

# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

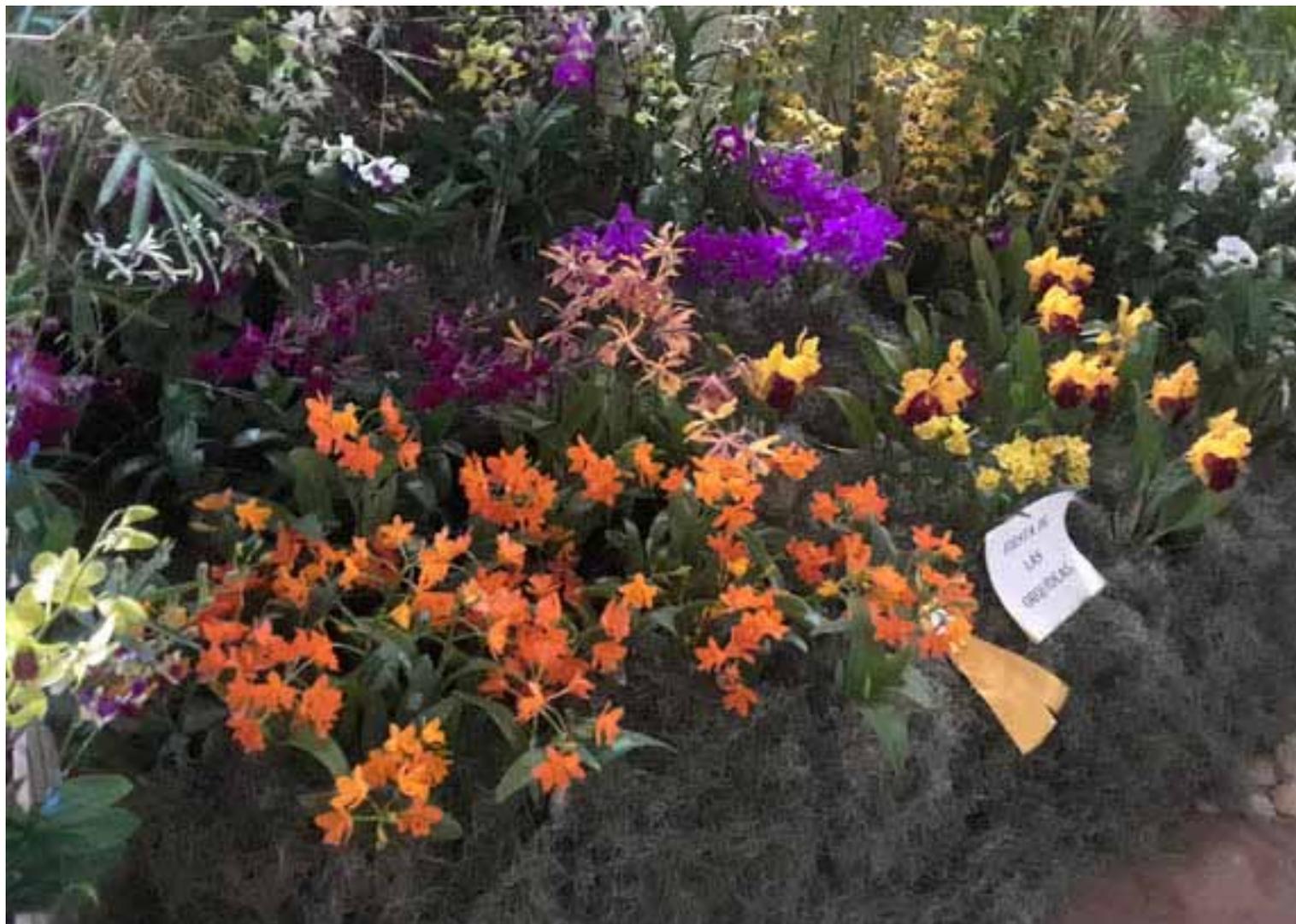
ORCHID  
SOCIETY

APR

## ORCHIDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Next Meeting:  
Timothy Carr  
**April, 7th**

The April 7th program on “Orchids of the Dominican Republic and The First Sanctioned AOS Judging in Santo Domingo” 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.



