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G R E A T E R N O R T H T E X A S

Orchid Society

AUGUST MEETING SPEAKER: GRAHAM WOOD

MEETING AGENDA

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

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The story of Little Bellatulum

Lehua Orchids was founded in 1990. It is a 27,000 sq ft greenhouse facility where we specialize in breeding, hybridizing and growing Paphiopedilums, Masdevallias, Angraecoids and Lycastenae primarily for the resale market. We are located on the Big Island of Hawaii in Mountain View. That is half way between Hilo and Volcano. We are at the 1400' level and our elevation means our climate is classified subtropical. We are in an area of heavy rainfall, 160" per year is normal. We grow in covered greenhouses so we control the water that the orchids receive and we do provide air movement but other than that the orchids do live without any temperature controls. Our normal highs are around 85° and lows around 65° with about a 5 to 10 degree drop in both highs and lows the winter months. Lehua Orchids has evolved into its current specializations for several reasons; the primary one being that we love what we grow; and the second most important reason is that the culture is very, very similar for each of the genera we grow.

Lehua Orchids has received many AOS quality and cultural awards. Graham is an accredited AOS judge.



Graham Wood breeding masdevallias



Paph Think Pink 'Judy' HCC/AOS

ORCHIDS 101**Q & A**

Charles Hess will be our guest speaker for a Q & A session. He has been growing orchids for over 25 years and will talk about repotting plants and plants that have problems as well as answering your questions. Bring your problem plants and questions. We start at 2:30.

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, I hope everyone enjoyed the meeting at the greenhouse as much as I enjoyed having you there. It HAD seemed like we picked the hottest day of the year for the gathering, but with the breeze under the trees and the misting fans it was really fairly pleasant. At present it is MUCH HOTTER, and not breezy and pleasant at all. We had a lot of plants for auction, good food, and plenty of time to enjoy the greenhouse. I was disappointed that no one from FWOS came, but hopefully we will do this again and they will want to come and mingle.

I am excited about the upcoming presentation from Graham Wood – wanting to meet the ‘father’ of one of my awarded orchids. He did the Paph cross “Think Pink”, and mine was actually the first member of the grex to get awarded. In addition to that we have had some really nice raffle plants that have come from Lehua Orchids and it will be exciting to see what else he has.

I’m hoping he brings some things with him, otherwise I’ll be having to shop with him online – since the greenhouse is so empty.

I doubt that I’ll have divisions that people wanted from the greenhouse this month – it has just been too hot to get out there – but I have your request lists and will fill what I can.

See you at the meeting. Judy

OFFICERS

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GNTOS WEBMASTER
Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT
Jim Williams

Dallas Judging Center July 10, 2010

14 plants entered for consideration,
2 awards given:

Neofinetia falcata
var. kikutome 'Judy' (species)
HCC 78 points
owner: Judy Cook, MD, Gunter

Brassavola George Tyler 'Judy'
(flagellaris x cucullata)
HCC 76 points
owner: Judy Cook, MD, Gunter

A fund-raising auction will be held at
the August 14 meeting of the Dallas
Judging Center. Visitors welcome!



Neofinetia falcata var. kikutome



Brassavola George Tyler 'Judy'

ORCHID POTTING MATERIAL

© Dotty Woodson, Horticulture County Extension Agent

Every orchid grower has their favorite formula for potting media. There are as many different media formulas as there are growers. Keep one thing in mind, it is not necessarily what the orchid is potted in but how the plant is managed once it is potted. Many orchid growers will try different media looking for that perfect formula. It takes at least one growing season to test a media unless it is an immediate disaster by holding too much water. The number one killer of orchids is too much water.

Every greenhouse and growing area has different growing conditions (air flow, humidity, light, temperature). These conditions not only influence the genus of orchids you can grow but the type of media you should use. Other influencing factors are time, number of orchids, cost, availability, ability to retain its good qualities for at least a year and water.

Orchids require a coarse potting material which allows good air circulation and quick drainage. Orchid roots do not require a moist media like fibrous rooted houseplants. Orchid roots need a good thorough soaking, not sips of water. Orchid roots are covered with a spongy tissue (velamen) that protects roots from dry air, helps absorb water and nitrogen from the air and helps epiphytic orchids cling to trees and rocks. The velamen is normally silver-white, round and plump. The tips are glossy green or reddish and pointed. The velamen will turn green as water is absorbed. Several hours after watering, the velamen will turn white again.

Common medium for orchids is fir bark, tree fern, osmunda fern, sphagnum moss, lava rock, perlite, charcoal, cork nuggets, rock wool, styrofoam, pumice, peat moss potting mixes, baked clay, kenaf, coconut fiber, cypress fiber, red wood fiber and very combination of the above products. Each of these products have different water holding capacity and cation exchange capacity which will influence your management once the orchid is potted. A good starting point is to talk to other orchid growers who grow similar genus and under similar conditions to yours. Growing conditions like humidity will influence how often to water and therefore how fast the media breaks down. Different genus will require different medium. Growers who are heavy waterers need a media that dries out quickly. Growers who water only when time allows need a media that will hold moisture longer.

Many of the products come in different size particles. Small, medium and coarse are the usual sizes. Fine orchid bark is great for seedlings. It breaks down quickly but seedlings should be repotted yearly. Cattleya and other large sympodial orchids need a growing media that will last several years. Large fir bark is the most popular. As the bark breaks down, the interval between watering becomes longer. The baked clay product sold to hydroponic growers is becoming very popular. If

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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 joining of the Dallas Orchid Society and the North Texas Orchid Society. The new organization was formed as a nucleus for a larger an 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



you are a heavy waterer, check out this product. The nooks and crannies hold water even though it looks dry. Monopodial orchids like Phalaenopsis will remain in the same pot for years if the media does not break down and hold too much water. Choose a charcoal-perlite (medium size) mix, peat mix, sphagnum, rock wool or medium fir bark for monopodial orchids if you are not a heavy waterer. Choose tree fern, pumice, baked clay, lava rock or cork nuggets if you have a tendency to over water. Tree fern chunks and large charcoal are popular for Vanda orchids grown in baskets or clay pots.

Berry and I have been growing orchids since 1973 and we are still looking for the perfect media. The answer to the question, “What is the best orchid potting media?” is: use the media that works for that orchid under your growing conditions. Try different medium until you find the one that works for you and then stick with it.

2010 CALENDAR

by Bobby Dillard

- 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): _____