

# Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 52—Issue 9

September 2006

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## SEPTEMBER—HOW TO BY TWO OF OUR EXPERIENCED GROWERS... DON'T MISS IT!

The Sept. program will be a 'How To' question and answer discussion on growing orchids lead by two expert DFW growers: Kathy Baxley and Linda Horton. Kathy and Linda will kick off the discussion with a slide tour of their greenhouses.

Kathy Baxley has been growing and exhibiting orchids for approximately 30 years. She says she has killed enough plants over that time to be considered an expert. Kathy grows Cats, Vandas, Phals, Paphs, and species, and several of her plants have received AOS awards over the years. Her current greenhouse is 42' by 48'. She says it was constructed when she had more time, energy and money than now. Excepting the office of treasurer, she has served in every office of the Ft. Worth Orchid Society at least once. She has a delightful 6 year old granddaughter, 3 dogs, 4 cats and a full-time job as a middle school librarian.

Linda Horton is a retired emergency nurse. She's been growing orchids since her daughter Emily gave her an orchid for a birthday in the late 80's. She started with windowsill growing, progressed to a sodium halide lamp, and then to a greenhouse. She grows intermediate to warm and seems to do best with Phrags. Linda is currently a 3rd year AOS judging student with the hope of elevation to probationary status in December. She is the currently serving a second term as President of GNTOS.

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## Greater North Texas Orchid Society

The GNTOS was formed in 1954 as a result of the amalgamation of the Dallas Orchid Society and the North Texas Orchid Society. The new organization was formed as a nucleus for a larger and potentially greater Society with an enthusiastic membership. On March 19, 1954, they were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society.

## Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Texas A&M Extension Campus Education Building, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX. The doors open at 6:30 pm for set up followed by mingling and meeting / program.

## Newsletter

Members are encouraged to submit articles, information, or suggestions for publication in our Newsletter. Send submissions to the editor via email at: [manuel.aybar@verizon.net](mailto:manuel.aybar@verizon.net) or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

## President's Message by Linda Horton

I want to remind everyone that we will be voting at the October meeting whether to extend the duties of our current treasurer, Kathy Halverson for another year. The ability to do this was a change in our by-laws. Try to keep cool and I'll see you at the September meeting. Linda

THE FORT WORTH ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW IS FAST APPROACHING IN OCTOBER...

Are you interested in putting an exhibit? Showing some of your plants? More coming next month.

## DALLAS JUDGING CENTER By Nancy Cropp

Semi-Annual Business Meeting was held July 22 at the Shreveport Supplemental Center:

- Jim Williams will be recommended for elevation from Probationary to Accredited Judge at the Fall AOS Meeting
- Karen Armstrong and Mike Saar will be recommended for elevation from Student to Probationary Judge at the Fall AOS Meeting
- Steve McNerney's request for a one-year Leave of Absence was granted
- Three applicants for Student at the Shreveport Center were accepted: Sharon Duncan, Mary Mancini, MD, and Leroy (Roy) Hofmeister
- Officers for the year 2007 were elected: Chairman - Jerry Brandenburg, Vice-Chairman to Chair Shreveport - Byron McGraw, Vice-Chairman (Dallas) Tom Mulhollan, Vice-Chairman (Shreveport) Lena Parker

Dallas Judging Center August 12:

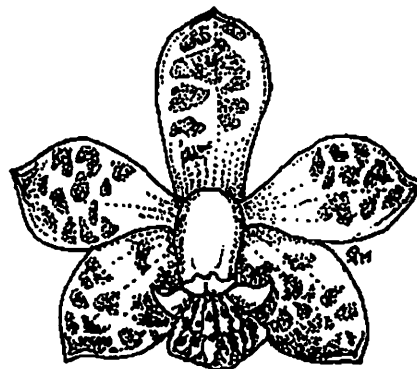
- Two teams considered seven plants entered, and two awards were given:
- Phal. bellina 'Deep Purple' (species) HCC 77 points, owner: Peter Lin, Irving, TX
- Schom. brysiانا 'Carolyn Bradham' (species - Provisional to be submitted for identification) CBR, owner: Bruce Bradham, Arlington, TX

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Tribe: Epidendreae

Subtribe: Laeliinae

Genus: Prosthechea



*Prosthechea brachiata* (A. Richard & Galeotti) (Dressler & G. E. Pollard) W. E. Higgins 1997.

