



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 52—Issue 11

November 2006

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November—James Rose from Cal-Orchids : Reed Stem Epidendrums.

Our November speaker will be James Rose who together with his wife Lauris own and operate Cal-Orchid in Santa Barbara, CA. He will talk about the new reed-stem Epidendrum hybrids, one of their specialties.

In the early 1970's the Roses began their orchid careers in the commercial realm, and eventually purchased their own nursery in 1987. When you call or visit you will be assisted by James and Lauris, not sales clerks. That is a combined experience of 60+ years. The Roses have always been active in the orchid world, travelling for shows, sales, or lecturing. Whenever possible, they are generous with their time in personally visiting with customers about orchid culture, and don't miss their weekend sales events. A good time is had by all.

The Cal-Orchid website is at <http://www.calorchid.com>.

Jim will bring plants for sale.

See you in November!

Inside this issue:

- President's Message 2
- What's in a name? 3
- Last Meeting Minutes 4
- Independent Topic 5
- Treasurer's report 6
- Ask the Plant Groom 7

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 or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

President's Message by Linda Horton

November presidents message

This year is fast coming to a close. The 2007 slate of officers will be announced at the November meeting and any nominations from the floor will be heard. Voting will be at the December meeting. Please plan to attend these important meetings.

The December meeting will be our semi-annual auction, always a fun time and important financial function for the society. The funds earned are how we pay for our speakers, rent and other expenses.

Take a look at your plants and other related items to see what you can donate to the cause. Just think, this is a way to own one of those fantastic plants grown by Bill Williamson!! (Hope you don't mind me putting you on the spot, Bill.) We will also have our pot luck dinner at the December meeting so dust off those recipes.

Hope to see everyone in November.

Linda

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER By Nancy Cropp

Dallas Judging Center Oct 14th, 2006

- Two teams considered four plants; two awards were given:
- Phal. (provisional) 'OK Spot-Less' (Chang Jhih Rose x Ching Her Galaxy) HCC 77 points, owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas, TX
- Phal. (provisional) (Amy Leann Scott x Ambo Choon) HCC 78 points, owner: Peter Lin, Irving, TX

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Subfamily: *Epidendroideae*

Tribe: *Maxillarieae*

Subtribe: *Zygopetalinae*

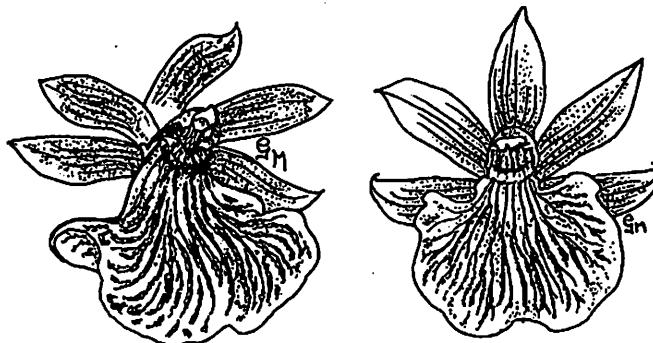
Genus: *Zygopetalum* Hook.

Species: *Zygopetalum triste* Barb. Rodr.

Pronunciation: zy-go-PET-a-lum treest

Derivation of name: The genus name is taken from the Greek words *zygon* (yoke) and *petalum* (petal). This refers to the fusion of the sepals and petals with the base of the column into a thickened callus which seems to yoke together the petals. The species name is from the Latin adjective *tristis*-e which means dark, gloomy, or dark purple (color of the flower common to the genus but not necessarily this species!).

Taxonomy: In 1827, Sir William Hooker described *Zygopetalum* in the *Botanical Register*. The newly identified genus was closely allied to *Lycaste* and *Xylobium* but differed from them by having an inflorescence which arose from the axils of the lower leaf-sheaths and by the transverse lip callus. In 1864 H. G. Reichenbach wrote in *Walper, Annales Botanices* that *Pescatorea*, *Huntleya*, *Chondrohyncha*, *Bollea*, *Kefersteinia*, *Pescatoria* and *Warszewiczella* should be considered as sections of *Zygopetalum*, but these changes were never accepted. Dr. Leslie Garay reviewed the entire *Zygopetalum* alliance of genera in 1973. At this time a number of species were removed to other genera such as *Mendoncella* A. D. Hawkes and *Neogardneria* Garay. He also recognized as distinct genera *Acacallis*, *Aganisia*, *Batemannia*, *Koellensteinia*, *Paradisanthus*, *Pabstia*, and *Zygosepalum*. These changes made a more homogenous genus with all the species having more or less large flowers without prominent side lobes to the lip and with the disc of the lip more or less cuneate and porrectly spreading in front. Within the generic description, a great deal of variation was accommodated. The growth habit could be terrestrial or semi-terrestrial (wet moss), rock-growing (lithophytic), or tree-growing (epiphytic). The sizes of the species were from very tiny to quite large. The pseudobulbs were either large or apparently missing. The inflorescences varied in length and, of course, there was a great deal of variation in intensity of coloring and the amount of coloring. The changes Garay made to the generic description of *Zygopetalum* and the closely allied genera mentioned above created a close connection with the *Chondrorhyncha* alliance of genera which only differ from the *Zygopetalinae* by the lack of pseudobulbs.



