



Volume 56

Issue 2

February 2010

www.gntos.org



# G R E A T E R N O R T H T E X A S *Orchid Society*

FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER: TOM HARPER

## MEETING AGENDA

- 2:30  
Orchids 101
- 3:00  
Meeting Begins
- 4:15  
Break
- 4:30  
Business Meeting
- 5:00  
Adjourn

## CONTENTS

- Program Speaker 1
- President's Message 2
- Orchids 101 2
- Meeting Minutes 4
- Judging Center 5
- Financial Report 5
- Checklist 6
- Calendar 7
- Membership Info 8

## Phalaenopsis species and their influence on Phalaenopsis Hybrids



Tom began growing orchids on a windowsill in 1967. By 1975 he had registered his first orchid hybrid and he founded Stones River Orchids as a business in the same year. A long-time supporter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, Tom served as President, Vice-President and Mid-American Editor.

Tom has been an active member in the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee since 1967 and is a

founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA), where he is a former president and vice-president and is currently 2nd vice-president. Tom assisted in writing and editing the phalaenopsis species section of the new Ortho book entitled Complete Guide to Orchids. He has written several articles on phalaenopsis for Orchids, Orchid Digest and the IPA Journal. Tom lectured at the 16th World Orchid Conference and at the



19th WOC. Additionally, he was invited to speak at the Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium in Hsinying, Taiwan, ROC. Tom has traveled coast to coast speaking on various aspects of phalaenopsis. He is an accredited American Orchid Society judge for more than 25 years.



## ORCHIDS 101

HOW TO  
CONTROL PESTS  
IN YOUR  
ORCHIDS

Jim Williams will talk about how not to get Pests and what to do after you do (because you will get them).

After a short presentation we will have a brief Q&A on any Orchid related topic.

We start at 2:30 in the greenhouse.

## NEWSLETTER

Members are encouraged to submit articles, information, or suggestions for publication in our newsletter. Send submissions to the editor via email at: david@gouldcreative.com



Well, we are off and running with a new year and a wonderful presentation from Manny about his trip to Peru (one of those side benefits to 'getting involved').

We are making some schedule changes for this year, so please make a note of them now. In April we will move from April 4 – which is Easter – to April 11, same time, same place. The 4th of July also falls on our meeting date, so we are going to schedule the meeting on June 28th – AT MY PLACE – we can have fun, cook out, auction plants, tour the greenhouse and celebrate the 4th early. I will also invite the Fort Worth society to participate if they wish. I may even see if we can guilt trip our immediate past president into a side trip to his greenhouse. We will not do the spring tour of greenhouses – and will look into the possibility of a fall tour instead.

As I mentioned last month, we will be putting in an exhibit in at the Tyler show March 26 – 28 as well as Oklahoma City for the AOS Trustee's meeting – which I hope ALL OF YOU will attend. Any of you who can contribute plants for the displays should be working on getting them ready now.

This time of year is difficult with the constantly changing temperatures. It tends to invite disfiguring problems – Slugs, Bugs and Botrytis or Petal Blight fungus (those little black spots that suddenly appear on your wonderful blooms). To absolutely prevent Petal Blight, one has to keep the greenhouse temperature above 65 degrees. However, I find that Exotherm Termil (a fumigant you can get it from BWI, or I usually have some also) usually helps a lot and you don't have to keep the green house temperature nearly so high. I tend to use it at least once a month during cooler months, (and/or if it is cool and a show is approaching and I have just watered and the plants won't get dry before nightfall) so that I don't wind up with a beautifully bloomed plant with Botrytis. (I didn't follow my own advice for the Houston show and had a beautiful C skinneri with about 300 blooms – all damaged by botrytis so I couldn't show it).

Bugs are another common problem, and there are a couple of tricks that are easy and helpful. Again, BWI is the source, and you can get Attain and Preclude, which



It is a shame to wait all year for flowers and then have them ruined by Botrytis. The fungus is prevalent during cool, damp spells of winter.