# OFFICERS

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*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*

## PREZ LETTER

*Linda Horton*

My personal thanks to all who participated in and/or helped make our show 'Orchids in North Texas' as success. A tremendous amount of effort is needed to present a show large or small and it was provided as needed. I would like to encourage more members to consider putting in a display or group with another member to so. It is a lot of fun and there is always an experienced member to advise or help.

Our judging center made news this past month. Three judges participated in the Santo Domingo Orchid Show and gave eleven AOS awards. This was the first AOS sanctioned show in the Dominican Republic! Our judging center chair and GNTOS member Manny Aybar was the judging chair and made it all possible. Hats off to Manny. I think we can get Tim Carr to give us a talk on the event. Way to go Dallas Judging Center!

## MINUTES

*Barbara McNamee*

After a late start, the meeting finally got underway at 2:50 pm, 26 people in attendance. Linda briefly discussed the volunteer opportunities available for helping with our spring show.

For Tim, Linda introduced our speaker of the day, Dotty Woodson, who spoke on "Growing Orchids in Texas". Thank you Dotty for your informative presentation! She also shared her new contact information: dottywoodson@gmail.com.

Nancy conducted the plant table winners, judges were Jim W. and Vee, there were 26 plants presented.

Mike will set up the show signs, needs help picking them up Saturday after the show, Karl volunteered. He also asked for more clerks to help assist ribbon judging on Friday night.

Mike conducted the raffle plant table winners, Linda the name badge winner.

Please take posters and distribute to help advertise our show.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

# GNTOS SHOW PHOTOS



# PLANT TABLE *Nancy Cropp*

GNTOS March 3,  
2019, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Jim Williams, Accredited AOS  
Judge, & Vinh Du, Student AOS Judge

## **CATTLEYA ALLIANCE** (6 entries)

- Blue – *Caularthron bicornutum*  
– Gerry Darver
- Red – Pot. Dream Circle 'Lone Jack'  
x California Queen 'Red Angel'  
– Gerry Darver
- White – Lc. Rojo 'Barbara' – Gerry Darver

## **DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS** (7 entries)

- Blue – Den. Thomas Warne – Karl Varian
- Red – Epidendrum unknown  
(entered in wrong category)  
– Sarah Hardesty
- White – *Ludisia discolor* – Charles Hess

## **ONCIDIUMS** (4 entries)

- Blue – *Tolumnia Golden Fan*  
– Barb McNamee
- Red – Colm. Pussycat – Gerry Darver
- White – *Tolumnia Genting Pink Lady*  
– Barb McNamee

## **PAPHS & PHRAGS** (2 entries)

- Blue – Paph. Maudiae 'Napa Valley'  
– Ashley Nguyen
- Red – Paph. Pinochio – Ashley Nguyen

## **VANDAS & PHALS** (7 entries)

- Blue – Phal. Gold Princess – Gerry Darver
- Red – Phal. Nobby's Amy – Gerry Darver
- White – Phal. amabilis 'Variegated'  
– Sarah Hardesty

## **SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

- Caularthron bicornutum* – Gerry Darver
- Den. speciacum – Mike Beber
- Phal. amabilis 'Variegated'  
– Sarah Hardesty

## **PEOPLES CHOICE**

- Caularthron bicornutum* – Gerry Darver

Looks like it was Gerry Darver day! 26 plants – people were saving their plants from the cold day and hoping to exhibit at the show March 8 & 9.

# ORCHIDS 101 *Kathi McKenzie & Lorna Kissling*

Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. Our topic this time: **“Putting Orchids Outside for Summer”**

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.



