Orchidist

GREATER
NORTH
TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

Next Meeting: November 2 Meeting: Mark Reinke

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Dendrobium antennatum

Decoding Dendrobium

Why would anyone familiar with orchids be surprised by the genus Dendrobium? Perhaps because the Dendrobium plants most commonly seen for sale are not necessarily what does well under cultivation in our temperate latitudes, but what is easy and inexpensive to mass produce in outdoor orchid ranges at low elevation in Thailand and Indonesia. Yet, these showy plants that prove difficult to rebloom in our collections represent only a

tiny sampling of this widespread and diverse genus that comes from many different climate types, and from sea level to more than ten thousand feet above.

Mark's program offers a comprehensive introduction to the genus, clarifying some of the native climates and cultural needs of the sections you may already have basic familiarity with, and introducing you to some that are only now becoming more available commercially. You will be pleasantly surprised by how many of these new introductions would do well alongside your Phalaenopsis or Cattleya orchids, offering long lasting, colorful blooms without the need for high heat, high light, or annual starving or chilling.

Mark Reinke had a passion for plants from the time he was a child growing up in a small town outside of Chicago. When his family moved to Florida in the 1960's he got his first orchid plant as back bulbs while helping out a neighborhood lady who had a large orchid and bromeliad collection. Since then, orchids have always been one of his major interests.

In 2004, he and his partner Gary Collier moved to the Blue Ridge Escarpment area of South Carolina to grow plants full time under the business name Marble Branch



Dendrobium chrysopterum

Farms. They constructed a large greenhouse and seed laboratory so they could focus on creating new orchid hybrids, concentrating especially on miniature and compact cattleya types, with an emphasis on new and unusual breeding lines. They now have a thriving online business and are challenged to produce plants quickly enough to keep up with demand. Mark is active in the Western North Carolina Orchid Society and is the current President of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

The Suprising Orchids You Thought You Knew!



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Lorna Kissling

November will bring us changes. We will change to colder temperatures, possibly a freeze, an hour of time change "Fall Back", and a change in light and growing conditions. Remember to adjust.

This will be the last meeting for plant table judging

and points toward prizes to be awarded at the December auction meeting, so bring your blooming plants.

We still have a good selection of fine plants for the raffle table thanks to Dr.

De Villeneuve.

Remember that you can preorder plants from our November speaker per the instructions posted.

Good Growing Gerry



| 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.

PROPOSED GNTOS DUES INCREASE

The board of directors of GNTOS is recommending a dues increase to \$ 40 first member and \$ 20 spouse

Our dues have not increased for many years, but inflation has increased the cost of almost everything. Our cost to transport and house the monthly guest speakers has increased along with higher costs for shows, food, and raffle plants.

As members, we enjoy many benefits from the society at a nominal price considering the value. If we do not increase dues and receive some donation support, we will possibly have to limit some of the monthly guest speakers

We will discuss and vote on the dues increase at the November meeting so be sure to attend. It is also suggested that plants for the monthly sale table be at least 80% donated if not 100%. If you can't attend the November meeting and wish to vote, please give a proxy to a member of your choice.

Gerry Darver, President

Orchicls Kathi McKenzie & Lorna Kissling

This month: Orchid-Speak, What does it all mean?

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.

October 5, 2014 GNTOS Meeting Minutes

At 2:30 pm, Lorna Kissling conducted a session about bringing in orchids at the end of warm weather during Orchids 101.

At approximately 3 pm, Gerry Darver called the meeting to order. Gerry welcomed



four guests to the meeting and approximately thirty members. Gerry thanked those members, such as

Charles Hess, that had made generous donations to GNTOS, which will help with the April 2015 orchid show. Gerry reminded everyone that the auction will be in December 2014, and that it would be great if everyone brought a plant for a bidding paddle, and brought a food item to share.

Mary Heifner announced that the November speaker is Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms. Mark is accepting pre-orders. Mary noted that shoppers can view the plants at the online store (www.marblebranchfarms.com), but not order online instead you need to send orders to the e-mail account: info@marblebranchfarms.com.

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker,

Charles Hess and his wife Trudy. Charles is the Conservation Chair of SWROGA. He devotes his time to conservation education and fund raising. Charles shared his journey from the time he first started his love of orchids until now. His orchid journey began when the company he worked for sent him to live in the Philippines for five years. He returned to Dallas and upon retiring began painting orchids, which he sells and contributes the proceeds to orchid conservation. Charles talent for painting came naturally – his mother was a sculptor and his grandmother an oil painter.

Charles noted the three components of conservation and spoke specifically about the various conservation organizations. He ended the talk with how all of us can help with orchid conservation.

During the refreshment break there was plant judging, raffle ticket sales, plant sales, and some of Charles' beautiful orchid artwork for sale. Nancy Cropp announced the winners of the orchid plant judging. Gerry Darver conducted the plant raffle and name badge drawing. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

Oct. 5, 2014

Photographs by M. Forest Shipps Judges: Jeanne Thompson & Barb McNamee



Blue - Blc. Hawaiian Leopard - Jim Williams

Red - Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon'

x Pot. Rubescence 'SVO'

- Gerry Darver

White - Slc. (Orchidom Leopard

x Mark Jones) – Jim Williams

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Zygo. Helen Ku – Don Brigham

Red - Kegeliella atropilosa - Kathy Halverson

White - unknown - Wendy Wang

ONCIDIUMS

Blue - Onc. Moon Shadow - Jim Williams

Red – Onc. Mendenhall – Gerry Darver

White - Brs. gireoudiana - Gerry Darver

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. Lynleigh Koopowitz

- Kathy Halverson

Red – Phrag. boissierianum

- Kathy Halverson

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue – Aerides odorotum – Mike Beber

