

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

MAR

Next Meeting:
March 4th

Program will be presented by long-time society member Linda Horton on "Preparing Your Orchids for a Show" in advance of our Show & Sale, March 9 & 10 at the Richardson Civic Center.

Linda is a native Texan, born in Plano when it was a little farming community. An emergency nursing RN for over 40 years, she is retired and serves as an American Orchid Society accredited judge, growing orchids for over 25 years.

ORCHID SHOW PREP.— PLANTS AND EXHIBITS

At our meeting for March will focus on the show, getting jobs assigned, any needed discussion about plants for displays and so on.

We will talk about grooming and things you can do to make your plants look their best and things that you shouldn't do.

Everyone should go to the SWROGA website, and look at the plant tags as well as the show schedule and try to have a listing of the plants you think you will put in the show and what class you think they are in. If in doubt, you might bring the plant, or a picture of it, with you.

Remember, if it is not in the right class it might not get judged, and the registration committee will NOT have time to check on each plant as it is getting registered.

Kathi McKenzie with
the GNTOS exhibit at
the 2017 show.



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We had a wonderful program last month with Peter Lin who gave us some new tips about raising Paphs. Will have to try them since my 'babies' are not growing as well as they did in Alabama.

Our 'program' this month will be to discuss last minute details for our show which will be the following week. If you haven't volunteered yet, or donated toward the show expenses, that will be an optimum time to do so. I will be putting up the Society display, and if someone wants to help with that, I will be quite grateful. Also, let me know what you think you might have available for the show. Right now my greenhouse has very little in bloom, which I hope is not the case for most of you!!

We had a really interesting thing happen last week. Manny e-mailed us on Valentine's day about Art Chadwick needing plants for Laura Bush. Seems she was being awarded and recognized by groups like the National Gardening Association and some other groups for work she has done in the environmental/horticultural space. Art was going to be there because he had made an orchid cross - C

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Laura Bush. Karl Varian and I were the only 2 who responded but between us had enough plants to make a nice little display, which you can see in the attached photograph, which also gave world wide credit to GNTOS for providing the plants. I have not looked a lot but have seen it on the AOS site and on chadwickorchids.com. He also

let me know that his father was one of the early members and early presidents of GNTOS (or it's predecessor), that he was a speaker for us 3 years ago, and that he would love to come back and talk to us again. Just for grins, people like the Secretary of the Interior were also present to see and appreciate what GNTOS had done. What a great group to belong to.

Looking forward to spending a lot of time with you folks in the upcoming weeks.

Regards, Judy



PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Feb. 4, 2018, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Barbara McNamee & Tim Carr
(actual AOS Student Judges)

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (12 entries)

Blue – Slc. Circle of Life x

Pot. Elaine Taylor – Gerry Darver

Red – L. anceps 'Judy' – Kathy Halverson

White – Pot. Mount Yellowthorne
'Sunpeak' – Kathy McKenzie

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(17 entries)

Blue – Den. amethystoglossum
– Kathy Halverson

Red – Den. Gillieston Jazz x Victoria Bride
– Gerry Darver

White – Lyc. Balliae – Judy Cook

ONCIDIUMS (3 entries)

Blue – Brsdm. Longglen – Judy Cook

Red – Vuyl. Carnivale 'Rio'
– George Bogard

White – Tolumnia Red Barry – Jim Diffily

PAPHS & PHRAGS (9 entries)

Blue – Phrag. schlimii – Kathy Halverson

Red – Phrag. Mount Fallu
– George Bogard

White – Paph. Supersuk x Raisin Pie
– Manny Aybar

VANDAS & PHALS (8 entries)

Blue – V. Gordon Dillon 'Blue Spot Blue'
– George Bogard

Red – Phal. OX 1685 – Sarah Hardesty

White – Dtps. Chian Xeu Piano
– Sarah Hardesty

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

(11 species entered)

L. anceps 'Judy' – Kathy Halverson

Den. amethystoglossum
– Kathy Halverson

Paph. venustum – Judy Cook

PEOPLES CHOICE

Vanda Crownfox Diva – Manny Aybar

49 total plants! Beautiful!

ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kisling



Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. It will be an informal discussion so come and bring your questions.

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

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

February 10, 2017

Five plants entered for consideration, no awards given:

(Photos are of previously considered plants)

The Dallas Judging Center meets on the second Saturday of every month.

The next meeting is March, 10th at the Garland Senior Activity Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am. Everyone is welcome to bring plants or to just watch and learn.



CAN CITIZEN SCIENTISTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE (FOR ORCHIDS)?