## **GNTOS Plant Table Judging Point Standings through July**

Plant Table Judging Year to Date Standings after 3 months

Top 10 people:

- #1 – Gerry Darver – 31 points
- #2 – Sarah Hardesty – 18 points
- #3 – Karl Varian – 13 points
- #4 – George Bogard,  
Judy Cook,  
Ashley Nguyen – all with 12 points
- #5 – Charles Hess – 11 points
- #6 – Mike Beber – 10 points
- #7 – Manny Aybar – 9 points
- #8 – Barb McNamee – 7 points

# EVENTS

## UPCOMING SWROGA SHOWS

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03/22/2019 - 03/24/2019

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

San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio Texas

04/06/2019 - 04/07/2019

**Houston Orchid Society Show and Sale**

Memorial City Mall, Houston Texas, Harris County

04/12/2019 - 04/13/2019

**C.L.O.S. Spring Show**

Kees Park Community Center, Pineville LA

04/13/2019 - 04/14/2019

**Acadian Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale**

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, Lafayette 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

05/31/2019 - 06/02/2019

**New Orleans Orchid Society's Show and Sale**

Lakeside Mall, Metairie LA

## UPCOMING AOS WEBINARS

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**Greenhouse Chat March 2019**

Ron McHatton

Tuesday, March 26th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A

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**Greenhouse Chat April 2019**

Ron McHatton

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A

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**How to Grow Habenarias**

Jim Heillig

Thursday, April 18th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

The GNTOS Orchid Show & Sale brought 9 members' 46 plants for the Society exhibit. There were 10 exhibits, including 3 other society exhibits, exhibits by Ashley Nguyen, Karl Varian with George Bogard, and Linda Horton's collectibles. There were 5 vendors.

Eighteen judges and nine clerks were in four teams to judge the 164 total plant entries. Seventeen plants were pulled for AOS judging and one AOS award was given to George Bogard. The Exhibit from the Oklahoma Orchid Society also won an AOS award.

The Saturday regular Judging Center meeting was held at the show, with no plant entries or awards.

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

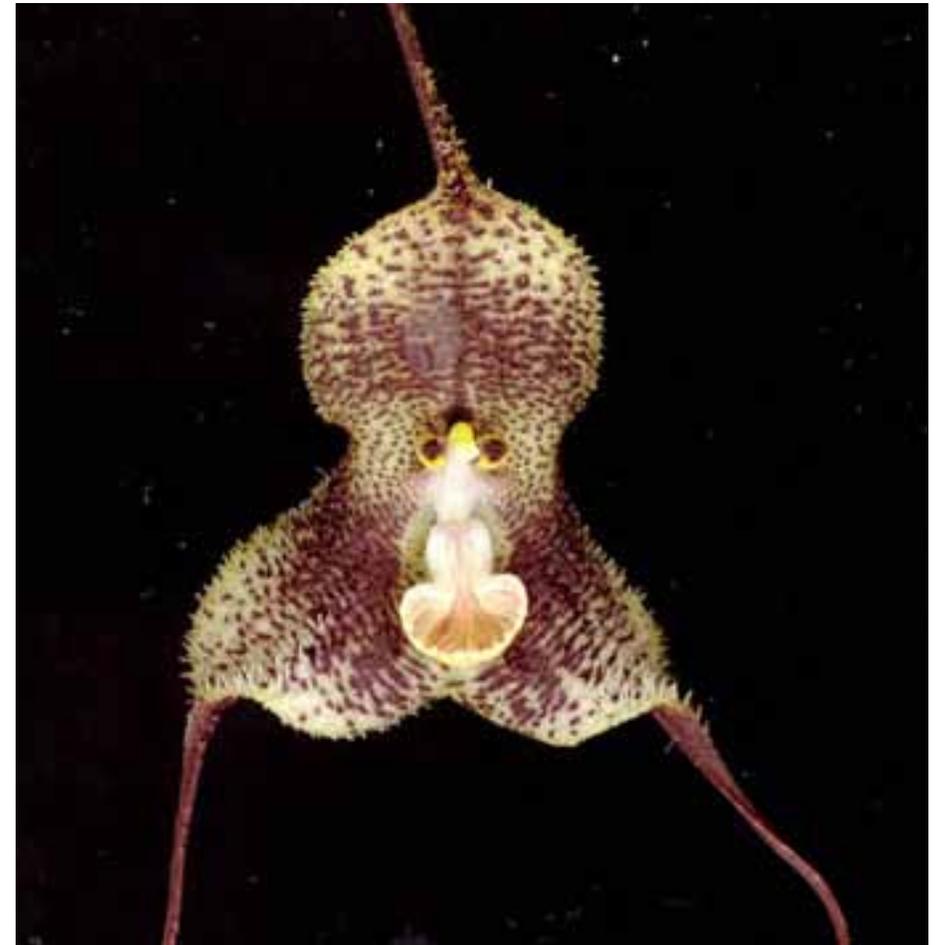
The next meeting is April, 13th at the Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A, Garland, TX 75040.



