

Next Meeting:
March 2
Speaker: Dallas
Judging Center

Mock Orchid Judging

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Bro. Jamica Jester 'Rio Rojo'
Bro. ortgiesiana x Bro. negrilensis

At our next meeting, members of the Dallas Judging Center will attend and conduct a “Mock Orchid Judging” on the plants from our plant table.

This is a great opportunity to watch how orchids are judged and scored to see if they can earn an American Orchid Society (AOS) award. The process is very interesting and exacting so bring your best plants in bloom and come and watch the process unfold.

The judges will look over the plant table and choose a plant or two that they think merits further examination. Then they will compare the plant against all of the same plants that have won awards to see how it measures up. They will measure various parts, discuss the coloration, count the blooms, possibly take it outside to see it in natural light and after all of that, they will pass out score sheets and each judge will score the plant in several categories. Each judge will work alone for this portion of the process, rating the plant and awarding points for each section. Then they will each turn in their score sheets and the scores will be com-

pared to see if it has what it takes to win an AOS award.

Something to keep in mind during the judging: it is supposed to be a blind judging. The judges don't want to know whose plant they have before them. The idea is to fairly and in an unbiased manner judge the plant as it is without condition or explanation. So be sure to be quiet and observe as they discuss the merits and demerits of the orchid so that it can be conducted in a fair and honest manner. Only after the process is finished and the score has been computed will the judges ask whose plant they have been reviewing.

So come and watch and learn and maybe if you have an outstanding plant you could be on your way to an AOS award.

We are calling this a mock judging because this is an unofficial judging and as such AOS awards cannot be earned at our meeting. However, if a plant is scored high enough and you want to resubmit it at the official judging center meeting the next Saturday, March 8th, you will be given every opportunity to win an award.

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The months are flying byway too quickly. Spring is almost here and our orchids are certainly perking up. Remember to repot, if needed, before new roots get too long. As the weather warms, pests will increase, so keep a sharp watch for insect infestations. Repeated treatment is needed at weekly intervals to keep the insects from gaining a foothold.

Brenda Oviaat gave a fascinating presentation last month on Angraecum types and culture. Some angraecums perform and bloom in my greenhouse.

President's Message

Manny Aybar has been kind enough to volunteer to give us a presentation on judging at our March meeting. We will even

have a “mock” judging of plants selected from our plant table, so bring your best blooming plants.

Gerry

Calendar

by Mary Heifner

March 22-23	<i>Austin Orchid Show</i>	
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April 6	<i>Greg Allikas</i>	25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Past 3 Years
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April 12-13	<i>Houston Orchid Show</i>	
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May 4	<i>Courtney Hackney</i>	Classic Cattleya Hybridizing in U.S.
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June 1	<i>Arthur Chadwick</i>	First Ladies and their Cattleyas
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July 6	<i>Semi-annual Auction</i>	
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August 3	<i>Tom Mirenda</i>	Miniature Orchids
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September 7	<i>TBD</i>	
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October 5	<i>Janet Lambon</i>	Orchid Virus Detection & Prevention
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November 2	<i>Mark Reinke</i>	Dendrobiums
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December 7	<i>Auction & Christmas Party</i>	
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Orchids 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

*This month
we will talk about
“Taking your
Orchids Outside”*

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.

February 2, 2014 GNTOS Meeting Minutes

Orchids 101 at 2:30 pm was a repotting session. Those interested in speaking at Orchids 101 should contact Kathi McKenzie.

At 3 pm the meeting was called to order by Gerry Darver. About 30 attendees were present. Two visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting. Gerry reminded everyone that it is time to pay their annual dues. Also, a few more volunteers for meeting snacks are needed – see Tham Johnson to sign up. There is the Heart of Texas

Orchid Society meeting in Austin, March 22-23, and the Arkansas show, April 5-6 in Benton. David Gould is coordinating

the GNTOS spring greenhouse tour for April or May. Members are to contact David Gould if they are interested in being part of the tour. Lorna Kissling reported that the GNTOS spring show has been postponed until the spring of 2015 due to a conflict with the Houston Orchid Society's show the second weekend in April.

