



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID SOCIETY

MAY

Next Meeting:
May, 6

POTTING/REPOTTING/PEST & DISEASES AND STUFF YOU'LL FIND WHEN RE POTTING

OFFICERS

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Kathy Halverson

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Beber

Members of our society will show you how to deal with all of the things you are likely to encounter when you re pot your plants.

These presenters are geniuses and we promise you will be a genius too when you leave or your money back. That's right, we are offering a 100% money back guarantee of your admission for this meeting if you are not a genius at the end.

Lets see those other orchid societies match that!

Free Admission to all.

CARING FOR YOUR NEW Orchid

1. Do not deprive the orchid of sunlight.
2. Do not bombard the orchid with too much sunlight.
3. Do not touch the orchid.
4. Do not look at the orchid.
5. Do not ask the orchid why it's mad.
6. Do not forget to take the orchid out, like, to a movie, every once in a while—something that shows you're making some semblance of an effort.
7. Do not overwater the orchid.



A cartoon by Olivia de Recat from The New Yorker

SPRING SHOW

We had a really nice show with lots of beautiful orchids. The exhibits were impressive and the vendors didn't have to take many plants home. Till next year.



Photos by Lorna Kissling

Proudly showing off the orchids their uncle bought for them.



GNTOS Exhibit



Fort Worth Exhibit



PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS March 4, 2018,
Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Tim Carr & Nancy Cropp

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (15 entries)

Blue - Lc. Carolyn Reid Glowing Ember
- David Gould
Red - Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop
'Volcano Queen' - Dan Lyons
White - C. Orange Show 'Cloud Forest'
- Kathi McKenzie

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(13 entries)
Blue - Den. aggregatum - Manny Aybar
Red - Maxillaria sanguinea - David Gould
White - Den. spectabile - David Gould

ONCIDIUMS (2 entries)

Blue - Onc. Longlen 'Bill Switzer'
- Judy Cook
Red - unknown - Kathy Halverson

PAPHS & PHRAGS (9 entries)

Blue - Phrag. Geigelstein - Vinh Du
Red - Paph. Hengchean - George Bogard
White - Paph. delenatii var. vinicolor
- Linda Horton

VANDAS & PHALS (16 entries)

Blue - Phal. Green Earth - Manny Aybar
Red - Phal. Salu Peoker - Manny Aybar
White - Phal. Arakaki Spring Fairy
- Manny Aybar

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Oerstadella centradenia - Kathi McKenzie
Den. aggregatum - Manny Aybar
Den. spectabile - David Gould

PEOPLES CHOICE

Den. spectabile - David Gould

55 total
plants! Big-
gest number
so far this
year.

GNTOS Plant Table Judging Point Standings through March

The top 10 out of 22 members who have
exhibited plants so far this year:

1. - 25 points - Manny Aybar
2. - 23 points - Judy Cook
3. - 22 points - Kathy Halverson
4. - 19 points - George Bogard
5. & 6. - 17 points - Sarah Hardesty &
Kathi McKenzie
7. - 16 points - David Gould
8. - 12 points - Gerry Darver
9. & 10. - 11 points - Vinh Du & Linda Horton

There is still a lot of year left - keep bringing
your blooming orchids!

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

GNTOS Show March 9, 2018, Judging

12 exhibits, 161 plant entries, 17 pulled
for AOS consideration, one award given:

Phrag. Patti MacHale 'Ron'

(pearcei x sargentianum)

AM 82 points,

Exhibitor: Mitsi Runyan, Whitehorse, TX

AOS Dallas Judging Center

March 10, 2018

Two plants entered for consideration, no
awards given.

Manny Aybar announced that AOS had
approved Barbara McNamee's elevation
from Student to Associate Judge.

Congratulations, Barb!



Nancy Cropp

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

April, 14. Eighteen plants were entered for consideration, and three awards were given:

1

Phal. Zheng Min Anaconda 'Pylo'

(Red Peoker x Fusheng's Super Man)

AM 84 points

owner: Big Leaf Orchids (Peter Lin), Southlake



2

Phal. Yaphon Gelacea 'Yaphon #7'

(Yaphon Gelblitz x Chang Maw Jade)

AM 80 points

owner: Big Leaf Orchids (Peter Lin), Southlake



3

Schunkeara Big Shot 'Hilo Sparkle'

(Aliceara Tahoma Glacier

x Miltoniopsis Maui Titan)

AM 81 points,

owners: Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg, Dallas



Check out the SWROGA website for upcoming shows in our region.

YOUR FIRST GREENHOUSE



Hexalectris spicata

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

Whenever two orchid lovers (defined as anyone reading this column) get together for the first time, the question almost always comes up “Do you have a greenhouse?”. I must confess that it has given me great satisfaction for the last 35 years to be able to answer “yes”, despite the fact that maintaining a greenhouse can turn into a serious commitment, work-wise.

