



# Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 54—Issue 6

June 2008

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## June Meeting: Bill Thoms is “Dr. Disease”

Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for 35 years and to date have won more Awards for Culture than just about anyone else in the world, (62 in over 20 genera, including 19 in the bulbophyllum alliance (capped off with a 95 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence for *Cirr. rothschildianum* 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS).

They were one of the first to receive the new award 'Certificate of Cultural Excellence' for a score above 90 points, and that was for a *Miltoniopsis* which is very difficult to grow in Tampa, Florida. They have received four First Class Certificates in the past few years as well as every other award given by the AOS.

Bill Thoms got his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of *Enc. tampensis* in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. (He actually just picked them off trees pushed over for a new Condo, but it sounds better.) After moving to the Tampa area in the early 70's and, after having an orchid nursery for 20 years called Hilltop House, he and his wife, Doris Dukes, (whom he met at the Tampa Orchid Club in the early '80s), took several thousand of their favorite plants and built their own greenhouse at home to retire from the retail business, relax, and continue their hybridizing program (making about 200 crosses a year). Since then, their plants grew back up to 10,000 and the awards have grown too: 62 Awards for Culture in over 20 genera including 20 in the bulbophyllum alliance and 6 Certificates for Cultural Excellence (90 points or better); First Class Certificates for *Cirrhopetalums*, *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*; and about 200 total awards in all categories. Bill recently received one of the most prestigious awards given to a hybridizer, an Award of Distinction which is given for a worthy new avenue of breeding. The plant that received the award was a cross he made between two *Trias* species and was named *Trias Emily Clarkson*.

No matter what kind of plants you grow, Bill will give you tips to fight any of the common orchid diseases. Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard. Come and see for yourself. And take this opportunity to bring an orchid plant that is sick, if possible, so you can get a diagnosis for it. See you all at the meeting!

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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](mailto:manuel.aybar@verizon.net) or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

**President's Message** by Manuel Aybar

Hello All!

Summer is officially here, and care needs to be excersiced if you take plants outside. Pay attention to extreme hot days... these might affect your plants. A morning watering is usually preferred.

Last month program was a treat... Dr Christensen did a great job presenting the Vandaceous orchids and the different species. This month, we will host Bill Thoms. He will bring plants for sale. Bill is an expert in Bulbophylums and will have some for sale.

Orchids 101 sessions were started last month. For those of you that are wondering, it is a small gathering at 1.00pm at the NHG greenhouse before the general meeting starts. We are making these sessions very informal and answering on single question per month. For the month of June, the Question is: *When do I cut the inflorescence?*

The IPA (International Phalaenopsis Alliance) is having their 12th Symposium in July. More information about this event and upcoming shows can be found at the "Shows" section of the gntos.org web site.

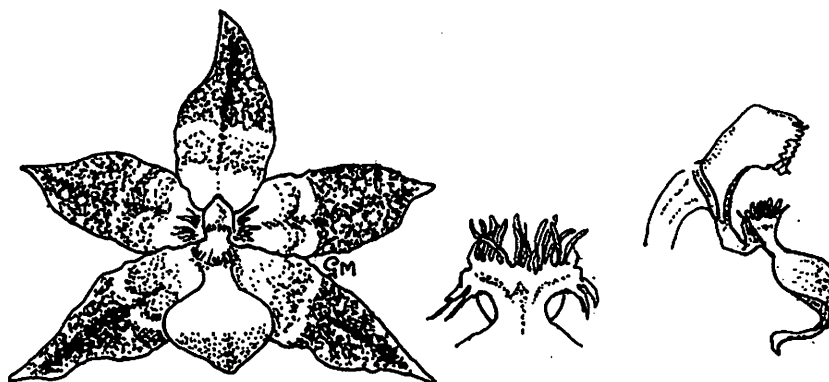
The Fort Worth orchid society is having their show next year for Spring 2009. It is going to be April 17, 2009 . Start thinking about volunteering for the GNTOS exhibit. More on this topic will come as we get more information on the theme, etc.

See you all at the meeting.

Manny

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

**Subfamily:** Epidendroideae  
**Tribe:** Maxillarieae  
**Subtribe:** Zygopetalinae  
**Genus:** *Huntleya* Bateman ex Lindley  
**Species:** *burtii* (Endres & Rchb.f.) Pfizer  
**Pronunciation:** HUNT-lee-ah BURT-ee-eye  
**Synonym:** *Batemaniana burtii* Endres & Rchb.f., *Gard. Chron.*, 1099. 1872.



