



Next Meeting:
June 3rd

This month we will have our Semiannual Auction. There isn't a speaker or plant judging, just bidding on plants and eating food. Bring finger food or the dessert of your choice to share.

Please bring plants or divisions for the auction, as well as collectibles or any orchid related item.

This is the event that we do to raise funds for the society, so bring your bidding spirit and get ready to bid to help support the GNTOS.



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ORCHIDS 101

*Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling*



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

This month, because of the auction there is no Orchids 101. It returns in July.

MINUTES

Kathi McKenzie

Judy called our May meeting to order at 2:40 We had 25 in attendance, including 2 guests. There was a brief discussion of our next (June) meeting, which will be our semi-annual auction. Therefore, members should plan to bring plants to donate to the auction. There will be no show table in June.

Charles Hess gave a potting demonstration, by dividing and re-potting a large, overgrown cattleya. Judy then gave an informative presentation on “Things You Don’t Want.” It included tips on dealing with nasty things like fungus disease and bugs on plants.

Show table ribbons were announced, and we adjourned.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS May 6, 2018, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Lorna Kissling & May Lorfing

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (13 entries)

Blue – Cattleya purpurata var. vini-color

– Kathy Halverson

Red – C. Heathii 'Becky' HCC/AOS

– Judy Cook

White – B. unnamed (acalus x cucullata)

– Judy Cook

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(12 entries)

Blue – Den. Bohemian Rhapsody

– Nancy Cropp

Red – Bulbo. bicolor 'Amanda' AM/AOS

– Tim Carr

White – Bulb. falcata

'Standing Tall' AM/AOS – Judy Cook

ONCIDIUMS (2 entries)

Blue – Pyps. Mendenhall 'Hilda's'

FCC/AOS – Kathy Halverson

Red – Odcdm. Catatante 'Pumpkin Patch'

– Kathi McKenzie

PAPHS & PHRAGS (7 entries)

Blue – Paph. Meda Ballard – Karl Varian

Red – (Godfroya Alba x phillipenense

var. roebblini fma. Alba)

– Kathi McKenzie

White – Paph. delenatii – Ashley Nguyen

VANDAS & PHALS (12 entries)

Blue – Renanetia Sunrise – Linda Horton

Red – Phal. Sweet Memory

– Ashley Nguyen

White – Phal. unknown – Gerry Darver

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Cattleya purpurata var. vini-color

– Kathy Halverson

Encyclia alatta – Judy Cook

Bulbo. speciosum – Linda Horton

PEOPLES CHOICE

Paph. unknown – Ashley Nguyen

46 total plant entries – great blooming!

There will be no plant table judging at the June meeting.

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center
May 12, 2018

Ten plants entered for consideration,
three awards given:

1. **Phal. Pylo's Magician**

'Big Leaf Orchid'

(Dragon Tree Eagle 'DT' AM/AOS
x Paifang Ambotratea
'Big Leaf Orchid')
AM 86 points
owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake

2. **Phal. Pylo's Joey 'Coral Beauty'**

(Pylo's Ruby Joey x Ld's Bear Queen)
HCC 75 points
owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake

3. **Phrag. Rouge Bouillon**

'George's Choice'

(Mem. Dick Clements 'Rocket Flash'
4N x dalessandroi)
HCC 79 points
owner: George Bogard, Rockwall



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

Next meeting is June, 9th 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.

TOP TEN SIGNS THAT YOUR ORCHIDS ARE HAPPY

by Sue Bottom

St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org



Cattleya Secure in Pot

1. You can pick up plant by the vegetation and the pot doesn't fall away.

Roots are the secret to an orchid grower's success. If you want beautiful flowers, you need a healthy plant and for a plant to be healthy, it must have a vigorous root system.

The rule in nature is there is a 10 to 1 ratio of the roots to the shoots. When the roots have filled the pot, you can pick up the entire plant from the leaves and the plant does not wobble in the pot.

2. The newest growth is larger than the prior growth. A great indicator of a well growing plant is that the new leads and leaves are larger than or at least as large as the prior year's growths. Don't fret too much if the year after repotting the growths are a little smaller than the prior year, that is probably just a short term case of transplant shock. If that trend continues though, ask for a consult

with one of your orchid club's members.

