

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

NOV

Next Meeting:
November, 5
David Gould

MEETINGS
NOW
START
AT 2:30

As a graphic designer and art director I often hired photographers to shoot various products for my clients. This meant I spent a lot of time in photography studios watching how they did what they did. And I soaked up a lot.

Now I apply what I learned when I volunteer for the Dallas Orchid Judging Center, photographing orchids. I also photograph all of my plants as they come into bloom.

I like to teach people some of the techniques and tricks they can use to photograph their plants without spending a lot of money. No fancy studio or equipment is necessary. It's easy if you just know how. I'll show you.

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ORCHIDS



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Judy Cook

The October meeting once again had an incredible show and tell table. It was great to have several guests as well. Due to technical issues, yours truly wound up spending some time doing a little Orchids 101 teaching, which was fun. Once the show was up and running, Jim Williams gave us a wonderful presentation on Cymbidiums, mainly the miniatures which are summer bloomers and will oblige us by growing here in the heat of the metroplex.

I have a request of all our members ... When someone is speaking, whether myself, a speaker, a guest, or whoever, please give them the respect of listening, not 'whispering' to other society members. That talking is always much louder to those around you than it seems to you, and interferes with the listening experience for other members. If you have something more important to say that involves the society, raise your hand. If you just want to chat instead of hearing the lecture, step outside where you won't disrupt others and have your conversation there. It will make life easier for everyone.

Manny Aybar was at the meeting and discussed the progress of planning for the Orchid Show on the second Friday and Saturday in March. He has most of his team leaders lined up, so it is time for you, as members, to think about the ways in which you wish to participate – and there are many ways you can do that. Also give thought to whether you want to donate funds for one of the trophies, and to be recognized for that. Closer to the show Kathy will be asking us all to make donations toward the expenses of things like food for the judges and vendors, which has to be purchased and brought in. It has proven to be much more coordinated, simple and effective to do that than to assign various products to various members and hope they all remember what they promised to do in the midst of all the other tasks and excitement of the show.

Manny also has the website back up and running so you should be able to go to gntos.org for information. If you run into any problems, let me know.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting.

Judy

MINUTES

Kathi McKenzie

The meeting was called to order at 2:44. We had 35 in attendance, including four guests.

David Gould reminded us of the upcoming greenhouse tour. Manny announced that the revised GNTOS website is up and running. A nominating committee was appointed for next years officers.

The 2018 GNTOS Orchid Show has been approved by AOS and will be March 9-10th at the Richardson Civic Center.

Our speaker, Jim Williams, gave a very informative presentation on growing cymbidiums, stressing those that will grow in warmer climates.

Nancy announced our show table winners prior to our adjournment at 4:40.

GREEN HOUSE TOUR

We had beautiful weather for the greenhouse tour and it looked like a lot of folks had a nice time visiting and seeing lots of beautiful orchids. And wine.



Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg's Greenhouse



Karl and Carol Varian's Greenhouse

Manuel Aybar's Greenhouse and wine bar



Charles & Trudy Hess's Greenhouse



Forest Shipp's Greenhouse

George Bogard's Greenhouse



PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Oct. 1, 2017

Judges: Barb McNamee, Tim Carr & Jim Diffily

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (23 entries)

Blue – Blc. Lake Murray 'Mendenhall'

– Karl Varian

Red – Lc. Green Veil 'Dressy'

– Gerry Darver

White – C. bowringiana coerulea

– Judy Cook

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS (17 entries)

Blue – unknown – Wendy Wang

Red – Den. unknown – Gerry Darver

White – Zygonisia Cynasure 'Blue Birds'

– Linda Horton

ONCIDIUMS (5 entries)

Blue – Oncda. Volcano Midnight

'Volcano Queen' – May Lorfing

Red – Onc. Sheri Baby – Kathy Halverson

White – Psychopsis Mendenhall

– Kathy Halverson

PAPHS & PHRAGS (7 entries)

Blue – Paph. Maudaii Tri-Color

– George Bogard

Red – Paph. Prinulum – Linda Horton

White – Phrag. Sedenii – Linda Horton

VANDAS & PHALS (6 entries)

Blue – Phal. violacea – Sarah Hardesty

Red – Phal. Zia Ho Summer Love

'Little Pixie' – Sarah Hardesty

White – purple vanda – George Bogard

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

C. bowringiana coerulea – Judy Cook

Habenaria rhodochila – Linda Horton

Phal. violacea – Sarah Hardesty

PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Lake Murray 'Mendenhall'

– Karl Varian

58 plants! Wow! Sorry I missed this, and

THANK YOU Barb for covering for me.

ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie

& Lorna Kissling



Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. Our topic this time:

“Q&A”

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 Oct. 14, 2017

13 plants entered for consideration,
one award given:

Phrag. Les Varines 'Dusty Delight'

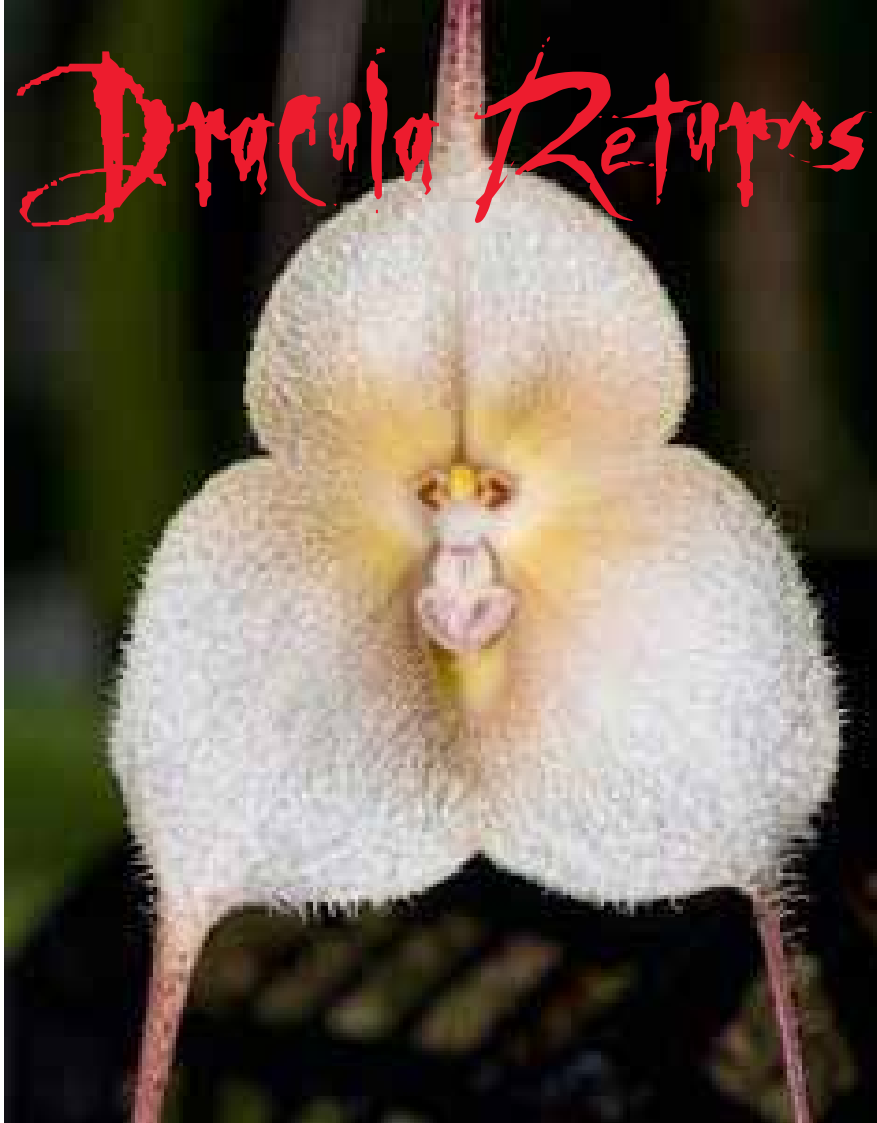
(kovachii x sargentianum)

HCC 75 points

Owner: George Bogard, Rockwall



Dracula Returns



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

Okay, I know it is our favorite fall season tradition and we just can't resist getting into the spirit. Halloween is right around the corner, so it's entirely appropriate to warn you that Dracula's bite just keeps getting bigger.

