



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

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May 2008

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May Meeting: Erick Christenson speaks on Vandas

Dr. Christenson is a research taxonomist with strong interests in the Aeridinae (Sarcanthinae), neotropical floristics, and the conservation of horticultural plants. He authored the definitive monograph of *Phalaenopsis*, published by Timber Press in 2001. He has done field work in both Guyana and French Guiana and authored the orchid treatment in the *Vascular Flora of Central French Guiana* for the New York Botanical Garden. He is also actively working with David Bennett of Lima, Peru, on a modern inventory of Peruvian orchids. To date they have published 800 illustrations as *Icones Orchidacearum Peruvianarum*, including more than 150 new distribution records and describing more than 100 new species from Peru. This includes the world's tallest orchid, *Sobralia altissima*, with stems normally +/- 27 feet tall and an extreme stem which measured over 44 feet tall! His bilingual *Machu Picchu: Orchids* was published in 2003 and forms the basis for further inventories in the region. His current work in Peru can be seen at: www.andesamazon.org. He also authored the orchids for *A Tropical Garden Flora* for the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

More on Dr Christenson on Page 4.

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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 Sunday of each month at North Haven Gardens, which is located at the following address: 7700 Northaven Rd. Dallas, Texas 75230. The doors open at 1:00 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

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is doing fine.

The April Greenhouse Tour was a complete success. I had around 40 people strolling through the afternoon at my house and the other opened greenhouses for that day had a similar headcount. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to David Gould and the greenhouse tour committee for coordinating this event.

Last week, the greenhouse hosts visited the greenhouses of one another, since we were hosting the day of the tour we couldn't be on the tour... it was a great experience to see them all.

This month we start with Orchids 101. It will be one question only, and we will meet at the NHG Greenhouse before the meeting at 1.00pm

We are honored this month to have Erick Christenson as our speaker. He will be speaking on Vandas.

This weekend I am headed to Rogers, AR for the SWRIGA show. Those folks really know how to entertain! I will try to take pictures of this event and publish them on the following newsletters.

This month we are including an article from our own David Hines and his adventure to Hong Kong. When I read it I felt I was there, as David's narrative is just contagious. I wouldn't be surprised if he publishes a book one of these days...

See you all on Sunday at the meeting.

Manny

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Zelenkoa onusta

Subfamily: Vandoideae

Tribe: Maxillarieae

Subtribe: Oncidiinae

Genus: Zelenkoa Chase & Williams

Species: onusta (Lindley) Chase & Williams

Pronunciation: zee-len-KO-ah oh-NOO-sta

Synonyms: *Oncidium onustum* Lindley, *Onc. holochrysum* Rchb.f.

Etymology: The genus name honors Harry Zelenko, a famous orchid enthusiast, writer and illustrator. The species name is from the Latin word *onustum* which means loaded, luxurious and refers to the abundance of flowers on this species.

Habitat: This species grows in the lowlands of western Ecuador and the northwestern Peru in humid lowland areas where rain fall is scant. It grows on trees and cacti in dry forests near sea level, but it has been collected at the elevation of 200 ft. (60 m). The conditions where it is found have strong air movement and filtered sunlight.

Plant description: This is a small clump epiphyte which grows to 12 cm high (5 in) with the growths closely spaced on a creeping rhizome. **Pseudobulbs** are 3 cm H x 2 cm W, egg- or pear-shaped, slightly compressed, sulcate (furrowed), green with irregular brown/black markings, unifoliate, raceme basal. **Leaf** to 10 cm L x 1.5 cm W, coriaceous, green with irregular brown/black markings. **Flowers** 8-14 widely spaced on the upper half of the arching, stiff raceme which emerges from the longitudinal fold of a leaf-like sheath. The flowers are 2.5 cm H x 2 cm W. Sepals bright yellow with a central red-dish line, petals cadmium yellow with fine red spots on basal 1/4, lip cadmium yellow, callus pale brown very finely red spotted, column green, wings bright yellow with spots brownish-red, anther yellow, pollinia golden yellow, stipe white and visidium brownish yellow.

Identification points: The thick spotted leaves and pseudobulbs, yellow flowers, shelf-like callus of the lip and the side lobes broader than the midlobe distinguish this species.

Flowering season: In nature plants bloom from fall to mid winter.

Culture: Best mounted on slab or tree fern with high humidity. Water at least once a day in the dry, hot summer using a balanced fertilizer at 1/4 to 1/2 strength. Plants may also be grown in pots if a quick draining medium is used. If you divide or repot, wait for new root growth to start in the early spring. Maintain growing conditions the year around, but reduce watering during periods of dark, cold weather.

Do not allow plants to be dry for long periods.

