



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
**ORCHID
SOCIETY**

SEPT

GROWING BULBOPHYLLUM ORCHIDS IN NORTH TEXAS

Next Meeting:
September, 2
Judy Cook

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT**
Judy Cook
- VICE PRESIDENT**
Barbara McNamee
- SECRETARY**
Kathi McKenzie
- TREASURER**
Kathy Halverson
- SWROGA DIRECTORS**
Barbara McNamee
Linda Horton
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
David Gould
- GNTOS WEBMASTER**
Manuel Aybar
- PAST PRESIDENT**
Mike Beber



The Sept. 2 program on “Growing Bulbophyllum Orchids in North Texas” will be presented by Dr. Judy Cook of Gunter, TX. She has been a member of the Society since 2005, an accredited American Orchid Society Judge since 2002, and growing orchids for over 30 years, currently growing in her 2100 square foot greenhouse. She has retired from a full-time psychiatry practice.



PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Aug. 5, 2018

Judges: Charles Hess & Dave Karlen

Thank you, once again, Barb McNamee for filling in for me in my absence!

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

(11 entries)

Blue – Lc. Lorraine Shira 'Raye'

– David Gould

Red – Blc. Mem. Vida Lee 'Lime Light'

– Mike Beber

White – Bl. Morning Glory HCC/AOS

– Kathy Halverson

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(3 entries)

Blue – Dendrobium unknown

– Gerry Darver

Red – Sobralia violacea – Kathy Halverson

White – Stenorrhoyne vitellina

– Linda Horton

ONCIDIUMS (2 entries)

Blue – Onc. Maureen x haematochilum

– Gerry Darver

Red – Lockhartia lunifera – Linda Horton

PAPHS & PHRAGS (7 entries)

Blue – Paph. premulinum flavum

x sanderianum – George Bogard

Red – Phrag. boissieranum

– George Bogard

White – Phrag. Peruflora's Saltimbanco

– George Bogard

VANDAS & PHALS (4 entries)

Blue – Vanda christensonianum

'Vietnamica' – Linda Horton

Red – Phal. I-Hsin Homer Peloric

– George Bogard

White – Vanda christensonianum

'Vietnamica' – David Gould

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Sobralia violacea – Kathy Halverson

Vanda christensonianum 'Vietnamica'

– Linda Horton

PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Oconee 'Mendenhall'

x C. hatoyavi 'Son,Vet' – Mike Beber

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

Barbara brought the meeting to order at 2:44. We had 26 in attendance, including 3 guests. Peter Lin discussed how to care for specialty phalaenopsis. Judy closed the main meeting at 3:20. Linda held a brief meeting afterwards to discuss the spring show.

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

Dallas Judging Center Aug. 11, 2018

Three plants entered for consideration,
two award given:

1. *Coelogyne Lurline* 'Emily'

(*confusa* x *pandurata*) HCC 76 points,
Exhibitor: Emily Quinn, Sachse

2. *Bulb. hirundinis* var. *calvum*

'Fran' (species)

CHM 74 points

Exhibitor: Emily Quinn, Sachse

Up-coming show:

Shreveport Orchid Society SWROGA
Sept. 21-23, Randal T. Moore Center,
3101 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport, LA

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

The next meeting is September, 8th 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.



1



2



A SECOND CHANCE FOR CONFISCATED ORCHIDS?



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

What happens when a U.S. port of entry processes a shipment of plants, and finds that the plants do not meet proper import requirements? Occasionally those plants are confiscated and destroyed. If those plants happen to be orchids, it is a particularly sad moment for us orchid enthusiasts. The good news is, destruction is not always how the story ends.

A good many of these confiscated orchids are, in fact, not destroyed, but instead are “rescued” and sent to a Certified Conservation Greenhouse. Our last month’s article briefly touched on the CITES process, which, unbeknownst to most of us, has a facility right here in Fort Worth.

This past August I attended the Fort Worth Orchid Society meeting, where I was totally surprised to learn from the speaker Dotty Woodson (TAMU), that the Fort Worth Botanical Garden’s orchid greenhouse is a “Certified Conservation Greenhouse”. In fact, I never even knew that such a certification existed.

