

Next Meeting:
February 2
Speaker:
Brenda Oviatt



Angraecoid Orchids *Keeping a piece of nature alive*

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This month we will have a presentation on Angraecoid Orchids. It includes cultural advice for growing angraecoids and features many images of species not readily available that are critically endangered in nature. The plants are endemic to Africa and Madagascar. Part of the talk is very specific about these plants, but it includes information that can help any orchid grower improve their skills.

Botanica Ltd. (botanicaltd.com) is owned and operated by Bill Nerison (architect) and Brenda Oviatt (graphic artist). They began growing orchids in 1983 and over time their growing has evolved from a hobby into a two part business. One half of the business involves growing and selling orchids (primarily species) to other interested growers. The other half of the business is focused on the ex-situ propagation of endangered angraecoids and the education of hobbyists and growers concerned with the plight of many species of plants and animals from Africa and Madagascar.



Brenda will bring a nice variety of species for sale (not just angraecoids). Pre-orders can be made up until January 27 by sending an email (rather than ordering from the site and having to refund shipping costs) billn@bresnan.net

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Lorna Kissling

February will hopefully bring us warmer weather and new root growth on many of our plants, making it an ideal time for repotting. You should also stake bloom spikes in preparation for our April show.

For those who missed the January meeting, we had an excellent plant table with many beautiful blooms. Our speaker, Mary Mancini, gave a fascinating presentation on cymbidium culture. She keeps her plants outside in Louisiana all year even below freezing. She even shared her secret for bloom initiation by placing her plants in large tubs of

chilled water every other day over a three week period in fall.

Please bring guests to introduce them to the joys of orchid growing. Orchids 101 will be

held at 2:30 by Kathy McKenzie.

Thanks to all who volunteered to bring snacks to the upcoming meetings, but we need a few more to sign Tham's list at the February meeting.

The February Judging Center will be held Saturday Feb. 1 as the Garland Senior Center will not be available on February 8th as usual.

Gerry

President's Message

Calendar

by Mary Heifner

February 2	<i>Brenda Oviatt</i>	Angraecoids
March 2	<i>Bill Thoms</i>	Bulbophyllums
April 6	<i>Greg Allikas</i>	25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Past 3 Years
April 11-13	<i>Orchid Show</i>	It's Orchid Time
May 4	<i>Courtney Hackney</i>	Classic Cattleya Hybridizing in U.S.
June 1	<i>Arthur Chadwick</i>	First Ladies and their Cattleyas
July 6	<i>Semi-annual Auction</i>	
August 3	<i>Tom Mirenda</i>	Miniature Orchids
September 7	<i>TBD</i>	
October 5	<i>Janet Lambon</i>	Orchid Virus Detection & Prevention
November 2	<i>Mark Reinke</i>	Dendrobiums
December 7	<i>Auction & Christmas Party</i>	

*This month
we will talk about
“Repotting”*

ORCHIDS 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. Sometimes there is a specific topic and other times it might be all Q&A.

It will be an informal discussion so come and share your tips and tricks so we may all benefit from everyone's ideas.

We meet in the greenhouse at 2:30 for 30 minutes so we can get all questions answered in time for the meeting at 3:00.

**MINUTES FOR THE
JANUARY 5, 2014 MEETING**

Lorna Kissling conducted a question and answer session for Orchids 101 at 2:30 pm.

President, Gerry Darver, called the meeting to order at approximately 3 pm and welcomed over 30 attendees to the meeting, including three visitors. The

Minutes

visitors introduced themselves. Gerry reminded everyone that it is time to pay their annual dues.

Dues should be paid by the end of January to be included in the GNTOS directory. Dues should be given to the Treasurer, Kathy Halverson. The refreshment calendar for 2014 was passed around the room with the reminder that attendees can receive five raffle tickets for bringing refreshments. Other announcements by Gerry included: (1) Herbal Society Workshop in February – flyers were available on the table at the back of the room; (2) the AOS Judging at the Garland Senior Activity Center would be February 1 instead of February 8; and (3) April 12 and 13 are the dates for the orchid show.

Vice President, Mary Heifner, asked for volunteers to sign up to be guest speakers. One month, September 2014, does not have a speaker scheduled yet, and back up speakers are needed in case a scheduled speaker has to cancel at the last minute. A signup sheet was available at the meeting. Mary offered to buy

dinner for a member that ends up speaking for a meeting.

Charles Hess gave an update on the Orchid Conservation Alliance efforts on the Serra Bonita campaign, and presented one of his orchid prints to Rhonda Whitson for her contribution to the campaign.

Orchid table judging took place during a break. Attendees were encouraged to vote on their favorite orchid.

