

Next Meeting:
September 7
Meeting:
Chaz Smith

Rupicolous Orchids

- 1 Program Speaker
- 2 President's Message
- 2 Calendar
- 3 Orchids 101
- 3 Meeting Minutes
- 4 Plant Table Results
- 5 Judging Center Results
- 6 Cattleyas All Year
- 7 Focus on Photography
- 9 Conservation
- 10 Growing Tips
- 12 Membership Info



A native of Carlisle, PA, I've been interested in plants for as long as I can remember. From growing houseplants with divisions from my grandmother, to clearing a weedy outcropping in the yard to make a rock garden, I've always enjoyed planting things and watching them grow.

I remember seeing my first orchid in a nursery, and marveling about how such an odd looking plant could grow without any dirt. It wasn't until about 20 years later

that I purchased my first little orchid from Lowes, and proceeded to bring it to the brink of death. I was so intrigued with the odd little *Dendrobium's* looks, that I forgot to learn of its cultural requirements. But that started the 'bug,' and it wasn't long before orchids of many shapes and sizes began residing on a small windowsill.

With each new orchid came more knowledge, and more adaptations and expansions to my growing area. Soon, I wanted to grow every species, and was setting up grow rooms, and terrariums to cater to their specific requirements. I've grown on everything from a windowsill to terrariums to a small greenhouse; under florescent, HID, or natural light.

My collection has included most of the common, and some of the not-so-common genera. I've made pollinations, and grown plants from flask, seeing the whole life-cycle. Having grown orchids for a bit over 17 years now, I've been specializing in the rupicolous *Laelias* for the last few years as they seem to do well in my natural conditions, and are just plain 'neat.'

I grow my *Laelias* in a basement sunroom in the winter, and under shade cloth in the summer.

Officers

PRESIDENT

Gerry Darver

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Heifner

SECRETARY

Rhonda Whitson

TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

SWROGA

DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS

WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Lorna Kissling

President's Message

This year seems to be flying by. This summer has been really cool for Dallas, but now we are getting high 90 and low 100 degree days. For those of you with wet walls, your orchids are loving you. For the rest of us, we just need

to do our best to mist and keep the plants cool and growing. The pests love the heat, so keep a close watch and eradicate them before they get established.

Please email David Gould if you are interested in a fall greenhouse tour and are interested in opening your greenhouse or growing area to visitors.

Bring guests to the next meeting and remember that we will have a great speaker and great raffle plants.

Have a terrific Labor Day.
Gerry

Calendar

by Mary Heifner

September 7 Chaz Smith Rupilculous Laelias

October 5 Janet Lambon Orchid Virus Detection & Prevention

November 2 Mark Reinke Dendrobiums

December 7 Auction & Christmas Party

January 2015 Dotty Woodson

March 2015 Jason Fischer Phrags/Paphs

April 2015 Tom Harper Specialty Phals

August 2015 Alan Koch Mini Catts

This calendar is accurate at the time the newsletter is published. However changes often happen. If you wish to hear a specific presentation please verify that the speaker is still scheduled.

Orchids 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

This month we will talk about "Getting Blooms".

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.

August 3, 2014

At 2:30 PM Lorna Kissling led a discussion about getting rid of critters and preparing to bring plants in after summer for Orchids 101.

President Gerry Darver called the meeting to order at 3 PM. About 30 were present. Gerry asked several visitors to introduce themselves.

David Gould announced that volunteers are needed if we want to conduct a Fall greenhouse/growing area tour.

Gerry mentioned that the plant raffles are falling short in supporting speakers' expenses, and we need to consider raising dues. He also suggested donating plants to the Snoopers' sales table, rather than just letting the Society keep the usual 10 %. Manny Aybar explained that speakers' expenses are shared with the other Texas societies participating in the Texas circuit. Linda Horton added that the up-coming Spring Show will require seed money.

Vice-President Mary Heifner introduced speaker Tom Mirenda, Orchid Specialist at the Smithsonian, who presented the program "Abbondanza: Orchids of Sicily". His father's side of the family is Sicilian, and the ideal time to visit is in April. He also mentioned the newly formed North American Orchid Conservation Committee.