Charles Hess thanked everyone that participated in the conservation fundraiser at Dick Poole's greenhouse, and announced that over \$500 was raised for the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Charles will be bringing any orchids that were not sold at the fundraiser to the GNTOS meetings – snooper's table.

Mary Heifner reported that she is still looking for extra meeting speakers – that next month is now open. A suggestion to have an AOS judging event was made. Manuel Aybar offered to help coordinate a judging event.

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker, Brenda Oviatt, part owner of Botanica Ltd, who presented “Angraecoid Orchids, Keeping a Piece of Nature Alive.” The angraecoid orchids are endemic to Africa and Madagascar, with the focus of the talk on Madagascar. Brenda described the factors that are contributing to the destruction of the habitats of these orchids. Major points by Brenda included providing pictures and information on plants less familiar, emphasizing the importance of healthy roots in angraecoid orchids, and offering knowledge about species that are nearing extinction. Brenda encouraged everyone to pick one species and work to save that species from extinction.

During the refreshment break there was orchid table judging and time for shopping – snooper's table, plants that Brenda Oviatt brought, and raffle tickets for plants.

Nancy Cropp announced the results of the orchid table judging. Mike Beber conducted the plant raffle and name tag drawing. Gerry Darver adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Minutes

Rhonda Whitson

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Feb. 2, 2014, Plant Table Judging Results

23 plants entered
Judges: Charles Hess & Nancy Cropp

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue - (Natures Masterpiece
x Mary Lynn McKinzie) - Mike Beber
Red - Catt. (Slc. Circle Spirit
x Blc. Diaz Castio) - Gerry Darver
White - Lc. Blazing Sun - Manny Aybar

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue - Den. unknown - Gerry Darver
Red - Ludisia discolor - Charles Hess
White - Den. Micro Chip - Tham Johnson

ONCIDIUMS

Blue - Epi. Silvestre - Linda Horton
Red - Odcdm. Sunlight - Linda Horton
White - 'Onc. Debie x Wilbur'
- Lorna Kissling

PAPHS & PHRAG

Blue - Paph. Mem. Barbara Duncan
- Kathi McKenzie
Red - Paph. (Helles Westonbirt x Satin Vail)
- Mike Beber

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue - Ang. Crestwood - Manny Aybar
Red - Dtps. Rong Guan Mary B#603
- Kathi McKenzie
White - Phal. Antura Gold - Manny Aybar

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Ludisia discolor - Charles Hess

PEOPLES CHOICE

Paph. Mem. Barbara Duncan
- Kathi McKenzie
Phal. (unnamed) (Tzu Chiang Balm x Tying
Shin Champion) - Manny Aybar

Please submit articles,
information, or
suggestions for publi-
cation in our
newsletter. No really.
I'm serious. Help me
out here. I'll take pho-
tos, stories whatever. I
will give
\$1 to the
first per-
son who
asks for it at the meet-
ing. Send submissions
to me at:
david@
gouldcreative.com

Newsletter

The Dallas Judging Center meets on the second Saturday of every month.

The next meeting is March, 8 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 FEB. 1, 2014

Eight plants entered for consideration, one award given:

Phal. (unregistered) 'Bushy Tail'
(Tai-I Yellow Bird x Timothy Christopher)
HCC 79 points,
owner: Brandenburgs, 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.

February

Guarianthe aurantiaca
Cattleya amethystoglossa

MARCH & APRIL

GUARIANTHE SKINNERI
CATTLEYA MOSSIAE

May

Cattleya warneri

Guarianthe skinneri, the National Flower of Costa Rica, blooms in late February and early March.



Guarianthe skinneri

The bifoliate plants break multiple leads readily and result in specimens that are frequently seen in

the early spring shows. The lavender flowers are produced in relatively large clusters. There are also white forms and some that are a light pastel color. The natural hybrid with *Guarianthe aurantiaca* is *Gur. Guatemalensis* - usually a salmon to peach color, but there are also yellow forms.