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker, Mary Mancini, who spoke on “Growing Cymbidiums in the South.” Mary is a cardiac surgeon in Shreveport, Louisiana, and also an AOS judge. She provided background on cymbidiums including anatomy, types, cultivation, breeding trends, diseases, and “her way” of growing. Breeding trends included miniaturization, better heat tolerance, and other forms. She described the conditions necessary for spike formation on cymbidiums and how to force spike formation if the weather is too warm.

Nancy Cropp announced the results of the table judging. Mike Beber conducted the plant raffle and name tag drawing. Gerry Darver adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Jan. 5, 2014, Plant Table Judging Results

31 plants entered

Judges: Jim Williams & David Hines

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue - Rlc. Nikitaspasia - Linda Horton

Red - C. Volcano Trick 'Paradise' - Kathi
McKenzie

White - C. Kitten Kisses - Kathi McKenzie

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue - Den. alexanderae - Manny Aybar

Red - Zygo. MacKayi - Kathi McKenzie

White - Cym. Forster Alcock
- M. Forest Shipp

ONCIDIUMS

Blue - Onc. Tsiku Marguerite - Tham Johnson

Red - Onc. Sweet Sugar - Don Brigham

White - Onc. (no ID) - Kathy McKenzie

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue - Paph. Mele Moon - Mike Beber

Red - Paph. spicerianum - Barb McNamee

White - Paph. fairrieanum
x Magic Leopard #2
- Mike Beber

VANDA & PHALS

Blue - Phal. equestris var. ilocos
- Charles Hess

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

C. maxima - Mike Beber

Den. alexanderae - Manny Aybar

Paph. spicerianum - Barb McNamee

PEOPLES CHOICE

No winner - no plant with more than one
vote

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

Newsletter



The Dallas Judging Center will meet on the first Saturday of February instead of the usual second Saturday.

February, 1 at the:
Garland Senior
Activity Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am

Everyone is
welcome.



Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER JAN. 11, 2014

Four plants entered for consideration, one award given.

Paph. Kemp Tower 'Orchid Konnection'
(Prince Edward of York x philippinense)
AM 82 points
owner: Orchid Konnection (Meir Moses), Dallas



Cattleyas Around the Year

Gene Crocker

Cattleyas remain the most beautiful of all orchids but usually flower for a short period each year. It is possible to have flowers the year around by choosing species and their hybrids that have fixed flowering periods. This series will help you build your collection to achieve that goal.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gene Crocker retired after working for 25 years as Vice-President of Carter and Holmes Orchids in Newberry, S.C. He has carried on the breeding program 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 AQ.

JANUARY

Cattleya trianaei
Cattleya loddigesii

FEBRUARY

GUARIANTHE AURANTIACA
CATTLEYA AMETHYSTOGLOSSA

MARCH

Guarianthe skinneri
Cattleya mossiae



Guarianthe aurantiaca



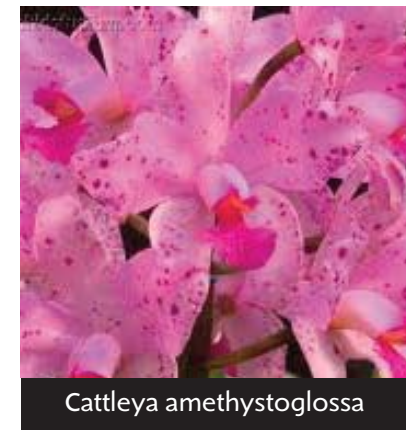
Guarianthe aurantiaca

One of my favorite species, the bifoliate **Guarianthe aurantiaca** from Guatemala and Costa Rica, flowers in February. The flowers are small, but they are produced in large clusters. The typical form is orange, but there are other color variations. Flowers are waxy and the segments narrow, but when Guarianthe aurantiaca is crossed with other species and hybrids, the form dramatically improves. This is the parent of Slc. Jewel Box (x Slc. Anzac) and C. Wolteriana (x C. schroderae), and the grandparent of the very round Slc. Hazel Boyd and Blc. Bouton D'Or. Guarianthe aurantiaca gives vigor to its hybrids.

The Brazilian bifoliate, **Cattleya amethystoglossa**, also flowers in February. It is not too commonly seen in collections, for the pseudobulbs are very tall. The upright stems of flowers are bright lavender with dark purple spotting. Currently available tetraploid plants of C. amethystoglossa are more popular than the diploids. Not many hybrids involving C. amethystoglossa are available.



Slc. Jewel Box



Cattleya amethystoglossa



Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by
M. Forest Shipps

This month I'm going to

discuss cameras and which one may be the best for you. There are literally hundreds of cameras to choose from, so how do you decide which one is right for you? Cameras come in all shapes and sizes, some with more bells and whistles than you can shake a stick at, some are very inexpensive, and some are thousands of dollars.