3. Your orchid has thick, turgid leaves.

If your leaves look dehydrated, they probably are dehydrated and you'll have to follow the old tried and

true advice, knock it out of the pot and look at the roots. If the roots are rotten, you'll have to repot and consider whether it was overwatering or late repotting that caused the problem. If the roots are still viable, you may have to increase your watering frequency and or the amount of water you pour through the pot when you water.

4. Pseudobulbs and canes are plump.

The canes and pseudobulbs on your sympodial orchids like the leaves on your monopodial orchids function similarly to the hump on a camel. They should be full of water and energy reserves to get your orchid through the dry spells as well



Phalaenopsis with Healthy Leaves



Cycnodes Jumbo Puff



Dendrobium Golden Aya

as to make sure your plant has enough energy in reserve to develop flowers. After all, most orchids aren't grown for their foliage.

5. Plants in growth show long green (or red) root tips. You know you are a real orchid addict when you are just as excited about a new root as you are a new flower bud. When a plant is in active growth, it throws off new roots and the faster it grows, the longer the root tip.

6. Plants are flush with new growth, trying to jump out of the pot. When your plant is growing well, it is throwing off new growths, more leaves on a phalaenopsis or vanda, more pseudobulbs on a cattleya, more canes on a dendrobium, etc. With each new growth, comes the potential for new blooms. Dendrobiums are the exception, many will bloom from older growths, but cattleyas will only bloom from new growth, and somehow they always seem to bloom best when they're a bulb or two out of the pot. A monthly application of seaweed or kelp which contains some plant hormones will encourage new growths on your plant.



Long Root Tips

7. You get multiple bloom spikes.

Your orchids expend a tremendous amount of energy to form flower buds and then to carry the flowers in the hopes one of their pollinators will drop in for a visit. The more energy they are able to generate and store, the more energy reserves are available when it is time for them to start flowering. A drop in night time temperature also helps many plants conserve their energy stores. Multiple bloom spikes are your reward for meeting the cultural needs of your plants.

8. Your orchids don't complain about being hungry.

Orchids aren't like teenagers, they can't keep saying I'm hungry every couple of hours.



Cattleya Out of the Pot



Calanthe Baron Schroder



Clowesetum Jumbo Circle 'Clair' AM/AOS

Your orchids will grow fine with little fertilizer and many people proudly say they never fertilize their orchids. The real orchid food is light, but fertilizer contains the essential mineral building blocks for your plant. Get into a fertilizer routine. Use either water soluble or timed release fertilizer, whichever suits you better. Your orchids may not burp in appreciation, but you'll see an improvement in growth vigor.

9. No Vacancy” for disease and pests.

A vigorously growing plant is much more capable of withstanding problems. It is axiomatic that if you have found the sweet spot for your orchid, you also have found a location where there is enough air movement to keep your orchid happy which means you'll have fewer fungal infections. While orchids don't have an immune system similar to we humans, a healthy plant can mount a greater defense against disease and to some extent pests. You always have to be vigilant looking for scale, mealybugs, mites and other opportunistic devils.



Leaves Unmarred by Damage

10. All your friends want divisions.

The ultimate compliment is when friends come into your growing area and say I'd love a piece of that whenever you divide it. It means you've grown the plant to its maximum potential and gotten it to produce beautiful blooms. Do share your divisions with friends, it is one of the joys of gardening in general and growing orchids in particular. And who know, someday you may be asking for a piece of that plant back.



Cattleya Sue Bottom 'St. Augustine'

SUMMER MEANS ORCHID HUNTING



Watson Rare Native
Plant Preserve

survey trail takes 2-3 hours; you will be on your way home before noon.

On the way we can expect to see several species of *Hexalectris*, such as *nitida*, *warnockii*, and *spicata*. These small orchids remind us every year of the natural beauty to be found in Texas. It is always a very special treat to see them in their natural habitat only 30 miles from Dallas.

For Texas orchid lovers who are willing and able to take a longer drive, there is another Texas treasure where native orchids can be found. The Watson Rare Native Plant

Preserve near Lake Hyatt Lake in the Big Thicket National Preserve

is the site in question. (For directions, see <http://www.watsonpreserve.org/p/directions.html>)

In the month of August the rare *Plantanthera chapmanii* (Chapman's Fringed Orchid) can be found growing in wet areas,



Hexalectris nitida

As the annual *Hexalectris* survey at Cedar Ridge (Texas) is preparing to commence on Tuesday, Jun 5, we are once again reminded of the amazing biodiversity of Texas flora.

