

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

FEB

GROWING PAPHIOPEDILUM WITH PHALAEOPSIS

Next Meeting:

February, 4

Peter Lin

His talk is about best practice in growing slipper orchids or Paphiopedilum. Many people are familiar with growing Phalaenopsis. In this presentation, we will look at the similarities and challenges of growing both Paphiopedilum and Phalaenopsis in a same environment. We will also look at which Paphiopedilum do better in North Texas.

Peter has been growing orchids for over 30 years. Originally from Taiwan, he came to the United States at age of 12, and found his passion in collecting and hybridizing with phalaenopsis orchids.

He is fortunate to learn from great American hybridizers like his mentor HP Norton of Orchidview. He has written, published phalaenopsis articles and gave presentation representing IPA to regional societies and Taiwan Orchid Show. Most recently Peter gave a talk on Growing Novelty Phalaenopsis at World Orchid Conference in Ecuador

After graduating from UT at Austin with a BS in Computer Science he worked in the IT industry for 12 years. To pursue his passion to expand and to upgrade his phalaenopsis collection, Peter turned his orchid growing into hybridizing and Big Leaf Orchids – a family owned mail-order operation in Southlake, Texas. Named after the pretty and round leaves of phalaenopsis, Big Leaf Orchids specialize in phalaenopsis, with emphasis on novelty which includes flowers that are fragrant, waxy, and multi-colored. Peter makes frequent trip to Taiwan to see in



person the latest phalaenopsis development, and to learn from Taiwanese nurseries and phalaenopsis hybridizers.

ORCHID SHOW

Manny Aybar

We have many opportunities for volunteering. Please go to the website gntos.org and click on "GNTOS Show Volunteer Sign Up" on the right side of the page to see all of the opportunities!

Also, if you would like to sponsor a trophy, click on "Trophy Sponsorship".

Thank you for making the GNTOS Show successful!

GNTOS Spring Show & Sale Schedule

Friday, March 9:

Set up 9am – noon

Show open to the public noon – 5pm

Judging starts at 6pm

Saturday, March 10

Show opens: 8am

Raffle winners announced: 3pm

Show closes to public: 4pm

Teardown: 4 – 6pm

Richardson Civic Center
411 W Arapaho Road
Richardson, TX 75080

Orchid Theme: "Orchids – Not your plain Vanilla"



Setup begins Friday morning. Show begins in the afternoon on Friday and continues until Saturday afternoon.

Currently, there are 5 vendors signed up to come.

SHOW LINKS ([go to gntos.org](http://gntos.org) to sign)

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

We have plenty of volunteering opportunities for the show.

We need help with the GNTOS Entrance table manning and plant raffle, also need help with Entrance / Exit traffic control, Show Set Up, Etc. Also, help the Orchid Judges with the show judging by clerking! It is a great opportunity to help and see how a show is judged. Judging Starts at 6:00pm. If you would like to attend the Judges Dinner at 5:00pm, contribution is \$10 per person.

Trophy Sponsorship Sign Up Sheet

Would you like to sponsor a trophy? Please go to the website and click the "Trophy Sponsorship Sign Up Sheet" link to sign up for sponsorship of a trophy in any of the categories for award trophies. Minimum donation for trophy sponsorship is \$20 dollars.

Food Monetary Donation

The venue does not allow food to be brought for our hospitality room. We have found that it is easier to have one person in charge of the food for the volunteers and vendors. Instead of preparing food or bringing something, please contact Kathy Halverson and give a donation for food to be used in the hospitality area.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Jan. 7, 2018, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Charles Hess & David Hines

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (15 entries)

Blue – *B. nodosa* – Karl Varian

Red – *Epicat. Volcano 'Trick Paradise'*
– Kathi McKenzie

White – *Blc. Memoria Vida Lee*
'Limelight' – Gerry Darver

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(10 entries)

Blue – *Cyc. chlorochilon* – Emily Quinn

Red – *Cym. Ice Princess*
– Kathy Halverson

White – *Bulb. arfakianum* – Judy Cook

ONCIDIUMS (3 entries)

Blue – *Onc. Specialatum*
– Ashley Nguyen

Red – *Bell. Detalle Orquidea*
– George Bogard

White – *Max. hedwigia*
– Judy Cook (yes, we know it's not an
Oncidium – just got itself on the
wrong sheet)

PAPHS & PHRAGS (14! entries)

Blue – *Paph. Sioux Bluejay*
– Ashley Nguyen

Red – *Paph. St. Swithin*
– Kathy Halverson

White – *Paph. Fred Perfected*
– Ashley Nguyen

VANDAS & PHALS (5 entries)

Blue – *Phal. Guadalupe Pineda*
– Vinh Du

Red – *Vanda unknown* – Kathy Halverson

White – *Phal. Mituo Sun King*
– Linda Horton

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Epi. porpax – Kathi McKenzie

Cyc. chlorochilon – Emily Quinn

Angraecum eburneum – Manny Aybar

PEOPLES CHOICE

Cyc. chlorochilon – Emily Quinn

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 Jan. 13, 2018

Two plants entered for consideration, no awards given. (Photos are of previously considered plants)

The Center voted to accept Student applicant Cesar Uchima into the judging program. This will be submitted to the AOS Judging Committee for approval at the Spring meeting.