Pronunciation: pros-the-KEY-ah BRAK-ee-ah-tah.

Basionym: *Epidendrum brachiatum* A. Richard & Galeotti 1945.

Synonym: *Encyclia brachiata* (A. Richard & Galeotti) Dressler & G. E. Pollard 1971.

Meaning of name: The genus name is taken from the Greek *prostheke* meaning appendage. The species name is taken from the Latin *brachiatus* meaning arm-like or branched. After doing a cladistic and molecular study of the genus *Encyclia*, Wesley E. Higgins transferred 92 species *Encyclia* species into *Prosthechea*. Within this group were seven smaller groups that would later be transferred to related segregate genera.

Taxonomy: The proportions of the lip structure of the current members of *Prosthechea* are entirely different from those of the other genera in the *Epidendrum* complex. There is a longer claw at the base of the lip, and the lateral lobes of the lip are either absent or less developed. Some of a callus that is barely developed or is just a few thickened veins, others have a callus that is very thick. Most of the species are rare or not well known. Many of the species have a glaucous or silvery appearance. Most of the species have resupinate flowers and seem to lack the crystal bundles that are indicative of the cells of *Anacheilium* species. *Prosthechea* species are native to both Central and South America.

Description: Pseudobulbs loosely clustered, ovoid, strongly flattened, up to 4 cm long, 1.5 cm wide. Leaf 1 per pseudobulb, elliptic oblong, acute, 15-20 cm long, 3.5-3.8 cm wide. Inflorescence simple or branched, 15-25 cm long, with 13-24 flowers. Sepals and petals greenish yellow on the reverse, inner face yellow blotched with red-brown, Lip yellow with red-brown dots on midlobe. Sepals oblong-obovate, mucronate, 6.5-7.5 mm long, 4 mm wide. Petals cuneate-obovate, obtuse or mucronate, 5.5-7 mm long, 3.5 mm wide. Lip basally adnate to column, total length 6.5-8 mm long and 2.3-2.5 mm wide, 3-lobed, lateral lobes linear-oblong, obtuse, ca. 3 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide, midlobe cuneate-obovate, about 3.5 mm long, 2.3-2.5 mm wide near the apex; callus fleshy, oblong, sulcate. Column 4.5 mm long, teeth fleshy, oblong, subequal, or mid-tooth longer.

Recognition: This species may be recognized by the boldly spotted flowers, the very narrow lateral lobes of the lip, and the very flat pseudobulbs.

Habitat: Mexico at 1700-2200 m. elevation in rather wet pine and oak forests.

Flowering time: September to April.

## GNTOS Meeting Minutes

President, Linda Horton, called the meeting to order.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes so they were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Carole Ann Taggart-Fagan welcomed our two guests, her granddaughter Katy Taggart from College Station and Debbie Montgomery from Garland.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ronnie Brandenburg announced that she is working on the AOS Trustee's Meeting we are co-hosting next spring. Twelve to 13 vendors have committed and 30 tables have been sold. One vendor will put in a display but not sell plants. Linda reported that she is continuing to send out more invitations.

Hilda Kicinski provided information on the Costa Rica/Panama cruise scheduled for March 8, 2007. It is called "Quest for Orchids" and will benefit GNTOS. She said two cabins are booked and she is about to open it up to Oklahoma and other Texas orchid societies. Flyers and informational material are on the back table and she asked anyone interested in going on the cruise to contact her as soon as possible.

The cruise will be tax deductible for Judges if they conduct an educational orchid class on board the ship or provide educational information during excursions into the jungle while looking for orchids. By doing this, it can be written off as an educational trip.

