



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 54—Issue 1

January 2008

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Jim Williams
VICE PRESIDENT

Jeanne Thompson
SECRETARY

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2007-2008

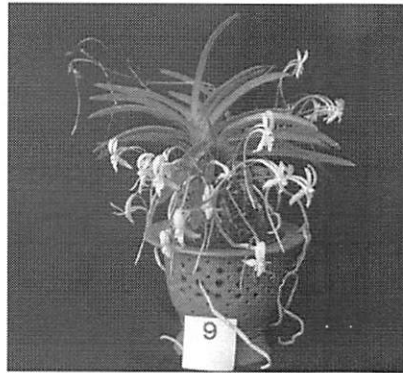
Manuel Aybar
2008-2009

Jean Whiting
SWROGA
DIRECTORS

Manuel Aybar
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
GNTOS WEBMASTER

Tom McIntosh
PAST PRESIDENT

January Meeting: Tom Mulhollan Speaks on *Neofinetias*



When Thomas Joseph Mulhollan, MD, began growing orchids in 1991, he found the many varieties of *Neofinetia falcata* especially intriguing, since very little is known about these Samurai orchids from Japan.

He is an American Orchid Society accredited judge at the Dallas Judging Center, a member of the Japanese Fuukiran Society, and a practicing pathologist in Denton, TX.

Starting in 2008, we will move to our new location. Please make note of the new address:

North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75230



The new meeting day will be the **1st Sunday** of each Month at 1.30pm unless otherwise published in the GNTOS web site / newsletter.

More information on Page 5.

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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 Pavilion 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 Manuel Aybar

A new year and a new chapter starts for the GNTOS.

I would like to first thank everyone in the GNTOS Organization for giving me the opportunity to become the president of the Orchid Society. It is an exciting and challenging position and I am looking forward to a great year filled with exiting opportunities and growth for the Organization.

This year we are starting with many changes, including venue and meeting time. Effective this January 2008, after surveying the membership at the meetings, we are moving our meetings to the first Sunday of each month at 1.30pm.

The new meeting location will be North Haven Gardens. More information and details of the location can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. North Haven is providing us with a meeting room free of charge. This is an unbelievable find for us and we will be taking advantage of the savings in venue fees to line up some out of town speakers and at the same time keep under budget.

As I said above, our vice president, Jim Williams, who accepted once again the responsibility for providing our society with interesting speakers is lining up some new and fresh programs for this year.

We will continue to encourage members to donate plants for the Plant Raffle Table. I would like to remind everyone that this is one of the few sources of income for the society, and this idea suggested by Bill Williamson last year allowed us to have great savings for the Society.

As a reminder, dues for 2008 are due this month. There is a form enclosed with this newsletter so you can send in your dues for the year.

Looking forward to see you all on Sunday. More to come at the meeting.

Warmest Regards (from my home in the Dominican Republic)

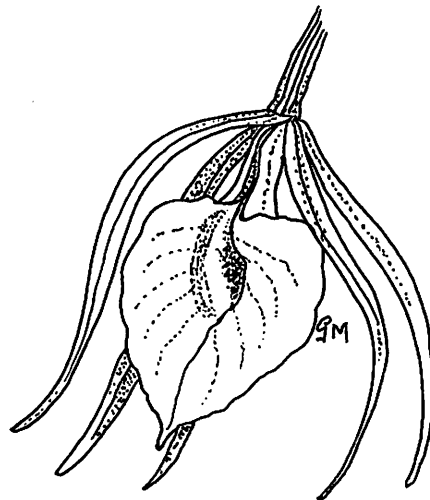
Manuel Aybar (Manny)

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Brassavola acaulis (Lindley) Hooker (bra-Sah-voe-lah ah-Kaw-lis)

Synonyms: ***Brassavola lineata*** (Lindley) Hooker, ***Brassavola mathieuana*** (Hooker) Klotzch, ***Bletia acaulis*** (Lindley) Reichenbach f., ***Bletia lineata*** (Hooker) Reichenbach f.

This genus was dedicated to a 16th century Venetian nobleman, Sr. Antonio Musa Brasavole (or Brasavola), a scientist and botanist who specialized in medicinal plants. Carl Withner tells us that sometimes a name with a single consonant is doubled in order to keep the preceding vowel short to aid in pronunciation, thus the genus name is Brassavola. The species name is the Latin adjective for stemless or apparently stemless. This refers to the appearance of the flower(s).



