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

SEPTEMBER MEETING: FRANCISCO MIRENDA

## MEETING AGENDA

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

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## Rupicolous Orchids

Since I was small I had a lot of curiosity with nature, and so went through an unbelievable variety of different interests before I finally got into orchids. (In my last year of University I still was going to be a Marine Biologist.) Well, in 1978 I was a semi-professional diver when my interest in orchids began very simply. While diving near rock slopes, I started noticing very interesting and showy-flowered plants rooted directly to the rocks quite close to water level. The next thing was to start climbing on the rocks observing the different colors and shapes and of course collecting a few to try to grow at home. At this time I didn't know they were *Cattleya guttata* and *C. intermedia* but figured this out pretty fast as the collector and classifier mind started to work on the subject. From that point on, I guess I've been infected with orchid virus and as every orchid person knows, there is rarely a cure or way back.

In 1981, was my first time in the Amazon. During a 9 month period I stayed around Manaus so started to have an idea of the different types of habitats and orchids.

In 1982 I really started to get serious into taxonomy and my main interest went to the so-called "rupicolous" laelias. I took numerous field trips and the goal was to find and photograph as many species as possible growing in the wild. In 1983, a job opportunity sent me back to the Amazon, for one year of research in an area that would be flooded by the construction of the Tucuruí Dam.

I love photography and that's basically why I put so many photographs in my lectures. People seem to enjoy the habitat pictures and for me it is a good chance to go back to places that in some cases do not exist anymore.



There is a multitude of rocky habitats in Brazil, and on most of them orchids can be found. Although most people associate rupicolous orchids with the rock-growing laelias on the mountains, and indeed several of them grow like this, there are many many other types of orchids growing under these conditions. In fact, rocky habitats are by no means restricted to the mountains and thus this is a very interesting subject both by their type, range and orchid types as shown here with *Bulbophyllum weddellii*.



I hope everyone enjoyed the presentation by Barry on Dendrobiums, and getting exposure to some things we don't get to see very often. I am REALLY looking forward to Francisco Miranda's talk. I have known Francisco for several years and heard him talk several times before and he is very good, and grows some wonderful things – especially Laelias. The Brazilian scenery is also wonderful. His talk will be on rupicolous orchids – those that grow on rocks – which should be interesting and informative and one not many people will have heard.

Hopefully he will also have a nice array of plants for us to choose from. For those of you who think that Rupicolous Orchids only include some of the Laelias, you're in for a surprise/treat. Many Phrags and some Cats as well as a number of other things either grow on rock preferentially or adapt to it quite well. I was amazed to see *C bowringiana* in the wild and the way its roots crept into every crack and cranny of the rock much like most plants do with the bark of trees.

The Show Season is nearly over – there is the show in Alexandria the weekend of our society meeting, The Fort Worth Orchid Society Show the weekend of Oct. 23 and 24, the Trustee's Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA the 27 – 31 and in November there is a show in Wichita, KS for those who like to travel. That will really be 'it' for this area until Spring. However, it is NOT TOO EARLY to begin grooming your plants for our spring show in April!!!

Everything then seems to hit at once. We have our show the second weekend of April, Houston is the third weekend, and Shreveport is the 5th weekend (which will also be meeting weekend). There will also be one in Galveston in Mid May and Austin the following week. Rest up now – you'll need your running shoes for those 2 months.

Probably the Fort Worth Show is the main one any of us will be preparing plants for in the near future, and I think Kevin is in charge of that display, although he will need plants and HELP. Please do what you can in both categories.

Hope all of you are getting your greenhouses ready to go from the summer extreme to the winter extreme – which will be on us all too soon. The first frost normally hits by Thanksgiving – a mere 2 months away.

See you all on the 3rd – a very special day for me, because it is my son's birthday and thus the date I began my wonderful experience with motherhood.

GNTOS MEETING, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by President Judy Cook. 35 people were in attendance.

Visitors included: Janet Kirklen, Janis Goode, Jason Egan, Jan Young, Adrienne Daily, Judy Johnson, Don Lewis, Christine Garcia, and Sylvia Knox. Welcome to all!

There were only a couple of announcements: Bobby Dillard will be coordinating an exhibit/entry for the Alexandria Orchid Show. Contact Bobby: vicepresident@gntos.org  
 • October 1-3 - Central Louisiana Orchid Society Show, Best Western Inn & Suites, 2720 North MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA. Contact: Al Taylor, PO Box 545, Leesville, LA 71496; (337) 424-9689; alant@krok.com.

