

Orchid Conservation

Next Meeting:
October 5
Meeting:
Charles Hess

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This month our own GNTOS member and artist Charlie Hess will give a presentation on Orchid Conservation.

His interest in orchids began in the 1980's when he discovered orchid species at the markets in the Philippines during his 5 year assignment in Baguio with Texas Instruments. His interest in conservation was rejuvenated when Peter Tobias visited the GNTOS society and talked about the Orchid Conservation Alliance. It was then that Charlie decided to donate a portion of the sales of his

water color paintings and prints of orchids to OCA.

After assuming the role of Conservation Chair of SWROGA this last April, he has taken a more active role in orchid conservation by adding conservation education to his fundraising efforts. Most of you are familiar with his monthly update in the GNTOS newsletter.

Charlie will begin with an overview of some major conservation organizations that you know about already, and some you may not. There is a diverse international network in place, whose mission is to save the remaining species of all kinds of wildlife. Orchids preservation will benefit from the work of these organizations and their goals.

Native American orchids specifically are being preserved by the efforts of the Smithsonian Institution in support of the conservation efforts listed above. You may recall that Thomas Mirenda of the Smithsonian was our speaker last month. Their new North American Orchid Conservation Center supports a world-wide conservation network, but is unique in its focus on orchids.

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As October approaches, many orchids are slowing down for winter, while others such as dendrobiums and cattleyas are sprouting blooms. Watering should be less frequent.

The phalaenopsis will begin setting spikes if exposed to some cooler nights and the cymbidium will send up spikes if exposed to almost freezing temperatures. The varieties that drop leaves and shut down should be left on the dry side until they sprout new roots in spring.

I am lucky to be traveling to Germany for Oktoberfest. I will just be back in time for our November meeting, so I may have a little jet lag. I expect to see lots of blooms on the plant table.

Gerry

President's Message

Calendar

by Mary Heifner

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 have a Q & A.

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.

September 7, 2014 GNTOS Meeting Minutes

At 2:30 pm, Kathi McKenzie conducted a session on "Getting Blooms" at Orchids 101.

At approximately 3 pm, Gerry Darver called the meeting to order. Around 30 members were present. Denise Griggs recognized two new members.

Minutes

Rhonda Whitson

Gerry announced that there was not enough response to have a fall greenhouse tour.

The society would have an orchid show in the spring. Also, if anyone had extra bark, they could bring it to the next meeting in smaller bags to sell.

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker, Chaz Smith. Chaz is a native of Carlisle, PA, a plant lover since childhood, and has grown orchids over the past 17 years in many kinds of settings. In the last few years he has specialized in the rupicolous Laelias orchids. Chaz shared photos and information on how these grow in their native environments, a list of the species, and information on how he grows these orchids. Chaz brought plants for sell during the break.

During the refreshment break there was also orchid table judging, time for shopping on the sale table, and for buying raffle tickets for plants.

Nancy Cropp announced the results of the orchid table judging. Gerry conducted the plant raffle and name tag drawing. It was announced that our speaker for next month would be Charles Hess, who would speak on orchid conservation. Gerry adjourned the meeting before 5 pm.

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

Photographs by
M. Forest Shipp



Blc. Moonstruck
'Bubby's Beauty'

(Paph. Supersuk
'Eureka' AM/AOS
x Paph. Raisin Pie
'Hsinying') x Sib



GNTOS Sept. 7, 2014

Judges: David Hines & Sarah Hardesty

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – C. (Katherine Clarkson x Sunspots)

– Jim Williams

Red – Blc. Keowee 'Newberry' – Mike Beber

White – Blc. Moonstruck 'Bubby's Beauty'

– Gerry Darver

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Dendrochilum magnum

– Andrew Sherman

Red – Den. Rita Pink – Dave Gould

White – Den. Jairak Helix – Dave Gould

ONDIICIUMS

Blue – Onc. Gower Ramsey – Don Brigham



Onc. Gower Ramsey
(Oncsa Goldiana x Oncsa Guinea Gold)



Blc. Keowee 'Newberry'

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. (Supersuk 'Eureka'

x Raisin Pie 'Hsinying')

– Kathi McKenzie

VANDA & PHALS

none entered

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

C. bicolor – Mike Beber

Dendrochilum magnum – Andrew Sherman

Cym. ensifolium 'Jade' – Jim Williams

PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Keowee 'Newberry' – Mike Beber

Lc. Lory Ann 'Paradise'



Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

Two plants submitted for consideration,
one award given.

