

Next Meeting:
May 4
Speaker: Dallas
Courtney T.
Hackney

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Classic Cattleya Hybridizing in the U.S.

Professor Hackney is the Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. He began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery and has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He grows many different genera, but his favorite is the Cattleya Alliance. He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings, but his favorites are classic clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100 years ago. He makes 8-10 hybrids and species sib crosses per year in various genera.

He wrote a Growing Tips column for 20 years, which ended in December 2013 that appeared in newsletters around the country and has published in Orchid Digest. In 2004, he published "American Cattleyas", the culmination of a decade of study and interviews, which summarizes in old photographs and print how all of the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also describes what we know



about cattleyas and cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville, Florida adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose paints

and he enjoys the Epi conopseum growing in the trees in his backyard, while he conducts his research in the swamp. His orchids are now enjoying residence in a new 24' x 25' Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp.

Officers

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Manuel Aybar

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Lorna Kissling

By our May meeting, the temperature will be much warmer and plants will be bursting with growth. Be sure to watch the change in sunlight and to add shading to your greenhouse where needed. When moving plants outside, remember that they have been shaded inside all winter, and need gradual adjustment to the stronger outdoor light to avoid burning. Fertilizing should be stepped up slightly. If dividing plants, bring strong back bulbs for our raffle or for the plant sale table.

President's Message

Our last meeting had numerous guests along with some new joining members. Please keep inviting friends that want to learn more about the rewards of growing orchids. Thank you to Bill Williamson, a former member, who donated so many beautiful plants for our raffle.

For those who missed the greenhouse tour, we had our usual inclement weather with occasional downpours. I enjoyed sharing my blooms and my greenhouse dos and don'ts with those that visited. Thanks to David Gould for organizing.

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>	

Calendar

by Mary Heifner

Orchids 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

*This month
we will have a Q&A
So bring your problems
and leave with solutions.*

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.

April 6, 2014 GNTOS Meeting Minutes

At 2:30 pm, Lorna Kissling conducted a session on "Taking Your Orchids Outside" at Orchids 101.

At 3 pm, Gerry Darver began the meeting and welcomed all attendees. About 25 members were present. Denise Griggs led the introductions of 7 visitors.

Minutes

Rhonda Whitson

Gerry noted the March meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather.

Messages went out regarding the cancellation, but Gerry apologized to those that did not get the message before they ventured out.

Gerry reminded attendees about the Houston Orchid Society show the second weekend in April. He also noted that he had been contacted by an individual that had offered donation of orchid plants of a deceased family member. Gerry and David Gould will follow up on the offer.

David Gould announced that the GNTOS spring greenhouse tour is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 13, at the homes of Mike Beber, Don Brigham, Gerry Darver, and Charles Hess. David will send out a reminder message this coming week with addresses on the tour.

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker, Greg Allikas, who presented "25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Past 3 Years," (plus a few more orchids over a slightly longer time period – it was hard to choose just 25 noted Greg). Greg is from Florida and has been a commercial photographer and orchid grower for a long time. He captures photos of orchids at the AOS Florida-Caribbean Judging Center in Miami and at many national and international orchid shows. Often his photos are included in American Orchid Society publications. He is also an accomplished author on orchids with works in various magazines and books. Everyone seemed to enjoy the beautiful photo presentation.

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

Nancy Cropp announced the results of the orchid table judging. David Gould conducted the plant raffle and name tag drawing. Gerry Darver adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS April 6, 2014,
Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: *Jeanne Thompson & David Hines*

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – Slc. Jewel Box – Gerry Darver
Red – (Pot. Hwa Yuen Gold x
John Passander) – Mike Beber
White – “No name but smells good”
– Tham Johnson

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Brassia Rex – Gerry Darver
Red – Den. nobile “unknown”
– Gerry Darver
White – Cym. Bicolor – Mike Beber

ONCIDIUMS

Blue – Colmanara Marfitch
– Sarah Hardesty
Red – Onc. Mendenhall – Gerry Darver

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. “unknown” – Gerry Darver
Red – Paph. Via Rio Vista Diane
– Barb McNamee

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue – Dtps. Chian Xen Piano
– Sarah Hardesty
Red – Unimax Moonlight – Kathi McKenzie
White – Dtps. (can’t read) Sweetee 'Red Sun'
– Sarah Hardesty

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Encyclia cordigera – Don Brigham
Phal. stuartiana – Gerry Darver
Phal. amabilis 'Variegated' – Sarah Hardesty

PEOPLES CHOICE

(Pot. Hwa Yuen Gold x John Passander)
– Mike Beber

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 meets on the second Saturday of every month.