How does a facility become certified as a “Conservation Greenhouse?” It all began with a federal government effort called the Plant Rescue Center Program (PRC), created in 1978 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It provides a destination for many plants confiscated at U.S. ports of entry, when these plants are found to be out of compliance with the import or export requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a designation better known by the acronym “CITES”.

Participation in CITES is voluntary, and all public botanical gar-

dens, arboretums, zoological parks and research centers can apply. Locally the program is represented at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, one of approximately 80 certified institutions in 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Perhaps the most familiar Plant Rescue Center (PRC) is the U.S. Botanic Gardens (USBG) in Washington DC. For years Tom Merinda was the overseer of this collection which is maintained in non-public facilities outside of DC. Along with plants acquired by the USBG under this program are separate special private collections donated to the Smithsonian.

The U.S. FWS website provides a recap of the success of this program from 2006 to 2010: “*In the 680 plant shipments confiscated containing 38,400 plants, 27,270 were orchids and the remainder were such items as Venus flytraps, pitcher-plants, cacti, cycads and other genera. Of these 680 shipments, 664 were sent to rescue centers and comprised just over 20 thousand plants. The balance of around 18 thousand plants either perished or were destroyed at the ports.*”

When a facility becomes certified it must meet several requirements. To us orchid enthusiasts, the most interesting and important of these requirements is that the



this Conservation Greenhouse, and they receive the same special care of dedicated orchid society members.

In return for the volunteer work the orchid society provides, the orchids become a source of revenue and material for orchid shows. The spectacular *Dendrobium anosmum* from the Conservation Greenhouse was in full bloom at the last Greater North Texas Orchid Society show and was one of the

most memorable stand-outs.

As with any endeavor, it is the enthusiasm and dedication of the people involved that ensures a program's success. A major factor in the success of the Conservation Greenhouse in Fort Worth is the continued interest in orchid conservation on the part of the Fort Worth Orchid Society, without which its ability to function as a PRC would be far less certain.

Interwoven with this PRC mission, the FWOS has its own Mission Statement. Education of the public through displays of specimen orchids in the Garden's public spaces is at the top of this mission statement. Added to this is their focus on New World orchid genera that thrive

in our climate plus a program to actively seek specimens from other gardens. This serves to preserve and protect the gene pool, thereby maintaining the vigor and viability of the collection.

As the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens undergoes major transitions, the conservation efforts of the Gardens and the FWOS and the city owned Gardens should certainly be enhanced. Already, with the recent assumption of education and volunteer functions at the Gardens by its next-door neighbor, the BRIT (Botanical Research Institute of Texas), the Conservation Greenhouse will have access to volunteers which might not be available otherwise. The ongoing contact between the two organizations can also lead to increased membership in the orchid society. As we all know, it doesn't take too long being around orchids to get hooked.

Kudos to our friends at the FWOS and their effort to support orchid conservation, and for giving many orchids a second chance to grow and thrive.

Footnote:

The FWOS and the Gardens were represented in May 2018 at a meeting that included members of BRIT and the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) of the Smithsonian, the purpose of

which was to lay groundwork for regional NAOCC conservation efforts. One happy outcome of that meeting is that the FWOS has just recently had their logo placed on the NAOCC Orchid-Gami model of the "Chapman's Fringed Orchid" (*Plantanthera chapmanii*), a species predominantly found in Texas. Copies of this Orchid-Gami model will soon be available for sale from the Orchid-Gami display in the Japanese Garden gift shop.

orchid-gami
NATIVE TO THE U.S. AND CANADA



This is what the paper Chapman's Fringed Orchid will look like when built:

plants remain the property of the U. S. Government. Any Plant Rescue Center (PRC) may show and display the orchids but is not permitted to sell or otherwise dispose of them. However, divisions or propagules become the property of the individual greenhouse and may be sold, traded, or otherwise dispositioned.

For many years both the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens and the Fort Worth Orchid Society have had a working arrangement whereby the society members provide the volunteer labor (every Wednesday) to maintain the orchids in the Garden's non-public Conservation (PRC) Greenhouse. In addition, orchids which have been donated to the Orchid Society or to the Gardens also find a home in

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 IMPORTANCE OF PH TO ORCHID GROWTH

Few successful orchid growers can successfully explain why pH is important to growing orchids. If one looks up pH in the dictionary, the definition has to do with the number of hydrogen ions in water; a fact that has little meaning to most orchid hobbyists.