Stephanie Varium of the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists will again lead the survey, and everyone interested in participating is welcome to join us.

The surveys begin early, in order to take advantage of the coolest part of the day.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning June 5,

will meet at the park benches of the Cedar Ridge preserve for the 8am briefing. Occasionally the starting point will be at a different part of the park, so be sure to add your name to the email list to get updates. (OrchidArt-byCharlesHess@yahoo.com)

How to prepare for one of these outings? Dress in cool, light-colored clothes, bring water, wear sturdy shoes, and bring insect repellent. The walk along the



Hexalectris arizonica

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess



Geraldine Watson 1925-2012

along with other bog plants, as well as four types of carnivorous plants native to the Southern Coastal Plain region. Joe Liggio, author of *Wild Orchids of Texas* will be conducting the tours. (If interested, contact me for further information at OrchidArt-byCharlesHess@yahoo.com)

The orchids of this region have been preserved through the remarkable foresight of Geraldine Watson, a pioneer in conservation of Texas' native species. Watson was born in Louisiana in 1925 but later moved to the Piney Woods of

East Texas, where she learned to appreciate the complex ecosystem of this historic area. After earning her degree in biology, she began working for the National Parks Service. During her 15-year tenure there she came upon a plot of land so biologically rich that she felt moved to begin purchasing plots little by little, until she was able to establish a 10 acre preserve, which she named the Watson Pineland Preserve.

Watson saw the value of the Big Thicket's biodiversity, and began a campaign to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve. It was an uphill battle. Despite being readily accepted by garden clubs, where she gave hundreds of presentations, and even being permitted to testify before Congress, she was hated by the lumber companies, who were systemati-

cally devastating the old growth forests that early settlers called the Big Thicket.

At one time pine forests covered the South from Texas to Florida, with trees up to 6 feet in diameter. Of course such natural riches were of great interest to the lumber companies, and they constantly undermined Watson's efforts at preservation.

She persisted, however, and

her tenacity paid off in 1974, when President Gerald Ford signed legislation establishing the preserve which is now more than 105,000 acres, and meanders throughout several Texas counties.

From an orchid conservation standpoint, the Watson Rare

Native Plant Preserve is the focus of very important research. Pauline Singleton's blog post in November 2018 covers this ongoing effort:



Hexalectris spicata
photo Alan Cressler



platanthera chapmanii

Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, who is an Associate Professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, is leading conservation research projects at Watson Native Plant Preserve since 2012. The focus of her lab's work is on one of the rare and superbly showy orchids of Texas. *Platanthera chapmanii* (Chapman's orchid) is known from only a few locations in southeastern Texas, and Watson Native Plant Preserve hosts the largest population in Texas. Her work has included:

- 1. augmenting the native population of the species
- 2. locating new populations of the species in Big Thicket National Preserve
- 3. developing effective propagation methods for *P. chapmanii*, and
- 4. study of mycorrhizal ecology of the species. In nature, all orchid seeds depend on mycorrhizal fungi for germination, and as seedlings develop into mature plants, they maintain this relationship with their partner fungi.

Graduate (M.S.) student Kirsten E. Poff conducted manipulative experiments to test questions related to propagation and mycorrhizal symbiosis. Ms. Poff graduated in 2016 and is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Hawai. Other team members: Mr. Joe Liggio, Mr. Jim Willis, and Ms. Pauline Singleton assisted with research activities and facilitated permits and other logistics. Without their help, none of the activities would have been possible.

Two-year old laboratory-cultured plants of *Platanthera chapmanii* were planted at Watson Native Plant Preserve. Survival and emergence has been recorded at >90% two years after planting. Over the years, Dr. Sharma's team has added hundreds of plants of the species to WNPP

Publications:

1. Richards M and J Sharma. 2014. *A review of conservation efforts for Platanthera chapmanii in Texas and Georgia*. Native Orchid Conference Journal 11: 1-11. ISSN 1554-1169.
2. Poff, KE. 2016. *Platanthera chapmanii: culture, population*

augmentation, and mycorrhizal associations. M.S. thesis (Supervisor: J. Sharma). Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. pp. 142.