Brassavola acaulis

Most of the *brassavola* species look alike in growth habit and flower shape, but *B. acaulis* is somewhat different. All species have a woody rhizome, elongated terete leaves, and the flower lip encloses the column to form a tube. Along the rhizome are leaf stems with a single leaf alternating with flower stems or elongated pseudobulbs from which emerge the terminal inflorescence. The white or nearly white flowers are night-fragrant to attract pollinators. As in *laelia*, *brassavola* species have eight pollinia, but in *brassavola* the pollinia are of two different sizes. *B. acaulis* is the only species with vertically pendent leaves, and the inflorescence does not come from the apex of the pseudobulb but from a separate short growth to produce flowers. This strange habit is seen in three other closely related genera (*Alamania punicea*, *Cattleya walkeriana*, and *Epidendrum standfordianum*.)

B. acaulis is an epiphyte. The sharply pointed leaves are up to 60 cm long and 2 cm in diameter, the extremely short inflorescence is lateral which allows the one to three flowers to hang pendent. The flower is white to ivory, with green deep in the throat and often marked with maroon spots. Every source book gives different measurements for the flower. So I would like to give you the AOS award description of *B. acaulis* 'Alpine Wonder', which received an AM of 81 points on April 26, 2003. "Six flowers on 2 inflorescences. Sepals and petals cream; lip white blotched with maroon under the column' substance good; texture matte. Natural spread 12.5 cm Horizontal, 14.7 cm Vertical; dorsal sepal 0.6 cm wide, 7.7 cm long; petals 0.7 cm wide, 7.5 cm long; lateral sepals 0.9 cm wide, 8.0 cm long; lip 4.7 cm wide, 5.3 cm long."

An even larger flower than this was described by Eric A. Christenson, Ph.D., in *Orchids* May 2000, p 466-467. Some plants are described as having greenish-white sepals and petals.

Although *B. lineata* is now regarded as a synonym of *B. acaulis*, the form known as *lineata* has three flowers per inflorescence which are smaller than *acaulis* and unspotted; the leaves are longer and more narrow than *acaulis*.

There is a gorgeous water color of this *B. acaulis* (with three flowers) shown in *Generos de Orquideas de Costa Rica* by Dr. Rafael Lucas Rodriguez C. Some of his paintings were left unfinished by his untimely death, and this is only a small selection of his work. This lovely book would make a wonderful addition to your orchid library, and this beautiful easily grown species would make a great addition to your orchid collection.

GNTOS Meeting Minutes By Jeanne Staser

Friday, December 7, 2007

Our President Tom McIntosh brought the meeting to order at 7:30

We had 4 visitors, Florence Lazuki, Rick Reynoso, Mike Martin and Beverly Christensen.

Northhaven Gardens will be our new meeting place, beginning with our first meeting in January 2008. Our meeting time will also change to the 1st Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm.

Northhaven Gardens has stipulated that we may hold our meetings there for free provided that we are open to the public, and programs must be announced 2 months in advance. The full terms of the agreement are posted on the GNTOS website.

The proposed slate of officers for 2008 were:

President: Manny Aybar

Vice President: Jim Williams

Secretary: Jeanne Thompson

SWROGA liaison: Jean Whiting

Passed by a majority show of hands.

The winners for the 2007 Plant Table was as follows:

1st Place: Jean Whiting

2nd Place: Manuel Aybar

3rd Place: Hortons

Our own Jerry Brandenburg conducted our semi-annual Orchid auction, which was very entertaining as always, and lots of orchids and orchid-related items changed hands. Thank you very much, Jerry!

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm by Tom McIntosh

Respectfully submitted

Jeanne Thompson, recording secretary

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER By Nancy Cropp

Nine plants entered for consideration; two awards given:

- Pot. Hawaiian Charisma 'Hawaii' (Pot. Hisake Akatsuka x Lc. Mem. Robert Strait) HCC 78 points, owner: Bill Williamson, Plano
- Bulbophyllum atropurpureum (species-provisional until ID'd) CHM 83 points, owner: Brandenburgs, Dallas

For 2008, Linda Horton has volunteered to be the Treasurer, and Judy Cook, MD, will be the Training Coordinator, following Glenda McIntosh's retiring from these positions; Jean Whiting will be the Librarian.

This was the last joint Business Meeting with Shreveport as they attain full Judging Center status January 1, 2008.

