

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

AUG

Next Meeting:
August, 5
Peter Lin

GROWING NOVELTY PHALAENOPSIS

Peter Lin 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 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, they 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.

He is bringing plants to sell.



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SWROGA DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Beber

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS July 1, 2018
Plant Table Judging Results

Thank you Barbara McNamee for substituting for me in my absence!
Judges: May Lorfing & Shane Stewart

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (8 entries)

Blue – Blc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst'
– Dan Lyons
Red – Encyclia radiata – Judy Cook
White – Blc. Ports of Paradise
– Karl Varian

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS (7 entries)

Blue – Den. manificum – Karl Varian
Red – Bulb. tingabarianum
– Linda Horton
White – Eria spicata – Judy Cook

ONCIDIUMS (5 plants—3 weren't registered)

Blue – Miltassia Shelob 'Tolkien'
– Charles Hess
Red – Vuylsukeara Carnival 'Opika'
– George Bogard

PAPHS & PHRAGS

(8 plants—1 not registered)
Blue – Phrag Les Dirouilles
– George Bogard
Red – Paph. superbiens – George Bogard
White – Phrag. (Lindleyanum
x Dalessandroi) – George Bogard

VANDAS & PHALS (7 entries)

Blue – Rnst. Bancock Beauty
– Linda Horton
Red – Formosa Cranberry
– George Bogard
White – Phal. no name – Judy Cook

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Encyclia radiata – Judy Cook
Den. manificum – Karl Varian
Paph. superbiens – George Bogard

PEOPLES CHOICE

Phrag. Les Dirouilles – George Bogard

GNTOS Plant Table Judging Point Standings through July

The top 11 out of 24 members who have exhibited plants so far this year:

1. - 37 points - Judy Cook
2. - 33 points - George Bogard
3. - 31 points - Kathy Halverson
4. - 25 points - Manny Aybar
5. & 6. - 24 points - Linda Horton & Kathi McKenzie
7. - 20 points - Karl Varian
8. - 17 points - Sarah Hardesty
- 9, 10, 11 - 16 points - David Gould, Charles Hess & Ashley Nguyen

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.



MINUTES

Kathi McKenzie

Judy called the meeting to order at 2:40. There were 25 in attendance, including several guests. There were no major announcements.

Barbara introduced our speaker, Dotty Woodson, who gave a presentation on growing orchids in the heat. It included a focus on greenhouse considerations for the Texas heat.

After show table announcements, we adjourned at 4:05

Nancy Cropp

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center
July 14, 2018

Eight plants entered, one award given:

C. Triumphans 'Summer Sunrise'

(dowiana x rex)

HCC 76 points

owner: David Gould, Mesquite

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

The next meeting is August, 11th 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.



PSSST...WANT TO REALLY PROTECT ENDANGERED ORCHIDS?



Atlantic Rainforest

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess

Orchid Conservation comes in many flavors. It can, for example, be educational and introduce the public to the beauty and uniqueness of just one of nature's truly remarkable gifts. A wise person said that we tend to protect what we know and love.

One way of contributing to orchid conservation is to participate in efforts on a local level. Without

a doubt, the educational value of the annual Hexalectris Citizen Scientist survey is a prime example. How truly remarkable it is that these fragile flower spikes, narrower than a pencil, can emerge from a rugged soil surface next to tall cedars. Botanists tell us that seeds of these orchids can develop underground for as much as twenty years before emerging and blooming one summer. To learn more about this complex ecosystem, the Smithsonian's North American Orchid Conservation Center conducts joint research projects with universities in Texas to study the fungi that supports these orchids in their life underground. The more we learn about the life cycle of these orchids, the more we increase our broader understanding of these mysteries of nature. Orchid enthusiasts who are members of orchid societies are perhaps more familiar with another aspect of conservation. Many member societies of SWROGA, as well as other societies, have financially supported the work of the Orchid Conservation Alliance or Rainforest Trust to protect critical habitats. Two popular conservation projects SWROGA societies financially supported have acquired areas of rain forest which now serve as special reserves for na-

tive orchids. One of these projects is in Ecuador, where the *Dracula* species has one of its few remaining habitats. The second project is the Serra Bonita reserve, part of the last remaining remnants of the Atlantic Forest in Brazil, once rich with *Cattleya* species such as *Cattleya harrisoniana*.

In addition to these, there are many other projects, such as the botanical gardens with ex-situ orchid species in tropical areas where originally found, and even the Million Orchid Project, whose goal is to establish seedlings of local orchid in public urban cities that were built over the species' original habitat. These programs all represent ways that orchid lovers can actively participate in a conservation effort. It is sad to hear about more and more species being lost each day. The act of taking a proactive stance in any conservation effort can feed the soul of those of us who lament these losses.

For many of us long time growers, our first, and maybe only exposure to orchid conservation, was through the protection program called CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). It is a multilateral treaty, and, as its name says, was setup to protect endangered plants and animals

traded around the world. It was drafted in 1963 from a resolution at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and went into effect in 1975. The intent was to protect endangered species from excessive commerce that would threaten their survival. Originally, according to

Wikipedia, its intent was to stem the traffic in animal furs to the West. As demand increased for part of other species like the shark fins in China, the list has expanded to thousands of species deemed to be endangered.