Phal. bellina var. coerulea 'Blue Konnection'

(species)

AM 80 points

owner: Orchid Konnection

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

The next meeting is
October, 11 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

September

Cattleya Labiata
Guarianthe bowringiana



Cattleya labiata var venosa estriata



Cattleya labiata var. alba

OCTOBER

CATTELEYA LABIATA
GUARIANTHE BOWRINGIANA

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.

November

Cattleya Labiata
Rhyncholalia digbyana



Guarianthe bowringiana



C. Portias



Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by
M. Forest Shipp



This month I have a quick tip for those of you that don't own a tripod. One of the most important things about macro photography is getting sharp images. And the way to get good, sharp images is to use a tripod. One caveat using this month's tip is you are limited to point and shoot types of cameras or a cellphone camera. **DO NOT** use a full sized DSLR camera. A full sized camera is too heavy and will fall off and most likely break your camera.

With that said, let's get started on our project for this month. You will need an empty 2 liter soda bottle, a 1/4"-20 x 1/2" Hex bolt, 2-1/4" flat washers, 1/4" drill bit and drill (see picture).

Remove the cap and rinse the bottle clean. Now drill a 1/4" hole in the center of the bottle cap. Then place one washer on the bolt and then insert the bolt through the hole from the inside out. In other words, when you screw the cap back on the bottle, the threads of the bolt will be on the outside of the bottle. Now place the second washer on the bolt.

Now you can take your point and shoot camera and screw the camera onto the bolt via the

threaded hole in the bottom of your camera. Next, fill the bottle with either water or sand. This gives your tripod some weight so it won't tip over. Now screw the cap onto the bottle and voila you have instant tripod. There is a limitation to this in that you can only take pictures of a subject directly in front of your camera.

To solve this problem you can add an inexpensive ball head to give you more flexibility when composing your pictures. I used the Giotto's MH 1004 Ball Head from B&H photo <http://bhpho.to/fhascQ> It costs \$12.05 and shipping is free.



Alternatively, if the soda bottle tripod doesn't appeal to you or you may want an affordable and portable tripod that WILL handle your full sized DSLR. You may want to purchase a Joby Gorillapod SLR-Zoom Flexible Mini-Tripod <http://bhpho.to/iRcUE> It will hold 6.6 lbs and give you more flexibility by being able to attach it to just about anything that it can wrap it's legs around. It costs \$34.00 and has free shipping as well.

Next month we will do a little Christmas shopping!



Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



At the October GNTOS meeting I will be discussing the efforts of the Smithsonian's Environmental Research Center (SERC). I encourage you to look at their website, "GoOrchids", a fabulous resource for orchid conservationists. A particularly exciting entry has been added recently for what may be the rarest orchid in North America, the *Microthelys rubrocallosa* found in Mexico and New Mexico. To get a sampling of what you will find at "GoOrchids", here is the write-up under the section "Facts About":

Microthelys rubrocallosa, the Green Medusa Orchid, was believed to be restricted to Mexico until a small population was discovered in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico in 2004. This small orchid has blue-green basal leaves and a slender leafless spike bearing up to 30 green, white-tipped tubular flowers. The sepal and petals form a hood around

the column and the two bright orange calluses distinguish this orchid from others found in the Sacramento Mountains. This orchid has been observed in a mesic, mixed conifer forest that is subject to occasional fires.

The global conservation status for *Microthelys rubrocallosa* has not been determined because its abundance in Mexico is not well documented. The single population in New Mexico is considered imperiled due to the small number of plants. Additional information is needed to evaluate the impacts of fire and logging on this orchid.