That "bite" mentioned above refers to an additional 1,475 acres added to the recently created Dracula

Reserve in Ecuador. As with this original reserve, our friends at the Orchid Conservation Alliance are teaming up with Rainforest Trust, another familiar champion on conservation, and helping Fundacion EcoMingo increase its orchid protection in a highly diverse ecosystem. Our member societies in the South West Regional Orchid Growers Association (SWROGA) will proudly be doing our part to support this half million-dollar expansion in the coming months.

When we first joined in on the funding (2016) of the original Dracula Reserve, we did it because our support would ensure the survival of many Dracula species found only in that part of the world. The area known as the Choco Cloud Forest is rich in biodiversity, and contains species of Dracula orchids found nowhere else. The Dracula Reserve got its name because these rare orchids are the central focus of the original project.

Now we learn that the expansion of this area may contain additional surprises! Scientists and specialists who have studied the region expect that the endangered *Phragmipedium hirtzii* will have its habitat enlarged within its

boundary. *Phragmipedium hirtzii* is known to exist in both Colombia and Ecuador, but the newly expanded reserve will be the only place in the world where it will have actual protection. The IUCN, which maintains the Red List, states that "intrinsic biological factors, wood extraction by local people, destruction of waterfalls and collection by local collectors and orchid vendors" are the biggest dangers to the Hirtz slipper orchid.

We conservation minded orchid enthusiasts certainly recognize the value of partnering with Rainforest Trust, due to their diverse donor base. As the old saying goes, "there is safety in numbers". The vast diversity of species attracts a diversity of donors. Some Rainforest Trust donors are interested in a particular mammal, or maybe a species of bird. Others care about a specific plant, while still others are motivated by their desire to protect a large area from logging, mining, and agriculture. So, along with saving orchid species like Draculas and *Phragmipediums* through this expansion, protecting the Critically Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey and Endangered Black-and-chestnut Eagle will attract donors. The Brown-headed Spider Monkey is

considered to be one of the rarest primates in the world, while the Eagle is thought to have a population of only 200 adults in Ecuador. Having many donors with varied interests increases the odds that an entire ecosystem will be preserved. Members of SWROGA should be particularly proud of our contribution toward this effort.

In addition to keeping the preserve free from mining, logging, and agricultural use, the expansion of the Dracula Reserve will enhance the balance of nature within its boundaries. The reserve establishes a link to the Awa Reserve in the same cloud

forest area providing a larger the contiguous area thus providing a greater the opportunity for biodiversity to thrive, for the gene pools to remain diversified, and for a healthy ecosystem to continue its existence. Larger mammal species, important in the ecological balance, and needing a wide roaming range, will be given a more sustainable environment in which to thrive and maintain the gene pool. According to Rainforest Trust, the spectacled Bear, Puma, Jaguarundi and Ocelot indigenous to the site will be able to move more safely throughout the connected conservation areas. Without this balance of nature, a long-term sustainable environment would not exist.

Where the Dracula Reserve does not have an indigenous population, the Awa Reserve, established in 1987, does. According to Wikipedia, these indigenous people practice a form of agriculture called “slash and mulch”, which involves clearing small parcels of land (about 1.25 to 5 acres) and leaving the fallen plants and trees to decay. Within days the vegetation turns to a layer of humus, favorable for planting. These parcels are cultivated for two or three seasons, then left fallow for periods of over seven years. They practice intercropping and grow

many different varieties of manioc and plantains.

This practice appears to be very similar to the farming practices of the ancient Mayan cultures. (See our October article entitled “Maya Gold”.)

The Awa Reserve is the largest area of Pacific rainforest surviving today, encompassing nearly 300,000 acres. Extending all the way into Colombia, this region escaped glaciation during the Pleistocene period, and is called a Pleistocene refugium, serving as a genetic reservoir for the region.

Kudos to all the members of SWROGA who, through their local societies, contributed the funds to help make this original reserve and its important expansion possible. It is very encouraging to see that our efforts are assisting such worthwhile projects. Seeing our contributions being put to such good use will help motivate all of us to keep the momentum going.