Unfortunately, this program had been a failure as far as conservation is concerned. Although it has

helped prevent certain trade transactions, the organization's practice of destroying confiscated plants seemed contradictory to the organization's mission. The sad truth is that if there is a demand for something, someone will always find a way to supply that demand. In the end it was not CITES that stemmed the fur trade, but rather the power of organizations and individual people acting to wake up the public to the horrors involved in this market. Because of public pressure from environmentalists it gradually was no longer fashionable to wear furs, and the demand declined.

What kind of public pressure will bring about

a decreased demand for products which destroy orchid habitats? Surely there must be an answer to the terrible news that 37 million acres of habitat have been lost to deforestation in tropical forests around the world in 2017, and that complete extinction of thousands of unknown species of orchids appears inevitable. Reports like this are generally presented in the news as "just the way it is" with rarely any thought as to what is driving it. That is, of course, by design for as long as we think nothing can be done, the demand for deforestation will be allowed to increase unquestioned.

The needed change is coming about through knowledge. As more and more people discover the health benefits of eating a plant-based diet, they bring about the additional benefit of literally saving the planet. It turns out that the number one cause of deforestation, agricultural expansion in support of the meat industry, is being brought into the spotlight in a new way. We are gaining an awareness that the meat industry is an extremely inefficient use of the Earth's resources. It takes up to 15 pounds of grain to make 1 pound of beef; it takes 70% of our agricultural land to support the livestock industry. And then there is the matter of massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere, along

with untreated animal waste polluting our environment. And finally, animal agriculture places an enormous, and unsustainable demand on the world's supply of fresh water.

The younger generations are discovering the increasing varieties of foods and flavors from a plant-based diet, and they know that they can get the required protein from non-animal sources. They recognize that they will need a sustainable world for themselves and for future generations. The fact that a plant-based diet is also less expensive serves as an additional motivator to cash-strapped young people.

Just as wearing furs has become unfashionable, even shameful in the eyes of many, so will consuming animal products gradually become a questionable practice. As more people become aware, they will make the needed changes to ensure a future for their children and grandchildren. As the demand for meat products decreases, deforestation will slow down, and gradually the rain forests will reclaim lost territory.

When this change comes, it will come quickly, and we will see hope for what is left of our endangered species. When we all make these changes, one orchid lover at a time, we will then really be protecting our endangered species.

Pssst ... spread the word.



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

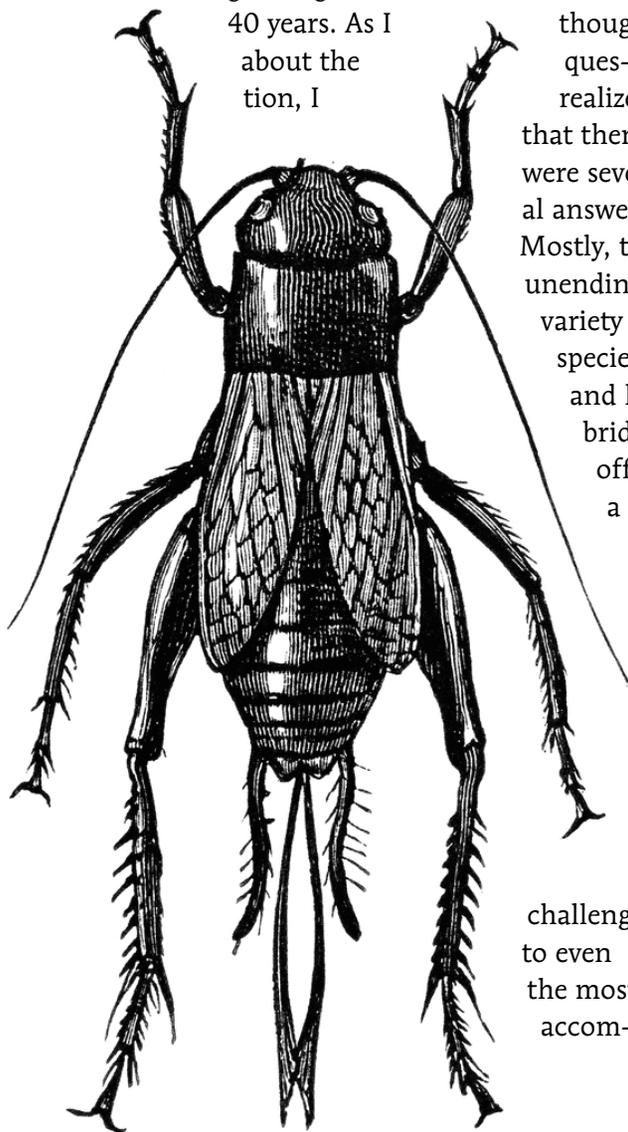
by
Courtney Hackney

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.