NEW MEETING LOCATION AND TIME By Manuel Aybar

North Haven Gardens will be our new meeting location from January of 2008. The address is 7700 Northaven Rd., Dallas, Texas 75230 . Meetings will be held the 1st Sunday of each month at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated on the newsletter.

Tentatively as an Agenda, we will have introductions at 1.30pm and follow the Agenda with the Speaker of the Day. We will have a break after the speaker for coffee and will follow with the business meeting, plant table results and raffle at the end. We will be adjourning the meetings at around 4pm.

SAVE THE DATES!

These are the meeting dates and times for next year's meetings at North Haven Gardens:
(ALL MEETINGS ARE SUNDAYS)

NEW LOCATION MAP By Manuel Aybar

From Central Expressway South bound, exit at Churchill/Forest Lane and continue south 1.3 miles on the access road to Northaven Rd. Go right on Northaven for 2 blocks. The store is on your left.

From Central Expressway North bound, exit at Forest Lane loop around to the south bound service road for .3 miles. Go right on Northaven for 2 blocks. The store is on your left.

From LBJ West bound, exit Coit Road. Go south on Coit 1.3 miles to Northaven Rd. Go right on Northaven for 2 blocks. The store is on your left.

From LBJ East bound, exit Coit Road. Go south on Coit 1.3 miles to Northaven Rd. Go right on Northaven for 2 blocks. The store is on your left.

Sunday, January 6 -
Program at 1:30pm
Tom Mulhollam on
Neofinetias

Sunday, February 3 -
Program at 1:30pm
Green Cattleyas by
Patsy Boersma
(tentative)

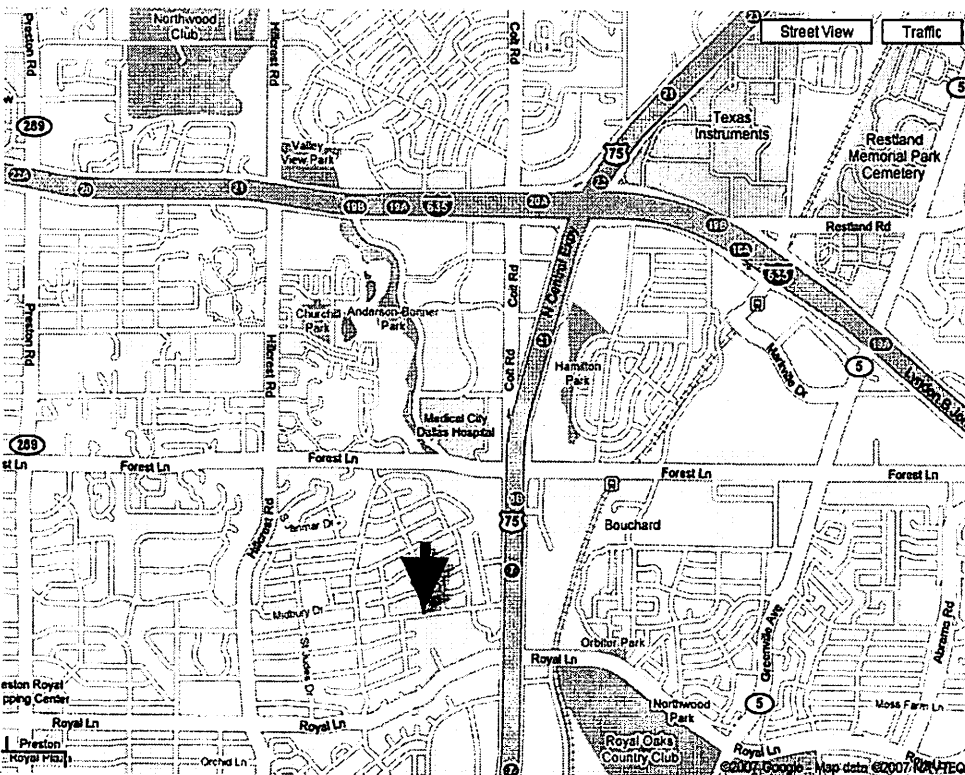
Sunday, March 2nd -
Program at 3.00pm
Repotting Marathon

Saturday in March
TBD: Tour of Greenhouses

Sunday, April 6 -
Program at 1:30pm

Sunday, May 4 -
Program at 1:30PM

Sunday, June 8 -
Program at 1:30pm



Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson**Financial Report: December 2007**

