

Next Meeting:  
April 6  
Speaker:  
Greg Allikas

## 25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Past 3 Years

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Greg Allikas is known the world over for his brilliant photographs of orchids, flowers and foliage. His extensive knowledge of his

subject and arts background offer a unique interpretation that is both accurate, and stunningly beautiful. He has been a commercial photographer and orchid grower since 1970. He is awards photographer for the AOS Florida-

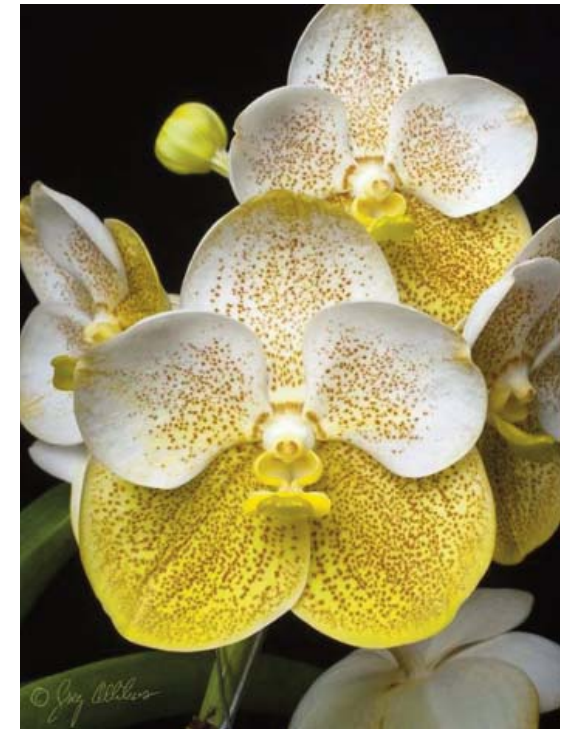
Caribbean Judging Center in Miami and numerous annual orchid shows in the U.S. and abroad. His photos are regularly seen in American Orchid Society publications including the annual calendar and *Orchids* magazine. He has written numerous articles for both *Orchids* magazine and *Orchid Digest*. His orchid articles have been published



in Russia, Germany, Sweden, France and South America. His most recent books are, *Four Seasons of Orchids* (co-authored with

Ned Nash) and a recent collaboration with San Francisco orchidist Bruce Rogers, titled *The Orchid Whisperer*. In 2005, Greg was honored to consult on, and supply photography for a United Nations

postal administration endangered species stamp release featuring 12 endangered orchid species. Recipient of the Silver Medal from the American Orchid Society. Greg is the proprietor of the popular Orchid Photo Page on the Web at [www.orchidworks.com](http://www.orchidworks.com).



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To all who braved the sleet and freezing rain to attend the March meeting, my apologies for the late cancelation. We missed what I am sure would have been a very interesting presentation by Manny Aybar on judging. We just didn't want to put anyone in danger.

The spring days are beginning to lengthen thereby inducing root growth on our winter dormant varieties such as cyclia, catasetums, brassavolas, and cygnoches. These should be repotted, if needed, before roots exceed 2" in order to avoid damage.

David Gould has asked for interest in an

April afternoon greenhouse tour.

Please email David if you would like to attend, or if you would like to open your greenhouse for the tour. If there is not enough

interest, we will try again in the fall.

Our April program on orchid photography will teach you a lot, and give you a chance to view some of the finest orchid photographs of all time. Since our show was postponed until next year, you may want to attend the Houston show in April. We should have a beautiful plant table since plants are all popping blooms.

Gerry

# President's Message



# Happy 60th Anniversary

On March 19, 1954, the Greater North Texas Orchid Society was issued a charter by the AOS.

# Calendar

by Mary Heifner

<b>April 12-13</b>	<i>Houston Orchid Show</i>	
<b>May 4</b>	<i>Courtney Hackney</i>	Classic Cattleya Hybridizing in U.S.
<b>June 1</b>	<i>Arthur Chadwick</i>	First Ladies and their Cattleyas
<b>July 6</b>	<i>Semi-annual Auction</i>	
<b>August 3</b>	<i>Tom Mirenda</i>	Miniature Orchids
<b>September 7</b>	TBD	
<b>October 5</b>	<i>Janet Lambon</i>	Orchid Virus Detection & Prevention
<b>November 2</b>	<i>Mark Reinke</i>	Dendrobiums
<b>December 7</b>	<i>Auction &amp; Christmas Party</i>	

# 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.

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*

# Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



April 2014

The major project of the Orchid Conservation Alliance for 2013 was the push to raise an additional \$20,000 by Dec 31. As a result of meeting this deadline, OCA received matching funds from the World Land Trust. OCA's plan was to purchase, at \$200 per acre, areas of orchid habitat to be added to the Serra Bonita reserve in the Atlantic Rain forest in Brazil.

Our society, as well as SWROGA, along with its other member societies, came through with a total of over \$3,500 for this project. Thanks to all who contributed, OCA was able to announce this month that it achieved its goal!