### NEW BUSINESS - None

### PROGRAM

Robert Marsh introduced our speaker, Gene Crocker from Carter & Holmes in Newberry, South Carolina. Gene grew up near Carter & Holmes and became interested in orchids early in his life. He started growing orchids 50 years ago and for 30 years enjoyed them primarily as a hobbyist. For the past 20 years, he has done all of the hybridizing at Carter & Holmes as well as being in charge of producing their catalogs and giving presentations.

He gave a very informative program showing what the different *Cattleya* species look like and what characteristics are passed down to their offspring.

### BREAK

### PLANT TABLE

Emily Quinn announced the winners of a very beautiful plant table this month.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Blue Ribbon – Ascda. Princess Mikasa – The Brandenburgs

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Red Ribbon – Blc. Golden Tang – Bill Williamson

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – White Ribbon – Asvts. Thai Cherry – The Brandenburgs

**Species of the Month** – Bro. sanguinea var. alba - Jean Whiting

**Tri-Color Award** - Mtssa. Charles Marden Fitch 'Izumi' AM/AOS – Bill Williamson

### RAFFLE

Thanks to Jean Whiting and Bill Williamson who donated plants to the raffle this month.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Williamson, Secretary

### GNTOS FIELD TRIP PICTURES—By The Brandenburs



### REFRESHMENTS

'Thank you to everyone who contributed refreshments at the August Meeting.

#### October

**Appetizers:**

Jan Bradham 817-925-7305

**Dessert:**

Ruth Wright

**Punch:**

Fran Hensley 972-517-8084

Hilda

### ERRATUM

On Page 5 of the July Issue of the GNTOS Newsletter, some information regarding the Costa Rica Tour was published. It was supposed to say "Benefiting the GNTOS" instead of "Sponsored by GNTOS". Also the correction was made and it read "A percentage of the proceedings of this tour will be donated to GNTOS" and this statement should have read "Benefiting the GNTOS".

The correct flyer / information is posted in this issue of the GNTOS Newsletter.

Manny, Newsletter Editor



Top: The Orchid "Hunters"  
Left: Hexalectris War-nokii  
Right: albino form

**Treasurer's Report** by Kathy Halverson

<b>Treasurer's Report: July 2006</b>		
Dated: 7-8-06		
Beginning Balance: \$4928.55		
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Dues	\$40.00	
Hospitality	\$	\$
Raffle	\$85.00	\$120.00
Rent:		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$91.00	\$81.90
Speakers Fee/Honorarium:		\$100.00
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		\$
Miscellaneous		Storage boxes, interior envelopes \$30.97 Stamps \$7.56 2 yr. AOS Dues \$108.00
Donations	\$	
Special Sales: GNTOS Monogram shirts, caps	\$	\$
Special Sales: Dallas Home & Garden Show, Spring 2006	\$	\$
SWROGA Dues		\$
Auction	\$	
AOS Trustees Show 2007		\$
GNTOS Show 2006		\$
Subtotals:	<b>\$216.00</b>	<b>\$568.43</b>
Ending Balance: \$4576.12		

**About the August Report.**

Our treasurer Kathy didn't have a report for August ready because her computer crashed. She will present an August and September report in the October issue of the GNTOS newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Halverson.

## Ask The Plant Groom™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

Ask The Plant Groom(tm) by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom(tm)

QA1081

The edges of some leaves on a shade tree in my yard are turning brown. Should I be concerned? - S. H.

The problem most often occurs throughout Texas during our typical July and August "blast furnace" heat. Some trees have more difficulty than others during this time.

Water as needed in the tree's drip line. The drip line is located at the outer most reach of a tree's spread.

I see lots of beautiful crape myrtles in bloom and would like to know if now is an OK time to plant them? - D. K.

They are nice aren't they? They are super blooming shrubs for Texas!!!