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess



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Anacamptis morio, White helleborine

Yes, we can! Ordinary people all over the world are participating in conservation efforts to protect natural habitats. A recent article in *The Guardian* by Fiona Gell, a marine biologist, tells of one such project. In the article entitled “Who’s driving the future of conservation? Ordinary people”, Gell relates how more than 8,000 people showed up on the beaches of the Isle of Man to participate in regular weekend beach cleanups. As a result, the work of these volunteers solidified the island’s status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a classification shared by the Galapagos and Yellowstone.

Could something like the Isle of Man project happen closer to home? It surely can. I (Charles) have been fascinated ever since learning in my 2015 Master Naturalist training that for the last 20 years, local bird enthusiasts have counted and logged on-line their bird sightings during a 3-day period each February here in the U.S. The information gathered by these citi-

zen scientists goes into an extensive database which then is analyzed by scientists to better understand trends in bird populations, ranges, and shifts in migration patterns.

Because my major interest lies with orchids, I was very happy to learn that the *Hexaletris* populations in Dallas are surveyed each year as a citizen scientist project.

While we have not achieved the astonishing level of participation cited in the *Guardian* article (10% of the population!) we do have citizen scientists from our local orchid society (GNTOS), as well as the local Master Naturalists chapter, who are willing to brave the Texas heat to complete these annual *Hexaletris* surveys. Perhaps, if more people became aware of these citizen scientist projects they would volunteer to join up and help.

But, is it really possible to get ten percent of orchid lovers interested in becoming Citizen Scientists? Well, why not? If the Brits can do it, we can, too!

Just think, from April 2015 to

August 2016, over 2000 people covered the U.K. documenting, photographing, and logging their orchid sightings as part of the Natural History Museum’s Orchid Observers Project.

According to the website, the project had the goal of determining questions in two areas:

- **Climate Science research:** Are orchid flowering times being affected by climate change? (This is called phenology)
- **Social science research:** How do volunteers interact and share ideas and knowledge with one another, within a project that combines both outdoor and online activities? (This was of interest by the funding entity: the museum’s Arts and Humanities Research Council.)

Volunteers were able to access a guide to the 56 native species of orchids that bloom between April and September, very much like the one published by the Smithsonian’s North American Orchid Conservation Center “Go Orchid” site, which covers more than 200 North American species. The British guide helped the volunteers three important ways: First, to identify the plants they found; second, by providing guidelines of most likely places where orchids could be found; and finally, the current protection status of each native species.

The Museum’s blog has a sum-



cephalanthera-damasonium



mary of the result of the survey itself:

- more than 2,000 volunteers taking part
- more than 1,800 new observations of wild orchids
- as many as 200 new locations, where particular species of orchid hadn't been recorded before
- 50,948 classifications on the Orchid Observers online platform
- orchid photographs taken all over the UK, from the Shetland Islands in the far north, to the Isles of Scilly in the far southwest.

A valuable feature of a citizen scientist project of this size is that it can cover more territory in a very short time than can mere handfuls of botanists over the decades. As an added bonus, it is always encouraging to discover new and previously unknown populations of the rare or endangered species.

Two unexpected results of the British survey: The Orchid Observers Volunteers discovered and photographed both the green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis morio*), as well as the white helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) in several previously unknown locations. Both of these orchids are currently classified as 'near threatened' and 'vulnerable' to extinction in the UK respectively.

To answer the question of blooming times, the blooming data

collected in the year-long survey was compared to the thousands of herbarium samples on hand at facilities like the U.K.'s Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), whose collections contain over 15,000 samples collected over three centuries.

Not to be outdone by the U.K., we have similar assets in our own country, such as the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth, and the American Orchid Society's own historic Harvard collections.

The British Natural History Museum's blog (no date given) gives us an initial look at findings to date:

"We are about to start the full analysis of the data, but an initial scoping study has been completed for one species, the green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis morio*). This analysis combined the flowering time data extracted from historical Museum specimens with recent biological records from the BSBI's database and the 2015 Orchid Observers field observations.

Initial results show that the median date of last year's flowering was at least 10 days earlier than that shown in the Museum data (which mainly covers the years 1830 to 1970). We can also see that peak flowering time for this species advances by just over four days for every 1-degree Celsius rise in mean February to April

temperature.

Initial indications are that different orchid species may differ significantly in their response to climate change, something that we look forward to investigating in more detail. These preliminary results should of course be treated with care, however, they are certainly very promising!"

Can citizen scientists make a difference? Yes, absolutely, and more are needed to help in these efforts. There is so much yet to be discovered, and it must be done quickly, while our native orchid species still exist.

This will take a monumental effort. But it is an effort that can be both enjoyable and rewarding. Participants have a rare opportunity to experience nature at a primary level. And there is a lot to be said for the friendships that can be formed by working together with like-minded people, on a project dear to our hearts.