The pH of water used to grow orchids is important and so is the pH of the medium on which orchids grow. The vast majority of hobbyists use the medium available plus whatever water they have and never understand pH because the combination of medium and water they are using is well within the ideal range for most orchids.

Many years ago, Ralph Wasdon, was known as one of the best orchid growers in Eastern North Carolina. He was noted for using only K-Mart generic fertilizer, one of the cheapest around. Other growers, noting his technique tried to duplicate his growth

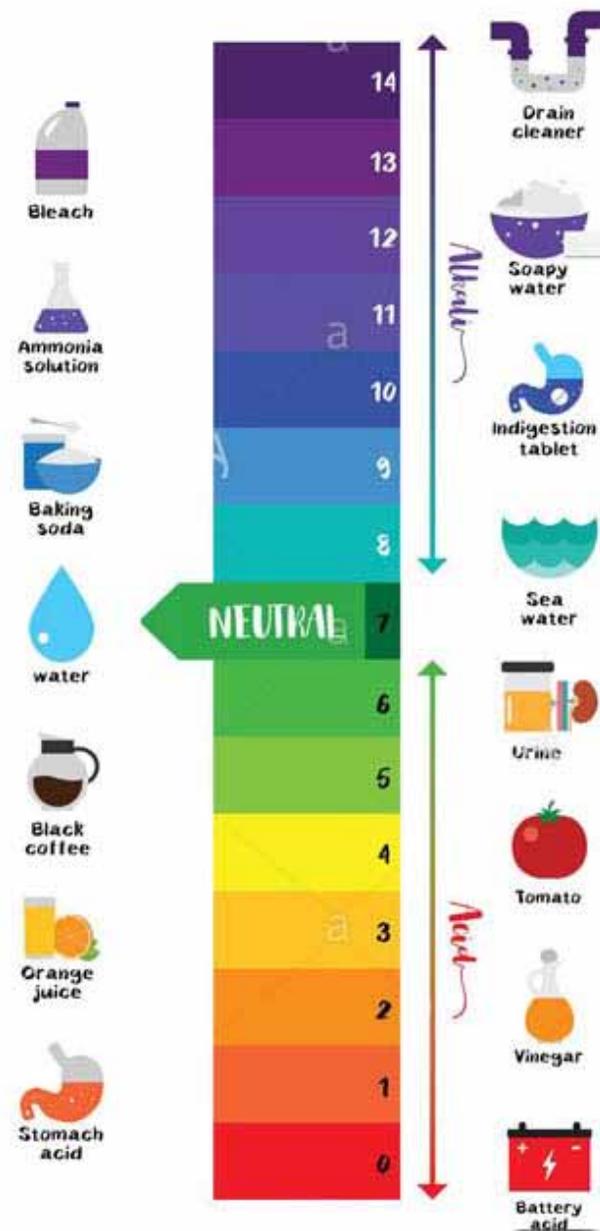
without success. Ralph knew nothing of pH, but by trial and error had found the right combination of growing medium, which combined with his water source and fertilizer provided an almost perfect pH balance for the absorption of nutrients. He used very dilute solutions of fertilizer, but his perfect 6.2 pH was ideal for nutrient uptake.

There are a few hobbyists who have extremely poor water or who decide to try a new type of fertilizer, growing medium, or pesticide/fungicide who do need to understand pH. Some water sources are extremely basic or acidic and there are a few fertilizers that contain excess micronutrients. Micronutrients can be toxic under extreme water pH.