But it is an answer that overlooks a reality and demands a new response. We will explain.

I remember my first greenhouse and how excited I was to provide my beloved orchids a shelter. I was on a work assignment in the Philippines at the time, living in the Cordillera mountains, elevation one mile. All I really had to do was protect the leaves from direct sun, which would be especially damaging at that altitude, where the Texas Instruments factory and my job were located.

Building my greenhouse in the Philippines was no challenge at all. I devised a simple, screened enclosure next to my patio, and that did very nicely for the local orchids I was acquiring every weekend. But

my enthusiasm for these beautiful plants soon outpaced the capacity of my little greenhouse, and very soon I had to hang plants outside under the overhang. Even so, they soon overflowed onto my patio. Clearly my plants were happy in their environment, and they thrived beautifully, as long as they were able to have partial shade.

In reality, I didn’t actually need to have a “greenhouse”. I LIVED in one. It was paradise — and, I was too focused on doing my job to realize it at that time.

Eventually my Philippine work assignment ended, and it was time to return to my regular job with TI in Dallas. Determined not to leave my orchids behind, I applied for the required Department of Agriculture import permits, and shipped the plants home in cardboard boxes.

The orchids didn’t have an opportunity to weigh in on this decision to leave their happy home. Had I allowed them voting rights they would surely have given me a resounding “No”! After all, what sane orchid would choose the brutal climate of Dallas over the ideal natural habitat of the Philippines?

Perhaps I should have allowed them a vote, because, sad to say, many did not survive the years it took me to learn how to take care

of them in Dallas. I never had to “learn” much in the Philippines. Nature did it all.

But, on the positive side, many of them did manage to adapt. Today I still have some whose genetic progeny live on, although not thriving as they would have back in their natural home.

Over the last few years, I have come to realize that, just as in the Philippines, where I lived in a greenhouse for tropical orchids, I also live in a greenhouse here in Texas. It is a greenhouse for terrestrials, a family of orchids that have adjusted to the varied environments of our state.

Now, if someone asks me whether I have a greenhouse, I still answer “yes”, but my answer has taken on a larger meaning. I understand now that ALL of us HAVE a greenhouse, the one we call Planet Earth. Our fragile world is the greenhouse we all share, the biosphere we (and our orchids) need to survive. This is both yours AND my first and only greenhouse, and it is the biosphere our native (and worldwide) orchids have adapted to. And just like my greenhouses for the past 35 years, this Planet Earth greenhouse takes a serious commitment also.

On a local level, our Texas-sized greenhouse has over 50



Spiranthes parksii
(Navasota Ladies-tresses).

species of orchids. This year we in Dallas will have the opportunity to “check in on part of our greenhouse” on June 5. That is the date when the Texas Master Naturalists will make their first trip of the year to Cedar Ridge Preserve to observe and tag the first emerging spikes of the *Hexalectris* species found there. We’re lucky that these local *Hexalectris* orchids are protected, and at least not immediately threatened by housing developments, agriculture, or climate change.

Other areas of our Texas-sized greenhouse have orchids, perhaps even more vulnerable, and have drawn the attention of researchers. In 2015 the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center funded a research grant with the assignment of predicting where and how the *Spiranthes parksii* could continue to thrive in the “greenhouse” of central Texas where they exist now (Grimes and surrounding counties along the Navasota river). The *Spiranthes parksii* (Navasota Ladies-tresses), is Texas’ only orchid species with official endangered status, and is threatened with extinction because of urban sprawl, agriculture, and climate change.

Research like this provides important information for possible

conservation easements that could preserve or provide a home for new or surviving colonies. Ground moisture was rated very critical in the study; ground moisture is greatly affected by climate change with its attendant increase in temperatures. Finding the right soil and fungi conditions and allowing for future moisture conditions is tricky.

A further complication of preserving this species comes from the fact that 90% of Texas land in private hands. Even with the endangered species status, the orchids have zero protection on private land. The sad news is that no matter their official classification, all orchid species native to Texas face the same threats as the *Spiranthes parksii*.

The best answer I have found for taking care of and protecting the orchids in this Texas-sized (and North American-sized) greenhouse is to keep more land out of agriculture and allow it to return to its natural state. With our growing population, the demand for agricultural land can be kept in check only if we are willing to decrease our demand for animal-based food.

More than 80 percent of the corn and 95 percent of the oats

grown in the U.S. are allocated for animal feed. By switching to a plant-based diet we could feed 5 times our human population without need for additional agricultural land. We currently export 60% of soy grown in the U.S., much of it going to China to feed hogs and chickens. Just think of how much we could do as individuals to reduce the agricultural pressure on our endangered species, including the orchids we love. In fact, only by redefining our unsustainable western lifestyle will our Greenhouse Earth be able to survive and sustain us. This will require participation by all of us.