**Etymology:** The genus name honors Mr. J. T. Huntley, an English orchid fancier in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The species name honors a Mr. Burt, an English orchid collector in South America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Taxonomy:** In 1837 in the *Botanical Register* John Lindley first described the genus *Huntleya* which is related to *Bollea*. He stated that this new genus differed from *Maxillaria* by its distichously arranged leaves; its flat spreading clawed lip; the column with a free column foot with a fine fringe at the base and broad wings at the apex. *Huntleya* differs from *Zygopetalum* in having conduplicate veined leaves. It differs from *Chondrorhyncha* and *Pescatorea* by its horizontally expanded flowers and fringed lip callus.

When R. A. Rolfe revised *Huntleya* in 1900 in *The Orchid Revue* he recognized 6 species and one variety and the species varied only in the flower size and coloration. Jack Fowlie revised the genus in the *-Orchid Digest* in 1967 and 1974 to include 10 species but most taxonomists feel that the added four species are really conspecific with *H. meleagris*. From viewing the photographs in Fowlie's work several taxa may be distinguished on floral differences that are difficult to quantify. The type species for the genus is *Huntleya meleagris* Lindl.

**Distribution:** The genus is known from Costa Rica to Bolivia, but the species *Huntleya burtii* occurs only from Honduras to Panama. The genus is characterized by a lack of pseudobulbs, the fan-like growth habit, the one-flowered inflorescences, a large, ribbed callus, and fimbriate hair-like spines at the apex of each rib.

**Habitat:** Epiphytic on tree trunks in extremely wet cloud forests at 500 to 1,200 m.

**Plant description:** Epiphytic, caespitose, forming small clumps. **Rhizome** short. **Leaves** distichous, conduplicate, articulate, narrowly elliptic, and acute. **Inflorescences** one or more per shoot, each borne at the leaf axil, each with a single flower. **Flowers** about 10 cm in diameter. **Sepals** and **petals** verrucose, greenish-yellow with red spots, **petals** white at base with a maroon-brown spot, **lip** white with a reddish-brown apex. **Sepals** similar, fleshy, ovate-lanceolate, acute to acuminate, 4-5.6 cm L, 2.3-2.6 cm W, margins smooth or lightly undulate; **dorsal** free; **laterals** connate at base. **Petals** similar to sepals in color shape and size, 4-5.6 cm L, 2.2-2.5 cm W. **Lip** fleshy, obscurely 3-lobate or rhombic-ovate, abruptly contracted at the base into a narrow claw; **callus** semicircular, fimbriate, strongly elevated. **Column** stout, with conspicuous foot, broadened and fimbriate above, 1.6-2.2 cm L; **anther** operculate; **pollinia** 4, waxy, in 2 pairs of different sizes, strongly laterally compressed, with well developed viscidium and stipe.

**Flowering season:** Mostly February to May.

**Note:** The name, *Huntleya burtii*, is often accepted in synonymy with *H. meleagris* Lindley, a South American species which lacks the dark spots at the base of the petals as well as the bubble-like adaxial surface of the sepals and petals.

**Culture:** All *Huntleya* species are highly intolerant of sodium and calcium in the water used to cultivate them artificially. It is because of this that *Huntleya* species are seldom seen in collections. Once you have solved the water problems remember that *Huntleya* species require intermediate conditions but must not be allowed to dry out completely. Because of their creeping growth habit they should be grown in large baskets or on plaques. They must have shady and humid conditions throughout the year with no rest period.

## GNTOS Meeting Minutes By Jeanne Thompson

Sunday, May 4th, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 by our President, Manuel Aybar

May's meeting also brought our inaugural meeting of Orchids 101, a one-half hour beginners' meeting that will be held at 1pm, the day of our regular meetings in the greenhouse next door to the meeting room. Each meeting will have a subject, and will answer orchid grower's questions.

New Business:

Our Greenhouse tour in April was a great success, and we'd like to do it again!

We had 5 Visitors, Eric Christenson, Jim & Adrienne Lynch, Adrienne Krutilek, Dane Nelson, and 1 New Member, Joan Corey. We are very happy to have you!

Jim Williams introduced our speaker, Eric Christiansen, who gave a presentation on different genera in the Vanda alliance.

Bill Thoms will be our speaker for June, and he will also be diagnosing members' plants that are not well, or that owners have questions about. He will also have plants for sale.  
eva jacobson & mike beber helped the plant table judging.

