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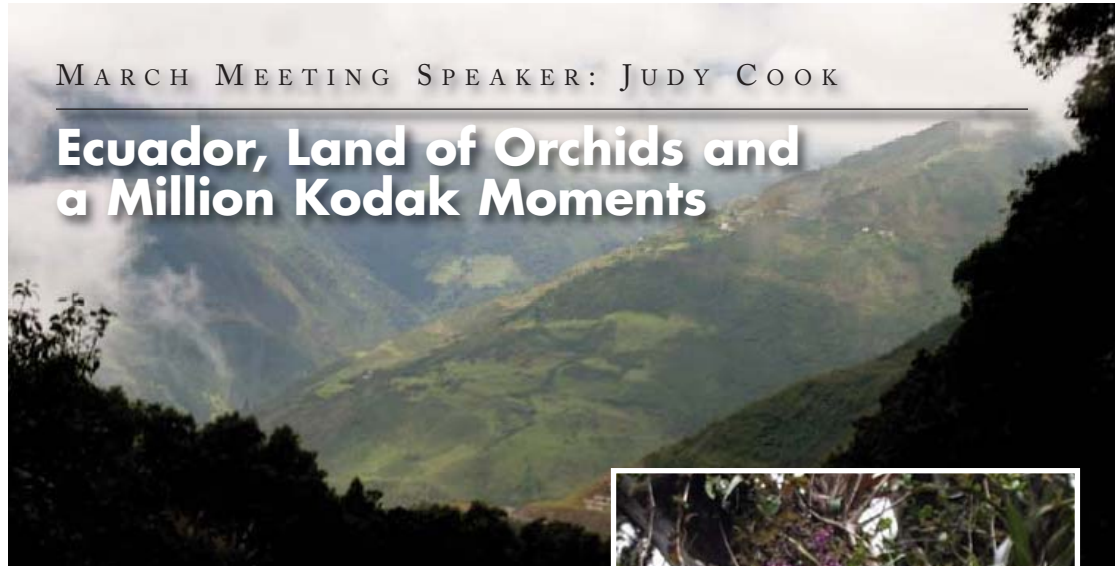
G R E A T E R N O R T H T E X A S *Orchid Society*

MEETING AGENDA

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

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MARCH MEETING SPEAKER: JUDY COOK

Ecuador, Land of Orchids and a Million Kodak Moments



Judy got her first orchid in 1978 – a 38th birthday present to herself – and ‘one was all it took’. She slowly increased her collection and has gradually expanded the size of it to her current 2100 Sq. Ft.

Greenhouse. That trip was aided by her becoming an orchid judge and having it stir her interest in a wide variety of orchids, including species, and where and how they grow. She made her first trip to the jungle in 1998 when she went to Suriname. That was followed by 2 trips to Belize.

She had an opportunity in 2004 to go to Ecuador and judge an orchid show in Guayaquil – the first that city had hosted in 10 years. The show was a springboard to see not only the city, but to go with the folks from Ecuagenera to see some of the incredible beauty of the county and have a chance at seeing orchids in the wild in ways people seldom have. It was such a wonderful experience she went back 2 more times in 2005 and 2007.



This talk will hopefully give you an appreciation of orchids growing in the wild as well as the very beautiful and diverse environment that is Ecuador and ranges from the coastal climate of Guayaquil, to the cloud forests of the Andes to the warm tropical forests of the Amazon.

ORCHIDS 101

WHY WON'T MY ORCHID REBLOOM?

It was beautiful when you bought it. Now you have managed to keep it alive for over a year. How come it won't bloom again? Linda Horton will tell you what you can do to see it in bloom again. Hope to see you there, 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



Tom Harper, as usual, gave an enjoyable and informative program, this one about Mini- Phals. Having known Tom for many years, I have great regard for him as a person, a friend, an orchid grower, a judge and an educator, and it was a personal delight to have him here and host him over night.

I am putting together a fun and informative travelogue about Ecuador and some of the many orchids there for our next meeting. The meeting after that we will have an actual AOS judging occur and I hope that will be a fun and educational experience for you. In addition to that judging we have the show in Tyler coming up the end of March, the Houston show in Mid April, and the AOS Trustee's meeting in late April, so please be working at having your plants ready for all those opportunities to be shown off, and attend any of them you can. Visiting other society's shows is always a fun and informative activity and a chance to make new friends.

We will be experimenting over the next few months with having multiple categories for our show and tell table which will both give you more of a chance to win ribbons, and also to learn more about which families various orchids belong in – always useful training for displaying your own plants and for helping with orchid shows. When you are entering plants, if you are unsure of the category, ask one of the more senior growers or one of the society's judges – we can probably help. Because it will take a bit more time to judge the multiple categories, we are going ask that you not interrupt the judges as they are going through the judging process. **ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE PLANT OF THE MONTH!** Please let me know how you like this change because it is not 'set in stone' at this point and we can go to the prior system if people like that better.