Following the refreshment break, Gerry conducted the raffle and name tag drawing. Nancy Cropp then announced the results of the orchid table judging done by David Gould and Shane Stewart. Gerry adjourned the meeting prior to 5 PM.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Cropp, substituting for the absent Secretary Rhonda Whitson.

Minutes

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

Aug. 3, 2014

Judges: David Gould & Shane Stewart

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – Encyclia alata - Manny Aybar

Red – Catt. Butterfly Kisses 'Mendenhall'

AM/AOS – Kathi McKenzie

White – Blc. Mystic Island 'Shamrock'

– Kathi McKenzie

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Catasetum Orchidglade 'York' -

Charles Hess

Red – Gramatica cymbidium - Gerry Darver

White – Catasetum unknown

– Tham Johnson

ONCIDIUMS

Blue – Onc. Maureen x Onc. Haeima-

todilum – Gerry Darver

Red – Onc. Golden Gamine – Jim Williams

White – no name - Don Brigham

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. Mount Avalon

– Kathi McKenzie

Red – Paph. Armeni-white – Manny Aybar

VANDAS & PHALS

Bue – Neofinetia falcata v. amami

– M. Forest Shipps

Red – Phal. violacea – Charles Hess

White – unknown – Andrew Sherman

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Den. bracteosum – Manny Aybar

PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Mystic Island 'Shamrock'

– Kathi McKenzie

Catasetum Orchidglade 'York' – Charles Hess

Please submit articles,
information, or sugges-
tions for publication in
our newsletter. No really.

I'm serious. Help me out
here. I'll take photos,
stories

whatever. *Newsletter*

I will give

\$1 to the first person who

asks for it at the meeting.

Send submissions to me at:

david@gouldcreative.com

Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER, AUGUST 9, 2014

Five plants submitted for consideration, no awards given.

Previously submitted plants for Judging:

Paph. Krulls Pride, owner: Mier Moses

Phal 'Joy' Golden Amboin x lindenii, owner: Peter Lin

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

The next meeting is September, 13 at the: Garland Senior Activity Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am

Everyone is welcome.



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.

Cattleyas Around the Year

Gene Crocker

August

Cattleya tenebrosa
Cattleya dowiana aurea

SEPTEMBER

CATTELEYA LABIATA
GUARIANTHE BOWRINGIANA

October

Cattleya Labiata
Guarianthe bowringiana



Cattleya labiata var. *venosa estriata*



Cattleya labiata var. *alba*

Cattleya labiata is another Brazilian species and the founding species for the *Cattleya* genus. In 1818 a Professor Swainson was collecting mosses and lichens in Brazil, and gathered some fleshy leaved plants (not in flower) to wrap around and protect his bundles. In England these outer plants were being discarded, but were saved by an amateur horticulturist, William Cattley. When they flowered the next spring they created a sensation, and the genus was named for Mr. Cattley.

C. labiata can be an excellent choice for home growing, for it makes its growth during the summer (outside) and blooms in the fall – then resting during the winter. There are many different color forms, including rich lavender, semi-alba, alba, and some nice “blue” lipped ones.

Guarianthe (formerly *Cattleya*) *bowringiana* is a vigorous bifoliate grower from Central America that has always been a good species for beginners. The bifoliate growths mature during the summer, and large clusters of lavender flowers are produced atop them in the fall. There are also white and “blue” forms, and there are some nice blue *C. Portias* made from *Guarianthe bowringiana* and *C. labiata*.



Guarianthe bowringiana



C. Portias



Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by
M. Forest Shipps

Well, we have covered a lot of information on cameras over the past few months on different types of cameras like DSLR's, point and shoot and cellphone cameras for making your flower photographs. It occurred to me that some of you may not have any cameras at all. So, now what? How do you take a picture without a camera? Quite the dilemma if I do say so myself!

Believe it or not you can take stunning photographs without a camera and I'm going to show you how. You can use a device that may be sitting on your desk right now. What am I referring to? The lowly desktop scanner, it has probably been sitting on your desk for some time now and you never knew that you could take pictures with it. This doesn't have to be a dedicated scanner, it can be a printer/scanner combo, either type will work fine. Let's get started. The first thing you will need to do is measure the glass surface of the scanner. After you have the measurements head out to the garage to build your new camera body.