Our spring show is still on and is scheduled for the 2nd weekend in April.

Barry Jones from Ohio was our speaker for the meeting.

### Plant Table Judging Results

Monica Jones and Jim Williams judged the Table.

#### Cattleya Alliance

- Blue – Bl. Little Mermaid  
 – Amy Drumwright  
 Red – Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn ‘Royal Flare’ AM/AOS – Hortons  
 White – Enc. radiata  
 – Bobby Dillard

#### Dendrobiums & Others

- Blue – Eulophia euglossa  
 – Judy Cook, MD  
 Red – Den. Chai Jewel x biggibum  
 – Amy Drumwright

- White – Dendrochilum magnum  
 – Hortons

#### Oncidiums

- Blue – Milt. Sandy’s Cove  
 – Judy Cook, MD  
 Red – Rm. Andrea Dawn  
 – Judy Cook, MD

#### Paphs & Phrags

- Blue – Paph. primulinum  
 – Judy Cook, MD  
 Red – Paph. Lady Light  
 – Judy Cook, MD  
 White – Paph. dianthum  
 – Judy Cook, MD

#### Vandas & Phals

- Blue – Ang. disticum – Judy Cook, MD  
 Red – Ascda. Sunglow ‘Starlyn’ AM  
 – Judy Cook, MD  
 White – Rhynchoranda Colmurie  
 ‘Merlot’ – Eva Jacobson

#### Species of the Month

- Bulbophyllum caranculatum  
 – Amy Drumwright  
 Zygopetalum mackayi  
 – Amy Drumwright  
 Dendrochilum magnum  
 – Hortons

#### Peoples’ Choice

- Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn ‘Royal Flare’ AM/AOS – Hortons  
 Rhynchoranda Colmurie ‘Merlot’  
 – Eva Jacobson

Congratulations to everyone!

The speaker for the October meeting will be Tom Mirenda. The topic will be Rupicolous orchids (those that grow in/on rocks).

## 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

**DALLAS JUDGING CENTER**

Nancy Cropp

**GNTOS FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kathy Halverson

**Dtps. Sogo Modal**

Dallas Judging Center  
September 11, 2010

3 plants entered for consideration  
1 award given:

**Dtps. Sogo Modal**  
(Dtps. Autumn Sun x  
Dtps. Taipei Gold)  
HCC 77 points  
owner: Mier Moses, Dallas

**Financial Report: August 2010**

Dated: 8-19-10 thru 8-31-10

	Income	Expenses
Beginning Balance:	\$7591.36	
Dues . . . . .	\$ 70.00	
Hospitality	-	
Raffle . . . . .	\$ 98.00	
Raffle Plants for		
rest of year: . . . . .		\$ 250.00
Rent (Storage Unit) . . . . .		\$ 150.00
Snoopers . . . . .	\$ 206.00	\$ 185.40
Speakers Fee	-	
Speaker's Meals . . . . .		\$ 116.68
Speakers Air Fare . . . . .	\$ 122.04	
B. Jones Air Fare . . . . .	\$ 500.00	
Miscellaneous		
Ron Horton		
Funeral Spray . . . . .		\$ 84.98
Donations . . . . .	\$ 5.00	
Updated Quicken . . . . .		\$ 48.70
AOS Dues . . . . .		\$ 125.00
Auction . . . . .	\$ 962.00	
Plant Table	-	
GNTOS Exhibit		
Oklahoma Show . . . . .		\$ 500.00
Library	-	
Audit Check	-	
Website	-	
Subtotals: . . . . .	\$ 1463.04	\$1800.76

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 Ending Balance: . . . \$ 7091.36

## HOW TO READ AN ORCHID LABEL

Eric Christenson

**THE BEGINNING** – Scientific Names. Taxonomists give all organisms a standard two-part name called a binomial (literally “two names”). This consists of a genus name followed by a species name. Scientific names are always in Latin or in a latinized form and in print are recognizable because they appear in italics. With few exceptions, other horticultural names (hybrids and clones) are not latinized and thus are printed in non-italic type faces.

Genus names are somewhat comparable to a clan name in people – different *Vanda* orchids (or orchids of the genus *Vanda*) are like members of the Joneses while different *Phalaenopsis* orchids are like members of the Smiths. Species names are not quite comparable but are similar to people’s first names. A loose analogy would be that plants of the blue *Vanda coerulea* from the Himalayas are like all the people named Jane Jones while the plants of *Vanda sanderiana* from the Philippines are like all the people named Bob Jones; Bob and Jane would be two different species in the genus *Jones*.