I know this past month was confusing because many of you didn't even know we would be doing a new form of judging for show and tell. For those of you who weren't there, we will have 5 groupings of plants, and you need to put each plant on it's proper table and put it on a list on that table. The categories will be: Cattleya Alliance; Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance; Cyripedium Alliance (all the lady slip-pers); Oncidium Alliance; Everything Else. If you don't know what alliance a plant is in, if you have Orchid Wiz, you can easily get that information ahead of time, and again you can turn to other society members.

See you on March 7th.

The following is a synopsis of our last Orchids 101 session.



Bois du val scale is the most common type of scale found on orchids and can multiply rapidly



Soft brown scale is a difficult pest to eradicate



Fortunately aphids have soft bodies and are not difficult to eradicate



Because mealybugs' waxy coating repels water-based insecticides, it is necessary to mix a wetting agent in with the insecticide when spraying



Spider mites are so small they may go unnoticed until their numbers have reached infestation level. Regular inspection of your orchids can catch such problems when they are still easily controlled.

Orchid Pests and Treatments

Some pests are general problems, and can be a problem to both windowsill (indoor) and greenhouse growers. Others are unique to greenhouse growers. Those pests that are found anywhere, in or out, are: scales (soft brown and bois du val), mealy bugs and aphids, and roaches, (including pillbugs and sowbugs), and spider mites (also known as red spiders).

For **scales**, **mealy bugs** (**aphids**, too), and **spider mites**, neem oil is very effective, but it will take multiple treatments. They should be spaced about a week apart, and you should 3 treatments. Bill Thoms gave a formula for mixing neem oil spray that has been very effective for me. Mix equal parts of neem oil and Palmolive liquid detergent-the original, green stuff, not the new and improved-in a gallon of (warm to hot) water, following label directions. Another recipe, this one from Orchids magazine is: in 16 oz. warm water, add 1 tsp. of neem oil, 2 tsps. of 409 cleaner and 2 tsps. of Listerine (which is an antifungal and antibacterial agent that is added to the spray as a preventative).

If the infestation is not large or wide-spread, you can use a q-tip and alcohol. But please remember to change q-tips between plants to avoid spreading virus. Alcohol can be combined with insecticidal soaps, but not with oil. One of the advantages to using alcohol is that insects do not develop resistance to the treatments.

There is NO cure for virus.

Fungus gnats are perhaps a nuisance, but they do the plants no harm.

Ants, likewise, do no real damage. They just move the damage around-they 'farm' aphids and mealy bugs.

If you grow in a greenhouse, or have no chemical hang-ups, acephate is still one of the best chemical sprays available. The liquid is no longer available (if you find some, buy me a bottle!), but the wettable powder is commonly available. The formulations may vary, but what you're trying for is a 2 tablespoons of 10% solution per gallon (or portion thereof). Because it is semi-systemic (becomes incorporated into the plant tissue), it can kill pests missed by contact spraying. Kelthane is specific for spider mites, but it is HOT STUFF-use with caution. Malathion is effective for mealy bugs and aphids, not so much for scales and mites.

For **roaches**, **pillbugs**, and **sowbugs**, there are baits available, though acephate is effective on these also. Baits are the best indirect approach for slugs and snails. However, I gave up on slug baits, and have resorted to hand-picking-at night, flash-light in hand-and plopping them into a saucer of alcohol.

One trick for bacterial rots and disease-with a sterile blade, cut off the damaged/infected tissue, and seal the cut with cinnamon. Yes, cinnamon, right out of your spice rack. It has strong anti-bacterial properties. Hydrogen peroxide is also effective. Use full strength-3% solution.

For fungal diseases, you're just about compelled to rely on a fungicide (chemical).

GNTOS MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010



Barkeria – Obovata
Robert Marsh spoke on Barkeia
at the Seminar



Barkeria –Rebecca Marsh
'With Love' HCC/AOS

38 people attended the meeting
Guests included: Kathleen Johnson, Betty and Carol McKoon, Chris Cantrell, Gordon and Nell Gudger, and Dorothy Herrmann. Welcome to all! Judy Cook, President of GNTOS, welcomed everyone to the meetings and greeted the guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Judy recommended that we start grooming our plants for upcoming shows. I looked them up and they are listed on the following page.

The Dallas Judging Center is sponsoring a workshop on February 13th at the Texas A&M Extension Center titled "JUDGING CATTLEYAS AND ALLIED GENERA". Robert Marsh will speak on Barkerias, Jean Jeansonne will speak on Laelia and Schomburghia, and Patricia Harding will speak on Judging Cattleya Species.

Tom Harper from Stones River Orchids (9373 Clovercroft Rd, Franklin, TN 37067) was the program speaker at our February meeting. He is a grower and hybridizer of Phalaenopsis. Email: harper_sro@bellsouth.net

David Gould asked for a show of hands concerning covers and a binder for the Society Yearbook. A couple of dozen people were interested. The covers will be made available at our cost of about \$5. The Yearbook will be delivered to active members as a PDF document. Members can then choose to print the book themselves if they wish.