Distribution: There are about 40 species mostly native to tropical South America in countries such as Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Peru and Bolivia.

Zygopetalum triste is a plant of the high mountains in Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais states of Brazil where it always grows from 3,300 to well above 5,000 ft. When Richard Peterson, a former editor of the AOS Bulletin, visited Brazil he found *Z. triste* growing in high mountain swamps called Chavascal in Brazilian Portuguese. In these high elevations, the water forms marshes and meadowlands. The *Zygopetalum triste* plants grow in niches in the rocks in areas where there is full sun for part of the day. The rock, covered with white lichens, heats up in the sun and cools quickly when under cloud. This condenses moisture, which is collected in clefts of the rock. Strong air currents bring fog against the mountains and condense it on the leaves, which cools them in the sun. The plants bloom in the Brazilian early summer (December).

Z. triste has a sympodial growth habit, aggregated, medium-sized pseudobulbs and a medium sized spike with flowers (5 cm.) near the tip. The flower lip can be greyish violet with blue to pale pink with darker pinky violet on the outer third of the lip, usually with no patches or stripes. *Z. triste* has dark violet sepals and petals and the lip is smooth and freckled. Sometimes plants can be found with white lips dashed closely with bluish stripes; these could be an indication of cross breeding. Plants coming from the Serra de Gavião are darker than those that come from the Serra de Sonho area where Richard Peterson collected a plant that received a CBM on a later flowering.

This part of Brazil is very cold in the winter with clear blue skies in this orchid habitat, and the plants evolved to die back to the pseudobulbs to rest during the harsh winter conditions on this windy mountain top. If you should grow *Z. triste*, you must water with pure water, low in sodium. Use condensate from your air conditioner or catch rainwater to provide for this orchid's needs.

When Richard Peterson received a 81 point CBM/AOS in New York on March 19, 1975, for *Zygopetalum triste* "Anton Ghilany" the description read, "three flowers; lip purple violet with vertical, deeper purple venation's; sepals and petals brownish-mauve, with greenish lines at the base of the petals. Natural spread of flower 5 cm; dorsal sepal 1.3 cm wide, 2.5 cm long; petals 7 mm wide, 2 cm long; lateral sepals 8 mm wide, 2 cm long; lip 3 cm wide, 2.6 cm long."

It is unfortunate that when this CBM (Certificate of Botanical Merit) award was given, so little information was required. The CBM award has been replaced by either of the two awards – the CHM (Certificate of Horticultural Merit), awarded to a cultivar of a species or natural hybrid with outstanding esthetic appeal that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology, and/or the CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition), which is awarded to a species, subspecies, variety, or natural hybrid deemed especially worthy of recognition for rarity, novelty, or educational value. Both of these awards require a full description, measurements, country of origin, if known, and the taxonomic authority must be supplied on the summary sheet. If this had been in force in 1975, we would have a complete botanical description of this rare and interesting species!

Perhaps when you have read these What's in a Name columns, you have wondered about the abbreviations following the genus or species name. In this case "Hook." which appears after *Zygopetalum*. Of course, when you read the Taxonomy paragraph, that was explained when you read that it was Sir. William Hooker who established the genus *Zygopetalum* in 1827.

However, there was no where in this column to explain "Barb. Rodr." following the species name *Zygopetalum triste*. The first person to validly describe a newly found species is honored by having an abbreviation of his name following the species name. Jaoa Barbroza Rodriguez was the famous 19th century botanist who described *Z. triste*.

GNTOS Meeting Minutes

GNTOS MINUTES

Friday, October 6, 2006

President, Linda Horton, called the meeting to order.

Carole Ann Taggart-Fagan welcomed the following guests:

Speaker, Bill Mathis;

Richard Poole, previous GNTOS member;

Thao Nguyen, Cynthia Hennig and Dina Hansen.

Since there were no corrections or additions to the minutes from the September meeting, they were approved as printed in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

The motion was made and seconded to vote on whether or not to extend the term of our current Treasurer for a third year. The vote was unanimous to extend Kathy Halverson's term for one additional year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda reported that we participated in the Ft. Worth Society Orchid Show the previous weekend and Emily put in the GNTOS tabletop display which was awarded best society tabletop exhibit. We had several members who provided plants and they received numerous ribbons. Three plants were pulled for AOS judging, but there were no winners.

