



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 54—Issue 7

July 2008

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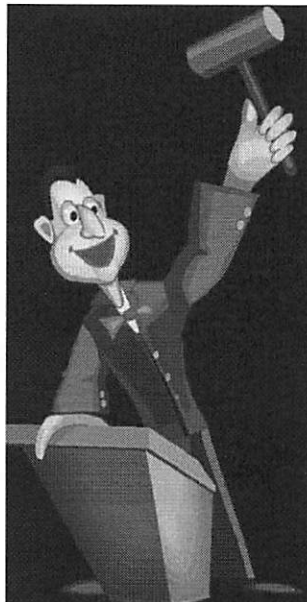
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July Meeting... It Auction Time!



Get those bidding paddles ready because it is Auction Time! Our Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Jerry Brandenburg, will be leading the auction. We will have plants from Carmela, as well as plants that you members would like to contribute to the auction. Remember, this is one of two fundraisers for the society, so come one down, get some orchids, and have some fun bidding! This is without doubt one of our most entertaining meetings.

For this month's meeting we will also have our semi-annual luncheon. Each member, per last meeting's discussion, will bring a covered dish to share. GNTOS will provide plates, bowls, forks, drinks and cups.

There will be no Snooper's table or Plant Show and Tell this month. 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 or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

President's Message by Manuel Aybar

Hello All!

This has been a very fast year, we are already past June and the firework stands are popping up for Independence Day celebrations... and our greenhouses are hotter! Be careful with orchids outside and keep an eye on your greenhouses... I will be out of town the whole month of July, so I need all your support for the July auction. Please contact Jim Williams if you have any questions. I will be at the July auction if my flight back from D.R. doesn't get delayed... we shall see. Monday after the Auction, headed to France... hope to see some orchids there!

I have received a lot of great comments about Dr Thoms about his program on Orchid Pest and Diseases. It was great to learn the secrets of someone that have won so many Cultural Awards... I started doing some things that he recommended and have seen some results already :)

We have had 4-6 members attending the Orchids 101 sessions . 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. We will resume the sessions in August.

Norito Hasegawa will be our speaker for August. For us newer to the hobby, Norito is synonym of Paphiopedilums (Lady Slippers) , a genera in which he is considered an expert. He will be bringing plants for sale and he will be taking pre-orders.

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

See you all at the meeting (If American Airlines permits it)

Manny

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Subfamily: Vandoideae

Tribe: Maxillarieae

Subtribe: Oncidiinae

Genus: *Oncidium* Swartz

Species: *excavatum* Lindl.

Pronunciation: on-SID-ee-um ez-kay-VAT-tum

Etymology: The genus name is taken from the Greek word *onkos* meaning swelling or tumor and refers to the complicated callus on the lip.

The species name from the Latin word *excavatus* refers to the concavity on the back of the lip. A notice for the sale of these plants in the *Botanical Register* calling attention to this

feature reads "This fine Peruvian plant has flowered with Messers Loddiges; it has yellow flowers, spotted with brown, and is easily known by the base of the labellum being very convex, a little hollowed out in front, and excavated with a deep pit on the underside."

Synonyms: *Oncidium aurosum* Rchb.f. & Warsc., *Onc. boisseri* Kraenzlin, *Onc. excavatum* var. *Dawsonii* Williams, *Onc. polyadenium* Lindley, *Onc. rupestre* Lindley, *Onc. skinneri* Lindley.

Habitat: Terrestrial on rocks, grass, and brush covered, lateritic, red clay spoils on steep slopes.

Distribution: Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. This is a common Peruvian species where it forms large colonies on grassy hillsides at 2400-3100 m.

Flowering season: June to September, with the peak season being June and July.

Description: Large, robust sympodial terrestrial plant to 100 cm (39"), but usually 40-70 cm (16-28 ") tall.