Please make a point of visiting this site soon. The previous two paragraphs are only a small part of the information available. There is lots more to learn and many gorgeous pictures to view. Go to www.GoOrchid-SNorthAmericaOrchid-Center.org or simply Google "Go Orchids". Type in *Microthelys rubrocallosa* under the search box for species. It is easy to learn about this and any other particular North American orchid with this website.

But what if you find an orchid and do not know its name? Here is where the website can

be particularly helpful. SERC just released a new YouTube video on how to identify your orchid while hiking the nature trails on your next vacation: <http://youtu.be/actz0PERcvI>. The video is only 4 minutes long. It introduces the work of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and gets right into how to use the "Go Orchids" website to select the orchid features that narrow down the search process. You will enjoy the visit, and will be surprised what a handy tool this is. You can access it right in your smart phone, or later back home with photos in hand.

You all deserve to be proud of the fact that you are helping make this website grow. The South West Regional Orchid Growers Association of which we all are members has identified SERC as a resource to fund with our conservation dollars. At the Galveston Bay Orchid Society SWROGA voted to allocate \$1000 this year for SERC efforts. In addition, we raised \$500 with the Conservation Raffle, made successful by the great crowd at the Galveston Bay Orchid Society SWROGA show. Show chairperson Joyce McMillan is shown here drawing the winning ticket for an original orchid watercolor from OrchidArtBy-CharlesHess.com.



Microthelys rubrocallosa spiranthes



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.

Winter Preparations

Fall is finally here. This is just about the busiest month for those of us that choose to grow tropical orchids where they are not supposed to grow. Instead of worrying about too much heat it is time to prepare for too much cold. Given the high cost of fuel it makes it even more important to get preparations started.

Inspect your growing area to be sure your glazing is intact; no new cracks, spaces, etc. All of the heating and cooling inherent in greenhouses causes some shifting over seasons and years. Strong winds can have the same effect. Insulation often separates from surfaces in places with high humidity and constant exposure to water. Some of these problems can be easily solved with a tube of good silicone caulking. A can of "Good Stuff", or one of the other expandable foams available, can also be useful in joints or spaces below the glazing where cold air creeps in. Most of these types of product work better if the application surface is dry.

Heaters should be inspected and checked. If you are experienced you can do this yourself, but most hobbyists are better advised to get your gas company to do the inspection and light the burners. They are more skilled at finding problems. Do not forget to check exhaust ducting and vents. They, too, can move during the summer and leak exhaust fumes

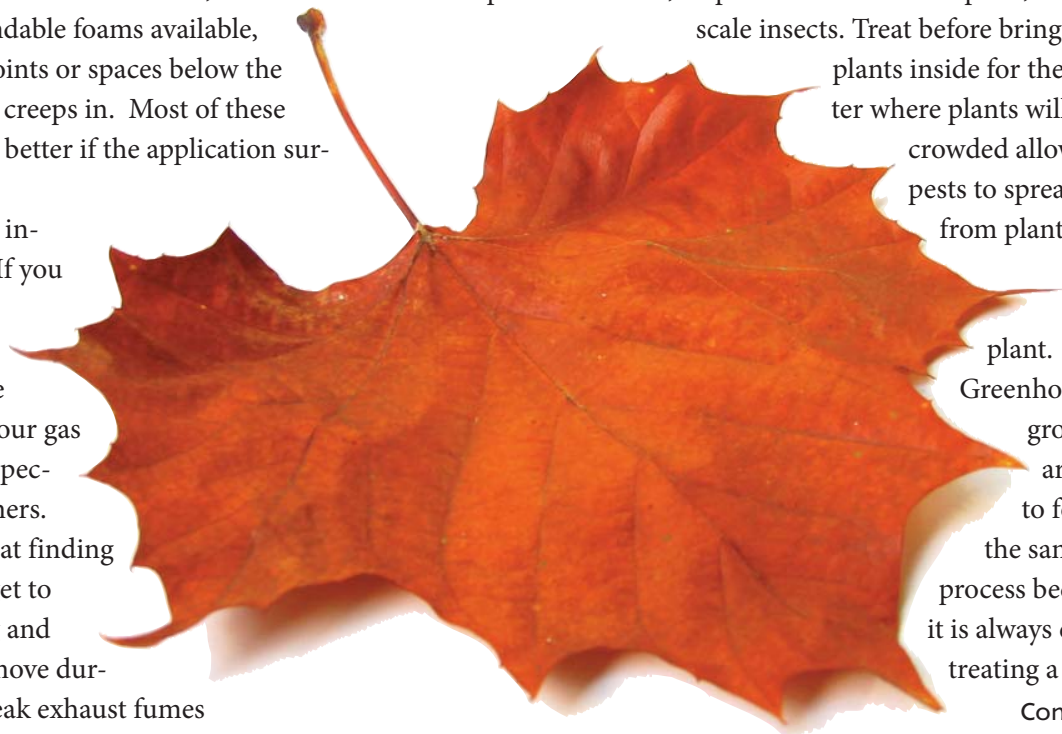
into the growing space endangering people and orchids. Do this before the first really cold weather arrives to avoid the rush and prepare for a shock when the bill comes. Even more reason to seal all of the cracks in the greenhouse.