You will need a 20" x 30" sheet of foam core board or some scrap heavy duty card-

board will do as well. Mark your measurements, length x width, and you will want your height to be about 8" on all pieces. Then stand up one long piece and one short on the edge and tape together the two pieces on the outside corner. Now add the other two pieces one at a time and tape them too. You should now have a rectangle box without a top or bottom. Next, use some Elmer's glue and glue the four inside corners and let dry overnight. The next morning your box should be fairly ridged. Now take that leftover flat black paint from last month's DIY project I wrote about in the August newsletter and paint the inside of your box. The outside need not be painted and should still have the tape on it to help keep the box rigid.

Now, from the two short ends measure up about three inches in the center of each end and punch two small holes about an inch apart. Then take some lightweight fishing line (about 6-12 lb test line will do) and string the fishing line through the two holes on each end and tie it off. Don't worry, this isn't rocket science and none of this project has to be exact.





Next, lift the lid on your scanner and place your box on the scanner's glass surface. Be sure to place the side with the fishing line closest to the glass surface. Note: always be very careful not to scratch your glass surface and be sure that your scanner surface is CLEAN. No dust or finger prints as they will show up in your picture. Place your flower face down on the glass surface and use the fishing line to steady the flower in place. Once in position cover the top of the box with a black cloth or black matte paper (cover is not shown in photograph).

Now turn on your scanner and launch whatever software you use for scanning. Be sure you set the settings for a color JPEG and at the highest resolution possible. Now scan your flower. After the scan is complete check it for composition and rescan if needed. Afterwards, open the image and enhance in your image editing software of choice. This project should only cost about \$6.00 and you can take as many images as you want.



Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



North American Orchid Conservation Center

We were so honored to have Thomas Miranda speak to us at our August GNTOS meeting. It was thrilling to experience orchids of Sicily with our own guided tour by an expert. If you recall from his bio in our August GNTOS.org newsletter, Miranda is the Orchid Collection Specialist for the Smithsonian Institution. Because he had a lot to tell us, and only a limited time in which to do it, he was able to only briefly touch on the Smithsonian's major effort toward developing the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC). This important topic certainly deserves more attention. I have therefore chosen to expand on this project in this issue of the GNTOS newsletter.

The NAOCC is a major international project jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and the United States Botanic Garden. Its aim is to coordinate the efforts of public and private organizations across the continent in ensuring the survival of native orchids throughout North America. There are over 200 species in the U.S. and Canada. This is the first centralized effort to address the unique problems in restoring orchid populations through re-

search, education and coordination with a number of key organizations in each of the various growing zones in North America. Fourteen partnerships are involved in this project, with three facilities in Texas. They are The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, and the Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

One major goal is to develop a national seed bank to cover the diversity of all orchid species in the U.S and Canada. Along with that NAOCC will research and collect the mycorrhizal fungi required to conserve, cultivate and restore native orchids. Because most North American orchids are terrestrial their interaction with the soil fungi is critical to their survival. Many will not survive Ex Situ in a national garden or a home collection without the presence of these complex symbiotic relationships.

Currently under development is the *Go Orchids* interactive website modelled after the popular *Go Botany* website (developed by the New England Wildflower Society and funded by the National Science Foundation). *Go Orchids* will initially focus on orchids in New England and the mid-Atlantic area. Orchids



Dendrophylax lindenii
Ghost orchid (Florida)

of the southeast and Alaska will be added later this year and all remaining orchids in the next two years. Finally, when Hawaii is included, we might be surprised to learn that Hawaii has only three endemic species despite its climate being so favorable toward orchids and it having a major orchid industry.

The *Go Orchids* tool is up and running now, with 96

species documented. I looked up "Texas" and found 35 species cataloged by scientific name and common name with pictures. Clicking on the pictures took me to a description of the orchid, and clicking of the species button showed the conservation status (secure, rare, etc) and state distributions. Texas has one endemic species, namely the *Spiranthes parksii* initially discovered in Brazos County.