Cattleya mossiae, the "Easter Orchid" from Venezuela, blooms in March and April. The plants are very productive and were used for corsage flowers when orchid corsages

were customary for Easter and Mother's Day. It makes its growth during the summer and rests during the winter, blooming when the days start getting longer. Sometimes the sheaths turn brown in the fall, but should not



Cattleya mossiae

be disturbed, for the buds will push up through the dry sheaths. Plants can be controlled using light and temperature to flower for Easter. *C. mossiae* is typically a light to medium lavender with a darker lip, but there are also semi-alba forms, white forms, and near "blue" forms. Hybrids made with *C. mossiae* tend to also bloom in the March-April time period.



Cattleya lueddemanniana (formerly *C. speciosissima*), from Venezuela, makes its

growth in the early spring and flowers on the new growth in March or April. It is similar to *C. mossiae*, but the flowers have better form, with lips that typically have darker veining than *C. mossiae*.



Cattleya lueddemanniana

Since their bloom seasons overlap, there is a natural hybrid between the two, *C. Gravesiana*. *C. lueddemanniana* comes in the same color variations as *C. mossiae*. Its hybrids are not as season dependent as the *C. mossiae* hybrids, and are usually influenced by the other parent.



Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by
M. Forest Shipps

Now that we have the basics about cameras out of the way let's get down to some tips and tricks so you can make better photographs. I'm going to start with backgrounds and what you should look for when making photographs. The best background to use is the simplest background. Have you ever heard the acronym K.I.S.S.? Although there are several variations the most direct one is K.I.S.S. = Keep It Simple Stupid, others are Keep It Short and Simple, Keep It Simple and Straightforward, etc. You decide on how you want to refer to that acronym, but the key principle is SIMPLICITY.

A cluttered background can ruin an otherwise great photographic subject. For instance, if you take a picture of someone standing on a busy street corner in New York City it would be difficult to tell what the subject of the photograph was. The viewer of the photograph would wonder what is the subject. Is the person the intended subject? Or is it the city itself with cars whizzing by, the bright lights, other people standing or walking by. What is the message/subject you, the photographer, are trying to convey to the viewer?

When you have several competing items in a photograph the eye tends to wander around the picture looking for some-

thing to focus on. When the viewer's eye finally finds something to rest his eye on, it will be the sharpest and brightest subject in the photograph. You can try to overcome this by making the intended subject very large by getting closer or zooming in on it, but if there is a distracting element off in one corner it can ruin an otherwise great photograph.

Here we have 2 photographs of the same exact subject, photographed in my garage, but with different backgrounds. Which one is more pleasing? Which one clearly defines the intended subject? Do you feel your eye wandering around the cluttered photo?



So, how do you K.I.S.S. a photograph? Try to use plain backgrounds like white or

black, something that is in contrast to the subject that will make it stand out and not blend in with the background. If you are photographing dark colored flowers use a light/white colored background. Conversely, if you are photographing a white flower use a dark/black background.

TIP: An inexpensive background can be as simple as a bed sheet held 5-6 feet behind the subject. Other ideas for backgrounds are construction paper, foam core board, even an old piece of cardboard painted with flat paint (glossy paint can cause reflections). Give it a

try and be sure to bring some pictures to the meeting for sharing.

Speaker Notes

Angraecoid Orchids

Keeping a piece of nature alive

Brenda Oviatt

Our speaker for March was Brenda Oviatt. She gave a presentation on Angraecoid Orchids. Here is a portion of the information she presented.

The orchid family is divided into 5 subfamilies which are then separated into 22 tribes. The Vanda Subfamily is divided into 4 tribes. What distinguishes the Vanda tribe (or “vandeaceous” orchids) from the rest of the orchids is their growth habit. They’re monopodial and are the most highly evolved in the orchid family. [monopodial means they have a single growing point and direction] All other orchids are sympodial. [they branch and grow in many directions - and they’re easy to divide]. The vanda tribe is divided into 3 subtribes. The first subtribe is by far the largest; containing familiar genera like vanda and phalaenopsis and they’re primarily Asian. Our focus is on the second two subtribes, which often get lumped together and are called Angraecoids. All but a few of them are from Africa and Madagascar.