Bibliography:

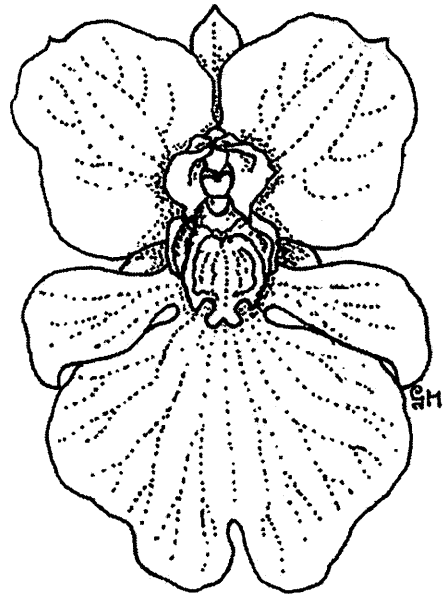
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GNTOS Meeting Minutes By Manny

No Meeting Minutes. Greenhouse Tour Instead.



Eric Christenson's Bio (Cont)

Continued from page 1

Classically trained, Dr. Christenson has worked in most of the world's significant herbaria and national museums. He is an acknowledged expert in critically important historic specimens that form the basis for applying plant names. His overall research focus is the accurate definition of species, their precise distributions, and the correct application of names, three facets of botany required prior to considering conservation policies. He is honored by the genera *Christensonia* (Vietnam) and *Christensonella* (Brazil) in addition to a number of species such as *Ascocentrum christensonianum* (Vietnam).

A prolific author of more than 400 publications, Dr. Christenson is known for his articles that attempt to bridge the gap between taxonomy and horticulture as well as his in-depth book reviews. He is a strong advocate for orchid conservation, particularly *ex situ* propagation, and actively works with commercial growers to that end.

In addition to botany, Dr. Christenson is an avid gardener. His house in Bradenton, Florida is known for its unusual plants and complete lack of lawn.

Bylaws 101 by Kathy Halverson

Did you know what is the **GNTOS Tax designation** ? Read on!

Note: This is not in the Bylaws, but it is important. GNTOS is a 501© 5 organization, not a 501© 3. As a 501© 5, GNTOS can accept donations; however, these donations are not tax deductible. Therefore, if you donate money, plants, or other items, you cannot legally deduct them on your tax return.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson

Financial Report: March 2008		
Dated: 3-03-08		
Beginning Balance: \$5786.61		
	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$180.00	Dallas Council of Garden Clubs: \$10.00
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$96.00	Ribbons: \$166.28
Rent		
Snoopers	\$50.00	\$45.00
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		
Miscellaneous		Newsletter Stamps: \$ 49.20; Envelopes: \$12.42
Donations	\$200.00	
Special Sales		
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Plant Table Yr End Awards		
Library		
Subtotals:	\$526.00	\$282.90
Ending Balance: \$6029.71		

Dallas Judging Center by Nancy Cropp

April 12, 2008

23 plants entered, 4 awards given:

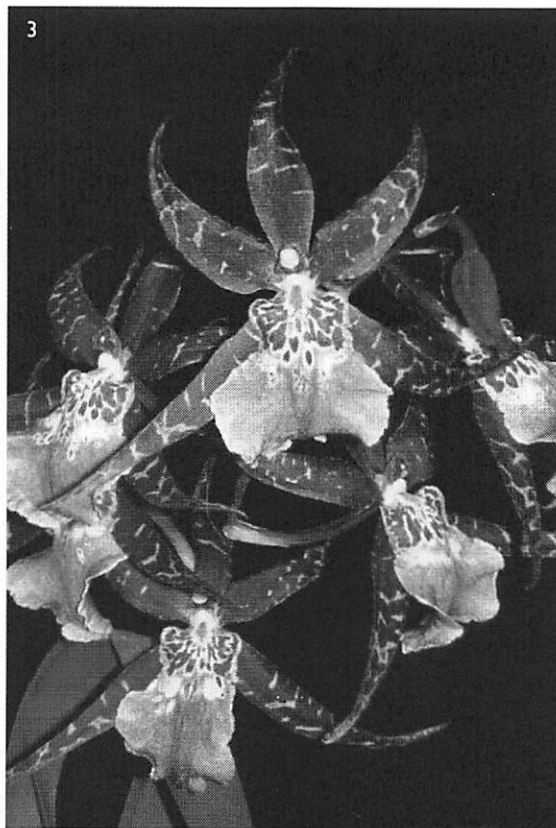
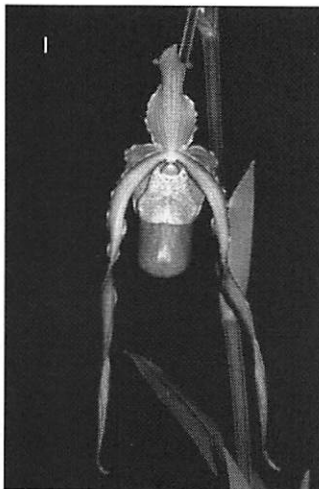
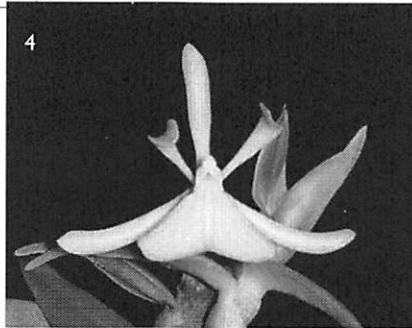
Phrag. Bel Croute 'Judy' (Sorcerer's Apprentice x caudatum var. sanderae) HCC 79 points, owner: Dr. Judy Cook, Gunter, TX (Picture 1)