I found the "pop up" word definitions in the orchid description a very useful *Go Orchids* feature. Click on "raceme" and you will get a picture along with the definition just above the word. (I always seem to need a refresher on that word.) Much work has been put into this database to make it efficient and educational. So try out *Go Orchids* for yourself. It has a "Donate" button also so take the opportunity to help them out and show our support for this valuable program. For anyone donating \$200, I will send you a print of your choice from OrchidArtbyCharlesHess.com.



Spiranthes parksii
initially discovered in
Brazos County

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.

Orchids for Beginners-Your First Orchid

So you have your first orchid! Perhaps it was a gift from a special friend or an impulse buy, but now you need to know how to make it grow. In any given month I get several emails from people that have just one orchid or who know almost nothing about orchids except that they were given or purchased a plant labeled “Exotic Orchid”. Most of us were once in the same predicament but have forgotten how difficult it was in the beginning. While each inquiry is different, there is a familiar theme.

Most of the questions I get come via email or phone. Non-botanists typically provide fascinating descriptions of the plants they have, e.g. “a green stick with round leaves at the bottom” or “green tubes with white stuff around the pot”. It is often a challenge just to figure out whether the plant is alive or just a flower stem with a few flowers. Many phals that are taken into homes lose their leaves, but maintain a few flowers on the inflorescence. Sadly, most of the plants are too far gone to save, but it is still not too late to hook a potential new hobbyist on this fascinating group of plants. Many of these inquiries come from experienced plant people who are ready to learn more about orchids.

The first question that

must be answered is what kind of orchid do you have? It is important to answer this question because different kinds of orchids require different kinds of care. Does the orchid in question have bulbs (technically pseudobulbs) that emerge from the pot? If the answer is yes, then the orchid is most likely a member of the oncidium group or a dendrobium. How many flowers were on the plant? The answer should be many. Cattleyas, which usually have just a few large flowers, are rarely given as gifts unless you live in Florida or Hawaii.

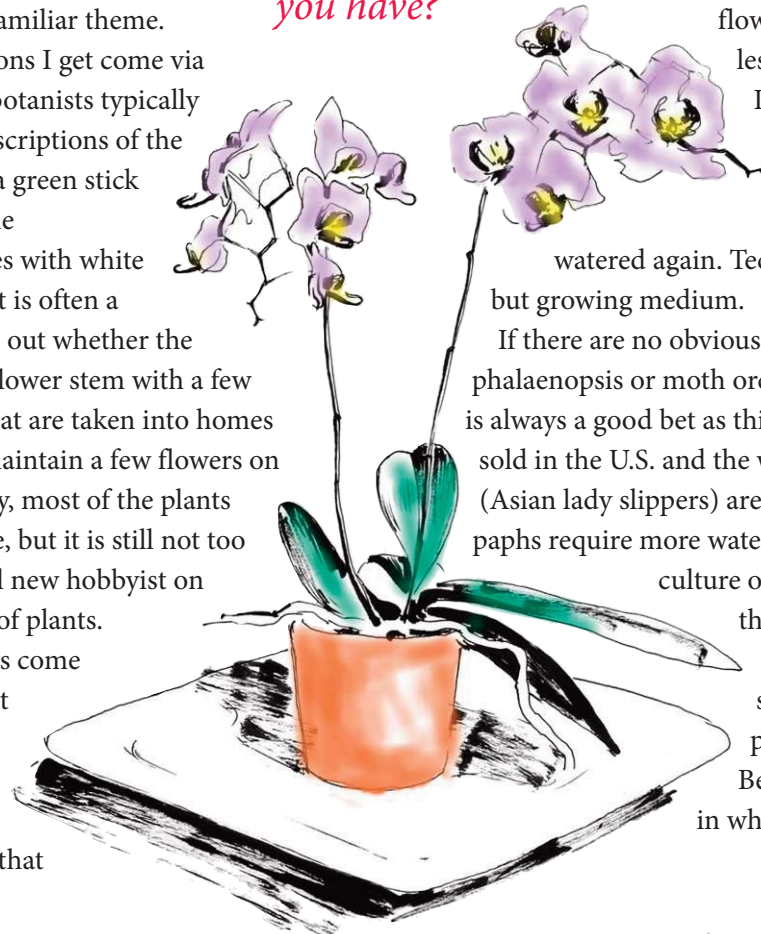
In all cases where there are pseudobulbs, culture requires that the stuff in the pot dry out thoroughly before it is watered again. Technically this is not called soil, but growing medium.