The word you’ll hear me

repeat the most is *roots*. I try to stress that orchid roots are important to watch – they give you an indication of how the plant’s doing. This applies to all orchids, and is *especially* important with angraecoids. Watch the root tips. If you watch the roots, often you can notice a problem before the plant itself starts showing distress. Think about what you’ve been doing, and make some changes. Even a root that has died at the end can survive if you correct the conditions soon enough.

Now, let’s look at angraecoids! I’ve simplified each subtribe into their “Major” genus and “Other”. There are just two new world angraecoid genera; Dendrophylax and Campylocentrum. We had rocky beginnings with Dendrophylax funalis – it’s a perfect example of listening to your orchids. We got a little keiki from an enormous plant. We brought it back to the green-



Dendrophylax

house and put it on a nice big piece of cork in anticipation of its growth. It just sat there. We bought a second little funalis and it came mounted on a tiny piece of cork. We hung it near the other one and it “took off”. We realized that by having put our first one on such a large piece of cork, we’d cut down on the air movement and light it got, making a stagnant situation for it. We took it off, put it on a tiny piece of cork – and it began to grow like a weed!

The rest of the angraecoids are from Africa and Madagascar.

Aerantes comes from Greek for air – flower. It’s a great name for them!

Many are translucent and look fragile – but they’re surprisingly long-lasting flowers. The first one I remember seeing in person was in Seattle. I don’t even remember the plant. I stood and stared at a multitude of green and translucent flowers attached to thin wire-like stems so fine that I really wasn’t sure they were real. It looked like an art project! They bloom repeatedly on the same inflorescence so once you



Aerantes grandiflora

get a large enough plant to have several bloom spikes at the same time you have a never-ending bloomer! Our biggest mistake with these has been dividing large plants in an



Jumellea

attempt to make several saleable ones. They often resent the root disturbance.

A genus that, for the most part, is much easier to care for is Jumellea. It's one of the least fussy about root disturbance. There are two forms of Jumelleas. One tends to be fan-shaped plants which form keikis and some get very large.

These often put on a show with many flowers over several weeks. The other form is more vining in habit. They grow, and branch and flower off and on throughout the year. Many begin blooming at a very small size, too! These are cheery to have around and if you have limited growing space, are perfect!

The genus Angraecum is by far the largest genus of the angraecoids. Nearly half of the species in the entire subtribe are Angraecums. There's fantastic variation in the size and form of the plants and flowers. Sesquipedale – has become rare in nature, but is widely available in cultiva-



Sesquipedale

“the less root disturbance, the better”

tion due to ex-situ propagation. It's in the Section Angraecum – all of the species in that section are large plants with large flowers.

Orchids use a *fantastic* range of methods to attract pollinators. Many use color or mimicry by shape. Most of the angraecoids are white and are most fragrant only after dark. Many use this night-time fragrance to attract moths as their pollinators and at night, white shows up well. Angraecoids contain nectar in their spurs; or “nectaries”. This nectar is the treat for their insect pollinator. My favorite plant/pollinator combination is between sesquipedale and the hawk moth *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. The name “sesquipedale” is Latin for “one and a half feet,” referring to

the spur length. The “praedicta” part of the moth's name comes from the when Charles Darwin saw the flowers and predicted that there must be a bird or moth with a tongue or proboscis – one and a half feet long – to reach the nectar at the bottom of the spur, thereby pollinating the plant. If we had to give one cultural tip for angraecoids – and

specifically *angraecums*, it would be “the less root disturbance, the better”. When we got our first sesquipedale from Fred Hillerman in the '80s, he included a big note with it saying “*never* disturb roots once adult”. With a hybrid cattleya, you can whack off 80% of its roots, chop it into pieces, repot it and it will still love you. If you try this with an angraecoid, you're bound to have a dead angraecoid.