Linda said that if anyone needs a new name badge to please let her know.

Hilda Kicinski gave another update on the Costa Rica cruise scheduled for March, 2007. She said that time is running short for those who want to make reservations and if you are interested, please let her know within the next two or three weeks. She had brochures and additional information available.

David Hines played his harp before the meeting and provided us with some lovely music. He is practicing for the upcoming AOS Trustees' meeting where he will be playing.

PROGRAM

Robert Marsh introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. William Mathis. Dr. Mathis owns Wild Orchid Company and had copies of his book, **Hardy Orchids for Your Perennial Garden**, for sale. His program entitled "The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World!" was very informative and gave tips on growing terrestrial orchids that will tolerate our Texas heat.

BREAK

PLANT TABLE

Emily Quinn announced the winners of the plant table:

1st place – Blue Ribbon – Den. Velvet Melody – Jean Whiting

2nd place – Red Ribbon – Catt. Sybil 'Farewell Hawaii' – Jean Whiting

3rd place – White Ribbon – Howeara Lava Burst – Jean Whiting

Species of the Month – Catt. bowringiana – The Drumwrights

Tri-Color Award – Bpl. 50th Anniversary 'Daytona Beach Orchid Society' CCE/HCC -
Bill Williamson

Congratulations to all!

RAFFLE

Thanks to Bill Williamson for donating plants to the raffle table this evening.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Williamson, Secretary

Results from the Fort Worth Orchid Society Show—By Manny

Exhibit Name	Last	Blue (1st)	Red (2nd)	White (3rd)	Grand Total
Arrangements and Corsages	Bradham	1			1
Art	Leach			1	1
Blind Hog	Hernandez	1			1
Brandenburg	Brandenburg	2	1		3
Bruce Bradham	Bradham	2		1	3
D & B Orchids	Woodson	5	4	3	12
FWOS	Butler	1			1
	Jones		2	1	3
	Kessell	1		1	2
	Lanford	1		1	2
	Maston	1	3	1	5
	McMath	1		2	3
	Schmidt		1		1
	Stauver		1		1
	Von Kohn	1			1
GNTOS	Aybar	5		1	6
	Brandenburg	2	2	2	6
	Drumwright	1			1
	Horton	4	5	2	11
	Whiting	2		1	3
It's A Jungle	Davis	4	2	1	7
Kathy Baxley	Baxley	4	2	2	8
Kathy Leach Arrangements	Leach	3	1	1	5
Miller's Orchids	Miller	1	1	1	3
Orchid Konnection	Moses	8	3	2	13
Orchid Oasis	Hall	3	2		5
Orchids & Moore	Moore	2	6	3	11
Orchids Plus	Huval	6	1		7
Grand Total		62	37	27	126

REFRESHMENTS

By Hilda

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

November

Appetizers:

Tham Johnson 972-964-3674

Dessert:

Jim & Amy Drumwright

Punch:

Hilda Kicinski 972-506-7685

Exhibit Name	Last	Category Description	Trophy
Arrangements and Corsages	Bradham	Arrangements	Best Arrangement
Blind Hog	Hernandez	Cypripedium Alliance	Best flower
D & B Orchids	Woodson	Cypripedium Alliance	Best-grown plant
		Oncidium Alliance	Best flower
FWOS	Butler	Cattleya Alliance	Best-grown plant
	Jones	Dendrobium Alliance	Best-grown plant
GNTOS	Aybar	Vandaceous / Aerangis / Angrecoids Section	Best-grown plant
Kathy Baxley	Baxley	Cattleya Alliance	Best flower
		Miscellaneous Genera	Best flower
Kathy Leach Arrangements	Leach	Corsages	Best Corsage
Orchid Konnection	Moses	Phalaenopsis Section	Best flower
			Best-grown plant
Orchids Plus	Huval	Cattleya Alliance	Best flower
		Miscellaneous Genera	Best-grown plant
		Vandaceous / Aerangis / Angrecoids Section	Best flower

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson

Treasurer's Report: Sept. 2006		
Dated: 9-13-06		
Beginning Balance: \$4376.52		
	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$40.00	
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$117.00	
Rent		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$126.00	\$90.90
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		Kathy Baxley \$75.00
Speakers Air Fare/Travel	\$	
Miscellaneous:		
Donations	\$	
Special Sales:GNTOS Monogram shirts, caps	\$	\$
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Subtotals:	\$283.00	\$285.90
Ending Balance: \$4373.62		

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

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

QA1089

I have a problem with a tree in my yard. I think it is a non-bearing mulberry. All summer, Grackles the big, black, messy birds have chosen this tree to roost. I don't know if they are the problem or if it could be the many squirrels around here.