OCA gave a total of \$72,000 for orchid conservation last year, more than any other organization. We take pride in being a part of OCA's effort.

More good news: We are already off to a strong start for 2014. Long-time GNTOS member Richard Poole donated his orchid collection to a fund-raiser sale to benefit orchid conservation. While we regret that his beautiful classic greenhouse will no longer be on our tour, due to his change of residence, we will continue to enjoy viewing the parts of his collection purchased by members of our club. The very enthusiastic group of about 6 or 7 members who participated in the fundraiser brought in \$538 in donations for the OCA.

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

The next meeting is April, 12 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, MARCH 8, 2014**

Eleven plants entered for consideration, three awards given:

1. Paph. (unregistered) (Hsinying Citron '29' x Pat Rowland 'Iceberg') 'Barbara'  
HCC 76 points, owner: Sam Wylie, Arlington
2. Paph. rothschildianum (species) 'Pylo'  
AM 85 points, owner: Peter Lin, Southlake
3. Lycaste Alan Salzman (Island of Vulcorn x Sholhaven) 'Pylo'  
AM 89 points, owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

Former Center Chair, Tom Mulhollan, is seriously ill with brain cancer. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.



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# 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

Okay, last month we talked about backgrounds and how to keep a background simple and not overcrowded/cluttered with several items. I also mentioned, to make the subject stand out, the subject would need to be the sharpest and/or the brightest object in the photograph. So this month I'm going to show some examples of how to control the viewer's eye with

color. Another technique to control the viewer's eye is by using selective focus, but that is fodder for

another article. When I say, one the brightest things, it could also be the whitest color (overexposure) or the most intense color. Remember, warm colors like red/orange move forward in an image and cool colors like blue/green move back.

Let's take a look at a few examples of this color theory in action. In the first picture, the



yellow in the blue Iris immediately draws the viewer's eye. The yellow moves forward, the blue moves back in the image resulting in drawing the viewer's eye.

In the second image, the orange daisy just pops off the page while the cool green fades to the rear. Keep this in mind while taking photographs and be sure to look in the background for competing colors that can take your viewer's eye off the intended subject.

If you have trouble seeing this phenomenon at work try looking at these images while squinting your eyes causing the image to blur. The warm colors will be quite prominent.

So, how do you, the photographer, control what the viewer sees? As I just mentioned, color or the lack of color can affect the way someone views an image. You can control

the viewer's eye by desaturating the objects you don't want the viewer to focus on. The first image has cactus blooms all over it, but it causes your eye to continually wander all over the image without a place to rest. If you desaturate everything in the photo except the blooms that you want the viewer to focus on, the viewer's eye has no choice but to land on those blooms. This technique is called "selective color."



# Orchid Growing Tips

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.

## Fertilizer

One aspect of advising hobbyists has gotten easier the past year and that relates to fertilizer. When a question relating to fertilizer comes

from someone with just a few plants my recommendation to them is to purchase a small bag of Nutricote from Carter & Holmes or the same product sold by Home Depot under the trade name Dynamite (13-13-13 with minors). This product is timed to last six months, but in orchids, which are watered less frequently, it really lasts for a whole year. An application of Nutricote in late winter or early spring provides an even dose of fertilizer, including the minor elements. Most time-release fertilizers cannot make this claim.

By the time the release rate declines, the growing season is over. Nutrients accumulate in the medium over this time, but do not seem to reach toxic levels if pots are being soaked properly each time you water. In winter, many orchids, such as Cattleyas, prefer to be drier and fertilizer is typically withheld until the plant begins a new growth cycle. Vandas and phalaenopsis grow continuously, although their growth is limited by lower temperature and less light. My experiments with these groups and Nutricote have not gone on long enough to advise on whether to use a second dose after six months. In my greenhouse, phalaenopsis and vandas are watered more frequently and hanging baskets

every sunny day. The Nutricote may be exhausted after six months with frequent watering.

Nutricote does not stay in baskets or in pots with very course media. It seemed that small pieces of fiberglass screen in baskets would keep the small gray pellets from washing out, but it did not. Embedding the fertilizer pellets in small clumps of osmunda fiber worked well and vanda roots quickly found their way into the mass of fiber and fertilizer. Despite direct contact with the Nutricote pellets there was no burn or damage to the roots. My latest trick was to place a teaspoon of the pellets in "Polyester Fibers". (Fiberfill is the brand name I use.) Tie the stuff around the vanda stem immediately under the lower leaves. This allows the fertilizer to leach out during each morning's watering and flow down the stem and onto roots. The experiment was done on a nearly dead vanda and the results were amazing. It is growing better than ever.

The only problem with the Polyester fiber is that it is white and ugly. Fortunately, within a month algae begin to grow all through the material. It is still ugly, but at least it is green.