# ECUADOR'S FUNDACION ECOMINGA

A tiny country, no larger than the state of Nevada, Ecuador is one of the most biologically rich countries in the world, harboring no less than 4600 unique plant species found nowhere else in the world. One would hope that such a valuable ecosystem would be protected. Unfortunately, according to Rainforest Trust's beautiful 30-year anniversary book, Ecuador has one of the highest rates of deforestation in all South America.

To mitigate this loss, Rainforest Trust has secured and expanded a network of 23 nature reserves through its partnership with 10 Ecuadorian conservation organizations. These organizations range from local groups to larger foundations. Rainforest Trust's longest Ecuadorian association has been with the Fundacion Jocotoco, going back 20 years, when the Trust was originally named The U.S. Land Trust. The Buenaventura Reserve was the Trust's first joint conservation project in that area as a response to the decimation of the Andean cloud forest brought



*Dracula fuligifera*

on by cattle ranching. Today, after nine additional acquisitions, this 6,447-acre reserve is the only sizeable area of cloud forest left in southwestern Ecuador.

Further north in Ecuador is the Choco area, famous for having an abundance of richly diverse plant species unique to this area. Development of species diversity takes many eons of time. This region

which includes northern Ecuador, along with surrounding areas, was untouched by the glaciers during the ice age, giving species a much longer period to evolve.

This is where we find the Dracula Reserve. The area's unique topography generates some of the wettest rainforest habitat in the world, with a variety of micro-climates which support numerous species

## ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles  
and Trudy Hess

found in this area alone. And this is what motivated the Fundacion EcoMinga to purchase nearly 2500 acres of key habitat in 2014. This habitat is the home of the rare *Phragmipedium hirtzii*, along with a treasure trove of *Dracula* and *Lepanthes* species.

The first goal of the Fundacion EcoMinga is to protect all species (flora and fauna) unique to the Upper Pastaza Watershed. Just like the other foundations throughout Ecuador, the Foundation works with the local populations to maintain their preserves and to protect the rare and endangered flora or fauna unique to each reserve. This foundation, however, has a special importance to us orchid lovers.

This foundation was established in 2005 by “a group of Ecuadorian and international scientists and

conservationists” according to the EcoMinga website. The management of EcoMingo has deep roots in orchid conservation, having directors and supporters connected worldwide with other orchid conservation efforts. Many orchid devotees would recognize names Ron Kaufmann and Steve Beckendorf who both serve as directors of the Orchid Digest, serve on the AOS Conservation Committee, as well as board members of the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). It is through the Orchid Conservation Alliance that I originally became aware of the orchid discoveries of Lou Jost, “mathematical ecologist and botanist resident in Ecuador for 13 or more years”.

Considering the impressive achievements of Fundacion EcoMinga, I



*Phragmipedium hirtzii*

would venture to say that it is the organization most active in orchid discovery and protection. Their ongoing work continues to add to the body of scientific knowledge, as they discover and catalog new species every year in their *Dracula* Reserve and throughout the region.