Upcoming shows (in addition to GNTOS Show & Sale March 9-10):

Feb. 10-11 – Heart o’ Texas Orchid Society, Austin

March 23-24 – Shreveport Orchid Society

Apr. 6-8 – Acadian Orchid Society, Lafayette, LA

Apr. 14-15 – Houston Orchid Society

Apr. 20-22 – Tulsa Orchid Society SWROGA Show

See the SWROGA website for more details.



Phal. Dragon Tree Eagle



Phrag. (boisserianum
x kovzchii)



Dendrobium
mirbelianum

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

This is the time of the year we might be dreaming of a tropical getaway. I have my World Atlas out right now, trying to locate the Republic of Palau. I'm not looking for the kind of fantasy vacation that the once popular *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* would consider. Palau is popularly known as a dive destination, and even saw battles during World War II. Rather, our interest today is in Palau's botanical treasures and its potential for conservation research. In case your World Atlas is not near at hand, the Republic of Palau is an island chain located within

GET OUT YOUR WORLD MAPS!

the Pacific region of Micronesia. Babeldaob is not only the largest Palauan Island, it also holds the largest intact area of native tropical lowland rainforest in the entire Pacific, as well as the most diverse forests in Micronesia. For this reason, Palau represents a valuable ecological setting for botanical studies, and already has a well-established history of botanical research.

Within Babeldaob is found the Ngardok Nature Reserve, a 6.1 square kilometer protected area that covers a large range of diverse environments consisting of denuded badlands, open savanna, young secondary forests and older secondary forests.

OK, orchid enthusiasts, this is the part where you are supposed to wake up.

This preserve is the site of a new orchid conservation

research project by the Smithsonian's North American Orchid Conservation Center. Apparently the Smithsonian is expanding its orchid studies to include not only North America. We may soon see an Orchid-Gami for a Palauan species like those the NAOCC has developed for our North American species. The Palauan archipelago is small, only 535 square kilometers of land area, but is home to an estimated 730 native plants and 135 endemic species. It is considered to have the most intact natural forests in the Western Pacific and is home to some 70 native orchid

species, 30 of which are endemic.

Why would the North American Orchid Conservation Center be involved in a place so far away (and not North America)? Good question. It turns out that this nature reserve has a unique research area



Appendicula reflexa



Corymborkis veratrifolia

established in 2014, called a “permanent forest dynamics monitoring plot”. The area is currently four hectares in size, or 10 acres, where all plants with stems that are > 1cm in diameter are identified, tagged, mapped, and followed over time.

Much has been documented about the plants in this plot, but little is yet known about the aspects of the ecosystem relative to the orchids found there. This orchid research project will piggy-back on a world-wide project already in place in over 60 locations, and will add much new data on orchids.

From the NAOCC brochure: “The structure of orchid communities, their biology and distribution across Palau, basic information on their co-occurrence with specific tree species, soils or sites, vegetation types, or environments is largely unknown. Given that the Orchidaceae is the most diverse family of flowering plants on earth, the unique role that epiphytes generally and orchids specifically play in forest ecosystems, the charis-



Crepidium kerstingianum

matic nature and high public appeal of orchids, and the apparent sensitivity of orchids to global change, there is a need to understand the biology, ecology and restoration of orchids and their as-

sociated fungi

in support of conservation efforts.”

The Palau project is a natural fit for the NOACC. NOACC personnel are based in the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, which oversees their own Forest Dynamics Plot at their Edgewater, Maryland laboratory. Edgewater is adjacent to a sub-estuary of the Chesapeake Bay on the US coastal plain. Their Plot links in with the larger network called The Center for Tropical Forest Science - Forest Global Earth Observatory (CTFS-ForestGEO).

According to the CTFS-ForestGEO website tells us that it is

“... a global network of

forest research plots and scientists dedicated to the study of tropical and temperate forest function and diversity. The multi-institutional network comprises over 60 forest research plots across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe, with a strong focus on tropical regions. CTFS-ForestGEO

monitors the growth and survival of approximately 6 million trees and 10,000 species.”