If there are no obvious bulbs on the plant it is likely a phalaenopsis or moth orchid. Guessing a phalaenopsis is always a good bet as this is the most popular orchid sold in the U.S. and the world. Occasionally, paphs (Asian lady slippers) are also available. Both phals and paphs require more water than orchids with bulbs so culture of this kind of orchid requires that the plant be allowed to dry, but not to the point where the surface of the medium in the pot is “crisp”.

Be sure that you look at the pot in which the plant is growing. In

Continued

The first question that must be answered is what kind of orchid do you have?





many cases, the pot that contains the orchid was for display in the store and not one in which the orchid will grow. In some cases the display pot will not contain any drainage holes at all, which are mandatory for all kinds of orchids. If an orchid has been in a pot without drainage for any length of time, it may be root-less and doomed.

The second question asked is how one grows this exotic orchid plant. That is an extremely complex question, as experienced hobbyists know. An experienced grower would examine the medium and the condition of the plant and decide if repotting is necessary or if the plant could be saved at all. Generally, novice growers can not successfully repot an orchid and even if someone does it for them, they will be unable to provide conditions that will allow the orchid to re-establish.

The best cultural tip for the newly purchased first orchid is to understand that orchids do not have to be continuously drenched. Like people, they like a good soaking from time to time and then lots of air movement and light. Humidity around 60% is ideal. Most pot plants arrive in relatively dense media, such as sphagnum or a peat-based material. Typically, these are grown under very controlled conditions before sale and plants are forced to grow rapidly with the addition of lots of fertilizer. This means that little additional fertilizer will be needed for a while and that the orchid can handle what might seem to be extreme drying. Orchids, rarely die from lack of water if grown in this type of medium. Avoid the beginner's

mistake of buying orchid fertilizer. It will not help your plant!

The secret to watering any orchid is to water thoroughly with good quality water. Never use water that has been through a water softener. Soak the orchid plant thoroughly and then water again thoroughly again after 20 minutes or set the whole plant and pot in a bucket of water for 20-30 minutes. This soaks even the driest medium and removes excess fertilizer salts.

Put your new orchid in a bright window, southern or east facing is best and hope for the best. If you are able to avoid over watering, new roots and leaves will soon be forthcoming. If, as is often the case, the orchid dies and you still want to grow an orchid, go to one of big chain home improvement stores. They often have orchids for sale off to the side that have finished blooming and are available for just a few dollars. Pick the orchid up by

the leaves. If it pulls out of the pot it is already doomed. Find an orchid that is green and not wilted. These are excellent learner orchids and with a little luck will ultimately grow and bloom for you. You may have to repeat this last step several times before you learn to grow orchids. Good orchid growers learned from trial and error and killed more than a few orchids before they became "semi-pros".

The best cultural tip for the newly purchased first orchid is to understand that orchids do not have to be continuously drenched.

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.

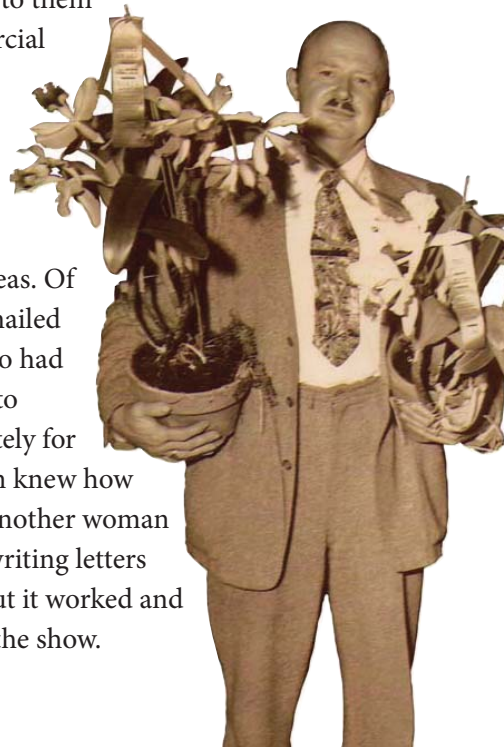
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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): _____