



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

JAN

Next Meeting:
January 6th
Tim Carr

The Jan. 6 program on "Laelia Anceps" will be presented by Society member and American Orchid Society Associate Judge Tim Carr. Tim moved to Texas 26 years ago and has retired from the Dept. of Defense after 34 years. He has been growing orchids for only the last seven years, now growing in a greenhouse since spring of 2017. He will be serving the Society as Vice-President for 2019.



LAELIA ANCEPS

**Everything You
Wanted to Know, But
Were Afraid to Ask!**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Linda Horton

VICE PRESIDENT

Tim Carr

SECRETARY

Barbara McNamee

TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

SWROGA DIRECTORS

Barbara McNamee

Linda Horton

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Judy Cook

DUES DUE

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.

Final 2018 GNTOS Plant Table Judging Point Standings

391 total plants at nine meetings and one show, 527 total points logged:

10. Manny Aybar - 25 points
9. Ashley Nguyen - 30 points
- 8/7. David Gould & Kathi McKenzie - 34 points each
6. Gerry Darver - 35 points
5. Karl Varian - 39 points
4. Linda Horton - 41 points
3. Kathy Halverson - 46 points, won \$50
2. Judy Cook - 49 points, won \$75
1. George Bogard - 65 points, won \$100

Congratulations to the winners and thank you all 26 members who brought plants this year! Thank you also to the 11 members who helped judge the tables! Looking forward to another wonderful year in 2019!

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.

EVENTS

UPCOMING SWROGA SHOWS

3/08/2019 - 3/09/2019

**Greater North Texas Orchid Society Show
SWROGA Show**

Richardson Civic Center, Richardson, TX

3/22/2019 - 3/24/2019

**Alamo Orchid Society's March Madness
Orchid Show and Sale**

San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio Texas

4/06/2019 - 4/07/2019

Houston Orchid Society Show and Sale

Memorial City Mall, Houston Texas

4/12/2019 - 4/13/2019

C.L.O.S. Spring Show

Kees Park Community Center, Pineville LA

04/20/2019 - 04/21/2019

Tulsa Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale

The Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa OK

05/04/2019 - 05/05/2019

Oklahoma Orchid Society Show and Sale

Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center
Oklahoma City OK

UPCOMING AOS WEBINARS

Cattleya Species Culture

Bill Rogerson

Thursday, January 10th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Finally, a sensible guide for growing
cattleyas!

Must register for this webinar

**Greenhouse Chats
(Recorded Webinars)**

Ron McHatton

Tuesday, January 29th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A

Must register for this webinar

Growing Cymbidiums

George Hatfield

Wednesday, February 13th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Must register for this webinar

Must register for this webinar

VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE

Have you ever had a prized orchid, bloom just after the monthly meeting, or fade just beforehand? Favorite orchid won't flower for the shows or meetings? Now there is a place to show orchids that don't flower at the right time. (Also, if your plant bugs you can keep it home but still show the flowers.)

Just send your photos to: david@gouldcreative and subject "Orchid Photo". Tell us:

- Who the owner is
- What your plant is (Genus, species, variety, clonal name, synonym) if you know it
- Where you grow the plant (Greenhouse, back yard, window-sill, under lights, any combination)
- Any special notes (How you came to own plant, fragrance details, special cultural tips, history, raves, etc.)
- Who took the picture

*Please feel free to include any information that you feel is interesting or helpful!

Submit your orchid photos to: david@gouldcreative and subject "Orchid Photo" for the newsletter



*Phrag. Betheva (pearcei 'TipTop'
X caudatum v. warszewiczium) – George Bogard*

*Paph. haynaldianum 2011 X Paph. lowii half alba #1
– George Bogard*



Encyclia Hunty's Halucination – Karl Varian

Encyclia Sharry Baby- Karl Varian



MORE VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE

*BLC George King ' Southern Cross
– Judy Crook*



Madalyn Hernandez



2 Photos – Gerry Darver



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center
December 8, 2018

Five plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

GNTOS members are encouraged to bring their blooming orchids for judging. You might win an AOS award.

Planning is under way for the tri-center February seminar. Watch for further information.

Visitors are always welcome!

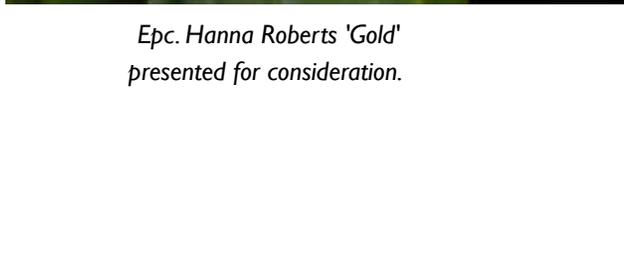
The Dallas Judging Center meets on the second Saturday of every month.

The next meeting is January, 12th 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.