Thanks go to Jay O’Neil at the SERC who provided us with the orchid images from this site, stunningly photographed

by Benjamin J. Crain from the first visit to the reserve in Palau. The photos serve as a reminder of

the incredible diversity of orchids around the world. We are proud to be supporting the work of this organization through our conservation fundraising at our orchid shows.



Dendrobium brachyanthum



Crepidium setipes



Dipodium freycinooides



6 *Bulbophyllum clandestinum*.

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.



THE BEST POTS FOR YOUR ORCHIDS

Nothing is as basic to orchid culture as the orchid pot. There is more to the pot than just a container and selection of the best pot for your orchid plants can mean the difference between success and failure. The choice of growing container depends on the type of orchid being grown and the growing environment, i.e. your home or a greenhouse.

One of my favorite pots is the clear plastic type. They are generally produced using the same plastic and process as other orchid pots, but no color is added. Instead, a UV inhibitor is added to prevent sunlight from breaking down the plastic. Occasionally, pots will be made and sold without the UV in-

hibitor and these pots discolor and disintegrate in just a few months in the sunlight.

Besides additional drainage, many plastic orchid pots have a raised bottom, which allows air to flow below and through the pot. All orchids hate stale air because it is depleted in oxygen. Orchids are now grown in just about every medium from those that retain water well, such as New Zealand or Chilean Sphagnum to various types of rock, including lava rock and Staylight.

The real beauty in a clear pot is the ability to determine the degree of wetness within the pot. I grow Paphs in lava rock. Paph roots prefer a constant moisture level. If their roots dry out the orchid suffers. In clear plastic, it is easy to tell when the moisture level drops because the inside of the pot can be easily observed. With lava rock there is never the chance that the medium

will get too soggy as long as each rock is $>1/4$ " in diameter. It is also easy to observe the new roots because they like to grow along



ORCHID GROWING TIPS



the inside of the pot where moisture precipitates from the change in temperature each night. Lava rock retains lots of moisture, but other types of rock typically do not.

pot becomes very dry at least until new roots can be seen growing inside the pot.

In clear pots, Phal roots, which contain chlorophyll, can generate oxygen and aid root growth if watered properly. When moisture levels are low on the inside of the pot in the morning it is time to water. Often the surface will be so dry by this time that most folks would have already watered; which would have been too soon.

Most hobbyists grow in bark or some other organic medium. Clear pots allow an easy way to determine the degree of medium decomposition, which may vary greatly depending on the medium, fertilizer, and watering frequency.

Finding clear, plastic pots is not always easy and they can be prohibitively expensive compared to other plastic pots. My strategy is to try to have at least one plant of each orchid type, i.e. Phal, Paph, etc, in a clear pot on every bench to help me

monitor the moisture condition in pots throughout the greenhouse. The only group of orchids that do not get this type of treatment are my cattleyas because they are all grown in clay pots. Does anyone know where I can get clear, clay pots? That would be ideal.



Phals are often grown in clear plastic pots with New Zealand Sphagnum as the medium. Phals sold as pot plants often arrive in clear pots, the ones that degrade quickly in the sun. Phal roots will grow along the clear plastic side of the pot and seem to always grow best where the sun strikes the pot. Phals in this type of pot usually have big, fat roots that turn green if moist. If you purchase a phal in this medium and there are no roots growing along the inside of the pot you can be sure the plant was recently placed in this pot. Water only when the inside of the



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.

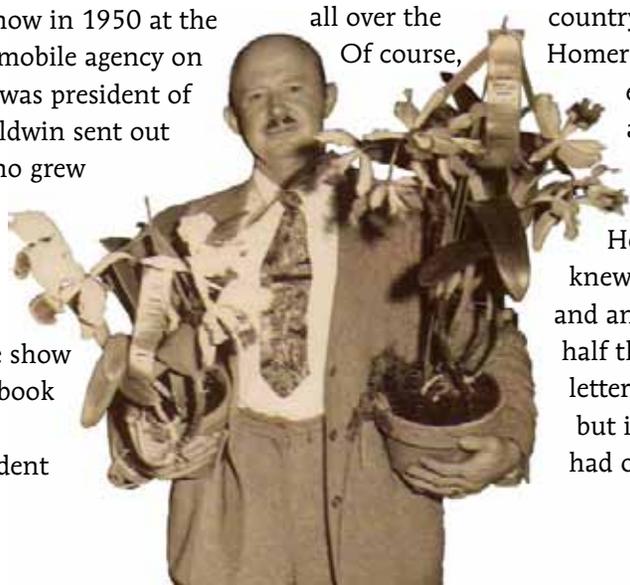
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____