Welcome to YOUR first greenhouse! It belongs to all of us and, indeed, maintaining it is still a serious commitment. Who will rise to the challenge of caring for it, so we all can live? The survival of all that we love is in our hands.

P.S. For anyone interested in joining the Master Naturalists on one of these orchid hunting expeditions, please know that you are welcome to participate. The outings are repeated several times, beginning on June 5. Please email me (Charles_m_hess@ymail.com) and I will help set that up for 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.



THE BEST TIME TO RE POT

This month is one of the busiest for every orchid grower. After a period of relative dormancy, orchids of every kind are beginning to grow. New orchid growers must learn to recognize when the growth cycle begins. Proper repotting and fertilizing of orchids depends on that recognition. The purpose of repotting should not be to multiply a plant, but to replace decaying medium. A well grown

plant, however, will often need a larger pot and yield extra pieces (divisions) for friends.

In nature, growth begins with some signal from nature, usually a change in day length or the beginning of the rainy season. Orchid hobbyists who become skilled growers of species also become competent naturalists because they must learn the key elements of the environment from which their

difficult-to-grow orchids come.

Most of us do not undertake growing the difficult species, but enjoy the more generic hybrids that are much easier to grow and for which, signs of growth are clear. Standard phalaenopsis, those with large flowers, begin their growth cycle when days begin to get longer and the temperature within the pot remains above 60° F. They will begin growth even with flowers on spikes. However, growth will begin earlier and proceed faster if spikes are removed. New leaves emerging from the center of the old leaves and new roots breaking from the stem just above the last living roots are a sure sign that growth has begun.

When this happens, your phalaenopsis can be repotted with the least damage. If your phalaenopsis was a gift, it likely needs repotting. If the medium in the pot seems to stay wet longer or your orchids' leaves are wilting, it likely needs repotting. Repotting can be as simple as removing the plant from the medium, shaking the old medium from the roots and replacing the orchid in a new pot with new medium. New hobby-

ORCHID GROWING TIPS



ists can find lots of information, including videos, on the process of repotting or attend a local orchid society potting demonstration and learn how to repot a phalaenopsis. It is easy.

Cattleya hybrids can generally be repotted in spring too. The trick is to begin the process before the orchid initiates root growth. Once new roots begin, there is the risk of damage to these new roots, which may set the plant back. It is OK to repot before roots are seen unless the hybrid is a “bifoliate-type” (very tall pseudobulbs and two or more leaves on each bulb). If you have one of this group, wait

until you see new roots, which may be later in the spring or early summer. Members of this group can be killed by repotting at the wrong time.

Paphs and Phrags (slippers) are best repotted right after they flower. While they decrease their growth rate when light levels are lower, they will grow all year long. Usually, there is a new growth beginning to mature as the older growth finishes flowering on a plant.

Vandas are particularly sensitive to low temperatures. This group of orchids grow best in high light, accompanied by night

temperatures above 65° F and days above 80° F. Most mature vandas are grown mounted or in baskets. Hobbyists that grow indoors are often enticed into purchasing vandas in hanging baskets and then left wondering what to do with them. They can be repotted into large clay pots as long as the medium has a diameter of an inch or more. However, it is best to avoid repotting this type of orchid. Once it gets warm, find a place outside under a lightly shading tree and water frequently.

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.

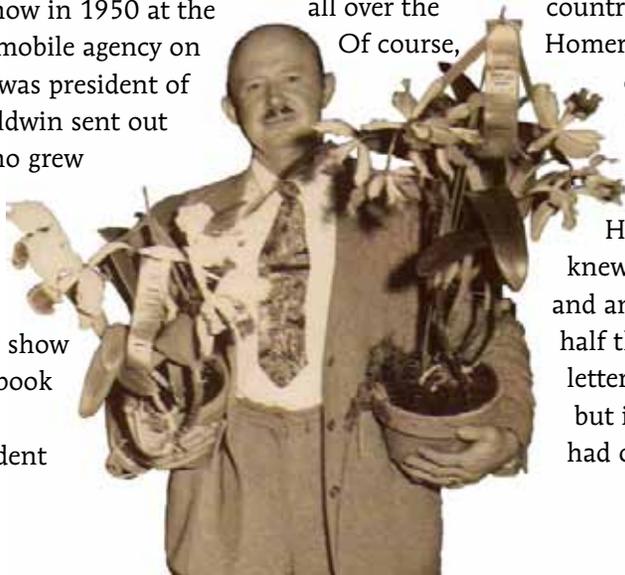
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____