Many indoor growers have placed their orchids outside under trees or other shaded areas. It is time to prepare to bring them inside. Carefully inspect plants for insects and other pests. A fine jet of water can clean leaves and bulbs exposing problem pests. Slugs, snails, roaches and many other undesirables love the insides of pots. They may quickly disperse around your home once pots are brought inside. Treat now with appropriate drenches or pesticides. Also, inspect for other orchid pests, such as

scale insects. Treat before bringing plants inside for the winter where plants will be crowded allowing pests to spread from plant to

plant. Greenhouse growers are wise to follow the same process because it is always easier treating a

Continued



“The most cold-tolerant group is cymbidiums. Some hobbyists claim they get the best blooms only when they leave their cymbidiums outside until they get a light frost.”

greenhouse when it can be easily vented.

This is also a good time to review what each type of orchid requires for best growth and flowering. Phalaenopsis require a week or two of cool temperatures to initiate spiking. Night temperatures 60° to 65° for a week to 10 days are ideal. A few nights in the upper 50s will do no harm as long as the day temperatures warm into the 80s. Once either gloomy weather or night temperatures below 55 arrive, it is time to move both phalaenopsis and vandas inside. Cattleyas generally love cool nights and warm days and can be left outside until night temperatures fall below 50°. Blue vandas and ascocendas have a good dose of *V. coerulea* in their background and are the exception to the admonition above. They appreciate cool nights and will produce better colored flowers if given cool nights for as long as you can.

Antelope- and phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums are generally treated like cattleyas, although different growers have different threshold levels.

Paphiopedalums are a real mixed bag with respect to temperature. For years several species and their hybrids, notably *P. rothchildiana*, were supposed to require cool nights. These do well for me growing alongside my