Citizen scientists will indeed be our key to future understanding of our planet and particularly, our friends, the orchids. Of equal importance may be the trend to bring citizens closer to nature instilling in us an increased appreciation of the beauty and importance of our gifts of nature. Only by participating can we ensure the survival of species and the conservation of habitats they need to thrive.

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.

TIME TO REPOT

It is always difficult to think about repotting when the wind is howling and it is cold. As March begins it is snowing all over the South. Even Florida is cold. Nevertheless, orchids in your greenhouse and on windowsills are responding to the increase in day length. Most of the orchids in my collection are beginning their annual growth cycle.

If you do not have all of the supplies you need to repot now is the time to get your order in. There is still plenty of time depending on the orchids in your collection. Species are often more sensitive to repotting so be sure you check your reference books on any species for which you are not familiar.

Phalaenopsis that have bloomed out may be getting new branches on the old inflorescence. These will flower later if you leave the inflorescence on the plant or cut it just below the old blooms. If the plant is small or you want to groom it for exhibiting next year, it is best to cut the spike and let you phalaenopsis grow new roots and leaves for next year's flowers.

Many new orchid growers are anxious to

repot because there is so much discussion of the topic, but only repot when your orchid needs it. Any orchid that has been in a pot with organic medium such as bark or sphagnum will need to be repotted after two years, perhaps sooner if the bark is fine or the plant has been heavily fertilized.

Most phalaenopsis sold as pot plants will be either in sphagnum or a mix that looks like garden soil. These plants were not intended to be grown after they flower, have been heavily fertilized, and some even treated with hormones. If you wish to grow these orchids and flower them again you will need to repot them after they flower. Expect a period of decline before growth as the orchid recovers from being pushed into producing lots of blooms.

Each year, cold weather takes a toll on orchids when heating systems fail while

*Necrotic spots on
leaves and dry,
brown pseudobulbs
are symptoms of
cold damage.*

© AOS



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

the owner is on vacation or in a hospital. I have always wondered how much cold can orchids experience and still survive. This year, a number of cattleya species and hybrids were sacrificed and left outside the greenhouse to test their tolerance to cold. Some growers claim that orchids are more cold tolerant if they are kept dry, so very little water was applied to these orchids. They were maintained under a small tangerine tree in medium light and watered only when no cold weather was expected. Phalaenopsis succumbed to rots once night temperatures dropped into the low 50s F. Cattleya hybrids generally began to show stress when low temperatures

were in the mid 40s F. Stress included leaves turning black or black spots on green leaves. All but one hybrid died when temperatures were in the mid 30s F. The hybrid that survived the longest and even put out new roots right to the end was Lc Molly Tyler, which has C bowringiana prominent in the background.

Cattleya species died at around the same temperature as hybrids with one exception, *Laelia purpurata*. This species experiences cold temperatures along Brazil's south Atlantic coast in winter, and so might be expected to tolerate cold weather. On several occasions, night temperatures were near freezing and the single *L purpurata* in the experiment seemed unaffected. Finally, night temperature reached 28 F on the bench, which seemed to be too extreme for even this cold hardy orchid. It showed leaf damage similar to what was observed for hybrids earlier. Some pseudobulbs remained green as did the rhizome itself. Curiosity and respect for the tenacity of this plant led me to put it back in the greenhouse a few weeks after the severe cold just to see if it could still be alive. Three weeks after enduring a low temperature of 28 F, it began to grow new roots. Clearly, some orchids are far tougher than we give them credit for.



Laelia purpurata

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.

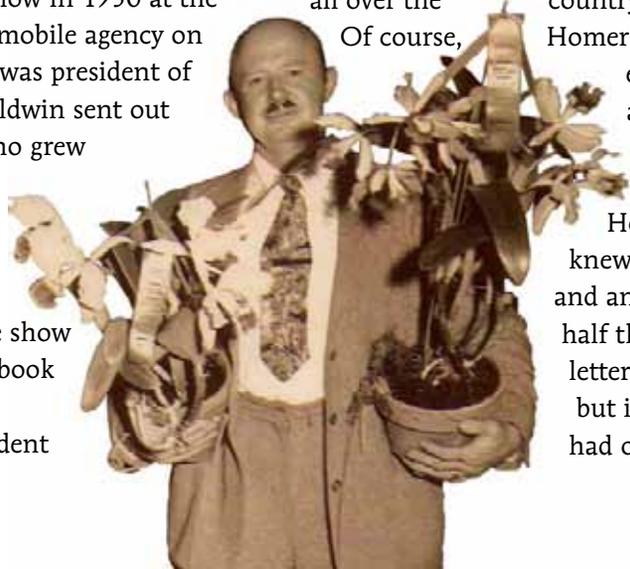
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____