*C.[Sc.] Amazing Match
'Cutie Beauty' SBM JOGA
presented for consideration.*



*Epc. Hanna Roberts 'Gold'
presented for consideration.*

CONSERVATION: FROM AWE TO UNDERSTANDING



Alexander von Humboldt

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

Starting more than two hundred years ago, collectors searched the new world in a quest to bring back strange and new orchid species, mostly for Europeans who were wealthy enough to be able to afford creating an environment in which orchids would be able to thrive. The orchid mania of that time was resembled the Tulip Mania of the 17th century. Even though exotic plants were admired for their beauty, whether orchids or tulips, there was always a commercial aspect to having something rare. The rarer the plant, the greater its value on the collector's market.

At the same time, there is always the human tendency to want to know about the world outside of their immediate surroundings. Anything about the New World across the Atlantic was of particular interest to Europeans of the day. They were immensely curious to see the plant and animal specimens brought back by naturalist explorers. The sudden exposure to the immense diversity of planet Earth held people in thrall about the wonders of nature. The most prominent naturalist of the day, Alexander von Humboldt, has been compared to our modern-day rock

stars, with audiences lining up to hear him describe the new worlds he found in South America.

Nature soon caught the public's attention in a dramatic new way when Charles Darwin began to look at nature—not just as a curiosity, but for a key to understanding how it worked. Darwin's lifetime of work, captured brilliantly in *On the Origin of Species*, is still considered today to be one of the most significant contributions to human knowledge about the natural world.

If only the sense of awe and wonder about nature had caused humanity to have more respect for it. Unfortunately, nature has always been regarded as something to be tamed, owned and exploited. Fast forward to the 1900's in the U.S. and we find that people had wiped out the millions of buffalo, driven the carrier pigeon to extinction, and eliminated most of the native people who had been living sustainably on the land for millennia. In their place, cattle ranching and farming took over much of the landscape.

In the 1930's a new wave of environmental thinkers, of which Aldo Leopold was one of the most influential, came on the scene. We are still greatly benefiting from the preservation concepts he developed

and the legacy he left with the founding of *The Wilderness Society*. His time spent observing nature advanced his understanding of how species interacted. As a result of his extensive study of nature, he developed an attitude toward species such as wolves and bears which was very different from that displayed by cattle ranchers and farmers. His realization of the role played by these species in the entire ecosystem shaped our early understanding of the need for species protection and taught us how to live with nature.

But living with nature is something very few of us do. In our present day we see a different world where we primarily experience nature only through watching *National Geographic* specials. These and many other outstanding videos are available, created through the remarkable patience and skill of professional photographers. However, this form of experiencing nature only superficially expands our understanding of nature. The photographer is the only one that gains the true knowledge and understanding, after having observed her subject for days, months, and even years to get the prized footage we see in a few minutes of viewing.

We as orchid growers are in a rare position to gain a deeper

understanding and appreciation of the miracle of natural diversity. Our love of orchids keeps us in touch with nature, and we continuously experience awe when we see a new hybrid or species. Or, if you are like me, I am happy just to see new roots and blooms on the plants in my greenhouse. That by itself is a miracle, in my estimation!

Yes, we are more in touch with nature than many others but is this enough? We rarely can experience true natural habitat, and therefore have a limited knowledge of the biome that a species has adapted to, and adjusted to, slowly over millions of years. It is just too vast for us to experience first-hand. Orchids are brought to us just like the fruits and vegetables at the supermarket. But this is a luxury that has not served us well as few today can understand the value of nature and the importance of the complete biodiversity package that our planet offers, and the untold number of species, some 10 million yet to be discovered.

More specifically, what we don't see is the overall picture of our planet, how all of nature's biodiversity is interconnected, and why this interconnectivity is important. We also don't see the whole picture about what sustainability is. For one thing, it is more than just saving the wolves, as Aldo Leopold quickly recognized, but it is the last step of recognizing that ALL of nature is connected, and it is important to maintain that interconnectedness to continue the sustainability that was achieved

Edward O. Wilson



over the last millions of years.

One person who is leading the way in helping us understand biodiversity and how important it is to our survival famed biologist is Edward O. Wilson, a man many of us recognize as being the foremost authority on ants. His study of ants and his extensive research has helped understand biodiversity on a world-wide



basis as few others have. His 2016 published book titled *Half-Earth - Our Planet's Fight for Life* lays it out for us. The "fight for life" is the fight for human survival, for without the Earth's biodiversity intact, our world becomes unsustainable and uninhabitable for us. Half Earth refers to the amount of the earth's surface required to sustain 80% to 85% of our species. Wilson's research shows that with the survival of 80% or more of current species, a condition of sustainability can be achieved

by nature. It may take decades, but It gives us a goal that assures our human survival as a species.

Half Earth includes both land and sea. Currently, only about 15% total land and sea have been set aside as protected area. We have a long way to go to meet the Half Earth goal, but as, Dr Wilson says in his talks, we can do it if want to and if we commit to it.