When we began growing eichlerianum, we put it in an area that seemed to match the description of what it wanted. It just didn't thrive. We waited quite a while, but finally moved it to a new spot that it loved [with less light]. Look

at your orchid's roots! They're *great* about telling you if they like where they are!

Sometimes you can see a change in the roots like

this based on the seasons, but this marked change was from moving the plant to a new spot in the greenhouse. Within a few weeks, everything about it looked better.

The fragrance of *magdalanae* is *wonderful*! They have thick flowers that are velvety looking. They're slow growers though – so you'll need some patience. You must respect



angraecum eichlerianum

magdalenae's roots ... and their growth vs. dormancy periods.

Microcoelia is a great genus of around 30 leafless species and is a real favorite of ours.



Microcoelia gilpinae

Since leafless orchids use their roots to photosynthesize, the roots must be exposed to light, but we've found that if we put a thin layer of Spanish moss or Tillandsia usneoides over them, it acts as a great buffer – they dry more slowly and don't get as easily over-

dried. Several microcoelias have beautiful roots as well. A dry root is silvery to reflect the light.

The "major" genus in the subtribe is Aerangis. Aerangis is greek for air vessel which refers to the hollow part of the spur. Many are quite easy to grow, and there's hardly a day of the year that we don't have an aerangis in spike or bloom. Several aerangis are rather common and widely available, like biloba, citrata and luteoalba. They have tenacious roots and are very easy to grow on plaques. Have you noticed how often I've mentioned roots? In epiphytic orchids, roots serve as the mechanical attachment, holding the orchid in its growing

environment. They take in moisture and nutrients for the plant, their appearance gives an indication of overall health. *and* their structure can tell you a lot about what the orchid wants!

Aerangis punctata is probably my favorite. With each successive blooming it gets more beautiful. This plant – including the flowers – is 6" wide. Along with fantastic flowers, its verrucose



Aerangis punctata

or warty roots are outstanding. It has gorgeous speckled foliage. Our oldest punctata is about 15 years old. When we were de-flasking seedlings and were ready to plaque them, we weren't sure whether we should mount them

right-side-up or up-side-down? It's hard to tell how this one started and what they prefer. Aerangis are ageotropic – they are able to grow without respect to gravity. We tried some of each. Both did well and bloomed and continued to grow. I looked through old pictures to see what our first punctata looked

like when it was young – it was mounted pointing downward.

One thing we've learned about growing orchids – always be willing to change how you grow. The more we learn, the more we see there is to learn! An important cultural tip is to respect these plants' dormancies. This applies to all angraecoids. There's no quick and easy dormancy rule that applies to all of them. It can be an inter-

esting combination of coolness, dryness and even light levels at different times of the year. As I said, we hardly have a day of the year without an aerangis in bloom. Typically they want their dormancy after they've finished

blooming. So different species get different dormancies at different times of the year. Watch their root tips and watch their leaf growth – when the growing tips shorten and the plant growth slows, it's time for a dormancy!

When asked about the relative ease of growing angraec-

coids, in general I'll answer that they are not good "first orchids." *But*, once you have the hang of growing orchids, there are many great angraecoids to choose from.



Aerangis leuto-alba



Aerangis biloba

by Courtney Hackney

A monthly growers
advice column by
Courtney Hackney.
Hackneau@comcast.net

This column is
written in humid
coastal North
Carolina and Florida,
and the advice given
should be adjusted
to the readers
climate.

How to Grow Orchids in Lava Rock

Many “Tips” readers have asked about the progress of my experiments with lava rock as a potting medium. While this experiment is still in progress, there are a few generalizations worth passing on. However, this is not a recommendation yet for the average hobbyist. As with all cultural recommendations, make the change on a few plants before wholesale conversion of your collection. If you are currently happy with your culture then do not change them.

Most lava rock sold in the Carolinas is mined in Oregon and is unweathered, meaning it has not had the actions of water working on it for years. My experiments have utilized red lava rock and not the black form. The only advice I was able to get from Hawaiian growers was to not use the black form, although I do not know why. Perhaps it has something to do with heat absorption. The rock is mined, crushed, and packed without regard for size so each bag needs to be sorted for size. It is, however, inexpensive.