Your first consideration is to decide what you are going to use the camera for. Is it for snapshots of family and friends or do you want to get a bit more serious and start shooting some really nice pictures to possibly frame or even sell? Once you make that decision, you have to decide how much do you want to spend. Have you ever heard the saying, "You get what you pay for?" Although this is not always true, in this case it is VERY true. Good camera equipment is by no means cheap and I can confirm, from personal experience, that photography is one of the most expensive hobbies out there.

Once you have answered those questions you have to find a camera that meets those needs and your budget. Since there are so many different cameras on the market it would be impossible for me to write about all of them, so I will just make some suggestions and you will have to do the research and ask questions on your own. Although, if all you have is an inexpensive point and shoot camera and have no desire to spend any

more money on equipment, don't worry be-

cause this column is still for you because I can give everyone some tips and tricks that will improve their photography; and some of the tips will cost little or no money by using everyday items from in your own home.

Okay, the most useful feature you need to look for in a camera is manual mode. Yes, manual mode, not automatic this or that, manual. When you use automatic mode you let the camera decide how to take the picture, i.e., what to focus on, aperture setting, shutter speed, white balance, etc. Automatic modes eliminate all creativity of the photographer. Next, does it have interchangeable lenses. If you can't buy different lenses, you are limiting your creativity again. This type of entry-level camera will start at about \$500-\$600 and goes up from there. Don't forget, you can always buy a used camera for less as photographers are continually updating their equipment as new models are being released. There are some great bargains out there. Some reliable sources of used equipment are KEH.com, bhphotovideo.com and don't forget Ebay.com.

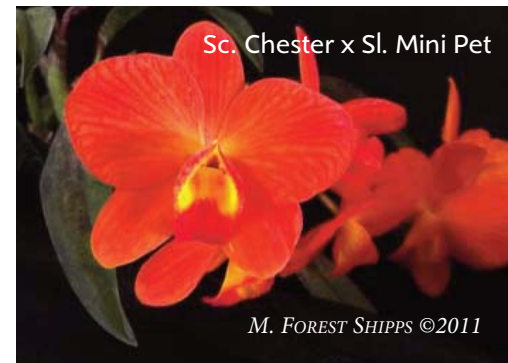
Once you decide which camera to buy stick with that camera's manufacturer. For example, if you buy a Canon camera be sure that is what you want, especially if you start buying lenses and accessories, because those lenses and accessories are not interchangeable with other cameras like Nikon or Olympus.

So, what if you don't want to get a new

camera and you still want to make better photographs, which camera is best? Maybe you have a point and shoot type of camera or just a cell phone camera? A very well known photographer is quoted as saying, "The best camera is the one that's with you," he even wrote a book on the subject with the same title, *The Best Camera Is The One That's With You: iPhone Photography*, by Chase Jarvis, ISBN-13: 978-0321684783.

Recently I took some pictures with my "Best Camera" of some orchids that I had in bloom. Can you tell how much my camera cost or what features the camera has? Probably not, but take a look!

Some of you may have guessed that these photographs were taken with my cellphone, if you did, you would be correct. Although I have a very expensive camera I chose to use my cellphone, albeit a very good cellphone, but nonetheless a cellphone without manual mode or interchangeable lenses, to prove that great pictures can be made with an inexpensive camera. Remember with a little knowledge and skill you can take better pictures too. Next month I will share some tips on how to improve your photography.





Speaker Notes

Mary Mancini

“Warm Growing Cymbidiums”

Our speaker for January was Mary Mancini. She grows cymbidiums in Shreveport which is a similar climate to ours. This isn't easy to do because Cyms like a more temperate climate with cooler evenings that we have here. But she has figured out some the tricks and techniques to make it possible to enjoy these beauties here in the Metroplex and she shared them with us.

LIGHT

- Like filtered but bright light
- Morning and afternoon sun preferably
- In hot climates need to shield them from the noonday sun/heat, will tolerated it but the leaves will burn
- High light is required for flowering

TEMPERATURE

- Can tolerate freezing or 100° temperatures but it is not good for them
- Prefer daytime temperatures around 85° and nighttime temperature around 55°
- Need about a 20° temperature differential to flower
- Remember that they originate from the Tibetan region
- Not used to temperature extremes
- Don't necessarily need a cool greenhouse but do demand good air movement
- Do better outside in a filtered light area
- Need a cooling down period in the winter in order to set spikes

