will want to read this one” she said as we both now looked a bit differently at the cups in our hands.

You may be feeling the urge to stop reading now. But please don’t do that. We promise not to ask that you cut back on, or stop drinking, coffee to save the rainforests. A year ago we might have considered such an idea. But it has become vividly clear that if we are to protect the tropical habitats for orchid species, we all need to wake up to the factors impeding our efforts.

Factor #1: Greenwashing

We all know what “whitewashing” means, right? Greenwashing works exactly the same way, except its purpose is related to ecology. It can lead us to believe a certain product is “eco-friendly”. But more insidious than that, it can

cause us to lose focus of the bigger picture – the forces which absolutely guarantee deforestation and habitat destruction. More on the bigger picture in a moment

The publisher of the above article on coffee, Conservation International (CI), is a well-respected U.S. based environmental advocate. In the course of a 15-year long relationship CI and Starbucks together have developed a program called *Coffee And Farmers Equity*, or simply C.A.F.E. On the surface, this is an outstanding program and one that CI and Starbucks are very proud of, as they should be. Equitable treatment of workers in the coffee industry, as well as all other industries, is important.

Seeing the name of this program, C.A.F.E., we would assume that the goal of CI and Starbucks program is to protect the environment, specifically the vanishing rainforests where coffee is grown. Here is where green-washing comes into the picture. In reality, the only goal of the C.A.F.E. program is to make the coffee supply sustainable. Sustainability is supposedly achieved, at least in part, by strategic social programs and by supplying millions of coffee tree seedlings to coffee farmers, committing them to their role as more productive sources in Starbucks’



supply line for the future. Any company in our economic system today would have to protect their supply line, and these programs do just that in a manner which appears to be altruistic.

Greenwashing does not necessarily equate to dishonesty. Starbucks is a popular, reputable company, which doesn't need to make any verifiably false statements or violate any laws. They haven't done that, they wouldn't do it, and they don't have to. All they need to do is advertise or print on their bags "99% equitably sourced coffee", with CI endorsement. We, John Q. Public instinctively know they are the "good guys". We are expected to believe that Starbucks is no threat to our environment because it tells us so, right there on the bag.

Factor #2: Messaging

Harder to discern than greenwashing is the concept of "messaging". The frightening title of the CI article immediately gives us a misleading message. We are led to believe that the effects of "future demand" and "climate change" carry equal weight in the coffee industry's having to encroach on our protected orchid habitats in Cen-

tral America, the Andes, and Asia. True, it is important to properly understand both future demand and climate change, and it looks like the CI study is right on the case. Indeed, in their study report itself, both factors are examined closely and the impact of each is well covered.

However, the introductory message of the CI article about their study quickly makes sure the attention is placed on Climate Change:

The title (of the study), "Coffee in the Twenty First Century: Will Climate Change and Increased Demand Lead to New Deforestation," examines dimensions of future supply and demand for coffee in the context of how climate change might impact geography of coffee production. It concludes, climate change could trigger a new round of deforestation if coffee producers are unable to increase productivity on existing coffee farms.

In the event that the coffee industry happens to ever come under fire for encroaching on areas of high species concentration and protected orchid habitats, for example, the Dracula Reserve in Ecuador, or anywhere else, we are meant to understand that

climate change is to blame. This is an example of effective use of "messaging". By keeping the focus on climate change (rather than on all the advertising that drives up demand), the coffee industry insulates itself from public criticism, because climate change is a factor over which the industry has no control.

What this introductory paragraph quoted above fails to say is that "in the context of demand", the study shows that increasing demand has a greater impact on the ability to keep up a "sustainable" supply than does climate change. In fact, the demand projections overshadow the effects of climate change by orders of magnitude. And the report itself even minimized the effect of climate change. Yet the very carefully crafted opening statement of the article has already planted into the mind of the reader that in the end climate change will receive the blame for the deforestation that will inevitably occur.

It is important to note that the CI study (Walmart funded, by the way) did not mention any company names. But it just so happens that Starbucks is the world's largest customer for coffee growers, both for cool-growing Arabica beans as



well as for warmer-growing Robusta varieties in all 70 countries which produce coffee.