All our SWROGA members should be proud to be a part of the recent funding of the *Dracula* Reserve 2017-2019 expansion, and to have helped the Orchid Conservation Alliance meet their \$110,000 pledge of support which was matched by the Rainforest Trust.

# ORCHID GROWING TIPS

by  
Courtney Hackney

A monthly growers  
advice column by  
Courtney Hackney.  
Hackneau@comcast.  
net

This column was writ-  
ten in humid coastal  
North Carolina and  
Florida, and the advice  
given should be ad-  
justed to our climate.

## FEED YOUR ORCHIDS

This month is one of the busiest for orchid growers. Much of our success the next year depends on what we do in the next month or so. The temperature now is almost the ideal range for many different types of orchids and the increasing day length is telling your orchids it is time to grow.

Most commercial growers know that it is a waste of money fertilizing until orchids begin to grow and this is largely temperature dependent. Now is the time to apply Nutricote, a slow release fertilizer. It is re-leased once the tem-perature reaches about 60°F.

Pay attention to the formula that you are using and the length of time fertiliz-er will be delivered. Most of the Nutri-cote formulas sold under the trademark “Dynamite” are designed to provide fertilizer for six months. There are three formulas generally available. One is a balance formula, 13-13-13 with minor elements. It comes in a red plastic con-tainer. This is ideal for cattleyas, cym-bidiums, and most other slow growing epiphytes. If you use rainwater or R/O water there is a 9-month, Cal-Mag



# ORCHID GROWING TIPS

formulation (15-5-9) that provides extra calcium and magnesium. Phalaenopsis and other fast growing orchids seem to like more nitrogen this time of year, like the 18-6-8 that comes in a green plastic container.

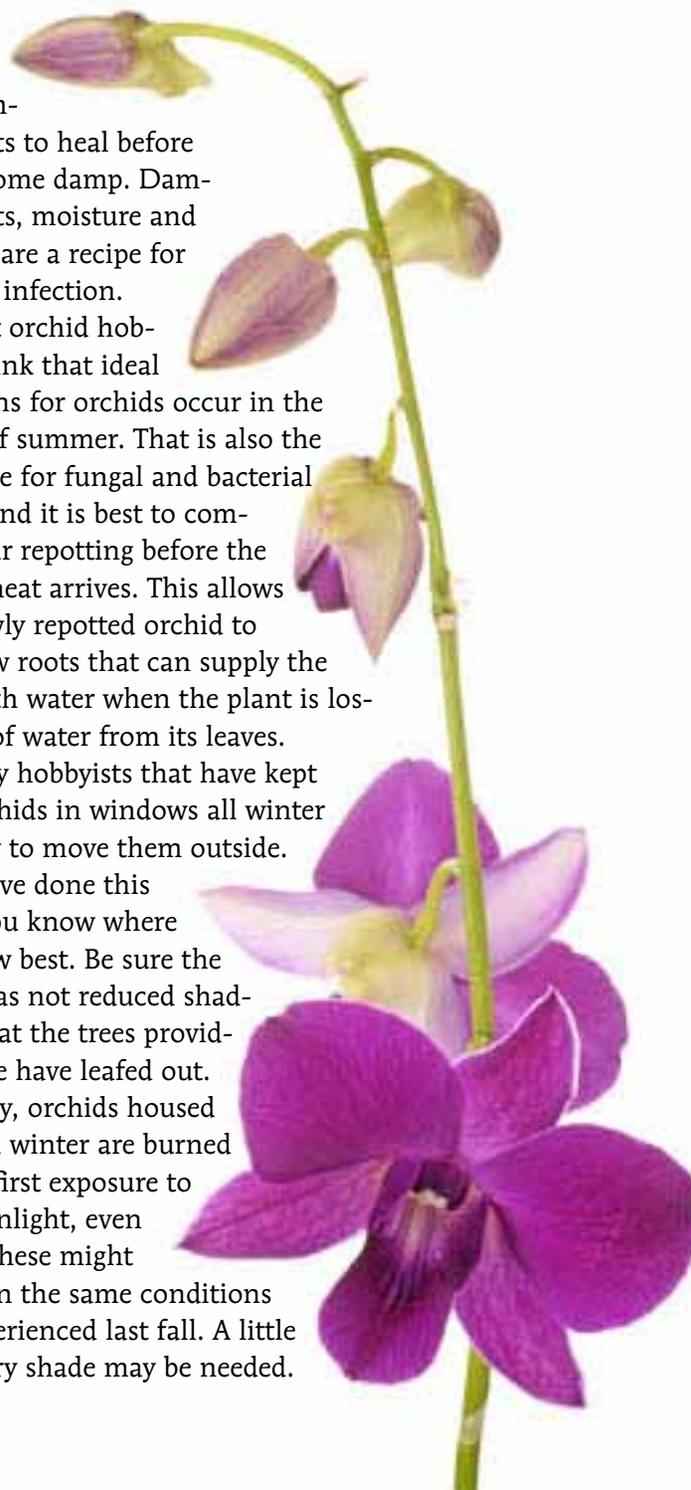
The real beauty of these slow-release fertilizers is that they need be applied just once every 6 to 9 months. The only problem comes if your orchids are potted in a very coarse medium. In this case, the small grey pellets of Nutricote can go right through the pot or accumulate in the bottom of the pot and not be available to the orchid plant itself.