GROWING MEDIUM

- Medium can be of your choice, it just must drain well otherwise they will rot!
- Avoid moss for the standard cymbidiums; Chinese cymbidiums will tolerate it
- Aussie Gold ill advised
- Have been grown in rock, baskets, and mounted
- A porous, combination medium is best
- Love to be root bound
- Pots need to be longer to accommodate the long root structure.
- Crowd the roots, avoid overpotting

REPOTTING

- Repot when the pot cracks or the media breaks down



- Repot if see dried pseudobulbs particularly in the middle of the plant; remove the dried bulbs
- Repot if some of the pseudobulbs are rotting; remove the rotting bulbs and pot in dry media



Pots need to be longer to accommodate the long root structure

WATER AND FOOD

- If you use a porous, well drained mix, then can water frequently
- If the mix is more compact, then water more sparingly
- Cut back on watering during the winter, in hotter climates may need to be watered every day
- They are heavy feeders particularly during the growing season (spring)
- Water weakly, weekly applies
- Use standard orchid fertilizers but during the growing season, a higher nitrogen content is preferred; can use manures, blood meal

DISEASES

- Pretty much disease resistant
- Growing conditions will determine disease pattern
- Low light + moisture + poor air circulation = fungal rot of the pseudobulb
- Hot + dry + poor air circulation = spider mites
- Scale
- Virus

MY WAY

- Not in a green house
- In the yard, protected from direct sun
- Water depending on temperature – hot then daily or every other day, cool, then once a week
- Water weakly, weekly; right now using Michigan fertilizer with blood meal applica-



tion during the growing season and/or Superthrive

- If temperature drops below 32° for several days, then will gather them together and cover until temperature rises
- If I see temperature damaged leaves, not to worry, plant will come back

Mary's backyard
growing area in
Shreveport

HOW DO I KEEP THEM ALIVE AND GET THEM TO REFLOWER?

- Avoid heat/cold extremes
- Fertilize heavily during the growing season – February through April, blood meal works well or any high nitrogen compound 20-20-20
- Avoid direct sunlight
- To promote spike formation; beginning in early fall, evening temperatures need to fall 20° can do this by air conditioning or by putting ice cubes in the pot at night
- Don't overwater, once a week in cool temperatures and have good drainage.
- Remove rotted bulbs



Crowd the roots,
avoid overpotting

VANILLA PLANIFOLIA

Many people are intrigued to learn that the vanilla we use in cooking & perfumes comes from an orchid.


Vanilla beans are the fruit of *Vanilla planifolia*, an orchid native to Mexico. *V. planifolia* grows as a large, thick vine, which will climb trees, greenhouse benches and walls, and any other sort of support. It produces clusters of trumpet shaped, pale green flowers. The mature pods have no flavor until they are dried and cured by steaming and fermentation, developing a dark color and a “frost” of glucose and vanillin. The aroma and flavor of vanilla is quite complex, including over 200 different types of molecules.

V. planifolia was first discovered by the Totonaco Indians in ancient times. They believed that vanilla was a food of the gods, and held it in very high esteem. When the Aztecs conquered the Totonaco, they adopted both vanilla and the belief that it was to be revered. In 1518, conquistador Herman Cortez came to Mexico and observed the Aztec emperor Montezuma drinking “chocolatl”, a drink of ground cocoa and corn, and flavored with vanilla beans and honey. Enjoying this drink greatly, Cortez brought both cocoa and vanilla to Spain. It was originally called “vainilla” (little sheath, in reference to the flowers shape), but later became “vanilla.”

Until late 18th century, Mexico was the only country to produce vanilla. Attempts were made elsewhere, including the French Ile de Bourbon, where the vines flourished. However, the vines would not produce beans. It turns out that the delicate, small flowers can only be pollinated by the small *Melipona* bee (native to Mexico).

In 1837 the Belgian botanist Morren succeeded in artificially pollinating the vanilla flower. On the Ile de Bourbon, Morren’s process was attempted, but failed. Finally, in 1841 a 12 year old slave named Edmond Albius discovered the correct technique of hand pollinating the flowers. Vanilla soon spread to the neighboring French possessions of Madagascar, Comoro and

Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie



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

Continued

Santa Maria. By 1898 about 200 tons of Vanilla beans a year were being produced by these islands.

Today, *v. planifolia* (Bourbon vanilla) produces 95% of the world's vanilla, and is grown in Madagascar, the Comoro and Reunion Islands, India, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Mexico.

Plants are not hard to grow, but require high humidity, bright filtered sunlight, strong supports for the vines, and a large area in which to grow, both upwards and downwards, as roots will drop downward from the vines, and latch onto the ground, other trees, or the greenhouse benches and floors.

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! 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

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)

Membership Dues

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): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (#1): _____

E-mail (#2): _____