



Volume 59

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

NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 6  
SPEAKER: TED BAENZIGER

## MEETING AGENDA

- 3:00 – Meeting Begins
- 4:15 – Break
- 4:30 – Business Meeting
- 5:00 – Adjourn

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## Darwin’s Orchids



Fr. Ted, a Roman Catholic priest, teaches French and the Great Book course (Honors) at the University of St. Thomas in Houston and is the pastor of the only French-speaking parish in the Archdiocese (since 1983).

Always interested in horticulture and botany, He has been growing orchids for many years, beginning in France in 1980. He had to abandon his meager collection in Houston in 1988 to study in Paris at the Sorbonne, but when he returned in 1990 to start teaching, the bug bit him again, even though he had no greenhouse. Starting with Phalaenopsis and Cattleyas, Fr. Ted was just branching into the more difficult area of growing and blooming species when he received a collection of Paphiopedilum from a seminarian friend in 2000, at about the same time he started in the AOS judging program. This was a major pain, because of lack of room and a definite lack of knowledge.

Fr. Ted is now a certified judge and the training coordinator for the Houston Judging Center; he has judged in Texas, Louisiana, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan (his home state), and Ecuador. His collection, which still has over 100 Paphs, is now housed in a homemade 19’ by 11’ greenhouse of aluminum and plastic; winter overcrowding is a big problem with 850 plants, but he still looks for that special plant or two that he really needs.

At the same time as he started teaching, Fr. Baenziger got involved with the Semiotic Society of America, which is concerned with the interdisciplinary study of the action of signs. When an orchid blooms, it is telling a story in signs for a potential pollinator: lip shape, color, scent, maybe even a bit of nectar (although 60% of the 25- to 30,000 species are deceptive and give no reward), and in the most bizarre case, the orchid mimics a female companion to lure a wasp or a bee. The animal ‘reads’ the signs and gets to work. More than that, the relationship orchids have with mushrooms, called myco-heterotrophy, means that no orchid in the wild can sprout without finding a fungal host; this too works on a system of signs.

Now Darwin, 151 years ago, was already known

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**OFFICERS**

## PRESIDENT

Lorna Kissling

## VICE PRESIDENT

Jean Whiting

## SECRETARY

Kathi McKenzie

## TREASURER

Barbara McNamee

## SWROGA DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

## GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

## PAST PRESIDENT

Judy Cook



A very big Thank You goes out to Kevin Fox, last year's vice president, and to David Hines, last year's secretary. Thanks for your work for the society! And we welcome Jean Whiting and Kathy McKenzie in to fill those roles for this year. Barb McNamee and I are continuing as officers. We look forward to a good year with you!

We had a great time at the December auction, as usual. Jerry was in good voice and we also had coverage provided by the Dallas Morning News! They took pictures and notes of our activities. I hadn't seen anything yet in the newspaper, so if any of you have noticed an article, please bring it to share!

I have a special announcement concerning a long-time member. Manny Aybar has been working a very long time on his U.S. citizenship, and, as of October 30th, he has achieved this milestone! Congratulations to you, Manny, for the hard work you've done to reach this goal! You've earned it!

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas season,  
Lorna

## ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie

## ORCHID BASICS

Kathi McKenzie will answer your questions about orchid and orchid related topics.

## Minutes for the December 2, 2012 Meeting

Orchids 101, conducted by Kathi McKenzie, was devoted to questions and answers. The basic topics covered included watering, light and potting media. References were made to the resources available on the American Orchid Society web site, aos.org.

The December meeting was devoted to the semi-annual auction for raising funds for the Greater North Texas Orchid Society. There was no guest speaker.

At 3:00 p.m. President Lorna Kissling called the meeting to order. Kathy Halverson reviewed the proposed slate of officers for 2013:

- President – Lorna Kissling
- Vice-President - Jean Whiting
- Secretary – Kathi McKenzie
- Treasurer – Barb McNamee.

A motion from the floor moved to accept the proposed slate of officers. The motion was seconded. The proposed slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

Nancy Cropp announced the cumulated annual results for the winners exhibiting at the monthly plant tables. That information is in a separate section in the newsletter.

Karel Holloway and a photographer from the Dallas Morning News came to the meeting to cover the auction.

Jerry Brandenburg, auctioneer extraordinaire, was assisted by his wife, Ronnie. There was much good humor during the bidding for plants.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

## Continued from page 1

for his work on the Origin of Species by Natural Selection (1859) and published his second book as proof of his theory: *On the various contrivances by which British and foreign orchids are fertilized by insects, and on the good effects of intercrossing*, in 1862. That is correct; he used orchids. There was a lot he did not know about genetics and fungus, but as a keen observer he did show that these ‘contrivances’ are evolutionary means to survival. Since then, nearly 10,000 authors have written scientific papers of orchids. I myself have presented before the International Biosemiotic Society Gatherings in Prague (Czech Republic) Braga (Portugal) and most recently in Tartu, Estonia, a world center for semiotics. This summer he will be in Italy.

I hope to share with you in Dallas some of the information and passion about orchids that I have, as well as hearing from you about your own experiences.