It is interesting to note that the demand graphs in the CI study show that the major demand increase for coffee exactly mirrors the Starbucks' growth strategy of converting tea consumers in Asia and around the world to become coffee drinkers. Furthermore, the study reveals that major new customer markets grow fastest in countries where new coffee production is occurring. According to the charts, the major growth in demand will be coming from countries which are currently low consumers of coffee. This appears to link to the joint effort of CI and Starbucks to expand C.A.F.E

programs alluded to by Peter Seligmann, founder and CEO of Conservation International, when he states "...but we need to keep pushing these techniques to global scale". Global implies, of course, expanding into new markets.

The global conundrum we face is that we have an economic system that requires continued growth on a planet with finite resources. The signs are all around us that our current way of doing things is not sustainable. Before very long we will hit the inevitable wall. Unless we seriously commit to big changes both humans and all of nature are in grave peril.

Or, we could simply roll over and go back to sleep. The choice is ours.

Read the full report here:
conservation.org/coffeereport

Read the CI article here:
<http://www.conservation.org/NewsRoom/pressreleases/Pages/Future-Demand-and-Climate-Change-Could-Make-Coffee-a-Driver-of-Deforestation-.aspx>

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

by
Courtney Hackney

A monthly growers
advice column by
Courtney Hackney.
Hackneau@comcast.
net

This column was written in humid coastal North Carolina and Florida, and the advice given should be adjusted to our climate.

GROWING ORCHIDS UNDER HIGH HUMIDITY CONDITIONS.

Most of us have noticed the change in humidity that comes with summertime heat. What is significant to your orchids outside or in a greenhouse is that your plants lose less water each day than they did when the humidity and temperature were lower. Most plants open their cells to the outside through microscopic structures (stomates) on the underside of leaves that both cool and allow gas exchange. When the outside humidity is much lower than the 100% humidity inside the leaf, a leaf can lose more water than it can get. This causes stress and may cause stomates to close, thus limiting growth and causing the leaf to overheat. Thus, your orchids may not require as much water as they did in April and May.

High humidity also provides ideal conditions for both fungal and bacterial rots. Higher humidity means that plants do not dry as quickly. Reducing watering, coupled with increased air movement will minimize rot problems. If you have a small number of plants check for water in the crowns of *Phalaenopsis* and for water in



© AOS

developing leaves of *Cattleyas*. Remove any water that is still on plants at the end of the day by either dumping it out or blotting with a paper towel.

Growing inside is also affected by increased humidity because air conditioners run more. Besides cooling the air in your home, these systems also remove water from the air. Thus, plants inside may need increased water and you may need to increase the humidity around your indoor orchids with

trays of water, ferns placed alongside, or by some other means.

Several hobbyists have asked if they could use the water that runs from an air conditioning compressor to water orchids. This is the water removed from the air in your house and is essentially the same quality as rainwater.

High heat and humidity provides the ideal conditions for one of the most frustrating pests: slugs. These shell-less snails seem to ap-

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

pear out of nowhere just before the buds you have watched for the last 3 weeks open leaving just a little nub. Slugs are hard to keep out of the greenhouse and even harder to get rid of outside. They are amazingly quick and will disappear in a minute or two after you turn on the lights. You may not notice them during most of the year as they contentedly consume dead leaves and algae at night. Even if they consume a few new roots you are not likely to spot them. In the summer's heat and humidity they can move six or feet or more in a matter of minutes, finding your most prized and carefully tended buds.

My strategy is to look for slugs before they do any damage. On warm rainy nights I check the inside walls of the greenhouse. Often I know where to look because I see their slime trails in the early morning before I water. Typically there will be one or two that are relocated far from the greenhouse. They are not poisonous, only slimy. My daughter kept one as a pet for a couple of weeks. They are interesting beasts as long as they are not in the greenhouse. Shallow plates containing stale beer (any brand) will also attract slugs that can then be removed. This may or may not be toxic to slugs unless they drown. They generally



refuse to leave the beer on their own.

Just to be sure my prize buds do not become snacks for slugs I use small quantities of a product called Deadline. I put a few drops of this black gooey liquid at the base of

the pot or on the bench nearby. This is more attractive than buds and kills slugs quickly. Rarely do I find dead slugs as the removal techniques listed above seem to be very effective at humanely removing them. Those small bush snails, however, are another problem not as easily managed. They tend to be attracted to moist media such as Sphagnum and do their damage on new growths and new roots. Each one by itself is not a serious problem, but there may

be a dozen or more in an individual pot. There are several bait products available that work well, but the limited mobility of these small creatures and the number of very tiny juveniles that are always present makes it impossible to eliminate them without covering the surface of every pot and surface with bait.