Plant Table:

Blue Ribbon: Lc. Lake Casitas 'Spring Song'

owner: Dianna Rose

Red Ribbon: Slc Roblar 'Orange Charm' HCC/AOS

owner: Robert Marsh

White Ribbon: Dtps Black Butterfly x Mielo Stripes

owner: Manny Aybar

Tricolor: Cattleya skinneri alba

owner: Kathy Halverson

Species of the Month: Eulophia keithii

owner: Jim Williams

Adjourned 4:15 PM by Manny Aybar

**Treasurer's Report** by Kathy Halverson**Financial Report: May 2008 (includes April financials)**

Dated: 5-09-08

**Beginning Balance: \$6029.71**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<b>Dues</b>	\$60.00	
<b>Hospitality</b>		
<b>Raffle</b>	\$99.00	
<b>Rent</b>		Rent (4months) \$198.45
<b>Snoopers</b>	\$155.00	\$139.50
<b>Speakers Fee</b>		Eric Christenson: \$150.00
<b>Speakers Air Fare/Travel</b>		Bill Thoms: \$146.07; Eric Christenson: \$114.50
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		Storage for 2007 tax return & 2007 records = \$40.73
<b>Donations</b>		
<b>Special Sales</b>		
<b>SWROGA Dues</b>		
<b>Auction</b>		
<b>Plant Table Yr End Awards</b>		
<b>Library</b>		
<b>Website</b>		Domain name and hosting: \$55.86
<b>Subtotals:</b>	<b>\$314.00</b>	<b>\$845.11</b>

**Ending Balance: \$5498.60**

## Dallas Judging Center by Nancy Cropp

Nineteen plants entered, three awards given:

Phal. javanica 'Peter Lin' (species) HCC 77 points,  
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

Phal. Princess Kaiulani 'Peter Lin' (amboinensis x  
violacea) HCC 79 points, owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

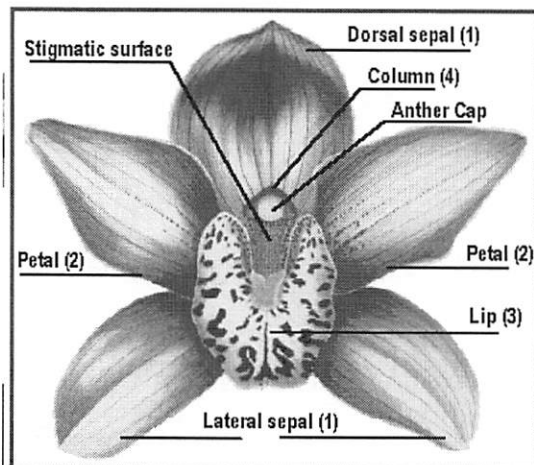
Thw. (Pot.) Martha Clarke 'Remar' (Blc. Love Sound x  
Slc. Circle of Life) AM 80 points, owner: Renee' &  
Marvin Gerber, Houston

## Orchid Anatomy by Manny

Have you ever wonder why there are different fancy names for the orchid flower parts? Sometimes we find ourselves listening to judges and we don't know what they are talking about when they say "these petals are recurved" or "what a beautiful lip".

Well, time to learn the anatomy of an orchid flower!"

THE ANATOMY OF A *Cymbidium* FLOWER



1. **Sepals** - Although they may look like petals, they are actually the glorified remains of the flower bud. There are usually three of approximately equal size.

2. **Petals** - Orchids always have three petals. Two are "normal," and the third becomes a highly specialized structure called a lip.

3. **Lip or Labellum** - The lower petal of an orchid. Used by the flower to provide a 'landing platform' for its pollinator.

4. **Column** - A finger-like structure that carries the orchid's reproductive organs--the stigmatic surface (female organs) and the **Pollinia** (male organs) located under the **Anther Cap**.

## MAY 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 June 1st  
Bill Thoms

"Modern Taxonomy"  
He will be bringing plants for sale.

Meeting at 1.00PM  
See the web site

[www.gntos.org](http://www.gntos.org) for plant list

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

August 3rd, 2008  
Norito Hasegawa  
"Modern Paphiopedilums"

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

QA1163

Should I be pruning roses now? Thank you. - B. D.

Normally, the only pruning of roses done this time of year is ... "dead heading". I know it's a bit morbid sounding but it's the term-utilized nation wide. This limited pruning activity is the removal of spent blooms and their stalks.

On species and other rose types these structures are often left on the plant to grow and mature into rose hips that are often ornamental, add color and an interesting eye appeal to roses. Roses that are continual bloomers throughout the growing season are often deadheaded as a cultural practice to aid in the production of additional blooms. The spent bloom pods may be removed by cutting with a tool of pinched off by hand.

