

Orchid Society

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 1

MEETING AGENDA

3:00 – Meeting Begins

4:15 – Break

4:30 – Business Meeting

5:00 – Adjourn

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It Takes a Whole Ecosystem



Melissa K. McCormick is an Ecologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, where she has studied orchids and other plants since arriving there as a Postdoctoral Fellow in 1999. She received a BS in Biology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and a PhD in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior from Michigan State University.

Her current research focus is on plant associations with mycorrhizal fungi and how they affect the distribution of orchids. She is particularly interested in how invasive species and environmental change can affect orchids through effects on their mycorrhizal fungi.

Restoring, conserving, and growing native orchids is not easy because of their complex life cycles, especially the interactions between orchids and mycorrhizal fungi that provide necessary resources. Most orchids absolutely require mycorrhizal fungi and can only form mycorrhizal associa-

tions with a few kinds of fungi, so they can only grow where these fungi are. However, it is not easy to figure out where particular fungi are. We use DNA analysis to map where host fungi grow in the soil and where they are abundant enough to support orchid growth. We also use these techniques to find out what factors (such as soil and environmental conditions) affect orchid host fungi and so determine where orchids can grow. Because they rely on only a few fungi, orchid mycorrhizal associations may be particularly sensitive to disruption by environmental changes, perhaps explaining why over half of North America's native orchids are threatened or endangered somewhere in their range. Now that we have the tools to study fungi directly, we are beginning to understand what factors affect orchid mycorrhizal fungi and what we can do to improve conditions for their growth. We are working to apply this research information to orchid conservation and cultivation. Research, education and outreach are key components and will contribute to conserving orchid biodiversity through collections of seeds, mycorrhizal fungi and living collections representative of regional genetic diversity.

OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Barbara McNamee

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David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Judy Cook



I'm putting out a call for ideas! We're going to have a spring orchid show and I've been trying to find a location for it. For various reasons, I'd like to find a different location that we've had recently. I think possibly some colleges might work if they have a room large enough for the displays and vendors and are willing to host a show. We'd also need 1-2 smaller rooms for Hospitality (food to be laid out for meals) and judging. The same room could be used for both if large enough. There might also be some other place with the needed room. I don't know the area that well and have been trying to see what I can find, but thought some of you might have ideas. There are lots of places if you have a lot of money for the rent, but I'd like try to keep the cost down, if possible. Please! Contact me if you know of some place that might work for us. You can email me at greenhouse2mom@yahoo.com or call me at 214-484-8930.

As temperatures cool some outside, you can return to more regular fertilizing. High heat (90°+) tends to make most orchids "shut down" to some degree so fertilizing needs to slow down also. As the daily highs go back down below 90°, orchids "wake up" again. Actually, that sounds a little like me in hot weather!

Keep growing!

Lorna

ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie

Orchids 101 is a class for those just getting starting with orchids. It is at 2:30 just before our regular monthly meeting. A new topic every month is lead by a member of the society and usually finishes with a general Q&A session.

GNTOS Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2013

Kathi McKenzie conducted Orchids 101 at 2:30 p.m. The topic was “Orchid Speak—Understanding Orchid Terminology.”

President Lorna Kissling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting consisted of a Q&A panel, with 4 experienced orchid growers: Lorna Kissling, Jim Williams, Charles Garrett, and Jerry Brandenburg.

Topics ranged from how to handle rain barrels so they do not become stagnant, to use of systemic insecticides and more.

Thank you to all our panelists for a lively discussion. The meeting ended at 4:45.



Dorothy Martin, our last remaining Charter Member since 1956, has died. Dorthy was a sweet, always smiling, very gracious lady who was addicted to Coke – the liquid kind that comes in cans or bottles. Whenever we visited, it was always “Please sit down and how about a Coke?” The refrigerator in the potting shed may have stored the neighbor’s frozen turkeys but its main purpose was so she didn’t run out of Coke. Coffee in the morning? Nope, pour the Coke.