**VARIETY** – In addition to standard two-part names, orchids are sometimes further categorized with the term “variety,” which may be applied in either a botanical or horticultural sense. Briefly defined, a botanical variety designates a distinctive phase that does not have a separate geographic range. Varieties often represent single genetic differences that occur as a normal percentage of the population. Thus, if most individuals of a species have yellow fruit, but a sizeable proportion have red fruit, the red fruited plants might be called “variety *rubrocarpa*” (literally “red fruit”). Botanists use the term “variety” in a precise manner. A source of confusion is the somewhat different, multiple definitions of “variety” used in horticulture. A horticultural variety often can mean: (1) the same as botanical variety or (2) a choice individual [in modern usage, a clone or cultivar]. Thus, *Encyclia cordigera* var. *randii* is a frequent white-lipped phase of the species and the use of variety is equivalent for botanical and horticultural names. The wholly white flowered plants of the same species are called *Encyclia cordigera* var. *alba*, applying a horticultural usage of variety. Botanists would call the rare pure white mutation a form, not a variety. In the past, select individual plants were called varieties, usually in conjunction with an estate or a grower’s name. Thus, one of the select plants of *Dendrobium nobile* is called *D. nobile* ‘Sander’s Variety.’ This historic horticultural variety would today be treated as a cultivar or clone (more on clones later). Taxonomists use three concepts to subdivide species, designating them as “subspecies,” “varieties,” and “forms.” In the species orchids, taxonomists are rarely at a level of understanding to effectively argue for subspecies versus variety versus form. In practice, most subspecies, varieties, and forms are lumped together as a variety, in either a botanical or horticultural sense. The important thing to remember is that there may be a difference between a variety that designates a population botanically and sometimes horticulturally and a strictly horticultural variety that applies to an individual plant.

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**WHAT IS A CLONE?** What do we mean when we mention an orchid clone? The word clone refers to all the plants that are genetically identical. The word cultivar can be used interchangeably with clone. When you go to buy apples, for example, you see bins labeled “Granny Smith,” “Red Delicious,” “Macintosh,” etc. Each of these apples is a clone – all “Granny Smith” apples are produced from grafted trees that originated from one select apple tree. The nearest human analogy to a clone would be identical twins; the two individuals represent one clone. In horticulture, clones are important. There are several ways that a clone can be designated but the most common method is to put the clonal name into single quotations. Thus, *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* ‘Selby’ is one select clone of this popular Philippine species. *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* ‘Marie’, for example, is another select clone of the species. Clonal names, never latinized, range from institutional designations (‘Mont Milais’ is the clonal name used by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the Isle of Jersey, for example) to superlative adjectives (everything from ‘Dazzler’ to ‘Magnificent Watermelon Gold’) to flights of fancy (one particular pleurothallid orchid has a clonal name of ‘Gorgeous Goobers’).

**WHAT IS A HYBRID?** In orchids, as in most plant groups, there are many plants being grown – other than wild-occurring species and select clones of those species. There are also man-made creations called hybrids. A hybrid means the plants that result from crossing two or more different species; taking pollen from one species and using it to make hybrid with a second species. The best example of a hybrid is the common mule which results from the crossing of a horse with a donkey; mules are famous for being sterile. One of the most dynamic aspects of orchid growing is that orchids can be hybridized freely with little loss in fertility. Plant breeders’ only limitations are time, imagination, and growing space.

**HOW DO WE DESIGNATE HYBRIDS?** A standardized plant breeding notation has been developed. The seed bearing parent (“mom”) is listed first and followed by the pollen bearing parent (“dad”). An “x” separates the two parental names. So, a nice miniature *Phalaenopsis* hybrid can be made by using the pollen of *Phal. equestris* to pollinate a flower of *Phal. stuartiana*. This would be written as: *Phal. stuartiana* x *Phal. equestris*. In this case, when both parents are members of the same genus, the cross would be written as: *Phal. (stuartiana x equestris)*. All that this designates is the parentage of a particular group of seedlings. If one were to flower a number of these seedlings and selected an especially attractive plant (or clone), it would be written as: *Phal. (stuartiana x equestris)* ‘Selby’. The names in parentheses refer to the parentage while the clonal name ‘Selby’ designates one particular seedling of great promise. In the 19th century, it was obvious that with many people making orchid hybrids, some method was needed to keep track of hybrid parentages.

