

# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID  
SOCIETY

MAY

Next Meeting: Peter Lin, **May, 5th**

## EXOTIC PHALAENOPSIS FROM T.I.O.S. 2019

Peter Lin is an orchid hybridizer with over 30 years of orchid growing experience since age 10. Originally from Taiwan, he came to the U.S. at age 12. He learned from great American hybridizers like his mentor H.P. Norton of Orchidview. Peter's hybridizing expertise is working with novelty Phalaenopsis. His achievement in hybridizing includes two Award of Quality by American Orchid Society, given to two of Peter's hybrid. Phalaenopsis Pylo's Sweet Orange AQ/AOS was awarded in 2013 with 11 flower quality awards, and Phalaenopsis Pylo's Eagle Passion AQ/AOS was awarded in 2017 with 5 flower quality awards.

Peter is a Texas Master Gardener. He has served as a program chair with local orchid societies and studied with AOS Judging Center in Dallas. He was a newsletter editor of International Phalaenopsis Alliance. Peter has written and published phalaenopsis articles in AOS and Orchid Digest journals. Most recently Peter was a speaker at 22nd World Orchid Conference in Ecuador 2017.

Peter graduated from University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and worked in the Information Technology industry for 12 years. Peter is the owner of Big Leaf Orchids.



Phal. Pylo's Dragon Fire A

# OFFICERS

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# PREZ LETTER

*Linda Horton*

Hello all! If you missed the last meeting and as a reminder to attendees, if you sell on the snoopers table your check will be placed in the name tag box for the following meeting. This saves the society cost of mailing.

Spring is finally here and my cats are blooming. Wish they had been blooming for our March show. Warm enough to place plants outside for the season but keep them out of the direct sun.

Four of our Dallas Judges attended the Tulsa show and had a great time. The orchids there are about what we grow in this area but they seem to grow much better than myself for sure. Many specimen size cats and vandas but not as many phales. It's only a 4 hour drive so next year if you would like to take a little trip consider the Tulsa Orchid Show and clerk or just attend. You won't be sorry. Hotels are much cheaper than Dallas .

# MINUTES

*Barbara McNamee*

Linda started the meeting at 2:35, we had 39 people in attendance, 3 were visitors, 60 plants on the show table!

Linda mentioned that the Board met regarding the outcome of our show and make plans for next year.

Our speaker was Tim Carr, our own GNTOS VP, member and Associate AOS judge, topic was "Orchids of the Dominican Republic". A picture tour of the show he attended in March. Thank you Tim!

Linda talked about *OrchidWiz*, its attributes, an excellent tool that we as judges use and that it is on sale for 30% off.

Do you want to continue having the plant raffle? **Buy more tickets.** We use the money from the raffle to purchase plants for the next meeting, the more money we have to use the bigger and better plants we can buy.

Next year's show we plan more vendors and extending from Friday through Sunday (if possible). Overall good comments were received about the show.

Kathy gave a Treasurer's report. Nancy announced the plant table winners. Judges were Tim and Barbara. Linda conducted the plant raffle. Refreshments were provided by Barbara and Carol. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

# PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS April 7, Plant Table Judging

Judges: Barbara McNamee & Tim Carr  
(both AOS Associate Judges)

## CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (14 entries)

Blue – Lc. Orange Passion – Karl Varian

Red – Lc. Exotic 'Smile Sailing'  
– Laurie White

White – Slc. Jewel Box 'Scherazade'  
– Mike Beber

## DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS (8 entries)

Blue – Den. Fire Wings – Sarah Hardesty

Red – Galeopetalum Starburst 'Parkside'  
– Linda Horton

White – Cym. Chiisana – Jim Williams

## ONCIDIUMS (no entries)

## PAPHS & PHRAGS (20 entries)

Blue – Paph. Rocquire – George Bogard

Red – Paph. Vinglaine des Mathais  
– George Bogard

White – Paph. Rouge Buillon  
– George Bogard

## VANDAS & PHALS (18 entries)

Blue – Phal. Surf Song – Karl Varian

Red – Phal. Sogo Vivian – Linda Horton

White – Phal. stuartiana – Sarah Hardesty

## SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Den. schuetzei x sib – Tham Johnson

Paph. hirsutissianum – George Bogard

Phal. stuartiana – Sarah Hardesty

## PEOPLES CHOICE – tie

Paph. Rouge Bouillon – George Bogard

Phal. Surf Song – Karl Varian

WOW! 60 plants! I believe the most ever!

# ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie  
& Lorna Kissling

Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. Our topic this time:

## “Controlling Pests”

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

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05/31/2019 - 06/02/2019

**New Orleans Orchid Society's Show and Sale**  
Lakeside Mall, Metairie LA

06/15/2019

**Orchid Growing Seminar**  
Silkier botanical garden, Austin TX

07/12/2019 - 07/14/2019

**Baton Rouge Orchid Society's Show and Sale**  
Burden Museum and Gardens, Baton Rouge LA

08/02/2019 - 08/03/2019

**2019 Houston Orchid Society  
40th Consecutive Workshop**  
First Christian Church, Houston TX

09/13/2019 - 09/15/2019

**Galveston Bay Orchids Society SWROGA Show**  
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, Houston Texas

## UPCOMING AOS WEBINARS

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**Greenhouse Chat May 2019**

Ron McHatton

Tuesday, May 7th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST

Orchid Q&A

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**Asian Cymbidiums**

Ken Jacobsen

Thursday, May 16th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

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# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center April 13, 2019

Eight plants entered for consideration, one award given:

Phrag. Vingtaine des Mathias  
'George's Sweetheart'  
(Sunset Glow x kovachii)  
HCC 76 points  
owner: George Bogard, Rockwall

At the Spring AOS meeting, Jim Diffily's elevation from Student to Associate Judge was approved. Congratulations!

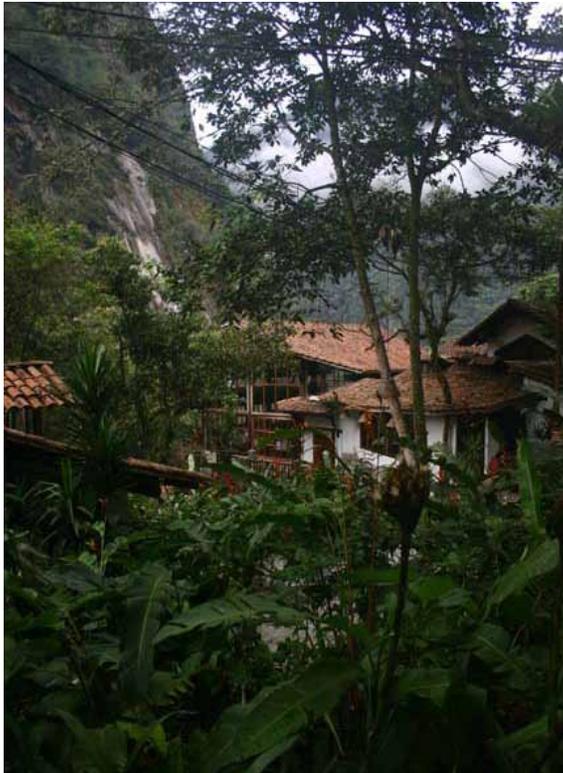
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The Dallas Judging Center meets on the second Saturday of every month.

The next meeting is May, 11th at the Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A, Garland, TX 75040.



# CIRCA SITUM ORCHID CONSERVATION



## ORCHID CONSERVATION

by Charles and Trudy Hess

The stunning orchid photographs at the Inkatera, Peru by Thomas Mirenda (Orchids, April 2019) are not to be missed. They are part of a remarkable orchid conservation project in Inkatera, Peru.

For many, Mirenda's article is the first exposure to Inkatera, which was originally the Orchid Trail in the gardens of the Inkatera Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel when built in 1987. Situated in the little town of Aguas Calientes, the hotel is the first structure one sees as the train arrives at its last stop going up to the base of the mountain just below the famous Machu Picchu ruins. The beautiful mountain-fresh river next to this famous orchid paradise is the Vilcanota River. Nearby one boards a bus to the Machu Picchu ruins, which are well worth seeing, despite the 45-minute white-knuckle journey up six mountainous single lane dirt switch-backs. From the vantage point of Machu Picchu, the beautiful orchid garden and the rushing river below appear quite small, such is the breath-

taking elevation of this ancient site.

The Inkatera hotel is a destination all by itself, as it is nestled in a lush garden surrounding the dozens of individual cottages connected with winding paths. The gardens are an eco-preserve and a conservation concept which Tom called "Circa Situm Conservation" in his article. Unlike some conservation reserves labeled "in situ" such as the Dracula Reserve in Ecuador (orchids are preserved undisturbed in their natural habitat), this site in the midst of a Peruvian Cloud Forest is where orchids from the surrounding ecosystem are brought together in one location for protection and research, and of course, our enjoyment. The unique needs and growing conditions of orchid species, including their accustomed forest cover and pollinators, are all carefully and systematically replicated in these gardens.

The unlikely history of these gardens gives us real hope for future orchid conservation. Though you would never know, the Inkatera



complex was built on land previously degraded by agriculture. As described by Carmen Soto, Chief Resident Biologist, the vision of the owner of the soon to be built hotel was to be a "lodging center with native biodiversity in the hotel green areas, conserving its rare native trees with all its constituent element and restoring forest which had been cleared before for agricultural purposes".

Altogether, Inkatera was the combined effort of several passion-



ate orchid lovers and a Peruvian NGO called Inka Terra Association (ITA) to replicate the conditions for local orchids to once again survive and thrive. While ITA manages several Eco-lodges in Peru, Inkaterra is the only one dedicated to orchid conservation, and is considered by AOS to be the world's largest orchid species collection set in a natural environment in a private facility.

After 20 years of research and conservation, a documentation of the orchids and history titled "Orchids in Inkaterra at Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel" was released in 2007 with photos of 178 native orchid species and 80 orchid genera. It truly reflects the

beauty and scientific importance of this establishment.