(Photo Copyright American Orchid Society – www.aos.org)



Fortunately aphids have soft bodies and are not difficult to eradicate (Photo Copyright American Orchid Society - www.aos.org)

are small cans of fumigant for greenhouse pests, and they will kill off most of the insects. However, I also REALLY like a trick I learned from Ben Lyda – who is now in Hawaii, trained for a while in Atlanta, and is a certified Pest Management Expert. It is really great for those of you who have a more manageable size plant population than I do. He recommends using Dormant Oil Spray – the same fine oil that goes on things like fruit trees outside – and it is really wonderful. When you spray it on Orchid plants (about 1- 2 ounces /quart of water) - just remember to agitate the sprayer frequently – it not only smothers the bugs, but also give a wonderful sheen to the leaves and prevents a lot of the problems with watermarks. Although he recommends doing it

every week for a while, I find that it tends to have effect for a long time because it really doesn't wash off and continues to smother the new comers as well. It particularly works well for scale. It is TOTAL-LY SAFE, and doesn't run the risk of causing chemical disfiguring of your blooms like some systemic insecticides do.

SLUGS, however, still respond best to going out in the dark of the night with a spray bottle of alcohol and a container in which to

deposit their sorry, slimy little cadavers. OR... squashing them can also bring great joy when you spy them messing with your favorite flower at midnight!!!



Boisduval scale is the most common type of scale found on orchids and can multiply rapidly (Photo Copyright American Orchid Society - www.aos.org)



Soft brown scale is a difficult pest to eradicate (Photo Copyright American Orchid Society - www.aos.org)

Happy Plant Care,  
Judy



GNTOS MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010



**Blue ribbon** – Cattleya Carolina  
Shields Brown – Mike Beber



**Red ribbon** – Millettasia Royal  
Robe 'silent' – The Dillardes



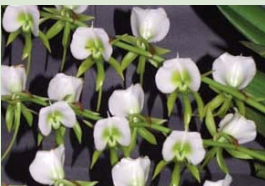
**White ribbon** – Bulbophy.  
echinolabium – Charlie Hess



**Species** – Haraella retrocdalla,  
– Barbara McNamee



**Species & Tricolor** – Paph.  
venustum album – Lorna Kissling



**Species** – Angraecum eburneum  
var giryamae – Judy Cook



**Tricolor** Peoples Choice –  
Cattleya Little Toshie – Kevin Fox

Judy Cook, our new president, presided over the meeting. 33 people were in attendance including 3 visitors (Kamlesh Bhatia, Ray Marsal, and Jesse Arnold) attending. Mr. Bhatia became a member of the Society.

Manny Aybar provided a presentation on the orchids of Peru and included dozens of pictures from his trip.

#### Announcements:

Dr. Cook is working on changing the dates to a couple of our monthly meetings. Our April meeting date falls on Easter and the July date falls on the 4th of July. The tentative schedule is that the April meeting will be on April 11th, the 2nd Sunday of the month if the meeting space is available. The July meeting will be rescheduled for June 27th as an auction and potluck at Judy Cook's home in Gunter. She will be inviting the Fort Worth Orchid Society to the event. Our September meeting is the weekend of Labor Day. The Executive Committee decided to keep that date as the first Sunday in September.

The Society library was discussed. David Hines is our Society librarian. To borrow a book from the library, you must be a member. You are allowed to borrow one item at a time. The item must be returned the next month. If you have borrowed books and they are overdue, please try to bring them to the next meeting.

Dr. Cook encouraged members to become involved in the Society. Contact Dr. Cook as she has several opportunities for members. She is a strong advocate for membership in the American Orchid Society.

Dave Gould needs teachers for Orchids 101. The 30 minute session is attracting a lot of people and we want them to become involved in GNTOS. But, he needs volunteers to teach and wants ideas for the sessions. Please contact David Gould or Judy Cook. Orchids 101 sessions are held 30 minutes prior to our monthly meetings.

The Judging Center is having an annual workshop at the Texas A&M Extension Center at Campbell and Coit Roads on Saturday, Feb. 13th from 9-4. The topic is the other cattleyas. Kathy Halverson, our treasurer, wants your dues for 2010. If your dues are not paid by January 31, 2010 you will not be in the annual yearbook.

Nancy Cropp coordinated the Plant Table judging. 36 plants were entered and Mary Lorfing and David Hines assisted in the judging.