The E.O.Wilson Biodiversity Foundation has been established to promote understanding and increase awareness of populations around the globe of the importance of preserving our remaining biodiversity. The Half Earth Project is a long-term project which must be started right away, because we are currently destroying species at a rate 1000 times greater than the rate nature can adapt to.

We don't have a moment to lose. Just in the last few years, Earth has experienced a 60% drop in flying insects. Insects serve many important functions, not only pollinating orchids in the wild, but pollinating our food crops and serving as nourishment for birds. Getting the public to "want to" protect biodiversity, just as it is with freeing ourselves from fossil fuel addiction is a huge cultural shift. Both must be achieved, and both need the public to "want to" make the changes needed.

We only hope we get to this "want to" point through human intelligence and cooperation rather than waiting until Mother Nature decides to pick up her planet Earth Etch-A-Sketch and start over.

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.

HOW MUCH WATER IS ENOUGH?



There are some topics that arise over and over again, both in my own greenhouse culture and from questions I receive from readers. The issue this time is water, not water quality, but quantity. One of the mistakes made most frequently by experienced growers is to not water adequately. This does not mean that the frequency is not appropriate, but the quantity of water delivered to each plant is not adequate.

It is not enough to just wet the orchid plant and surface of the medium, but to make sure water drains through pots. When an orchid is first repotted and water is passed through the medium, there will initially be a small quantity of fine material that exits the pot. Then, very little will exit until either the medium starts to degrade or decaying roots disintegrate. If

an orchid is growing well it may outgrow the pot before this happens.

It is important during the time an orchid is in a pot that there be adequate flushing to remove the decomposing organic matter and byproducts, which include organic acids as well as particles of decaying bark and root material. Typically, once the process begins the decomposition of the bark and roots will release nutrients absorbed from fertilizers, which will help nourish the orchid. At some point, however, the buildup of decaying materials can be so great that the medium becomes sour, i.e. lacks oxygen.

When an orchid is first repotted it is important to flush thoroughly to be sure the medium throughout the pot is wetted so that roots will be attracted to the

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

medium. As time passes, the medium will remain wet for a much longer period of time because the medium is degraded by bacteria and fungi. The medium at the surface of the pot may be very dry, but the medium within the pot will remain moist because of the surface buildup of bacteria & fungi. A thorough flushing tends to remove byproducts of decomposition that accumulate on the bottom of the pot.

One of the best ways to tell how decomposed the medium in a pot has become is to flush the pot thoroughly in your sink and note the quantity of fine material that exits the pot. If you repeat the flushing and the same quantity of fine material exits, then your medium is nearing the end of its lifespan and it is almost time to repot.

There is also the “sniff test”. Water the pot thoroughly and wait a few minutes. If the pot smells like bark or has a pleasant “earthy” smell the medium is ok. If there is a foul smell, then it is time to repot. While the sniff test may seem arbitrary, most people who try it have little doubt if they sniff a pot full of medium past its prime.

Of course, this does not work if you



use an inorganic medium such as Staylite, lava rock, or one of the puffed clay products. It still is necessary to flush thoroughly and most who flush a plant in the sink are shocked at the quantity of fine organic particles that exit the pot, especially if the inorganic medium is coarse. If the medium is relatively fine, organics can accumulate in inorganic media and produce the same foul odor that can be found in degraded bark.

One does need to be aware that some fertilizers can also produce an unpleasant odor, particularly organic fertilizers such as fish emulsion. Do not perform the “sniff test” for a week or so after using these fertilizers, because the organic compounds in these products naturally produce a rather foul smelling scent.



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.

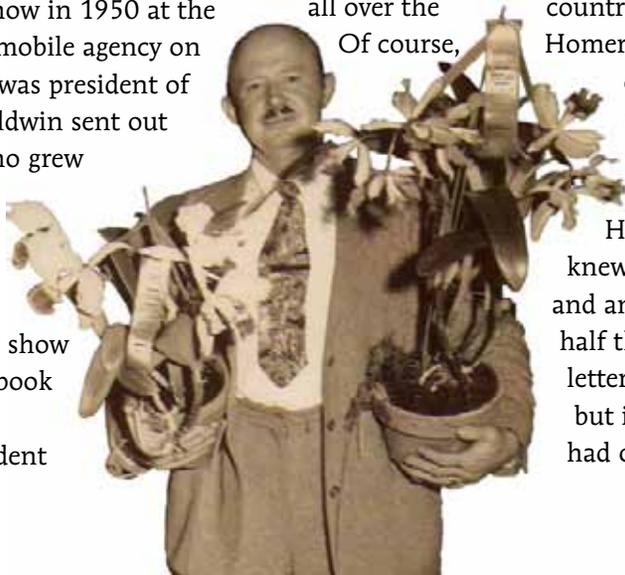
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____