3. Poff, KE, J Sharma, and M Richards. 2016. *Cold-moist stratification improves germination in a temperate terrestrial orchid*. *Castanea* 81: xx-xx. (In Press)

So, if you are looking for an orchid adventure and a chance to see native Texas orchids in their natural habitats, you now have two opportunities to do exactly that.

Happy orchid hunting for all this summer.

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.

CHEAP AND EFFECTIVE ORCHID PRODUCTS

There are many products available today for orchid growing, most far more expensive than necessary. Hobbyists usually just pay the price since they have only a few plants. As your collection gets larger or you wish to be more frugal there are many ways to reduce the cost of your hobby.

Many hobbyists got stared when presented with a gift of an orchid and are still in the early stages of learning to grow. Many of the big-box stores get a regular supply of orchids, which are sold as pot plants. Some orchids do not sell and go out of bloom. These are either tossed or placed on a sales table at a reduced price. Caution should be exercised when purchasing these orchids, but some bargains can be found. Inexpensive orchids also make great plants on which to experiment. Learn to repot using these orchids. Try different media and pots. All of these “experiments” will teach you to be a better grower and make you more confident when you purchase an orchid that you really like. Most hobbyists err in the beginning

because they are afraid to damage a newly purchased orchid so they do nothing when a problem develops.

Fertilizer is a classic example of the concept that excellent orchids do not require the most expensive products. One of my favorite growers that proved the concept was the late Ralph Wasdon from Greenville, NC. He used K-Mart, soluble fertilizer and grew orchids as well as anyone I ever met. When asked to speak about his prowess in growing orchids he always replied that it only took five minutes to explain his methods; water when needed, fertilize when you remember, and put your plants under the pines when it was warm enough.

Practical wisdom is often overlooked when growing “exotic” orchids in favor of the elaborate and expensive. Powdered cinnamon is a very effective fungicide applied directly to the wound. Many growers buy cinnamon powder by the bag and sprinkle it over roots and rhizome just before placing a newly repotted orchid in a new pot. This non-toxic and relatively inexpensive fungicide has the added benefit of a nice fragrance.

Another simple, and amazingly

effective, anti-bacterial/anti fungal agent is Hydrogen Peroxide. It is available everywhere for topical use. Joe Grezaffi introduced me to its use. Whenever he saw crown rot in a phal or rot on a cattleya he poured hydrogen peroxide right in the crown or damaged area. For awhile, I used half strength, but found that there was never any damage from using it full strength. It even stops pseudomonas rot on phal leaves that I once cut off entirely when I saw just a small rot spot.

One of the most significant changes in fertilizer for orchids is the availability of a slow release fertilizer named Nutricote. This product is being used by many commercial orchid nurseries, but is even more important to the hobbyist who has just a small number of orchids. Available as Dynamite in small quantities from Home Depot stores, this is an easy to use fertilizer that delivers a constant supply of nutrients for a set amount of time. Most last for six months and provide micronutrients as well.

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.

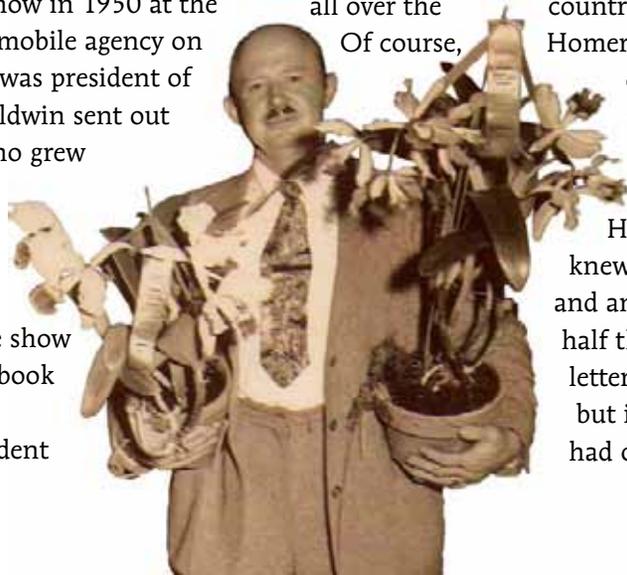
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____