Pseudobulbs numerous, clustered, fleshy, slightly compressed, egg-shaped to oblong connected by a short rhizome. Each growth surrounded by leaf-like sheaths. **Leaves** 20-50 cm (12-20") L, 2.5-4 cm (1.0-1.6") W, 1-2 linear to narrowly oblong at top of each pseudobulb, narrow, lanceolate, acuminate. **Inflorescence** 60-90 cm (24-36") L, may grow to 150 cm (60"), basal, erect, paniculate, pyramidal. **Flowers** bright yellow marked with reddish brown, column wings spotted reddish brown, approximately 4.0 cm across, undulating sepals are smaller than petals and tri-lobed lip has small, oblong, convex side lobes and a transversely oblong, notched midlobe that has a convex crest that is studded with small tubercles arranged in 5 lines. **Dorsal sepal** oblanceolate, apiculate, the **laterals** obliquely oblong-lanceolate, narrower, apiculate; **petals** slightly oblique, vary from oblong to broadly oblanceolate, apex obtuse to rounded, entire to retuse; **lip** 4-lobed, midlobe deeply retuse, the lateral lobes ovate-quadrangle with a bidentate protuberance below the center, the **callus** with many blunt protuberances more or less in 3-5 ranks near the base and 2 ranks on broad claw.

Culture: This plant comes from high elevations where the summer temperatures are 68-70°. So maintaining *Onc. excavatum*, an intermediate grower, in our area can be difficult. Keep near the cooler pads in the summer and mist frequently. Keep evenly moist during the growing season. In the late fall when the growths are mature, you can reduce the water and fertilizer somewhat. In winter reduce water and fertilizer until spring.

Do not allow this plant to remain dry for long periods.

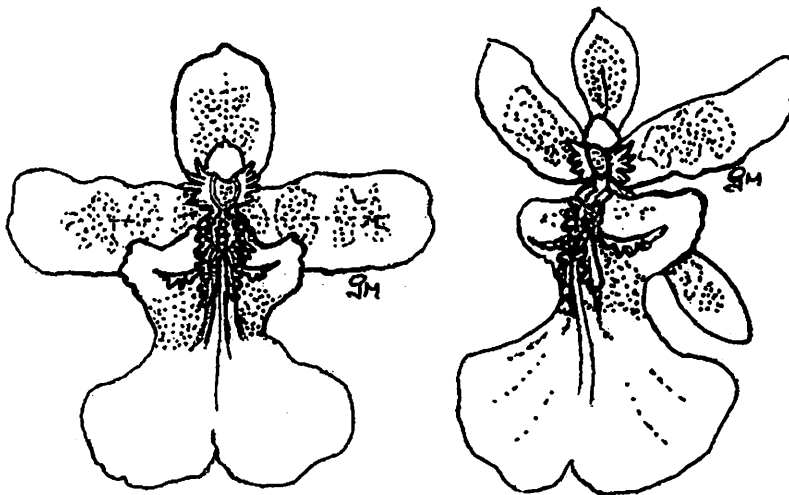
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Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species, Ed.3, H. Bechtel, P. Cribb, & E. Launert, (1992), MIT Press, Cambridge, MA

Orchid Names and Their Meanings, Hubert Mayr, (1998), A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.-G.

Orchids from the Botanical Register, Samuel Sprunger, Ed., (1991), Birkhauser Verlag Basel



GNTOS Meeting Minutes By Jeanne Thompson

Sunday, June 1, 2008

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

Our Speaker, Bill Thoms, was introduced by Jim Williams. He gave us a presentation on Pests and Diseases. He and his wife have accumulated 67 Cultural Awards. Some of the advice he gave:

See small problems before they become major problems. Cleanliness prevents most problems.
Have a friend hide ten old pennies around your plants, and go find them all, forcing you to closely and carefully examine every plant. When a plant has shiny leaves all is well, when a plant leaf surface is dull and matte, then the plant is not in optimal condition. When that happens, insects are attracted to that plant and problems will start.
Orchid Pests and Diseases from the AOS is recommended reading.

Recommended products in order of strength:

(use in cool conditions, at night AND that includes fertilizer as well as insecticides.)

Dyna-Gro Pro-Tekt - a plant strengthener, causes resistance to cold, heat bugs and pathogens.

Dyna-Gro Neem Oil - completely safe, residue from the Neem tree, is a wax that basically suffocates insects AND eggs, non-toxic for people and pets

Cinnamon - good for wet rot bacterial problems.

Hydrogen Peroxide 3% also for wet rot.

Rubbing Alcohol full strength - will kill all insects. DO NOT SPRAY ON PAPH BUDS OR FLOWERS! will cause them to blast.