Congratulations to all of you!  
Remember: you get points for entering a plant.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 6th at 3 pm at North Haven Gardens

**DALLAS JUDGING CENTER**

Nancy Cropp

**GNTOS FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kathy Halverson



Dallas Judging Center,  
January 9, 2010

15 plants entered for consideration,  
3 awards given:

**Paph. Think Pink 'Judy' (Deperle x  
glaucophyllum)**  
HCC 78 points  
Owner: Judy Cook, M.D., Gunter, TX



**Phal. KV Beauty 'Zhen Yu #3' (Salu Peoker  
x Chih Shang's Stripes)**  
HCC 78 points  
Owner: Meir Moses, Orchid  
Konnection, Dallas, TX



**Dtps. KV Charmer 'Zhen Yu #51' (Phal.  
Salu Peoker x Dtps. Taida Pearl)**  
AM 80 points  
Owner: Meir Moses, Orchid  
Konnection, Dallas, TX

Dallas Judging Center Workshop is  
February 13 at Texas A & M  
Extension Center, Pavilion Building  
“Judging Cattleyas and Allied Genera”  
Registration 8:30 to 9 AM  
\$35 includes registration, catered  
lunch, speakers  
Speakers: Robert Marsh “Judging  
Barkerias”, Jean Jeansonne “Encyclias  
& Myrmecophilas”, Patricia Harding  
“Judging Cattleya Species”  
AOS Judging, Orchid auctions

Upcoming shows: Northeast  
Louisiana Orchid Society Show  
March 12-14 in Monroe, LA,  
Central East Texas Orchid Society  
Show March 26-28 in Tyler, TX

**Financial Report: December 2009**

Dated: 12-1-09 thru 12-31-09

|   | Income     | Expenses   |
|---|------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance:                      | \$ 6212.48 |            |
| Dues . . . . .                          | \$ 320.00  |            |
| Hospitality                             | —          |            |
| Raffle                                  | —          |            |
| Rent (Storage Unit) . . . . .           |            | \$150.00   |
| Snoopers                                | —          |            |
| Speakers Fee                            | —          |            |
| Speaker's Meals . . . . .               |            | \$ 47.33   |
| Miscellaneous                           | —          |            |
| Donations                               | \$ 9.00    |            |
| Special Sales                           | —          |            |
| SWROGA Dues                             | —          |            |
| Auction . . . . .                       | \$ 2106.00 |            |
| Purchased plants<br>& pickup: . . . . . |            | \$350.47   |
| Plant Table                             | —          |            |
| GNTOS Exhibit                           | —          |            |
| Library                                 | —          |            |
| Audit Check                             | —          |            |
| Website                                 | —          |            |
| Subtotals: . . . . .                    | \$ 2435.00 | ..\$547.80 |
| Ending Balance: . . . . .               | \$ 8099.68 |            |



## MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

by Ned Nash and James Rose, Cal Orchids

**CATTLEYA** Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

**CYMBIDIUM** We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30° F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

**LYCASTE** The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

**ODONTOGLOSSUMS** Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM** The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads", are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Continues on next page

**OFFICERS**

## PRESIDENT

Judy Cook

## VICE PRESIDENT

Bobby Dillard

## SECRETARY

Ellen Safley

## TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

## SWROGA

## DIRECTOR

Charlie Hess

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

## GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

## PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Williams

**PHALAENOPSIS** Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

**ZYGOPETALUM** For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.



## GREATER NORTH TEXAS ORCHID SOCIETY

Manuel Aybar  
2330 Saharah Drive  
Garland, TX

### SOCIETY HISTORY

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, we were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society



### MEMBERSHIP DUES

2010

GNTOS Membership Dues are paid yearly by January 31, in order for your name to be listed in the published Yearbook.

- \$20.00 – New or Renewing Member (individual)
- \$10.00 – Additional Member (each additional person in same household)

Please mail completed form with payment to:  
Kathy Halverson  
1922 Baylor Drive  
Richardson, TX 75081  
Make check payable to GNTOS.

New Member       Renewing Member

Name (#1): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (#2): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (#1): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (#2): \_\_\_\_\_