As with all pest control products, be sure you follow the application recommendations. This is especially important if you have pets with access to your growing area. Many of these products are tasty to your pets and can injure or kill them. Even products now deemed non-toxic may be found to have some toxicity someday. Use pesticides only when you have no other choice. Try other methods first. Be sure that you have a problem and have identified the pest. Consult local experts or your county extension agent.



SOCIETY HISTORY

The history of the GNTOS goes way back. In the mid-40s there were only three orchid growers in town: Eli Sanger of Sanger Brothers, which was Dallas' biggest department store at that time; Roy Munger, known for Munger Place and Munger Street, and Percy Larkin.

Margie Corn, a garden columnist, was the source of any orchid information they could find and she gave their names to a woman running Hardy's Seed Company, Mrs. Moses. They gathered at her house one day in 1946 and it was Mr. & Mrs. Polhemus, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Carter, Homer Baldwin, Percy Larkin and a young man from Waxahachie named Costalanus. They decided they would apply for AOS membership and started receiving the Bulletin and meeting monthly. More and more people started to show up and they elected Percy Larkin, Jr. their first president in 1947. This was the North Texas Orchid Society.

They held their first show in 1950 at the Marsh Kaiser Fraiser automobile agency on Ross Avenue. Jack Morris was president of the society and Homer Baldwin sent out invitations to everyone who grew orchids in Dallas. Invitations also went to the big orchid firms who would send representatives from around the country to the show. They had everyone sign a book that came to that show.

There was an incident

that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the Dallas Orchid Society. Percy Larkin was one of the members who left to form the Dallas Orchid Society. This society was never sanctioned by the AOS.

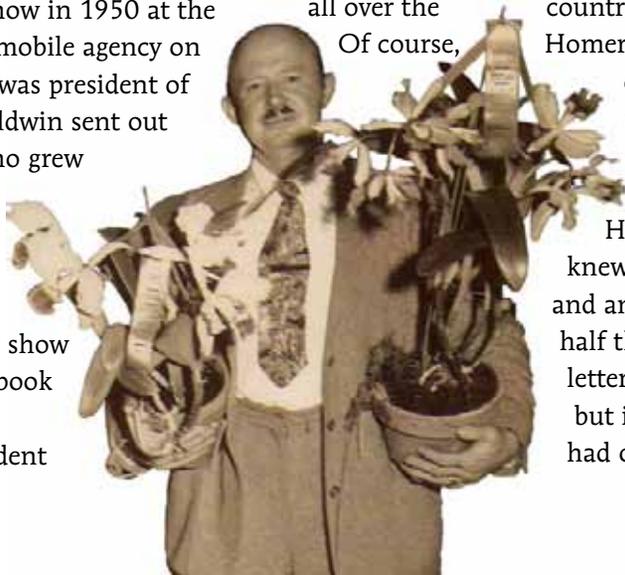
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

Later, they decided to become affiliated with the American Orchid Society so they wrote a Constitution and Bylaws for the society. On March 19, 1954, they were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society.

They put on a show in the Dallas Garden Center but there weren't enough plants in the area so the bulk of the show was made up of boxes of blooms sent to them for free from commercial growers. They'd get five, six, or seven boxes of flowers from different growers from all over the country - even overseas.

Of course, Homer had mailed cards to everyone who had an ad in the Bulletin to achieve this.

Fortunately for Homer, Lena Baldwin knew how to type and she and another woman spent half the night writing letters on two typewriters but it worked and they had orchids for the show.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

GNTOS membership dues are paid yearly by January 31, in order for you to be listed in the published Yearbook.

- \$30.00 - New or Renewing Member (individual)
- \$15.00 - Additional Member (each additional person in same household)

Please mail completed form with payment to:

Kathy Halverson
1922 Baylor Drive
Richardson, TX 75081

Make check payable to GNTOS.

New Member Renewing Member

Name (#1): _____

Name (#2): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (#1): _____

E-mail (#2): _____