A GNTOS member, Dr. Glen Hoffman passed away on November 22, 2012 after a brief illness. He was dedicated to growing his beautiful cattleya orchids which almost weekly adorned the shrine of the

Blessed Mother Mary at St. Rita's church.

He hadn't been active in a while. Years ago he would drive a couple of older lady members that couldn't drive at night to the meetings.

**NEWSLETTER**

Please submit articles, information, or suggestions for publication in our newsletter. No really. I'm serious. Help me out here. I'll take photos, stories whatever. I will give \$1 to the first person who asks for it at the meeting. Send submissions to me at: david@gouldcreative.com

**2012 GNTOS PLANT TABLE JUDGING RESULTS**

**First Place** - Kathi McKenzie with 71 points received \$100 award

**Second Place** - Barbara McNamee with 65 points received \$75 award

**Third Place** - Don Brigham with 47 points received \$50 award

**Fourth** - Mike Beber - 44 points

**Fifth** - Charles Hess - 41 points

**Sixth** - David Gould - 38 points

**Seventh** - Linda Horton - 32 points

**Eighth** - Gerry Darver - 30 points

For the year:

12 judges

24 members' plants

263 plants + 2 shows

high month - Jan. - 49 plants

low month - Oct. - 8 plants

Congratulations to the winners!! and bring your blooming orchids to the table next year.



AOS Dallas Judging Center Dec. 8, 2012

Twenty plants entered for consideration, two awards given:

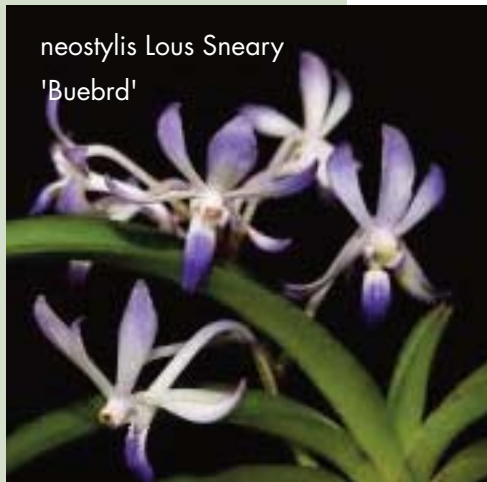
**Bct. Punakea 'Rio Rojo' (Bc. Maikai x C. Lulu)**  
HCC 79 points  
owner: Jim Williams, Sherman



**Brcdm. Guilded Urchin 'Ontario'**  
**(Brs. arcuigera x Onc. wentwortianum)**  
HCC 77 points  
owner: Brandenburgs, Dallas



neofalcata forma Asahiden  
'Morning Sun Palace'



neostylis Lous Sneary  
'Buebrd'



neofalcata  
Benisuzume

## Neofinetia falcata

*Neofinetia falcata*, a small and charming orchid, originates in Japan, China and Korea. In the west, it was first described by Carl Thunberg in 1784, and named after Achille Finet, a French botanist. However, the cultivation of *neofinetias* originates in Japan's Edo era, about 400 years ago, and it was described in Japanese writings as early as 1728.

Fu'ran (wind orchid), the Japanese name for "*Neofinetia falcata*," was also called "Fuki-ran", or the orchid of wealth and nobility, as they could be very costly, with some specimens costing as much as a house. They were often grown by Samurai, giving rise to their nickname, the Samurai's Orchid. They were highly prized, and when displayed admirers had to cover their mouths with a thin paper in order not to breathe on them.

A member of the vanda tribe, neo's have been crossed with many other genera. *Neostylis* Lou Sneary may be one of the most famous orchids with *neofinetia* in its background.

The plant comes in white, pink, blue and other varieties, has a dwarf habit, and is usually fragrant. It prefers medium light (1500-3000 fc), humidity around 40-60%, and tolerates a wide variety of temperatures. Bloom season is usually spring through fall, blooms are long-lasting. In bloom season, it takes more water, and should not dry out completely. It does not go dormant, but should have watered reduced somewhat in the winter.

## 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 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.



## GREATER NORTH TEXAS ORCHID SOCIETY

Manuel Aybar  
2330 Saharah Drive  
Garland, TX

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ORCHIDS 101

We have had a lot of folks come to Orchids 101 the last few months. It is a great way to encourage new growers and prospective members. Recently we have had a general Q&A session, as well as “Repotting”, and “Growing Orchids in the Home”. This month we will have “Moving Orchids Outdoors” as our topic. BUT we need more speakers! Please think about what you could talk about. Each Orchids 101 is from 2:30 to 3 ... a quick talk or demo, followed by answering a few questions, and you are done!

Some possible topics (or make up your own):

- Why doesn't my orchid bloom?
- Watering & fertilizing orchids
- Pests & problems
- How to photograph your orchids

Or, pick your own topic ... ??

Please reply to Kathi McKenzie at: kam6318@yahoo.com and let me know what topic you can do, and what month or months you could do it.

I'd really like to get several months planned so Nancy can put in the newspaper.

Thanks!  
Kathi

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

2013

GNTOS membership dues are paid yearly by January 31, in order for you 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:  
Barbara McNamee  
909 Sleepy Hollow Drive  
Garland, TX 75043

Make check payable to GNTOS.

New Member       Renewing Member

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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