PLANT TABLE JUDGING

The Society will be conducting an experiment for the next 6 months for judging the plant tables. Ribbons will be given by orchid category. This method will produce more winners and take a bit longer to judge. So, Nancy Cropp, Plant Table Coordinator, enlisted "real" orchid judges for the February judging: Ronnie and Jerry Brandenburg and Jim Williams. NOTE: Please vote for the People's Choice! We had a 5 way tie!

Cattleya Alliance

Blue – Pot. (Little Toshie x Blc. Izumi Charm) – Linda Horton
Red – L. rubescens – Kevin Fox
White – Blc. Yellow Bird
– Amy Drumwright

Dendrobiums & Others

Blue – Pleurothallis longissima
– Amy Drumwright
Red – Cym. Mainstem 'Hurrah'
– Judy Cook, MD
White – Dendrobium nobile
– Gerry Darver

Oncidiums

Blue – Beallara Patricia McCully
– Barbara McNamee
Red – Onc. maculatum – Mike Beber

Paphs & Phrags

Blue – Paph. phillipinense – Dillards
Red – Paph. unknown – Lorna Kissling
White – Paph. Warmest Regards
– Dillards

Continued on next page

The **Fort Worth Orchid Society** has a Spring Plant Sale, March 13-14 at the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens.

The **Heart of Texas Orchid Society Show** and Sale is in Austin and the theme is “Easter Orchids”. The event is April 3rd-4th and judging is on April 2nd. The event is at the Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Road Austin, Texas 78746.

The **Tulsa Orchid Society** show is April 17-18th with judging on the 17th. It will be held at the Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114

The **Houston Orchid Society** show is April 17-18th and judging is on the 16th. The event will be held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science Main lobby, One Hermann Circle Drive, Houston, Texas 77030.

NOTE: Free admission and parking.

<http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/events/events.html>. Kevin Fox announced that the Houston show was an opportunity to put together an exhibit or small table top.

The **Oklahoma Orchid Society** (OOS) is hosting an OOS, AOS & SWROGA show April 28th-May 2nd. Judging is April 29th. Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center, 737 S Meridian Ave., OKC, OK 73108. Kevin Fox will be coordinating our Society exhibit for this event. <http://2010aosshow.oosorchids.org/>

MEETING MINUTES CONT.

Vandas & Phals

Blue – Ang. sesquipedale

– Judy Cook, MD

Red – Phal. (Fortune Buddha x

Brother Pumpkin) – Linda Horton

White – Vandafenetia coerulea cross

– Lorna Kissling

Species of the Month

L. lundii – Judy Cook, MD

Gong. unicolor – Judy Cook, MD

Pleurothallis tarantula large form

– Judy Cook, MD

Peoples' Choice

Pot. Carolina Splendor x Blc. Kaila

Leigh – Kevin Fox

Gong. unicolor – Judy Cook, MD

Leptotes unicolor – Barbara McNamee

Coelogyne usitana – Linda Horton

Den. Lorrie Latimore – Kevin Fox

In March, Judy Cook will be speaking about orchids from Ecuador.

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS FINANCIAL REPORT

Kathy Halverson



Dallas Judging Center Workshop
Feb. 13, 2010

Fifteen plants were entered for consideration, no awards were given.



Financial Report: February 2010

Dated: 2-1-10 thru 2-28-10

	Income	Expenses
Beginning Balance:	\$ \$8590.41	
Dues	\$ 170.00	
Hospitality	-	
Raffle	\$ 167.00	
Rent (Storage Unit)		
Snoopers	\$ 108.00	..\$ 97.20
Speakers Fee	\$ 100.00	
Speaker's Meals	-	
Miscellaneous		
GNTOS Sky		
backdrop banner\$394.00
2 yr. renewal for		
Orchid Digest:\$ 68.00
Fall 2009 Show\$ 61.00
Donations	-	
Special Sales	-	
SWROGA Dues	-	
Auction	-	
Plant Table	-	
GNTOS Exhibit	-	
Library	-	
Audit Check	-	
Website	-	
Subtotals:	\$ 445.00	..\$720.20
Ending Balance: . . .	\$ 8315.21	



MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR MARCH AND APRIL

by Ned Nash and James Rose, Cal Orchids

CATTLEYA Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

CYMBIDIUM Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

LYCASTE This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

DENDROBIUM (AUSTRALIAN) These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group – bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* – is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Continues on next page

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Ellen Safley

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SWROGA**DIRECTOR**

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David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

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MILTONIOPSIS This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

PAPHIOPEDILUM March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

PHALAENOPSIS In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging – even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike. Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose.

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



- March 7** Judy Cook – “Orchids & Kodak moments of Ecuador”
- April 11** Society – “Practice Judging”
- May 2** Tom Larkin – “Designer Cattleyas”
- June 6** Tom Meranda – “Orchids Magazine”
- June 27** Picnic and Sale at Judy Cooks Greenhouse
- August 1** Grahm Wood – “Red Paphs”
- September 5** Carl Allen – “Orchids Pests and Diseases”
- October 3** Francisco Mirenda – “Vandas”
- November 7** Local Speaker
- December 5** Dinner and Sale

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): _____