Dated: 12-23-07

Beginning Balance: \$4292.99

	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$160.00	
Hospitality		
Raffle		
Rent		
Snoopers		
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		
Miscellaneous		
Donations	\$125.00	
Special Sales		
SWROGA Dues		
Auction	\$877.00	
Plant Table Yr End Awards		\$150.00
Bank Fee Reversal		
Subtotals:	\$1162.00	\$150.00
Ending Balance: \$5304.99		

Ask the Plant Groom™ By Dale Groom

For: QA 1151

I have a lantana question. If I remember right you said you cut the bottom limbs off, at what stage do you do that in the Spring?, mine are spread out all over the place now, so I need to know when and how to do that? – S. H.

If you know which parts are actually ... dead they may be removed now. And, actually the entire plant may be severely pruned back now including viable plant parts as well as dead parts.

I prefer to wait until new growth begins in the spring then remove any part that does not sprout out and reshape as desired. Either way will work

Would you send me any information on taking care of centipede grass year round? I live in the lindale area and this grass is new to me. I know nothing about it except people say to leave it alone. I put out sod in a checker board design and it is very slow growing, next time i will lay it solid. Thanks. – L. H.

Centipede grass is a turf grass for acidic soils. These are typically found in East Texas. However there are a few "pockets" of acidic soils in other Texas locations.

Reader's Note: Do Not attempt to grow Centipede grass as your home lawn if your soil pH is above 7. It is an exercise in frustration.

Centipede does not take on the dark green color that is typical in well maintained St. Augustine or Bermuda lawns. It does have an attractive color that is often described as "apple green". I like it.

Yes, it is a little slow to spread and fill in during initial establishment. From seed I normally expect two complete growing seasons until complete cover is established. After the coverage is well established it requires less fertilizing, watering and overall maintenance than St. Augustine.

Fertilize only one time in the spring after new growth begins. Use a premium quality long lasting slow release lawn fertilizer with at least 50% of its' total Nitrogen(N) in a slow release form. As always, apply according to label directions. There have been more centipede lawns with problems caused by over fertilizing than any other reason. So, fertilize but don't over do.

Water your lawn when needed and only when needed. Do not water by some preset schedule.

Mow frequently enough to remove approximately 1/3 of the grass blade's height each time you mow.

And lastly, centipede does best in full sun locations. It does poorly in shady locations. I trust your planting does receive a minimum of eight hours full sun. if not, no amount of fertilizing, mowing, watering or talking to it will produce a thick turf.

Mr. Groom, can you tell me what will kill puncture vine / goat heads, they are taking over our church parking lot.-D. R.

Goat head is a broad leaf annual plant. I suggest applying a weed preventer labeled to prevent broad leaf weeds about March 15. If additional plants do emerge during the growing season treat with an approved aid labeled for broad leaf weeds.

One active ingredient that controls broad leaf plants after they are up and growing is Trimec. This active ingredient is available in several products.

I'm not familiar with the term "puncture vine". However I'd say it too is a broadleaf plant. If it remains green or regrows from last season's roots the plant is classified as a perennial and weed preventers or pre-emergents are no help in preventing regrowth.

Take a sample and/or photos in to a nursery with a Texas Certified Professional(TCNP) or in to your local county office of Texas Cooperative Extension for a more accurate ID during the growing season. If you do not know your Texas Cooperative Extension Agent's phone number give me a call M-F, 8a-4:30p at 214-904-3053 and I'll supply the name and number as well as location.

Dale's Notes:

* This is THE time of year to plant any bare root fruit trees, nut trees or berries.

* This is also time to start and complete any transplanting of woody landscape plants.

* NOW is prime time to have your soil "tested" or analyzed.

* Plant English/sweet peas, onion transplants, the end of Jan. And white/ red or Irish potatoes, beets and cole crops mid Feb.

* Mid March is pre-emergent or weed preventer application time in the north half of TX and late Feb./early March in south Texas.

* If you have been intimidated regarding rose growing in Texas this year plant some 'Earth Kind Roses'.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist, Master Gardener Program Coordinator-Dallas county, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texan, Author, Columnist, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom™. Send questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net. To receive free help with your horticulture/gardening questions M - F, 8:30 AM - 4 PM call the Master Gardeners Help Desk at 214-904-3053. Copyright 2007 by Groom Media and all rights are reserved.