She often went with John to sell his orchids at various shows and could sell the plants but she wasn’t allowed to load or unload the van because John knew where each plant was supposed to go. We have seen her sit for hours at a card table in their den repotting seedlings with her small, nimble fingers. She also recorded the various seedlings on tags because no one could read his handwriting (naturally, he was a doctor!)

Dottie collected orchid plates which proudly hung on the dining room walls. She also wove items on her loom: blankets, towels, rugs, etc. She even wove a large throw depicting the clan tartan for Tom McIntosh which on display in their living room.

–Ronnie Brandenburg

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

GNTOS Aug. 4, 2013, Plant Table Judging Results
Judge: Manny Aybar (17 plants)

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue - Leptotes bicolor - Barb McNamee
Red - Rlc. Rustic Spots - Kathi McKenzie
White - Slc. Circle Star - Gordon Gudger

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue - Ctsm. denticulatom x Ctsm. Penang 'Sweet Heart'
- Gerry Darver
Red - Nageliella pupurea - M. Forest Shipps
White - Broughtonia sanguinea 'Red Star'
- Gordon Gudger

ONCIDIUMS

Blue - Onc. Mendenhall 'Sun #7' - Gerry Darver

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue - Paph. godefroyae - Jeanne Thompson
Red - Paph. Grassau - Kathi McKenzie
White - Phrag. Green Lantern - Kathie McKenzie

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue - Phal. cornucervi f. chattaledae - Jeanne Thompson
Red - Neo. Falcata - M. Forest Shipps
White - Phal. unknown - Gerry Darver

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Paph. godefroyae - Jeanne Thompson
Phal. equestris 'Blue Lip' - Jeanne Thompson

PEOPLES CHOICE

Phrag. Green Lantern - Kathi McKenzie

1. Charles Hess

16816 Davenport Ct., Dallas, 75248
Self built greenhouse of cinder blocks, redwood and windows. Attached to house. It uses the distilled water from the central air of the main house.

2. Kathi McKenzie

4536 Harvest Hill Rd., Dallas 75244
I grow orchids indoors under lights, with many catts, dendis and oncidiums outdoors for most of three seasons.

3. Manuel Aybar

3207 Woodwind Ln., Dallas, 75229
A hoop greenhouse kit from Atlas with double wall inflated poly. Installed a fully automated system for remote operation and monitoring.

4. Lorna Kissling

3818 Echo Brook Ln., Dallas, 75229
In winter I grow orchids in my sunroom, using a couple of lights. From about March through November, I put most outside on hooks and racks.

5. Richard Poole

6514 Orchid Ln., Dallas, 75230
A Lord and Burnham greenhouse refurbished with cypress window frames and glass glazing attached to the house.

GREEN HOUSE TOUR MAP

On September 21, from 11am. till 3pm., five of our members will welcome you to their orchid growing areas. Some have greenhouses and others grow outside. This is a chance to see how they grow their orchids and it will give you the opportunity to swap growing tricks and tips that you can use.





Mexipedium xerophyticum

Mexipedium is a genus consisting of only one species, *Mexipedium xerophyticum*. It grows in a single location in Oaxaca, Mexico. The plant was first collected in 1985, and was described in 1990 as *Phragmipedium xerophyticum*. However, it was transferred to its own genus in 1992, based on DNA and on some of its physical characteristics.

In nature, this lithophytic orchid grows on cliffs, shielded from direct sun. It is a miniature, but puts out long rhizomes between growths, and so can wander easily out of its pot. It blooms in the fall with flowers of approximately 2.5 cm. Blossoms are white with a light pink cast, often appear in pairs, and last about 2 weeks.

In cultivation, it should be grown in a well-draining mix, given moderate light, and kept in intermediate to cooler temperatures. While the initial discovery was in a very arid location (*xerophyticum* means “preferring dry conditions”), subsequently it has been found in less-dry locations. Despite its name, most sources recommend watering every 2-3 days so it does not dry out completely.

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

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". 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): _____