



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID SOCIETY

JAN

Next Meeting:
January, 7
Emily Quinn

WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE 2017 ECUADOR

Emily Quinn is our speaker and she will speak about the “World Orchid Conference 2017”. Emily is an Environmental Geologist that retired to raise a family. She was introduced to orchids when she went to the (now closed) firm of Orchids and

Ferns in Houston, Texas to acquire some ferns. She left with both ferns and orchids. The ferns died, the orchids didn't. Thereby firmly setting hook and beginning a long time fascination with the exotic flowers.

Today she juggles four children, a hus-

band, and a greenhouse with the local AOS judging center for which she serves as Training Coordinator. Emily has been an accredited judge for several years. She has a love for slippers, red and blue phals, and a soft spot for the small botanicals. The greenhouse contains the broad spectrum of species and hybrids of a person who never saw an orchid she didn't like.

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Mike Beber



**Fort Worth Orchid Society SWROGA Show
GNTOS Table Top Exhibit:**



- 20 Flowers in exhibit.
- Provided by – Ronnie and Jerry Brandenburg, Linda Horton, Carol and Karl Varian
- Table Top Setup / Arrangement – Barbara McNamee, David Gould, Vinh Du, Carol and Karl Varian
- Leads – David Gould, Karl Varian

Award Summary:

- Best Society Tabletop Exhibit
- Dendrobium Alliance – Best Flower, Den. Samarai
- Ribbon awards- 8 Blue, 8 Red, and 3 Whites

Genera (13) Exhibited: Aliceara, Arthurara, Brasidium, Bulbophyllum, Cattleya Alliance (C., Ctt., Rlc.), Cochlezella, Dendrobium, Habenaria, Maxillaria, Miltonia, Oncidium, Renanstylis, Vanda



ORCHIDS 101

*Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling*



Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. 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.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

2017 Judging Results

416 total plants at nine meetings and two shows, 569 points logged:

10. Vinh Du – 21 points
9. Mike Beber – 30 points
8. Gerry Darver – 34 points
7. David Gould – 39 points
6. Kathy Halverson – 41 points
5. Kathi McKenzie – 43 points
4. George Bogard – 44 points

3. Karl Varian – 47 points, won \$50
2. Linda Horton – 61 points, won \$75
1. Judy Cook – 80 points, won \$100

Congratulations to the winners and thank you all 25 members who brought plants this year! Thank you also to the 12 members who helped judge the tables! Let's have another great year in 2018!

Nancy Cropp

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center Dec. 9, 2017

Three plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

The Center voted to recommend Barb McNamee for elevation from Student Judge to Associate Judge (formerly known as Probationary). The AOS will consider this elevation recommendation at their Spring meeting. Congratulations Barb!



Plants previously considered for awards.

Above:
Phrag. (boisserianum x kovzchii)

Left:
Bulb. Wilbur Cheng

JUST LOOK WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

We have good news to report. Our conservation efforts are paying off, in the form of additional acres of rainforest purchased in Ecuador. A large and valuable reserve is now even bigger than before!

Many heartfelt thanks to all our GNTOS members who have supported Orchid Conservation this past year, either through direct donations or through fundraising sales. 2017 was yet another special year, in that we had a specific critical reserve to help support. Of course, I am talking about EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador, which has now been expanded by 1450 acres, thanks to the support of GNTOS members, as well as other ecology-minded individuals and groups.

Two acres of that 1450-acre expansion were funded by GNTOS when we stepped up to the challenge and partnered with the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). Not only that, but when Rainforest Trust provided matching funds it doubled our impact.

The Dracula Reserve is rich in Dracula species, as well as in Pleurothallids. These two valuable species have inspired the OCA's active participation in this area for years, even to the extent that OCA members from the west coast have made numerous trips to this

region to see these species firsthand. Gary Meyer, President of the Pleurothallid Alliance, provided the following to OCA President, Peter Tobias:

"This area is special for a number of reasons. First and foremost, this is the region with the highest Dracula diversity that we know of - anywhere. At least 19 species have been found here; most of them were originally discovered in this area. Two are natural hybrids that keep recurring, and one very rare species that lives here is not in cultivation at all. There are things that get reported from the area occasionally that have not been identified yet; likely, species are waiting to be described. In fact, I and my Ecuadorian friend Luis Baquero described Dracula trigonopetala just a few years ago after it was found here. In all my travels to study Draculas in situ I have never seen an area with this density of Dracula diversity..."

How very exciting that these conservation efforts are being made and that we in GNTOS are participating. Even more exciting is that we are participating in new conservation effort beyond our usual Rainforest Trust, OCA, and Smithsonian native orchid support projects (Orchid Gami). This past year we expanded our support



to include the AOS and the Fort Worth BRIT, both of which have received matching donations to double our efforts.

Did you know our American Orchid Society has a strong conservation program? We all should, of course, be supporting the AOS with our memberships, but the following efforts depend on people and organizations like us and our SWROGA Conservation Committee to support programs not covered by our annual membership dues. AOS's year end appeal list includes the following funding needs:

- Research into orchid species propagation, cultivation of endangered species, and pollinator research to keep these orchids growing and flourishing in native habitats.
- Wild habitat conservation here and abroad, where either climate change or encroachment has threatened their existence.
- Support of botany students learning how these orchids survive and how to further protect their survival.
- Public education about orchids and their importance to our ecosystem.

One additional item on their Christmas wish list is the one SWROGA societies supports,

mainly because the AOS can receive matching funds for our donations. The AOS Botanical Library which preserves their many rare and valuable publications, priceless works of photography and art in their expanding, one-of-a-kind orchid library will be the recipient of our donations.