In October 2008 when we visited, we were on a trip with a group of friends to see the Machu Picchu ruins organized through Natural Habitat Adventures. Our tour itinerary included several days at the Inkaterra hotel as a base from which to visit the ruins. On our first full day there, our group headed up the mountain to the ruins. Because Trudy had not been feeling well on the train ride the day before we chose not to go with the group that morning, leaving me with a free day to explore the nearby area while she rested in the room.

I had no idea what to expect as I began a walk around

the hotel grounds, but it did not take long to notice that there were orchids everywhere I looked. Having never seen orchids used in landscaping, it was quite an unexpected, and pleasant surprise. As an added bonus, I had an opportunity to meet one of Inkaterra's botanists, who showed me around and identified the many orchid species found there using my newly purchased book as a guide.

The next day Trudy was feeling much better, and she joined me in a second tour of this amazing preserve. We had the orchid area

mostly to ourselves, since most visitors to the area come mainly to see the Machu Picchu ruins. We finally did tour the ruins on our third day and were awed by the amazing accomplishments of the ancient civilization.

Inkaterra has many wonderful surprises for visitors, including an excellent restaurant where we enjoyed delicious local food. We especially loved the quinoa pancakes at breakfast. But the best part, by far, was the opportunity to see the many orchids, happily thriving in their beautifully maintained "Circa Situm" environment.

# 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.

## TIPS ON RE-POTTING

If emails and casual conversations are any indication, repotting is traumatic for many orchid hobbyists. It is not surprising to most of us that have been doing this awhile, because it was traumatic to us in the beginning too. Given how different orchid roots look, the cost compared to a petunia, and the number of pages in orchid books devoted to the “dos and don’ts” of potting, fear is not surprising. So here is what everyone should remember.

Getting two or more orchids from repotting one should never be the reason to repot, although that is a frequent consequence. Repot when your orchid is at risk because the potting media is breaking down or there is some other problem, e.g. heavy scale infestation that cannot be solved without removing the plant from its pot. Remember that the bigger your orchid is, the more and larger flowers it will have. Always sterilize any instrument that cuts an orchid. The best method is to hold your snips in the flame for a few seconds making sure you have exposed both sides of the

entire cutting surface to the flame. A hot cutting tool effectively sterilizes the cut surface of the plant.

Do not worry about damaging roots, since most will ultimately die from the repotting anyway. Some expert growers remove almost all roots when they repot to avoid them rotting later and infecting the rest of the plant. If repotted at the correct time of the year, your orchid will quickly re-grow roots, but it may take a

few years to acquire the root mass it had before repotting, hence the suggestion to avoid repotting unless absolutely necessary.

Many times I sit a cattleya with all of its roots removed in the bottom of a clay pot in a shaded portion of the greenhouse until I see tiny new roots starting. Only then do I add the medium and complete repotting. On occasion, I forget a plant and find it fully rooted to the



# ORCHID GROWING TIPS

pot the next spring. Again, the key point is that one should only repot during the growing season; i.e. now.

Most books recommend wetting the medium before using it, a recommendation that I do not endorse. This is an open invitation for bacteria and fungi to invade any open wounds on the plant. It is best to use dry medium and wait at least several days before watering your newly repotted orchid. Some growers lay their divisions on newspaper in an unused bedroom until new roots appear. Why waista a pot and medium if the division is not going to grow well.

The key to all repotting is to remember that your orchid has been shocked and

lost most of its ability to obtain water. Cattleyas, dendrobiums and other orchids with thickened leaves will be fine if the plant is shaded heavily after repotting until they get new roots. Then, gradually give them more light. Other orchids that are terrestrial-like and/or have fine roots or thin leaves, need more care and may require some misting until new roots appear.

The one exception to the need to keep roots dry is when a medium is used that is toxic to bacteria and fungi, e.g. sphagnum or osmunda. The pH is so low that almost no bacteria harmful to plants will grow. This seems to be the medium of choice for many phal growers.



# 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.

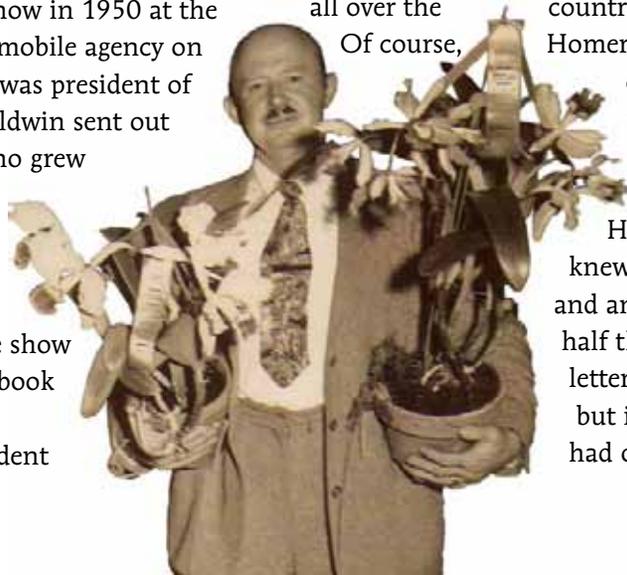
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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