If your roses have become so large they grab you or anyone that walks past you may wish to conduct a selective removal of these "grabbers". Severe pruning of roses in our state is mid Feb. removing of dead twigs may be done anytime.

Here's my note of recommendation for you and all readers of this column. Earth Kind Roses(tm) once established do not require pruning nor dead heading, provide an outstanding show of blooms throughout the season, do not require fertilizing or spraying and are Water-Wise.

When looking at adding additional roses to your landscape and for anyone wanting to plant the "first rose" I strongly recommend you select one of more of the (13) different Earth Kind Roses(tm) on the market today. Potential Earth Kind Roses(tm) are field tested in real world situations by Texas Cooperative Extension Horticulturists and collaborating partners state wide to earn the designation of Earth Kind Rose(tm).

Additional information regarding Earth Kind Roses(tm) is available at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindrose> and <http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu> then click on Horticulture, Home Gardening and Earth Kind Roses(tm). You will also find other valuable Earth Kind(tm) information at this location.

I'm looking for evergreen shrubs to grow in large containers on our deck and would like to know what you recommend. - T. J.

T. J., There are many possibilities here in Texas but I'll share with you some I personally prefer.

One item. I'm not sure how large your definition of ... large is. I'll base my recommendations on what Judy, my child bride of almost (39) years and I use. We use 16 - 20" containers of various configurations and construction.

Containers may be plastic, fiberglass, terracotta, ceramic, wood or just about any other material you wish to use. One key physical item that should be present in all containers is ... holes. Drain holes specifically. I have great results using 10, 15 and 20 gallon nursery containers when growing containerized evergreens and seasonal color for our deck, drive, walk and other locations.

Drain holes should be located on the sides just above the container's floor. This is similar to the location of drain holes in nursery containers. One drain hole centered in the bottom of a container often is not adequate to supply the necessary drainage for healthy root growth.

Remember, healthy roots = healthy plants. It is not possible to grow quality plants without healthy roots.

For ceramic and terracotta containers carbide masonry drill bits work well for drilling drain holes in these types of container. Wood, fiberglass, aluminum, stainless steel, copper and brass container may be drilled with most sharp high-speed drill bits. I recommend a minimum of (4) 1/2" diameter holes spaced evenly around a container's circumference.

Use a premium quality professional potting soil when installing plants in containers.

Take a look at the following plants for consideration in your containers that will be located in full sun location for (6) hours to all day Nandina including domestica, compacta, 'Gulf Stream' and 'Firepower'. Of the dwarf types 'Firepower' is my favorite. 'Winter Gem' boxwood does super. I do not recommend Japanese boxwood in containers. In the holly family there's a plethora of possibilities, some that are widely available include 'Carissa', 'Willowleaf', 'Dwarf Yaupon', 'Weeping Yaupon' and many more. The old fashion Abelia grandiflora and the newer hybrids 'Prostrata' and 'Sunrise' would provide; interesting foliage color, bloom color plus butterflies and hummers.

I would not plant euonymus or junipers in containers due to potential pest problems.

If you also look at some of the deciduous shrubs for your plantings that will add "eye candy" let me recommend the following: crape myrtles of all types and colors. Ask for the mildew resistant varieties when shopping. Altheas or Rose-Of-Sharon are especially great if you like the looks of hibiscus and they are available in various bloom colors and types. My favorite althea is 'Diana', a beautiful pure white variety.

Buddleia or Butterfly Bush should be on this list for fragrance, color, form, texture and ... butterflies.

Try some of these suggestions and let me know how they "work" for you.

Dale's Notes:

The "heat" will be arriving soon will for its annual visit. The following are some suggestions on how to manage the landscape during this time and be ... WaterWise:

\* Install a drip irrigation system and only water when the plants need it. DO NOT water by some predetermined schedule

\* Maintain a mulch such a pine bark, shredded bark, shredded tree trimmings or similar organic material 3-4" deep. DO NOT mulch beds with non-organic materials such as gravel. Gravel, crushed rock and similar products act as heat sinks. We do not need to add any heat to our soils, plus they do not add valuable texture, nutrients or water holding capacity to the soil.

\* When installing seasonal color, shrubs, trees, vines, groundcovers and/or turf plant the best locally adapted Water Wise selections available.

Following these suggestions I've outlined can reduce your potable usage in the landscape by 50% or more plus grow healthy and attractive plants.

Dale Groom, CEA-Horticulture, Native Texan, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom(tm). Send your lawn, garden and landscape questions to Dale at [dalegroom@mycvc.net](mailto:dalegroom@mycvc.net). To speak with a Master Gardener M-F, 8:30a - 4p call 214-904-3053.