Some hobbyists put Nutricote in little bags of cheesecloth or even embed it in clumps of sphagnum fibers that they place on top of the medium; anything to keep it from slipping through the medium. If you grow vandas and ascocendas in open baskets, Nutricote can be placed in small mesh bags and wired to the main stem just below the first leaves. Each time you water, small amounts leak from the bag and coat the roots below where they can be absorbed. Many commercial growers dissolve fertilizer in their water every time they water during the growing season. This is ideal if it is applied in a dilute form, but is also useful if you have just repotted an orchid. Newly repotted orchids are “hungry”, but wait until the newly repotted orchid initiates new growth or new roots before using dilute fertilizer.

This allows damaged roots to heal before they become damp. Damaged roots, moisture and fertilizer are a recipe for bacterial infection.

Most orchid hobbyists think that ideal conditions for orchids occur in the middle of summer. That is also the ideal time for fungal and bacterial growth and it is best to complete your repotting before the intense heat arrives. This allows your newly repotted orchid to grow new roots that can supply the plant with water when the plant is losing lots of water from its leaves.

Many hobbyists that have kept their orchids in windows all winter are ready to move them outside. If you have done this before you know where they grow best. Be sure the winter has not reduced shading or that the trees providing shade have leafed out. Invariably, orchids housed inside all winter are burned by their first exposure to direct sunlight, even though these might have been the same conditions they experienced last fall. A little temporary shade may be needed.



# 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.

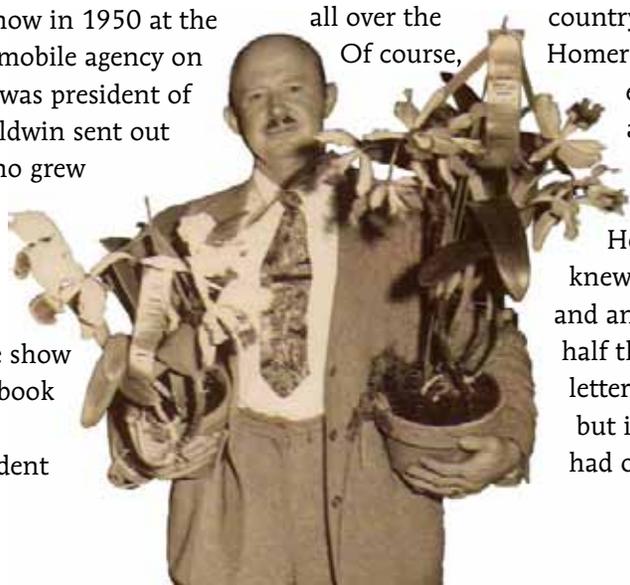
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): \_\_\_\_\_