MOTHER EARTH THANKS YOU!



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.



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GROWING SPACE

Most orchid hobbyists can't resist a novel hybrid or really odd species. That is why we are all "out of space". Even so, we still bring home a new orchid whenever we visit an orchid nursery or orchid show. "Space, is the final frontier" for most of us. What makes growing orchids difficult is the fact that different orchids require different growing conditions and we want to grow them all.

Those growing inside, either under lights or on windowsills, are generally used to orienting their orchids to the proper light levels. Orchids requiring high light, e.g. vandas, are placed close to the light, while phalaenopsis that prefer lower light levels are placed near the edge of the light table. There may be seasonal changes you initiate too, brought on by decreasing day length or by chang-

ing light bulbs to coincide with fall. It's important to remember that the intensity of desirable wavelengths generated by grow lights decreases as bulbs age, so it is necessary to replace bulbs long before they stop working.

In greenhouses too, the location of orchids is important. Besides changes in day length, the sun changes both in intensity and orientation. A

perfect location for your bulbophyllums in winter may be too bright in spring and summer. This is the time of year where it may be necessary to revisit the location of some orchids.

In my new greenhouse, there are two areas where the change in season has necessitated moving some orchids. What were once cool, shady spots are now very bright.

ORCHID GROWING TIPS



Because space is at a premium in most greenhouses, there are many hanging plants in my greenhouse oriented in layers. Visitors are often surprised to find phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging high in the greenhouse. While they are hanging, they are shaded by vandas or other high light orchids. If you decide to try “layering” in either your greenhouse or indoor growing area be aware that there are other aspects of orchid growing you must consider.

Phalaenopsis hanging under vandas would stay too wet in the typical medium used for phalaenopsis, so my hanging phals are

potted in coarse lava rock. Vandas and phalaenopsis both love high humidity and heat, but differ in their preference for light and drying tolerance. Vanda roots prefer to grow exposed and be dry by day’s end, while phalaenopsis roots prefer not to dry thoroughly each day. Thus, my vandas are grown without medium and the phals hanging below them are in well-drained clay pots with lava rock. Both are watered most bright days and dry by the end of each day to an appropriate level for the individual plants.

There are also some high-light areas in the greenhouse where

water is applied at infrequent intervals, especially in winter. Here, various encyclias and *C. dowiana* var *aurea* hang in pots along with certain cattleya species that prefer to be kept on the dry side. Phalaenopsis and bulbophyllums hanging below these plants would become too dry unless they were treated differently. It is not easy to water orchids hanging below other orchids, so here moisture-

loving orchids are potted in a fine bark mix or sphagnum and grown in plastic pots, which keeps them moist between weekly watering.

My system works now because I have learned how to do it by trial and error. Many orchids suffered during the learning process. The key to successful layering is to learn which areas dry fastest and which tend to stay wet longer. To practice “layering” successfully you will also have to learn about the requirements of different orchids too.

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.

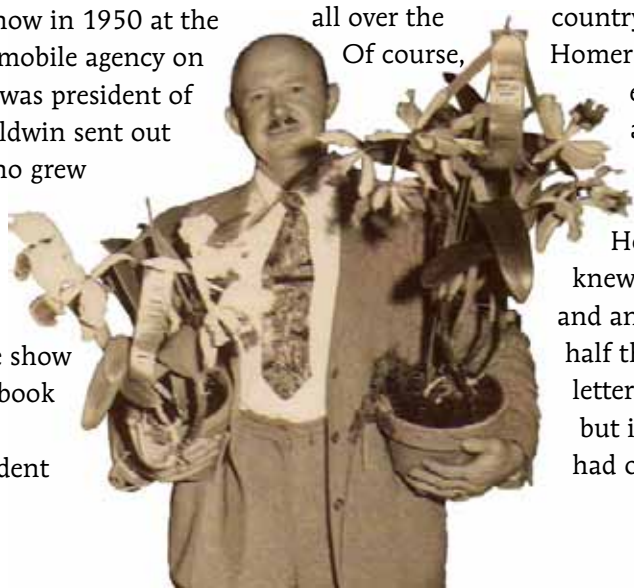
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____