WHAT'S EATING MY ORCHIDS? CRICKETS

An acquaintance recently asked me what I found so intriguing about orchids that made me continue growing them for over 40 years. As I thought about the question, I realized that there were several answers. Mostly, the unending variety of species and hybrids offer a



challenge to even the most accom-

plished horticulturalist. Most long-term orchid hobbyists began with a relatively easy-to-grow orchid and after we mastered growing that one, wanted more of a challenge. Learning to provide the environment for an exotic species from another part of the world must be a rewarding experience for those of us engaged in this hobby because we continue to do it.

Most remarkable is the fact that each year the challenge is a little different because it is hotter, colder, or new pests show up. This year's pest du jour for me is the juvenile stage of crickets. These appear as pale versions of the adult. They leave damage that looks like slugs, but they also really like new roots. After several nights of looking, I decided to un-pot a damaged plant or two. There were two or three of the little beasts. Once I knew what to look for, I found them on my new phal leaves and on cattleya roots in the dark of night.

These little beasts are quick, and difficult to catch. Several readers have asked about similar damage on orchids they were growing

outside in summer and I suggested that the damage was done by slugs. It is not clear if it is the very dry weather promoting this pest or my conversion to large lava rock for a medium. Lava rock provides large spaces where the juvenile crickets retreat during the daylight and makes killing them by hand difficult. Apparently, my small army of frogs that feed at night has not been able to control these pests and I will soon have to resort to liquid Sevin.

Sevin is an old pesticide widely used in gardens, but not usually for orchids. Most scale, the primary insect pest in orchids, are resistant to Sevin, but it works well on other insect pests. Just follow the directions and drench the pot. This kills most insects hiding in pots and seems to also be disliked by bush snails and slugs as well.

I never experienced many insect pests, except scale, until recently. My suspicion is that pesticides, such as Orthene, previously used to kill scale, also killed these other pests. Now that I control scale with an infrequent application of a hormonal pesticide,

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

crickets and other insects have appeared.

Summer Culture - It is important this time of year to provide enough water to your orchids so that they can cool themselves in the summer's heat. If you have a few orchids that have lost their roots or are in the process of re-growing roots, it will be necessary to keep them in more shade. Orchids without roots cannot obtain enough water to cool their leaves when temperatures are high. Withered leaves or a plant dropping leaves is a sure sign that your orchid is using more water than it can obtain through roots.

Most standard cattleya pseudobulbs are maturing now, which means it's time to cease fertilizing heavily. Smaller cattleyas with lots of saphronitis in their background can grow all year long and bloom several times a year. This type of cattleya, popular among window-sill growers, can be fertilized all year long.

It seems that many orchid growers in the area now use Dynamite (also known as Nutricote) slow-release fertilizer [13-13-13] and had lots of flowers last winter and spring. I first saw this prod-

uct in seedlings I purchased from Carter & Holmes a few years ago and after trying it I was hooked. It provides an even dose of fertilizer for 6 months. This is ideal for hobbyists since mixing fertilizer is time consuming and typically results in over-fertilizing. Use about a half teaspoon for a 5" pot.

Last year a new formulation appeared alongside the standard 13-13-13 formula. While available for some time in bulk, it is now being sold under the trade name Dynamite at Home Depo. It has also appeared from time to time in Big Lots stores at a reduced price. The chemical formula is higher in Nitrogen [18-6-8] and contains minor nutrients as well. It is labeled "All Purpose", comes in a green tube, and provides nutrients for nine months. It delivered too much Nitrogen for cattleyas, but was great for phalaenopsis and paphiopedalums, which are faster growers. About ½ teaspoon per 5" pot worked well. Apply the fertilizer when the orchids begin to grow in winter. There is enough residual fertilizer incorporated into the medium to provide the orchid with nutrients for an entire year.

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.

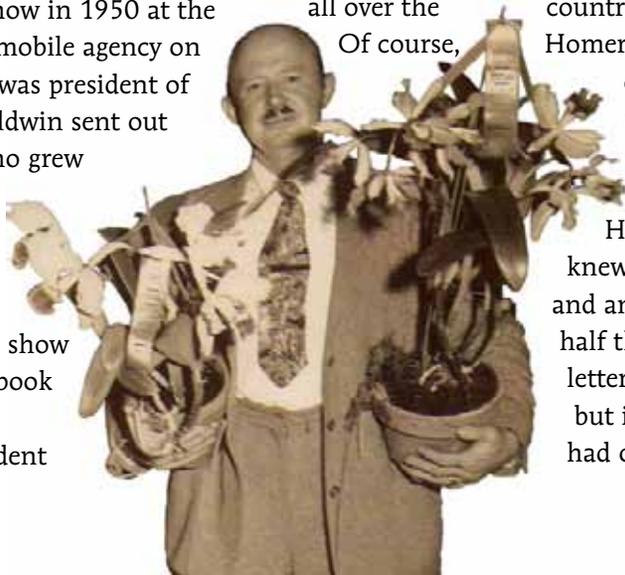
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____