Pot. Hawaiian Prominence 'America' (Pot. Hisako Akatsuka x Slc. Wendy's Redstone) AM 80 points, owner: Manuel Aybar, Garland, TX (Picture 2)

Alcra. Memoria Jay Yamada 'Kauai' (Brsdm. Kenneth Bivins x Mtssa. Aztec) AM 81 points, owner: Linda Horton, Garland, TX (Picture 3)

Epi. whittenii 'Judy' (species) CBR, owner: Dr. Judy Cook, Gunter, TX

See how it's done! If interested in learning about the Judging program, you can come and see for yourself! More information at <http://www.djc-aos.org> Remember, Training now begins at 11:30 AM, Judging at 1 PM, Richland College Horticulture Building, second Saturday of each month.



APRIL 2008 MEETING AGENDA

- 1.00PM Orchids 101
- 1.30PM Program & Introduction
- 2.45PM Break
- 3.00PM Business
- 3.30PM Plant Raffle
- 3.45PM Adjourn

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Sunday May 4th
Eric Christensen
"VANDAS TODAY"
Meeting at 1.00PM

Sunday June 1st
Bill Thoms
"Modern Taxonomy"
He will be bringing plants for sale.

Meeting at 1.00PM
See the web site

www.gntos.org for plant list

July 6th, 2008
Picnic and Auction
More details on the June Newsletter

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

For: QAI155

In 1999 we moved from Austin to Teague and planted two oleander bushes at each corner of our house. They have bloomed beautifully but now they have dried up leaves and branches and look like they are dying. Should we cut them back and allow them to regrow or plant some new ones? - E. R. S.

It may not help but your oleander problem is not unique. After hard freezes or late freezes damage may occur. We nearly all have experienced this problem if we are or have grown oleander in Texas. I was in San Antonio and Austin after the freeze in 2000 and there was damage to oleanders in both areas. The only locations I did not see or hear reports from about oleander damage that winter was the our coastal areas including Port Lavaca and the Rio Grande Valley.

Keep this in mind. You have moved into an area that is one more hardiness zone colder. Install plants that are historically cold hardy in a zone 7 and you will have less winter damage. The most cold hardy varieties of oleander are; 'Hardy Red' and 'Sugarland Red'.

You may prune out all the damaged parts of your plants in question and let them regrow this spring and summer. Fertilizing with a quality lawn fertilizer will help put new growth and blooms on your plants this season. Do read and follow label directions when using any garden aide.

We have have buttercups growing in our yard and enjoy them greatly. How do they spread? - V. B.

These Texas native bloomers drop seeds after their blooms fade and the seeds ripen. This method of propagation or “spreading” is used by our native flora in other plants as well to help them multiply.

Should you wish to plant additional seeds the best time to plant wildflower seeds in Texas is early fall. There is a section in my book 'Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide- Revise Edition' covering native Texas annuals and perennials. It is available at local book retailers and libraries.

Mother's Day is in May and it automatically makes me think about hydrangea plants. I'd like to know how to get the pretty pink I've seen in some Texas landscapes. Thank you. - H. D.

Yes, I agree Mother's day and hydrangea plants go together.

Soil Ph is what causes the blooms to be pink, blue or somewhere in between on these deciduous blooming shrubs. High soil Ph soils rich in Calcium should produce the pink you are looking for. Very acidic soils produce the beautiful cobalt blue blooms.

Lime which is calcium or dolomite which is calcium and magnesium are both used to aid in creating favorable soil pH for pink bloom color in hydrangeas. The best time to apply these two products is in the fall. Lime or dolomite may be applied now but your plants may not realize much from them this spring/summer because they work relatively slow.

I'd like a suggestion or two from you on some color plants I could grow during the summer in containers. Thank you. - R. N.

Pots or container of summer color are fun and offer a wide spectrum of uses. They are “the thing” for fellow Texans without yard area, on patios, decks, and balconies or for accent in the landscape.

Some of the best plants for summer color in container include but aren't limited to; copper plant, lantana, periwinkle, mealy blue sage, plumbago, mandevilla, alamanda, tropical hibiscus, miniature crape myrtle, VIP petunia, Mexican bush sage, ever blooming miniature roses, dwarf nandana, fountain grass and many varieties of salvias. I hope this helps with a plant list.

Do remember, that proper plant selection is important in summer long bloom but other components are also necessary. These include large containers, quality potting soil, nutrients and water.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist, Master Gardener Program Coordinator-Dallas County, Native Texan, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom™. Dale will answer your questions here in his column. Send your questions to Dale Groom at dalegroom@tvec.net. To receive free help M - F, 8:30 AM - 4 PM call the Master Gardeners Help Desk at 214-904-3053.