When our donations are made to the AOS botanical library, AOS recognizes the donor in the next AOS Orchids magazine. For our SWROGA societies that provide free table space for our conservation fundraising at orchid society shows, the society will begin receiving the recognition for our AOS Botanical Library donation. The Fort Worth Orchid Society received the latest recognition after providing free tables at their last show.

Also new this year is our focus on the Botanical Research Institute of Texas or BRIT, located next to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. The BRIT is a valuable venue for expressing our interest in botany and conservation, and provides a myriad of education programs, volunteer projects, and talks with botanists conducting ongoing research. Through their new affiliation with the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, we will be seeing more opportunities to advance our desire for protecting and understanding all species so important to our environment in addition to the beauty they provide.

Happy Holidays!



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

by
Courtney Hackney

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

This column was writ-
ten in humid coastal
North Carolina and
Florida, and the advice
given should be ad-
justed to our climate.

WATER QUALITY, DROUGHT, AND WINTER GROWING

It has always been apparent to me that growing orchids well requires good water. This year's extreme drought has reinforced that view and impressed me with both the ability of some orchids to resist water with high dissolved solids and with the sensitivity of some types of orchids to salts in water.

The thin leaved orchids, such as the intergeneric oncidiums, *Coelogyne*, and *Eulophia*, are the first to show symptoms of salt stress. Brown leaf tips are "the canary in the mine" when it comes to water quality, but can also be induced by too much fertilizer. Cattleyas do not typically exhibit this type of

symptom but may still be suffering when water quality is poor. Exactly what causes the symptom within plant cells is not clear. A number of growers claim that providing soluble dolomite lime will prevent this type of leaf tip burn, but water low in salts will always prevent this condition.

In my collection the orchids most sensitive to salt are the few phrags that have survived the summer heat. They may show a little tip burn, but mostly they get bacterial rots that ultimately lead to death, even if treated with bactericide or high quality water. Many of the phalaenopsis species as well as any species that comes from mist forests are also sensitive to water with high dissolved solid content.

Leaves, however, are not the only indicator. This year, the lack of rain has been accompanied by very low humidity. In this climate, orchid roots will shrivel and stop growing even if they are being watered with high quality water. If water quality is poor and humidity low, roots may seem thicker than



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

normal at first, but the growing tips will turn black and shrivel. Eventually, the entire root will shrivel from the growing tip and die. Under normal conditions, the root may shrivel, but quickly thicken to its normal size when provided moisture. That does not happen when the root is subjected to high salt content.

The first significant rain fell in our area last week; filling my cistern and providing enough water to finally give my orchids a good soaking. Afterwards, it was clear which orchids still had good root systems and which did not. Most surprising was that the orchids in lava rock appeared to still have good root systems, despite the long held belief that salts tend to concentrate on that medium. Orchids in bark/charcoal-type mixes definitely lost roots during the drought when they were provided water high in dissolved solids.

Like it or not, winter is finally here along with an array of things to do. With the exception of cymbidiums, all orchids need to be moved inside or into the greenhouse if they have been enjoying the “natural life” in your backyard under the trees. We are also just passed the winter solstice so the sun is just about at its lowest point in the sky. Greenhouse growers

that use shade cloth, often remove it, or at least reduce shading during the next couple of months.

Phals exposed to a week or two of cooler temperatures have initiated spikes and now need to be kept warmer, especially at night. A night temperature of at least 65° F will virtually eliminate winter bacterial rots, although some growers use 60° F as the absolute minimum to keep heating bills down. The key for phals is the minimum temperature and avoiding water in the crown of the plant especially when night temperatures are low.

Contrary to some of the published orchid growing books, apply high nitrogen fertilizer to your phals now, but at lower concentrations. At one time high phosphorus fertilizers were recommended, but studies have not been able to document a benefit. To obtain the best flower color use a high nitrogen cal-mag type fertilizer.

Cattleyas, especially species, need to be kept on the dry side now. Let them dry more thoroughly than you did in summer. There are a number of fungal rots that are around all of the time that really thrive on these cooler nights if the medium is moist. Some of these can kill a cattleya almost as fast as bacterial, crown rot kills phals.

This is also the time to dry out

catasetum and similar species and hybrids, which thrive on water during summer. They will rot if watered in winter. Some growers remove them from the pot shake the medium from roots and set them back in the pot to dry. Other growers just set them in a part of the greenhouse that does not get watered. A little mist on sunny days is all they need. There are any number of species that require the same approach and you may need to refresh your memory of their natural habitat for these unusual forms. If, the species comes from a wet-dry type habitat, drying is usually required.

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.

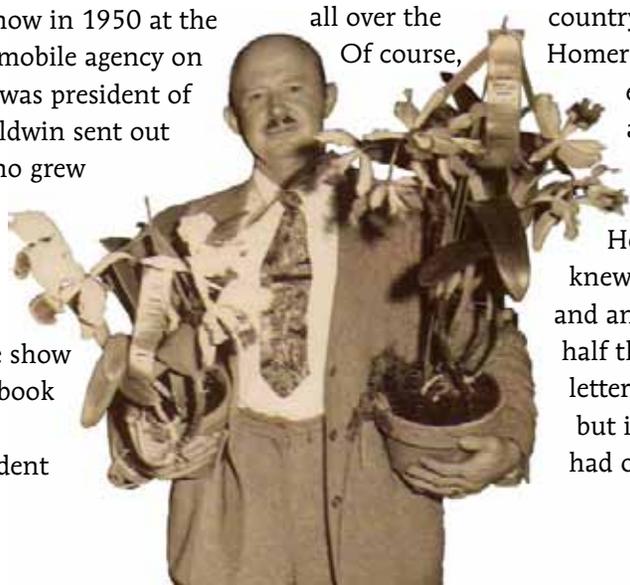
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____