The problem: There are two areas on big limbs that have been stripped of their bark. On one of the limbs an area of about two feet long looks like teeth marks all around the limb. I have never seen anything like this before. Can you offer some suggestions as to what this may be and what I should do to keep my tree alive and healthy?

Thank you so much for any help you can give me. - N. S.

Based on the information provided your tree may be experiencing the effects of squirrels visits. I'm unaware of any bird that chews tree bark, squirrels do.

If the limbs in question have the bark removed down to the "wood" which is xylem tissue totally around a specific location the limb will very likely die from this point outward. Trapping and removing the squirrels should help prevent additional damage.

Removing dead limbs, supplying supplemental irrigation as and when needed plus nutrients will help trees to become more vigorous and heal physical damage. A soil test will let you know what soil nutrients are needed to help your tree become more healthy. Soil Test forms and sample containers are available state wide at local County Offices of Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System. We native Texans typically call these offices ... the County Agent's office.

If you wish, send me a long self addressed envelope with two 1st class stamps on it and we will send you a soil test kit free. Send your note and envelope with required postage to Dale Groom, Soil Text Kit, 10056 Marsh Lane Suite B-101, Dallas, TX 75229. Note; this offer is good for anyone reading this column.

I read your column in a recent edition of my local newspaper that you would not recommend Red Tip Photinia as a hedgerow. I love my Red Tip Photinia in my backyard as a hedgerow to separate my backyard and my husbands workspace. It grew fast and needs no care except for an occasional trimming. What is so bad about them as it can be eliminated if necessary? I always read your column and appreciate all the good advice. - F. S.

In a very high percent of urban landscapes state wide where Photinia frazeri commonly known as Red Tips are utilized a chronic foliar disease often breaks out. It is difficult to impossible for many Texas home owners/gardeners to control thi disease problem. The holly 'Nellie R. Stevens has the same character, growth habit and size as Photinia f. without any disease problems.

I highly recommend this beautiful holly for folks seeking tall and wide evergreen shrubs to be used as specimens or screening plantings. Photinia f. and Nellie R. should never be used as foundation plantings around single story homes or under windows and given wide birth for two story homes.

Photinia frazeri may reach 15'+ tall and 12'+ wide however it is often cropped or perhaps a more appropriate term "chopped" back applies here to 5' or less and grown in enclosed areas with poor air movement. This cultural practice and micro-environments provides conditions favorable to foliar disease problems with Photinia f.

Judy, my child bride of 37 years and I live in the country and our home is on a doodle bug sand hill, no fences and great air movement with full sun for our Photinia f. planting. Our planting is 12 years old and has never had a leaf spot issue. Full sun, great air movement and no chopping, hacking or pruning back is done to these babies . The 60' long row is 15' tall by 12' wide and beautiful.

Bottom line? In urban landscapes Photinia frazeri is most often problematic and I do not recommend its use because of this disease issue. It rural or other open areas with great air movement, full sun and no pruning it should work well.

Mr. Groom When we bought our house this July, the grass was dead in spots. It was brown from not being watered. My husband "revived" the grass with regular watering and some good fertilizer. It really looked nice and now some creature is rooting around in the grass, pulling up the roots and killing the grass. We cannot put a live trap out because we live in a neighborhood. Is there something we can put on the grass that will deter this animal from eating my grass? - B. W.

Congratulations on your husband's efforts.

Traps are used throughout urban settings to capture and release critters without physically harm. If you suspect a relatively long nosed visitor with small ears that carries armor on its' back as the potential cause there are special traps available and techniques.

Send me a long self addresses envelope and we will send you a pamphlet on how to trap these lawn visiting guests .My address is Dale Groom, 10056 Marsh Lane, Suite B-101, Dallas, TX 75229.

I do not know of any aide that may be spread throughout a lawn to prevent these pesky visitors.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist, Master Gardener Program Coordinator-Dallas County, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texan, Author, Radio/TV Host, Columnist is also known state wide as The Plant Groom(tm). You may send your lawn, garden, landscape and other horticultural questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net.

To speak with a Dallas County Master Gardener M-F, 8:30a-4p dial 214-904-3053.

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**GREATER NORTH
TEXAS ORCHID
SOCIETY
VOLUME 52, ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2006**

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GNTOS MEMBER
Your address and number
Your City, Your State

We are on the Web!
www.gntos.org

UPCOMING SHOWS

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

November 4 - 5	Kansas Orchid Society Show
November 17- 19	Oklahoma Orchid Society Show
December 2	Acadian Orchid Society Short Course
March 30 - April 1st, 2007	Northeast Louisiana Orchid Society Show
May 2 - 6, 2007	Fort Worth and Greater North Texas Orchid Societies Show and AOS Members Meeting
June 1-3, 2007	New Orleans Orchid Society Show