Some bags contain more, larger pieces, while others contain more fine material. This is both good and bad, depending on how the rock will be used. It does require grading as none of the low priced lava rock is graded.

The largest material, 1.5-2" diameter works well for vandas and bifoliate cattleyas. Cattleyas and phals go in 0.5-1.5" grade and the remaining fraction is used for seedlings and paphs. Typically, there is also lots of dust or very fine material that is attached to the rock that washes away relatively quickly. This fine material does contain significant soluble material and is best washed off first. Lava rock is relatively light with an extremely porous surface, but occasionally some dense rock, which lacks the porous nature required for potting orchids, will be included. Discard this material. Some bags will have almost none of the dense stuff, while others may have lots of it.

Not all of my experience using lava rock has been positive. So what are the advantages of using this medium? First it is inexpensive and readily available. Most important for me, is that it does not decompose at all. In the hot South, many media break down before an orchid reaches its maximum growth in the pot. Bifoliate cattleyas hate to be repotted and grow relatively slowly so this can be a real problem. I also have limited amount of time to repot and would rather spend my “orchid time” doing other things in the greenhouse.

Continued

Continued

The key to the successful use of lava rock is to remember that the environment provided by lava rock is very different than what the orchid has already experienced. There is more air movement and less moisture than in more typical media. Roots grown in a pot with sphagnum or bark typically shrivel and die in lava rock. The first phals I put in lava rock became badly desiccated until they grew new roots. The second group were immediately placed in lower light and given more water until they began to grow new roots. The most recent group has been the most successful. Phals were removed from the pot and a core of the old material was left around the roots. The phal was then placed in the pot with lava rock already added so that the phal is properly placed relative to the top of the pot. Then lava rock is added around the plant and a few pieces placed on top of the old medium. This allows the phal to adjust gradually with new roots emerging from the old medium into the lava rock. So far this is working well.

The most important rule to follow when repotting into lava rock is to remember that it works best when the plant is growing new roots. This generally is when it is warm, so avoid repotting in the winter. While this is generally true for all orchids, it is even more important for orchids planted in a rapidly drying medium, such as lava rock, or if the orchid is mounted.

My bifoliate cattleya growth has excelled in lava rock; perhaps because they prefer drier conditions and are always repotted when they are getting new roots. The greatest surprise has been for paphs. Their requirement for more water suggested that the lava rock medium would not work. Fine, gravel sized lava rock was used and the paphs planted in clear plastic pots so that they could be repotted if new roots were not observed. Rock was placed about a quarter inch higher around the plant than if bark had been used. Slow release Dolomite Lime was placed on the surface along with Nutricote fertilizer. Paphs grew so fast that some of the multiflora types split their pots.

Lava rock holds a surprisingly large amount of water, but still requires more frequent watering. Lava rock also holds fertilizers along with less desirable salts so flush at least once a month. Once lava rock has weathered moss and ferns will grow on the surface prompting me to wonder whether there may be some benefit to letting the rock weather a little before using it in pots. As with all media, it takes time to determine if a particular medium will work under your conditions. Lava rocks requires more time watering, but less time repotting. While it is too early to recommend this medium, it has potential for hobbyists that like to water or hate to repot.

CATASETUMS

Catasetums are known for their unusual flowers. The same plant may produce male or female flowers, depending upon growing conditions. A single plant may occasionally produce both, although this is somewhat uncommon. Many catasetums are also known for their unusual pollination habit, employing a hair-trigger activated, pollen release mechanism, which forcibly attaches pollen sacs onto the insect. This adaptation was studied extensively in *Catasetum saccatum* by Charles Darwin, and he termed this rapid response “sensitivity.” His findings were controversial at the time, but years later they were verified by stop-action photography.

Catasetums grow for only a short period, and during that time they must store a great deal of water. Therefore they should be watered heavily while new leaves are forming.