How much Nutricote should you use on orchids? So far, I have not found a dosage that causes problems to roots. In fact, one plant purchased from a nursery that used the product contained at least one cup in a 6" pot. It was obviously spilled as most plants from the

Continued

## Orchid Growing Tips

Continued

same nursery had a teaspoon or so. As soon as I realized how much was in the pot the plant was removed and the expectation was that all the roots were dead. They were not. In fact, the roots imbedded in and below the product were large and white. The plant was a Cattleya species with 7 pseudobulbs and was in the process of producing 6 new leads.

As with all new products, begin with low doses. In my first year, I used  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of Nutricote in each 5" or 6" inch pot. Last spring, I increased the dose to  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon and

noticed only positive effects on plants. After the end of the spring growing season both Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums will have completed a whole year using Nutricote and the results reported in this column. If these genera bloom as well as they are growing, my expectation is that it will be recommended as well.

*Authors' Note:* No compensation or free products have been offered or supplied by the makers of Nutricote or Dynamite (shucks) for the endorsement of their product.

## Snoopers Table

Suzanne and Bill Williamson, former members of GNTOS, have kindly donated 34 orchid plants to GNTOS and the Dallas Judging Center. (There're two wins!) This group consists of Ascentrums, Bulbophylliums, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Phaius, and Phalaenopsis, The blooming plants will either go on GNTOS' Snoopers Table for our April 6 meeting (priced at 50% of the retail price) or be in

### *It's a Win-Win-Win-Win!*

the GNTOS raffle that day. The other plants will go to the Dallas Judging Center's monthly raffle on April 12. Now Bill has more room in his greenhouse for the four, harlequin Phalaenopsis flasks he recently acquired (another win) and the people who purchase or win the plants have beautifully grown plant(s) to enjoy in their collection (the fourth win!).

the GNTOS raffle that day. The other plants will go to the Dallas Judging Center's monthly





## The Easter Orchid *Cattleya Mossiae*

*Cattleya mossiae* is sometimes called the Easter Orchid, as it blooms during the spring, often around Easter time. It is native to Venezuela, and is that country's national flower. *C. mossiae* has large, showy flowers with four or five flowers per spike. It has a distinctive shape, with broad petals that tend to fall forward, helping to distinguish it from other cattleyas.

*Cattleya mossiae* was the second unifoliate *Cattleya* species discovered after *Cattleya labiata*, and it caused quite a sensation when it was introduced into Europe in 1836. Unlike *C. labiata*, *C. mossiae* plants were plentiful and could be easily purchased. By 1900 there were already more than 150 recorded named clones, and by 1913 the Royal Horticultural Society had awarded over 100, including 16 First Class Certificates.

Today, many of our spring hybrid catts have *C. mossiae* in their background. One famous *C. mossiae* hybrid is the semi alba form of *Laeliocattleya Canhamiana*, which so dominated the June cut-flower market at one time that it was known as the bridal orchid.

*C. mossiae* is considered by some to be the easiest *Cattleya* species to grow and flower, and is often recommended as a beginner's orchid. Because it flowers in the spring, *C. mossiae* does not begin growing until midsummer and often does not complete its growth until October, when it sends out a spate of new roots. It can be repotted then if needed, and still produce a strong flower spike in the spring.

*Cattleya mossiae* should be given lots of water while actively growing in the summer and early autumn, and then watered sparingly during the cold winter months when it is dormant. As with most catts, water thoroughly and then allow it to dry out thoroughly before watering it again. Fertilize only when in active growth, and do not use slow-release fertilizers, which may release nitrogen when the plant is dormant and cause injury to the plant.

Orchid  
of the  
Month



by Kathi McKenzie



*C. mossiae*



*C. mossiae semialba*

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.

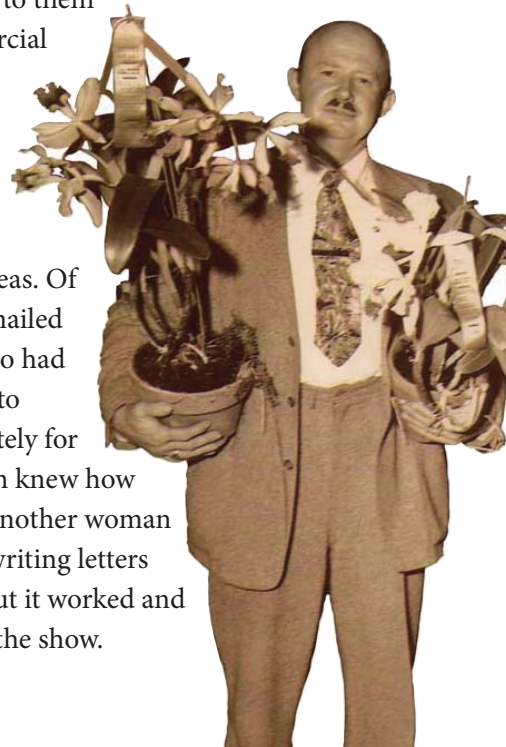
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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