The next meeting is May, 10 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 APRIL 12, 2014

14 plants entered for consideration, two awards given:

Left:

Phal. Tying Shin Fly Eagle 'Long'
(tetraspis x Dragon Tree Eagle)
AM 81 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

Two new student applicants to the judging program have been accepted by the Center and will be submitted to AOS for approval: Barbara McNamee (GNTOS) and Sam Wylie (Fort Worth Orchid Society).

Below:

Phal. (not registered)
'Pylo' (Timothy Christopher
x maculata)
HCC 76 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake



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.



March & April
Guarianthe skinneri
Cattleya mossiae

MAY

CATTELEYA WARNERI

Cattleya warneri, from Brazil, blooms in May. It is a large flowered species that grows on a unifoliate plant. The leaves are among the widest in the Cattleya genus. There are lavender, semi-alba, and alba forms, and some especially nice "blue" lipped forms such as C. warneri 'Miranda' FCC/AOS. Hybrids from C. warneri can bloom any time of the year.



June

Cattleya purpurata
Cattleya intermedia





Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by
M. Forest Shipp

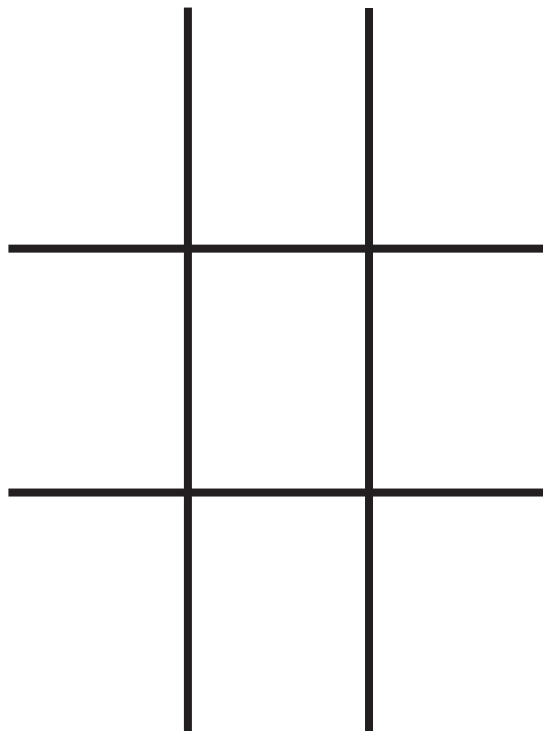
If you are new to photography there is no rule that is more important than the “Rule of Thirds.” WHAT! They’re rules I have to follow? No, no, no you say, I just want to be creative. I don’t want to have to follow any RULES! Okay, let me start over. Some people prefer to say these are suggestions, not rules. Because every rule begs to be broken. Right? Once you learn the Rule of Thirds, then you can learn how to break it. So what is the Rule of Thirds?

The Rule of Thirds is a compositional guide that the photographer places over the scene, in his mind's eye, to properly compose the photograph so it is pleasing to the viewer. It is a virtual grid that looks like a tic tac toe game, using four equally spaced lines, two horizontal and two vertical, to divide the picture into nine pieces. Where each of these lines intersect and/or along any of these lines is where your major subjects should be placed to give you the best results.

Most beginning photographers tend to just place the subject right in the center of the frame and click away. A well known photographer and author, Rick Sammon, says, “Dead center is deadly.” In other words, it will kill your photograph. Well this is great for snapshots, which we all do, but to raise the level of your photographic skills try using the

Rule of Thirds and see how much better your photographs look. Then when you understand this rule try breaking it by centering your subject. Some suggestions would be symmetrical objects or reflections. However, centering your subject would be breaking the rules. Right? Bonus tip: Some cameras allow you to turn on a grid that you can see through the viewfinder to help you compose the photograph.

Here is a sample picture of what the Rule of Thirds grid looks like.



