



Volume 59

Issue 7

July 2013

www.gntos.org



GREATER NORTH TEXAS

# Orchid Society

NEXT MEETING IS JULY 7

## MEETING AGENDA

3:00 – Meeting Begins

4:15 – Break

4:30 – Business Meeting

5:00 – Adjourn

## CONTENTS

President’s Message	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Plant Table	4
Calendar	4
Judging Center	5
Orchid of the Month	6
Membership Info	7



This month we well have our SemiAnnual Auction. There isn't a speaker or plant judging, just buying plants and eating food. Bring a refreshment, finger food or dessert of your choice. We will have many beautiful plants for the auction. Please bring plants or divisions for the auction, as

well as collectibles or any orchid related item. Jerry Brandenburg will be our auctioneer, so be prepare for a fun afternoon and lots of bad jokes! This is the event that we do to raise funds for the society, so get in the auction spirit and get ready to bid to help support the GNTOS!

**OFFICERS**

## PRESIDENT

Lorna Kissling

## VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Beber

## SECRETARY

Kathi McKenzie

## TREASURER

Barbara McNamee

## SWROGA DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

## GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

## PAST PRESIDENT

Judy Cook



I had fun at our last meeting – lots of information, questions and useful answers! (And I can't believe I gave away ALL the wire I brought!) Remember that each month at our meetings, there are always people who can answer questions about growing orchids for you.

Next up is the semiannual auction – we'll be in the room just inside the building to the left of the greenhouse. Don't forget to bring some finger foods to share!

The Baton Rouge Orchid Show is coming up the weekend of July 13-14. Then there's the Houston Society's Summer Workshop on Friday and Saturday, August 2 and 3. There will be AOS judging and vendor sales on Friday, along with the speakers starting at 9am Saturday. Dotty Woodson will be one of those speakers. Contact me if you'd like more information of the details of the event, including the topics of the speakers and the cost. I'll plan on bringing some flyers about the event to the auction. See you there!

Lorna



AOS Dallas Judging Center June 8, 2013

Fifteen plants entered, one award given:

*Enc. granitica* 'Genevieve' (species) HCC 78  
points, owner: Emily Quinn, Garland





## Phragmipedium besseae

*Phragmipedium besseae* is a terrestrial orchid native to the wet forests on the eastern slope of the Andes in Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. It was found in Peru in 1981 by Elizabeth Besse, who was leading a botanical expedition for the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. A single herbarium specimen and pickled flower sent back were initially mis-identified as *Phrag. schlimii*, but soon it was determined that this was a new species, and it was described as such by Cal Dodson.

Besse's expedition collected about 20 plants, of which most remained at the Selby gardens. However, several were sold at auction for \$1700 each. Prior to the discovery of *besseae* in 1981, the other known phrag species typically produced blooms in soft, subdued colors. Therefore, the intense red of *besseae* caused quite a stir among breeders, and more plants were brought out of Peru. Mastering *besseae* culture took some time; however, a number of growers began growing the species, and became more successful over time.

Much of the beauty of modern line-bred *besseae* derives from a single plant, the Posada clone. Terry Root (of the Orchid Zone) had a friend who visited Juan Felipe Posada, an orchid grower from Colombia. Mr. Posada had an outstanding wild-collected *besseae* that was far superior to anything else he'd seen, and he took pollen back to Mr. Root. A couple of years later, the first-generation plants from Posada crosses produced exceptional plants, including 'Colossal', 'Big Bob', and 'Big Boy'. The best of these F1

Continued on page 5

## 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

David Gould  
1412 Pecos Street  
Mesquite, TX 75150

**Phragmipedium besseae.** Continued from page 4

were crossed and the best of those successive crosses were bred forward.

Besseae has dull green leaves, 13–30 cm long, and 2–5 cm wide. It produces 1–6 flowers opening sequentially, on a spike up to 50 cm long. It does not tolerate high temperatures well, requires moderate to bright light, and must have very pure water quality to thrive. There is also a yellow variety (besseae var flavum; it is typically considered harder to grow.

## 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”. 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!

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. 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): \_\_\_\_\_