Most hobbyists that try to improve their growing by testing water for dissolved solids or pH fail to appreciate that it is the pH of the medium

THE pH SCALE

Universal Indicator pH Color Chart



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

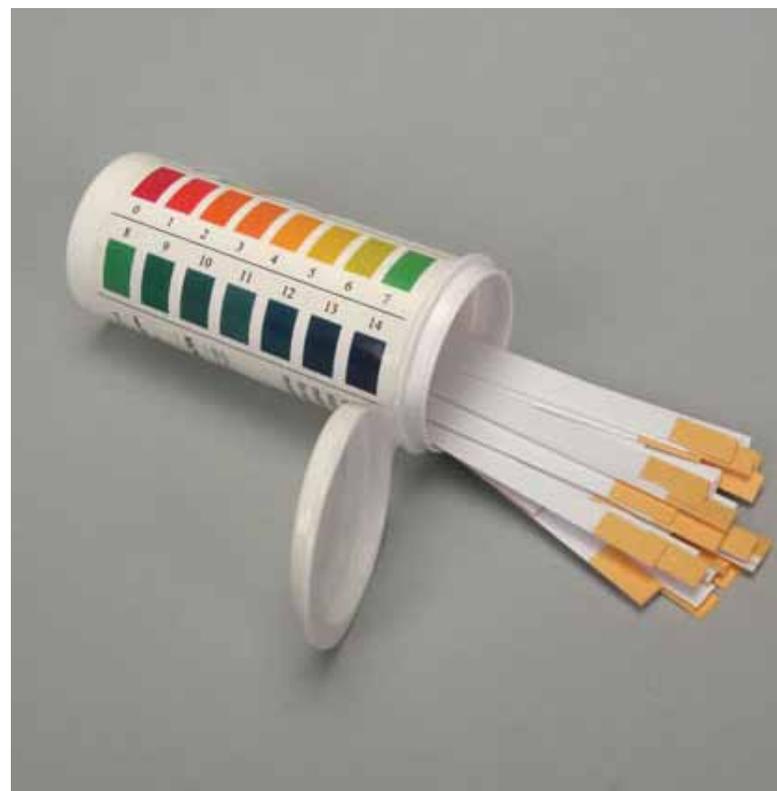
combined with water that is most important. While water source is one component, most water and nutrient uptake occurs where roots are in contact with the medium. Here, the pH may change dramatically from that of the applied water.

In peat based media for example, the breakdown products of peat lead to acid conditions that may become extreme. If micronutrients are in the water source or applied as fertilizer they may become so soluble under acidic conditions that the orchids receive toxic levels. This can be exacerbated by using some of the high nitrogen Cal-Mag fertilizers, especially blended for orchids. These fertilizers when mixed with water lower the pH. Typically this is not a

problem if the water source is full of minerals. If the source is rainwater or DI water the acidity can be so extreme that orchid roots can be killed. Adding a solution that raises pH can produce fantastic growth in orchids, but requires an understanding of pH.

Many pesticides are most effective at a specific pH, usually slightly acidic. One popular fungicide, Kocide can be toxic under a very acidic pH, but very effective if the pH is over 7. Kocide contains copper that is soluble and taken up by plants at lower pH values.

So what should the average orchid hobbyist know and do about pH. If your orchids are growing well, the answer is nothing. If you begin experimenting with new fertilizers, media or pesticides a simple pH meter may prevent you from damaging your orchids and make you a better grower.



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.

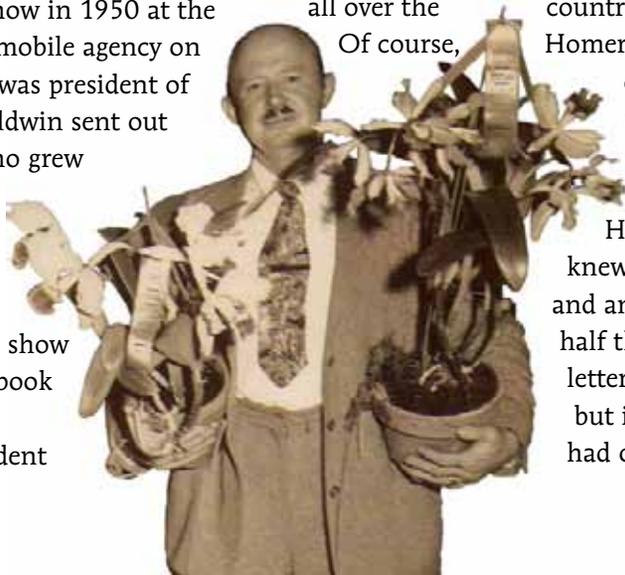
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____