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## HOW TO READ AN ORCHID LABEL – CONTINUES

Eric Christenson

At first, prominent breeders maintained and published private “Stud Books.” These were critical for preserving early hybrid combinations but none were comprehensive. To preserve the breeding histories and stabilize the names in use, the horticultural firm of Sanders and Sons in St. Albans, England, began a formal registration process in 1895 which resulted in the standard reference books “Sanders’ List of Orchid Hybrids.” In 1960, this duty was assumed by the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Their Orchid Registrar remains the internationally accepted authority for hybrid orchid registration. Monthly registrations, later reissued in book form, are published in Britain’s *Orchid Review* and in the American Orchid Society’s magazine, *Orchids*. Hybrid names do not end with species names in parentheses. When a hybrid is registered, it is given a special hybrid name. Early in the history of orchid breeding, hybrids were given either native language names or they were given latinized names such as *Paph. Maudiae* (registered in 1900). Today, latinized names are not allowed for hybrids so that confusion with scientific binomials is minimized. If *Paph. Maudiae* were created today it would be registered as *Paph. Maude*. The *Phalaenopsis* cross mentioned above, (*stuartiana* x *equestris*), was made and registered by Veitch in England in 1896. They called it *Phal. Cassandra*. Hybrids are registered by the plant breeder after a seedling has flowered. Hybrid names are as varied as clonal names and range from honoring people (*Cattleya* General Patton) to honoring places (*Brassocattleya* Mount Hood) to descriptive names (*Phal. Golden Sands*) to whimsy (*Cattleytonia Why Not*). When hybrids are registered, the information is condensed, and it becomes easier to read the plant labels. One of the EMYC’s favorite multifloral *Phalaenopsis* clones is a plant whose tag once read: *Phal.*([Carnival x Malibu Heir] x *stuartiana*) ‘Selby’. The hybrid (Carnival x Malibu Heir) was registered as *Phal. Jolly Roger*. Then the hybrid Jolly Roger x *stuartiana*) was registered as *Phal. Charisma*. So, the same plants, following registration of the hybrids, are now simply *Phal. Charisma* ‘Selby.’ Reference books allow orchid breeders to trace the genealogy of modern hybrids.

**A WORLD OF INFORMATION** The next time you see an orchid label, look it over and see what information you can extract. One of the Selby Gardens’ hottest hybrids was a *Phalaenopsis* cross with tags that read: *Phal.* (Kathleen Ai ‘Selby #2’ x *stuartiana* ‘Larkin Valley’). You should see that tag and realize that the seedling came from a select plant of the hybrid *Phalaenopsis* Kathleen Ai, designated as the clone ‘Selby #2’, that was pollinated with pollen of the ‘Larkin Valley’ clone of the species, *Phal. stuartiana*. The very best of these seedlings was selected and now carries the clonal name of ‘Selby.’

Eric A. Christenson Director, EYMC

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## ORCHID TIP

Try the following procedure to get strap leaf Paphiopedilums to bloom. Starting in mid September feed a blossom booster mix till the end of October. At that time the plants get only water till mid February when I start feeding a growth mixture. From the end of October they only get water when they just get dry but try to keep the humidity up as high as possible. This is just a suggestion you might want to try if you are having problems blooming strap leaf Paphiopedilums.

## SNOOPERS CORNER

Barbara McNamee

Snoopers Corner is for items that are too large to bring to the snoopers table.

Members who want to place an ad should contact Barbara McNamee:

972-279-9685. Submit a brief description and a small photograph if necessary. Each entry will run until it sells or for 3 months, whichever comes first.

## Did you get more plants and now have nowhere to go with them this winter?



### ORCHID STAND for Sale

- Holds dozens of plants in 8 sq.ft. of floor space (2' deep, 4' wide, 7.5' tall)
- Shelves are adjustable to hold different size plants (up to 4 shelves) Shown with 3 shelves.
- Humidity trays to keep the moisture level high
- Made of aluminum tubing for strength and rust resistance

**\$220** (Comes with the original lights as shown)

I also have a set of three custom light fixtures which provide three times the light as the original fixtures shown above. I paid \$500 to get the lights made but I will sell the lights and the orchid stand together for **\$600**

David Gould 972-686-4851  
david@gouldcreative.com



**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



- October 3** GNTOS – Francisco Mirenda – “Vandas”
- October 22/24** Fort Worth Orchid Society Fall Plant Sale & Show
- November 7** GNTOS – Local Speaker
- December 4** Acadian Orchid Society Short Course, Lafayette, LA
- December 5** GNTOS – 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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