Now take a look at a couple of images that have the Rule of Thirds

applied to them. In the picture of the Tillandsia above, the subject is the flowers, so you would put the two sharpest flowers in the upper left where two lines intersect. Also, since the flowers are straight and leaning to the right this makes it a natural candidate for the Rule of Thirds with the negative space on the right. Bonus tip: Remember we read left to right, so it leads the viewer's eye more naturally when we look left to right.

In the case of the Bearded Iris photograph the subject is the “Beard,” so I composed the photograph with the Beard in the lower third.

I hope this helps with your compositional skills. Now get out there and make some pictures and don't forget to bring some photographs to the meeting for sharing.



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Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



SWROGA kicked off its new calendar year by holding the first of two yearly meetings in Benton, Arkansas. This meeting provided an opportunity for the Conservation committee to meet and discuss goals for this current year. Linda Horton, the previous conservation chairperson, along with Emily Quinn, provided a smooth transition as we outlined a strategy to best serve the conservation interests of the different societies for the coming year. Later at the General Meeting we presented and discussed the following recommended actions:

- promote education and awareness of conservation efforts, both local and global
- identify a conservation representative from each society to identify and conduct fundraising activities for their society
- identify projects worthy of support from each SWROGA state for local or native species conservation; this item was suggested by Lena Parker during the general meeting

Currently SWROGA does not collect funds for conservation from its member societies. This past year SWROGA made a special one-time only donation from the general fund to support the Serra Bonita matching fund project. This special vote contribution helped the Orchid Conservation Alliance meet its \$20,000 year-end fundraising goal. The Conservation Committee recommends that we actively promote future conservation and

funding from each of our societies.

It is up to each of us to support the native environments orchids inhabit, for they are the ultimate source of enjoyment we all experience growing and sharing the beauty of orchids. As the world's population continues to encroach on local orchid habitats, and deforestation continues to obliterate our rainforests, there is not a moment to spare in conserving that which, once lost, can never be replaced.

QUIZ: Rainforests cover what percentage of the Earth's total surface? (From Nature Conservancy)

- a) Less than one percent
- b) 2 percent
- c) 10 percent
- d) 45 percent

Email your answer to Charles_M_Hess@ymail.com. The SWROGA member society sending in the most correct answers will receive a conservation fundraising raffle item.

Just in from the OCA trip to Brazil! Photos from Australian photographer Gary Yong Gee of a beautiful Cattleya elongate specimen. Your funding is helping protect this and many more



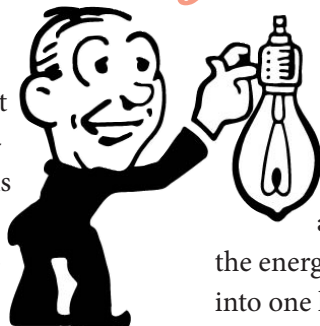
Orchid Growing Tips

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.

Light



In nature, orchids grow in light levels from direct tropical sunlight to the dimmest light levels found on dense forest floors. Hobbyists read about these orchids and expect that they can also grow their orchids in similar situations. There are several reasons why this approach does not work.

Hobbyists need to remember that most of the hybrids they find for sale likely arose from less than 50 of the 30,000 species found in nature. In most hybrids, less than ½ dozen species are in the background. These parent species are almost all tropical epiphytes, with the exception of the Paphs. Epiphytes or tree-dwelling orchids grow in relatively high light in the highest branches of trees. While species in nature can be found in a variety of light conditions, they usually flower best in bright filtered light levels and not in full strength sunlight. The best orchid growers duplicate these light levels.

Light is the fuel that orchids use to grow and flower. If there is too little light an orchid will use all of its energy to grow and will not flower. There are some exceptions to the rule, most notably, the tendency for orchids to pro-

duce large numbers of flowers just before dying. In cases such as this, something is killing the orchid and as a consequence, the orchid puts all the energy it would normally use for growth into one last reproductive effort.

Orchids flower best when they are exposed to ideal conditions and when the plant is mature. An orchid reaches maturity when there is enough energy stored in leaves, bulbs, and roots to initiate the development of tissues that produce flowers. Typically, this is a seasonal event, triggered by plant hormones, but always dependent on energy stores.

Larger orchid plants always produce more and larger flowers than smaller plants if all other factors are the same.

Why won't my orchid bloom?

