



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*

## MEETING AGENDA

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

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NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 6

SPEAKER: GENE CROCKER OF CARTER AND HOLMES ORCHIDS

## Cattleyas Around the Year

Cattleyas Around the Year – a month by month discussion of Cattleya species that flower in each month and their hybrids that flower at the same time. By careful selection, a small collection can be developed to give year around blooms. The talk will include species as well as hybrids.

Most orchid hobbyists get familiar with Carter & Holmes via the clonal names ‘Mendenhall’ and ‘Newberry’ long before they realize there’s a company behind the

**Carter and Holmes is offering 25% on pre-orders. Gene won’t be selling at the meeting but will deliver orders placed on line. Orders should be placed 10 days prior to the meeting date. When you order online be sure to specify GNTOS so your plants are sent to the right place.**

name. These clones are appended to the names of many fine examples or orchid breeding. The company, located in South Carolina, has a long history equal to any in orchid history.

Gene Crocker grew up in the northwestern part of South Carolina, not far from where he worked for 25 years as Vice-President of Carter and Holmes Orchids in Newberry, S.C.

(He retired in December of 2010, but is only a three minute walk from the greenhouses.) He obtained his first orchid plants in 1956, when he was 15 years

old. These first plants were cattleyas, his first love, but he has an interest in any and all orchid genera.

As an amateur orchidist, Gene developed an interest in hybridizing, producing his first Cattleya hybrids in 1961. The creative aspects of orchid breeding have been very enjoyable and rewarding for him, always giving something to anticipate. For over 25 years he has carried on the breeding program at Carter and Holmes started in the 1950’s by Bill Carter. Many of his hybrids have been awarded by the AOS, including two that received FCC’s and one cross that received an Award of Quality. He has traveled extensively, representing Carter and Holmes at various orchid conferences around the world. Perhaps Gene’s most enduring claim to orchid fame is the fact that he coined the term, “mericlone”, in 1964.

BTW: ‘Newberry’ is the town in which C&H is located, and ‘Mendenhall’ is their street address.



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**SECRETARY**

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**TREASURER**

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**SWROGA DIRECTORS**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

David Gould

**GNTOS WEBMASTER**

Manuel Aybar

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Judy Cook



As I write this, it's Friday and I'm finishing preparations for the Greenhouse Tour tomorrow. While I'm grateful for the rain, it means that with all my traipsing in and out of the door, there's a fine collection of footprints on the floor! I hope that many of you will have availed yourselves of the opportunity to see how others are growing their orchids, both in homes and in greenhouses, and will have shared some of your insights with others also. Orchid "talk" is a lot of fun. Tomorrow, I'll be listening in on conversations to see what information I can pick up!

Over the next few weeks, for those of you with Phalaenopsis orchids, remember that they need a couple of weeks of 60 degree temps at night to set new spikes. If yours are inside and won't get those temps, keep track of the nightly lows and put them outside at that time (in shade so they don't burn!). Also, around 2-3 weeks before bringing your orchids inside for the winter, begin treating for pests who've perhaps made your orchids their summer home. Treat every 5-7 days until you bring them in. You don't want those little "buggers" and their offspring to come inside and multiply over the winter!

Just an advance reminder that December is our month for our semiannual orchid auction. We depend upon our members for donating orchids and orchid-related items to auction off. As odd as it seems, the first Sunday in December is only a little over two months away, so be looking over your orchids and seeing if there's any you can donate. Your fellow members will thank you!

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.

This month is:

**October**

“How to Photograph your Orchids”

David Gould

## September 1, 2013 Minutes

Vice President Mike Beber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. There were 29 in attendance, including 4 guests. Our speaker was Melissa McCormick, from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater MD. She spoke on “Why Our Native Orchids Are So Difficult To Grow.”

Did you know that the great grandchildren of a single orchid would cover the entire earth surface if all seeds grew? Melissa’s team is researching orchids’ interaction with their ecosystems – especially the fungi that allow them to germinate and then to thrive once germinated. Some orchids are very particular and may only associate with a single fungus strain, while others may be less choosy, and so tend to spread more easily.

After the break, table judging results were announced, and the meeting ended at approximately 4:40.

**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 Sept. 1, 2013, Plant Table Judging Results  
Judges: David Hines & May Lorfing

**CATTLEYA ALLIANCE**

Blue – Enc. radiata - Mike Beber  
Red – Bro. Jamaica Jester - Jim Williams  
White – Epi. Garnet Glory - Manny Aybar

**DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS**

Blue – Bulb. A-doribil Upwind - David Gould  
Red – Bulb. Kalimpong 'White River' - Kathi McKenzie  
White – Den. oligophyllum - Tham Johnson

**ONCIDIUMS**

Blue – Mtssa. Shelab - Jim Williams  
Red – Onc. no name - Tham Johnson

**PAPHS & PHRAGS**

Blue – Phrag. Fliquet - Kathi McKenzie

**VANDAS & PHALS**

Blue – Phal. belina - Charles Hess  
Red – Christiansonia vietnamica - Tham Johnson  
White – Vasc. Pine Rivers - Manny Aybar

**SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

Epi. nocternum - Mike Beber  
Bulb. tricornis - Kathy Halverson  
Phal. hieroglyphica - Charles Hess

**PEOPLE CHOICE** - tie

Epi. Garnet Glory - Manny Aybar  
Phrag. Fliquet - Kathi McKenzie

## GREENHOUSE TOUR



Rubberbands and S-hooks holding plants in place in Manny's Greenhouse



Orchids in Kathi's back yard.



Basket of orchids on Lornas's Back Porch



Charles greenhouse

Orchids hanging on crooks and hooks in Lornas's back yard.



Visiting in Richard Poole's greenhouse.





## The Ghost Orchid,

*Dendrophylax lindenii*

The Ghost Orchid is a fascinating orchid which has inspired many orchid collectors, most notably the plant dealer John LaRouche, subject of the book “The Orchid Thief.” LaRouche was arrested in 1994 for stealing the three Ghost orchids (among others), allegedly with plans to reproduce them and sell them on the black market.

The first Ghost Orchid was discovered in Cuba in 1844 by Belgian Jean Jules Linden. Fifty years later the same species was found in Florida’s swamps. In the U.S., it is not found outside of S. Florida. It is estimated that only about 2,000 plants remain in the swamps of Florida, with only about 5-10% of these blooming in a given year, and only about 10% of those pollinated. In addition to its rarity, it is notable for the fact that it is a “leafless orchid” (its leaves have actually evolved to be little more than tiny scales on the plant’s roots). Its flat, green roots wrap around a tree, and handle both its water needs and photosynthesis. The roots blend in so well that the blooms can appear to come out of nowhere. All of these elements contribute to the air of mystery surrounding this orchid.

The ghost orchid (also known as the frog orchid) typically blooms in the summer. It is in the vanda alliance, and a distant relative of the *Angraecum* family. Reminiscent of *Angraecum sesquipedale*, it is pollinated by a large moth with a long tongue. In this case the pollinator is the giant sphinx moth (also known as a giant hawkmoth), an insect with an unusually long tongue

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## 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

**The Ghost Orchid.** Continued from page 6

to reach into the flower's four- to six-inch nectary.

In 2007 an extremely large specimen was found in the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples Florida. It measured 45 feet high, and had 11 blooms at its peak. Unlike other wild ghost orchids, this plant's location has not been kept secret. It is often referred to as the "SuperGhost."

The ghost orchid is not widely grown in collections, partly due to the fact that many collectors find it hard to accommodate its insistence on very constant high humidity and temperature.

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_