Boric Acid - very mild, won't hurt pets, but will kill crawling insects such as ants and roaches.

Thuricide HPC - is a bacteria called bacillus thuringensis that kills the caterpillars, BT for short.

Liquid Sevin - equal parts Sevin, molasses and honey is a great snail killer.

Deadline - for slugs, is messy but attracts and kills. Not good for use around pets.

Raid House & Garden in the Green Can. Wont harm plants. Good for roaches, go out around 10 at night to catch them. Only a light spray, the spray immediately out of the can will freeze plants, spray lightly.

Bayer All in One = spot spraying

Enstar II - a growth regulator, keeps insects from moulting, very expensive but very effective.

Merit - systemic that can be mixed with fertilizers, is taken up, and insects chew and ingest.

Kelthane - for red spider mites, use with care, is close to DDT, but is good properly used.

Feed weekly, weakly, sporadic fertilizing causes sporadic growth and die-off. Water before fertilizing.

Boisduval scale goes for the old growths underside and not always spotted.

Fish emulsion is good. Peters is not recommended, Miracle-Grow is good, MSU is very close to Bill Thoms formulation.

Bulbophyllums need more water longer. Clay pots are not recommended as they dry too fast.

20 minute Intermission at 3.

The plant auction July 6th will be held here at the GNTOS meeting place. We will plan another event for Dr. Judy Cook's house and greenhouse in the fall.

We will plan to have a covered-dish late lunch at 1 pm here at the Northhaven meeting place. Auction starts at 2 pm.

We are considering a Fall Greenhouse tour later this year, any suggestions welcome.

Plant table results:

White: Neofinetia falcata - Dr Judy Cook

red: B. recurvilabra Dr Judy Cook

Blue: Laelia purpurata the Brandenburgs

Species of the month: B. maximum Linda Horton

Tricolor: Epi. cristatum - Dr. Judy Cook

We had a couple of participants in our Orchids 101. We will not have the program next month due to our lunch and auction.

Our meeting was adjourned at 4pm by Manny Aybar.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Thompson.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson**Financial Report: June 2008**

Dated: 6-16-08

Beginning Balance: \$5498.60

	Income	Expenses
Dues		
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$86.00	\$72.00
Rent		
Snoopers	\$99.30	\$85.50
Speakers Fee		
Speakers Air Fare/Travel		Bill Thoms: \$53.33; Norito Hasegawa: \$199.10
Miscellaneous		Name Badges: \$18.39
Donations		
Special Sales		
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Plant Table Yr End Awards		
Library		
Website		
Subtotals:	\$185.30	\$428.32
Ending Balance: \$5255.58		

Dallas Judging Center by Nancy Cropp

Meeting June 14th, 2008.

18 plants entered, 2 awards given:

- Paph. niveum 'Jayne Garrison' (species sib-cross) HCC 76 points, owner: Olie Garrison, Nacogdoches
- Bulb. carunculatum 'Jerry' (species) HCC 77 points, owner: Ronnie & Jerry Brandenburg, Dallas

Welcome! New Student in the AOS judging program: Kevin Fox
Dallas Judging Center officers elected for 2009: Chairman - Tom Mulhol-
lan, Vice-Chair - Manuel Aybar

Orchid Classification by Growth Habit by Manny

The orchid plant family varies widely in habitat, ranging throughout the tropics, over the temperate zones of both hemispheres, and even reaching into the fringes of the Arctic. There is a similarly wide variation in type, with several systems of classification.

The first division is into monopodial and sympodial groups, referring to the habit of growth. The monopodial, including the Vanda and Aerides, grow continuously from a central crown, which eventually appears atop a long stem that has frequently lost its lower leaves.

Phalaenopsis, although monopodial, is stemless, but yearly grows a pair of leaves from the characteristic crown. The leaves of monopodial orchid plants are heavy, leathery, fleshy, and capable of storing some quantity of moisture, but the plants must never be allowed to dry out completely. The leaves of Vanda teres, like pine needles, do not resemble leaves, but are three to four inches long, very slender, round and succulent, and taper to a point.