Container grown crape myrtles may be successful planted now. The best time to plant is during Oct. -Nov.

A couple of thoughts/suggestions for you.

Decide which color(s) you prefer while the plants are in bloom.

Visit local retail nurseries to secure the named varieties or cultivars you wish to plant and record this on paper. Additional locations I suggest visiting include Botanical Gardens, Arboretums and other public facilities including parks. Look for labels that name crape myrtles and jot the ones you like down.

Create a planting plan yourself or work with a professional with the installation to be done this fall.

Some varieties of crape myrtles under less than ideal conditions could have issues with powdery mildew. One way to help prevent this from occurring is ask for, purchase and only plant powdery mildew resistant cultivars.

Remember. Crape myrtles are similar to us in one way ... they come in all heights and widths. So, if you want a red variety to only be 6' tall then purchase a variety that only reaches this height. Please DO NOT buy and plant a tall growing variety such as 'Natchez' which may reach 30' tall and keep it "whacked" back to 6'. This practice is crape myrtle butchering at its' finest. Just don't be a part of this activity.

Is one bark mulch better than another? I hear some folks saying we should only use one type. - R. S.

No mulch is good if it's not used including bark. The best mulch? It's the one you use.

Apply bark mulches 3 - 4" deep and add approximately 1" annually to maintain this depth. Bark mulches decompose or break down at the soil line, which is a positive activity at approximately 1" per year in Texas. Adding replacement mulch at 1" per year will maintain the recommend depth.

Quality mulching benefits occur with all types of bark mulch. Use the type(s) you prefer.

Dale's Water Wise Tips: This time of year one only needs to look at the water bill to know it take a \$ or \$\$ to maintain most landscapes and gardens in acceptable green conditions. Let me strongly recommend that all new plantings and retro plant installations be Water Wise.

Water Wise plantings, landscapes and gardens subscribe to the following principals.

Create a plan. It does not need to be a complicated plan. However, it should include native and well-adapted plants known to survive our Texas climate with minimum water usage after establishment.

Perform thorough soil preparation prior to installing the first plant. Time, energy, effort and dollars spent in soil preparation are wise investments.

Install plants properly and at the best time of year to obtain relatively quick establishment. In Texas, the fall is an excellent time to install woody winter hardy plant material in the landscape and gardens. It's my favorite time to plant them.

After planting is complete - mulch, mulch, mulch with a minimum of 3 - 4" of your favorite mark mulch. And, maintain this layer year round for the life of your plantings. While some folks may promote or favor one mulch more than others, no mulch is good if it's not used. So, mulch, mulch and mulch all your plantings.

Properly maintain your plantings. If you selected minimum care well adapted and low water use plants effort here is greatly reduced. When water is applied do so during early morning and thoroughly. Only irrigate when needed. DO NOT water on a preset schedule or lightly.

Following the above five basic principles will greatly reduce the usage of potable water throughout in our Texas landscapes and gardens while maintaining great looks

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist/Master Gardener Coordinator-Dallas County, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texas, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom(tm). Send your lawn, garden, landscape and other horticultural questions to Dale at [dalegroom@mycvc.net](mailto:dalegroom@mycvc.net). Dallas County Master Gardeners are available to provide FREE horticultural help to anyone M-F, 8:30a - 4P at 214-904-3053. Copyright 2006 by Groom Media and all rights are reserved

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We are on the Web!  
[www.gntos.org](http://www.gntos.org)

GNTOS MEMBER  
Your address and number  
Your City, Your State

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
(See <http://www.gntos.org>)

September 15-17	Galveston Orchid Society Show "Orchid Fantasy"
September 29 - October 1st	Fort Worth Orchid Society Show
September 29 - October 1st	South Texas Orchid Society Show
October 6-8	Central Louisiana Orchid Society Show
October 20-22	Heart O' Texas Orchid Society Show Hosting SWROGA
November 4 - 5	Kansas Orchid Society Show
November 17- 19	Oklahoma Orchid Society Show