This is a frequently asked question. If the orchid has leaves and a good root system the answer is almost always “light”. Dark leaves or elongated growth and/or leaves usually confirm

low light as the cause. Unfortunately, the usual response by hobbyists is to increase fertilizer levels. While orchids and other plants do have some ability to adjust the density of chloroplasts that capture light or to produce

If there is too little light an orchid will use all of its energy to grow and will not flower.

Continued

Continued

thin leaves so more light gets through, there is a lower limit below which orchids will grow, but not flower. While this may be fine for Jewel orchids, grown for leaves and not flowers, it is not satisfactory for most orchids.

How does the orchid hobbyist determine the amount of light that their orchids are receiving? This is not easy without complex instruments, but there are some simple ways to evaluate light levels by simply noting how many hours a day direct light hits a plant. Indoor growers expect light limitation, but the light may be just as limited in some areas of a greenhouse.

Some of the best grown orchids showing up at judging tables these days were grown indoors under full spectrum lights. The development of high intensity sodium or halogen light fixtures made this possible. With these lights, it is possible for plants to receive 100% of the maximum light they can use for 12 hours each day. In a greenhouse, that level would only be reached for a brief period each day; often less

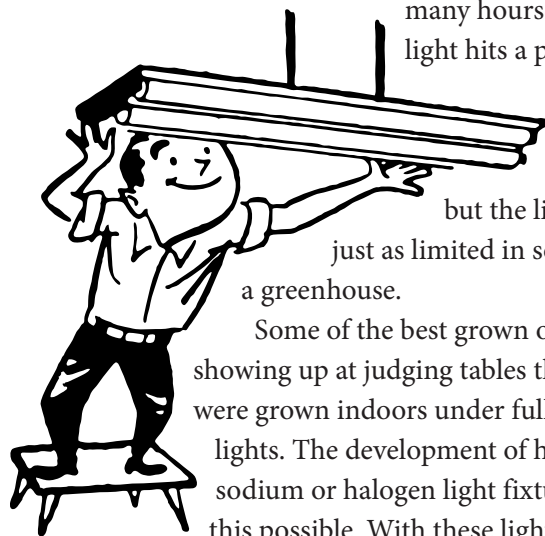
If you want orchids to flower like they do in the orchid magazines they must have light.

than half the light delivered by a full-spectrum system. There would be even less light if houses, trees, or overhanging plants blocked light for some portion of the day. Remember, also, that the angle of the sun changes during the season, but not with full-spectrum lights.

Some greenhouse growers supplement light with high intensity light systems turning them on in early morning or late evenings. In winter, there is the extra benefit from the waste heat from the lights.

Windowsill growers often do the same with florescent lights providing afternoon light in an east facing window. Orchids that get some natural sunlight and florescent light as a supplement will flower fine, while florescent light alone will not usually produce as many flowers.

All light bulbs, including the full spectrum lights, lose their ability to produce the full range of light listed on their packages after a certain length of time. Gro light florescent bulbs produce their specified wavelengths for just a short time, while some of the Halogen lights are supposed to last six months before they lose their vitality. Recall that only the red and blue wavelengths of light activate plant chloroplasts and lead to plant growth. If you want orchids to flower like they do in the orchid magazines they must have light.



SOCIETY HISTORY

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.

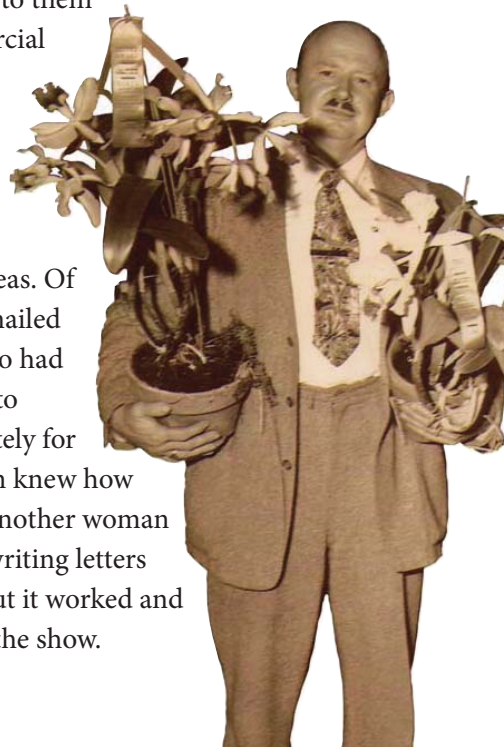
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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): _____