They have vigorous root systems and like to have a rich, moist potting medium and lots of water while actively growing. Sphagnum moss is often used for its water-holding capacity, although bark mix may also be used. In general, the plants grow best with light similar to cattleyas. They need strong light near the end of the growth period, although they will tolerate less light early in their growth cycle. After new growth matures, temperatures should drop to 55° F at night, with day temperatures of 70 to 85°F.

Once the pseudobulb is mature, watering frequency should be reduced gradually, and fertilization stopped. The leaves will start to fall, and then watering should be stopped completely until new growth begins again. Do not water during this dormant period unless the plant shrivels severely, as this dormant period is very important for successful growing.

Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie

I have reserved for separate description one sub-family of the Vandea, namely the Catasetidæ, which may, I think, be considered as the most remarkable of all Orchids.”

Charles Darwin, 1862



Catasetum
saccatum



Catasetum pileatum

Catasetum
TenDragons
Justin
HCC/AOS



Catasetum
barbatum

The history of the GNTOS goes way back. In the mid-40s there were only three orchid growers in town: Eli Sanger of Sanger Brothers, which was Dallas' biggest department store at that time; Roy Munger, known for Munger Place and Munger Street, and Percy Larkin.

Margie Corn, a garden columnist, was the source of any orchid information they could find and she gave their names to a woman running Hardy's Seed Company, Mrs. Moses. They gathered at her house one day in 1946 and it was Mr. & Mrs. Polhemus, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Carter, Homer Baldwin, Percy Larkin and a young man from Waxahachie named Costalanus. They decided they would apply for AOS membership and started receiving the Bulletin and meeting monthly. More and more people started to show up and they elected Percy Larkin, Jr. their first president in 1947. This was the North Texas Orchid Society.

They held their first show in 1950 at the Marsh Kaiser Fraiser automobile agency on Ross Avenue. Jack Morris was president of the society and Homer Baldwin sent out invitations to everyone who grew orchids in Dallas. Invitations also went to the big orchid firms who would send representatives from around the country to the show. They had everyone sign a book that came to that show.

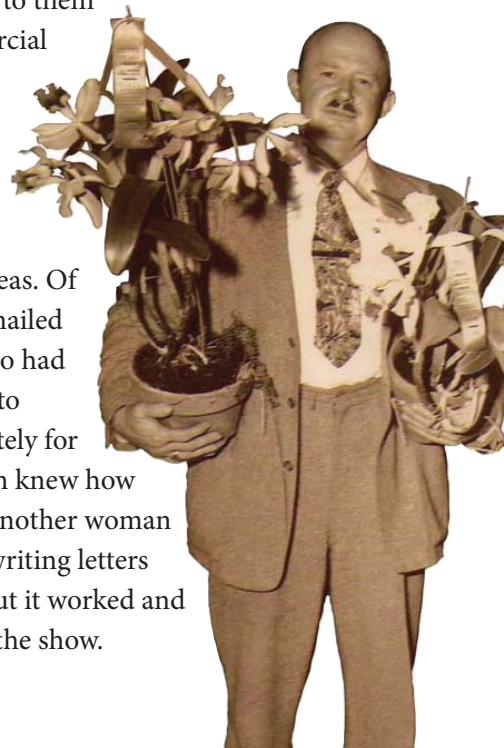
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

Dallas Orchid Society. Percy Larkin was one of the members who left to form the Dallas Orchid Society. This society was never sanctioned by the AOS.

The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

Later, they decided to become affiliated with the American Orchid Society so they wrote a Constitution and Bylaws for the society. On March 19, 1954, they were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society.

They put on a show in the Dallas Garden Center but there weren't enough plants in the area so the bulk of the show was made up of boxes of blooms sent to them for free from commercial growers. They'd get five, six, or seven boxes of flowers from different growers from all over the country – even overseas. Of course, Homer had mailed cards to everyone who had an ad in the Bulletin to achieve this. Fortunately for Homer, Lena Baldwin knew how to type and she and another woman spent half the night writing letters on two typewriters but it worked and they had orchids for the show.



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): _____