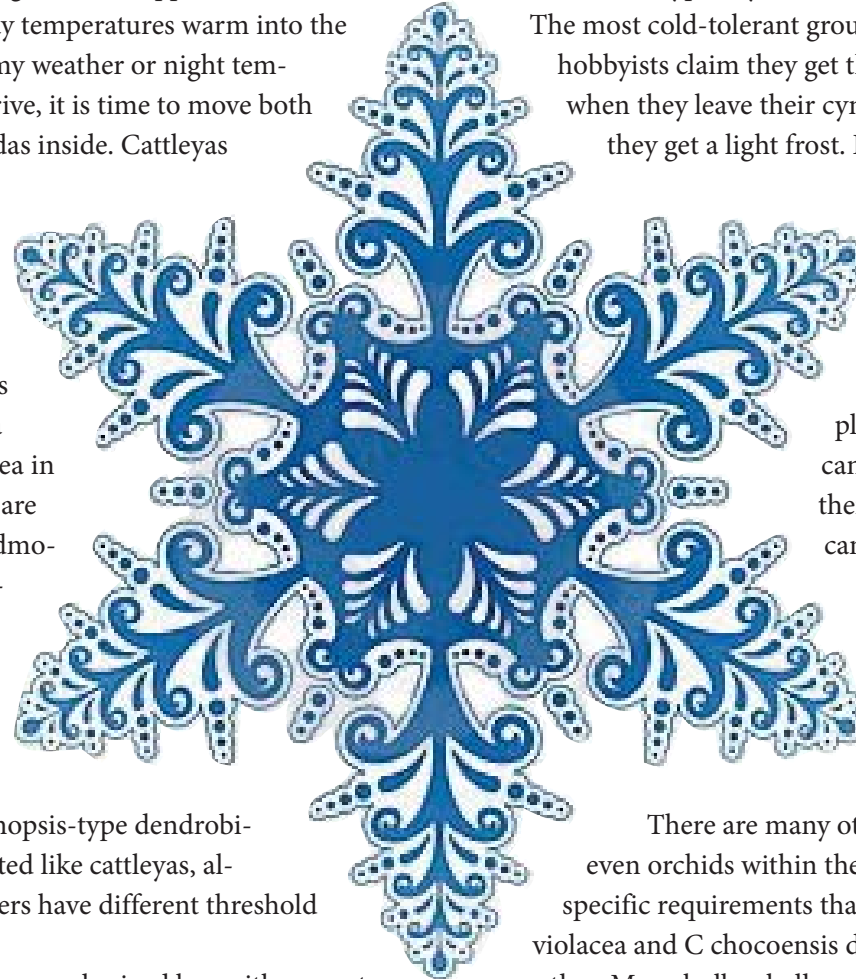
phals and get only a week or so of cool nights each year. In general though, paphs can handle cooler nights all year long with no harm.

Some orchids tolerate and even need cooler temperatures. *Zygopetalums* will not spike unless they get some cool weather, typically in the low 50s or upper 40s.

The most cold-tolerant group is cymbidiums. Some hobbyists claim they get the best blooms only when they leave their cymbidiums outside until they get a light frost. Bright light and cool

nights will provide an abundance of blooms later in the winter for this group. It is important to move them into a place where their spikes can grow and not move them continually. Not only can buds or spikes break, but often buds will blast (drop) if growing conditions are changed too dramatically once buds emerge.

There are many other orchid groups and even orchids within these groups that have specific requirements that are different. *Cattleya violacea* and *C. chocoensis* do not like any cool weather. Many *bulbophyllums* and *dendrochilums* also come from climates where they seldom experience any cold weather. Species are generally more temperamental than hybrids, which makes them more of a chal-



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.

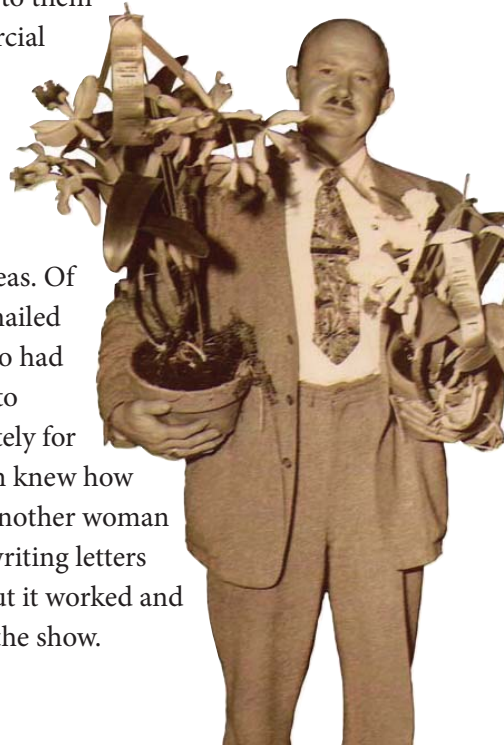
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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): _____