The sympodial group, of which Cattleya, Laelia, and Coelogyne are notable examples of this orchid plant, has a creeping rootstock, with each new growth springing from the base and alongside the last year's growth. The new growth appears as a swelling or 'dormant' eye that at the proper time will 'break' or begin to grow. In some genera, such as Laelia and Coelogyne, the growths will break in several directions, but in Cattleya usually in only one.

The pseudobulb, a characteristic of sympodial orchid plants, is a reservoir for food and moisture against times of drought and dormancy. It differs widely according to the different genera. The pseudobulb of Cattleya is longish, smooth, and rounded; while that of Laelia may be slightly flattened, even in some cases assuming a many-sided angular form. Certain species have pseudobulbs that resemble small pineapples. The pseudobulbs of Odontoglossum and Miltonia are much flattened and compressed; those of Coelogyne are very round, short, and prolific; and those of Cymbidium very large, rounded, and stocky.

Dendrobium in many species lacks pseudobulbs, but even the long cane-like flower stems, along which the leaves grow in pairs, are capable of storing food and moisture.

So what are your orchids? Monopodial, Sympodial? Check them out!

JUNE 2008 MEETING AGENDA

1.00 PM Picnic Lunch
2.00 PM Business
Meeting
2.15 PM Auction
4.00 PM Adjourn

SAVE THE DATES!

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

July 6th, 2008
Annual Picnic and Auction

August 3rd, 2008
Norito Hasegawa
"Paphiopedilums Species"
(Lady Slippers)

September 7th, 2008
To be announced

October 5th, 2008
To be announced

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

QA1162

I have a question concerning the oak growth under my live oak trees. Several years ago we built a large raised flowerbed around a group of trees. Over the years of cultivation of the bed, the oak growth has overtaken the bed. We have kept it down the last few years with weed-eating. Naturally it has finally gotten completely out of hand. My thought was to lay down plastic and cover it with mulch and just put potted plants on it. My question is if it can be sprayed with Roundup.... would it endanger the trees? I was told it would be okay if the spray did not get on the trees, but I want to be completely sure it would not harm my trees. I would appreciate your input on the situation. Thanks – J. M.

Garden aids containing the active ingredient glyphosate are very effective on grasses but usually have limited success in controlling tree growth.

If you wish to have containers of color your suggestion is viable. I'd cut all the sprouts down to the ground, install landscape fabric, mulch 3-4" deep and place the containers as desired. A possible option is to mow the area each time the lawn is cut.

We have a couple of Bradford Pear trees about 9-10 yrs old, they seem to have some sort of blight, leaves and small limbs dying and falling off. Is there something we can do for this? Thanks – M. L.

It would be unusual but you may have fire blight. Cut some samples of the problem twigs and take in to your local Extension Agent with Texas AgriLife Extension Service or a nursery for confirmation. If it is fire blight copper based garden aids such as Bordeaux mixture will control it. This could also be an environmental issue with the past recent seasons in TX and I believe the most likely cause. Remember, always read and follow label directions when using any garden aid.

I see crape myrtles blooming but mine are not. What's wrong? – F. K.

Some varieties bloom earlier than others and is most likely your situation. These beauties bloom best on new growth. To stimulate new growth you may wish to apply (N) nitrogen fertilizer according to label directions. If your plant(s) have any dead wood, old spent blooms or two or more limbs competing for the same space they may be removed by pruning now also. This activity increases also increases new growth and improves each plant's individual look.

We are interested in some color that will bloom in the summer each year and come back each year. What do you recommend? – G. D.

Some of the best color plants include but are not limited to:

All types of lantana, ruellia Mexican or summer petunia, Bouncing Bet, 'Lady In Red' Salvia, crape myrtles, salvia greggii, 'Knock Out', 'Belinda's Dream and the other Earth Kind Roses™', gaura or whirling butterflies, and butterfly bush. Give any or all of these a try, because I'm sure you will enjoy them.

All of these need to be planted in full sun locations with well-drained soil. After planting is complete, water thoroughly and mulch the entire planting with 3-4" of your favorite organic mulch such as pine bark mulch.

Water as needed and these selections should bloom throughout the summer.

Dale Groom, CEA-Horticulture, Native Texan, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known as The Plant Groom™ state wide. You may send your lawn, garden and landscape questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net. To receive free personal help M – F, 8:30am – 4pm call the Master Gardeners Help Desk at 214-904-3053.

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