Red – Vanda lamalatta – Charles Hess

White - Phal. hieroglyphica - Charles Hess

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Brs. gireoudiana – Gerry Darver Phrag. boissierianum - Kathy Halverson

Phal. hieroglyphica - Charles Hess

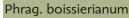
PEOPLES CHOICE

Bc. Cotton Candy - Mike Beber





Bc. Cotton Candy







Dallas Judging Center Nancy Cropp

AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER OCT. 11, 2014

Three plants entered for consideration, one award given:

Phal. violacea var. alba 'Snow Konnection' ('Pimlico' x 'Valley Mist' AM/AOS)
HCC 79 points
owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas

Fort Worth Orchid Society will hold a sale and tabletop show May 29-31.



The Dallas Judging Center meets on the second Saturday of every month. The next meeting is November, 8

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

October

Cattleya Labiata Guarianthe bowringiana

NOVEMBER

CATTLEYA LABIATA
RHYNCHOLALIA DIGBYANA

December

Cattleya Labiata Rhyncholalia digbyana





Many large lavender hybrids from C. labiata and Rhyncholalia digbyana bloom during November.

Cattleya percivaliana, the "Christmas Orchid", can bloom during November but frequently blooms in December. It is native to Venezuela, and makes a compact plant with 5" blooms. Most of the C. percivalianas are various shades of lavender with very dark lips. They have a pungent aroma which is a little bit strong for some people. Hybrids from C. percivaliana seem to follow the blooming season of the other parent. When crossed with fall lavenders they bloom in early November and when crossed with winter hybrids they tend to bloom in January.







Protography Written and Photographed by M. Forest Shipps

This month, as promised, we are going to do a little Christmas shopping. Ya, ya, I know that it is only November, but decisions have to be made early for best selection so let's get started! I have culled down a list to 5 top items that every photographer should have in their camera bag. Also, all of them would retail for less than \$80.00 each for the budget minded photographer.

The first item on my gift guide is the Rouge FlashBender. What is it? The FlashBender is a unique shapeable light modifier that at-

taches to your shoe mounted strobe. It

can be shaped for use as a flag, snoot or reflector and with the optional Rouge Diffusion panel it can become a small softbox for that soft creamy light for gorgeous flower photography. It makes a great addition to any shoe mounted flash

that is very affordable. The large Rouge flash bender is \$39.95 and the optional diffusion panel is \$19.95 at www.expoimaging.com.

Do you hate that awful glare on your screen when you look at the picture on the back of your camera? There is a cure for that and that is the Hoodman Loupe. This handy device is placed directly on the back of your camera's LCD screen and allows for crystal clear viewing in the harshest of sunlight. It fits up to 3 inch LCD Screens,



has 1 to 1 Magnification and +/- 3 Diopter Adjustment and retails for \$79.99 at www.hoodmanusa.com.

A LCD remote cable release is the next must have on my list. When taking serious photographs of flowers your camera should be on a sturdy tripod for the sharpest pictures. In addition, when photographing objects in Macro mode you will be using a small aperture and slow shutter speed to optimize your exposure. Therefore, when you press the shutter release button vou can introduce movement in the camera which results in a blurry photograph. By using a Remote Cable Release/Timer vou can eliminate the human element and expand your creativeness by triggering your camera's

shutter with timed intervals or long exposures. You can find them on www.ebay.com \$15.00 and up, from reliable sellers. I purchase items regularly from eBay without any problems – just be sure to check their ratings and only purchase from reliable sellers and you should be fine.

As a photographer, there is one item I can't live without and that is the 5-in-1 Collapsible Circular Reflector Disc. The disc itself is a diffuser used for cutting back on harsh

sleeve includes options for black, white, silver and gold reflectors

and gives you control over your light source. The options are endless with this handy tool that folds down to 1/3 its original size.

With sizes available 12"-45" and prices start at about \$15.00 and up on www.ebay.com

Here's one accessory that is an absolute must

have. The Wimberley Plamp Articulating Arm and Clamp. This little jewel will clamp directly on one of your tripod legs or a nearby tree branch, fence, etc., the other end has a small clip that delicately stabilizes your flower stem from swaying in the breeze allowing for razor sharp flower photographs. You can even use it to hold that 5-in-1 reflector too! It's \$36.85 and free shipping on B&H Photo website www.bhphotovideo.com.

And since Christmas is right around the corner and you have all those great flower photographs, here's a bonus tip: Give greeting cards that are works of art by giving matted photo greeting cards from Photographers Edge. You can choose from hundreds of designs as well as holiday cards. They even have a Christmas/Holiday Sample Pack for \$14.95 at www.photographersedge.com.





Orchid Conservation Update Charles Hess

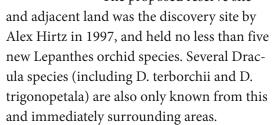
Dracula!!

Just in time for Halloween comes a new opportunity to drive a stake

into the heart of habitat destruction and orchid loss. The Rainforest Trust is working with the Fundación EcoMinga organization to establish a new orchid preserve, to be called the Dracula Orchid Reserve, in the northwest corner of Ecuador.

The proposed Dracula Orchid Reserve is

located in an upland massif, and is part of the wettest forest in the world –the Choco rainforest. With some of the highest rainfall on the planet (16,000 mm annually in some places), and significant cloud cover, the climate creates a perfect environment for species of orchids to thrive. The proposed reserve site



Dracula orchids are highly endemic, with

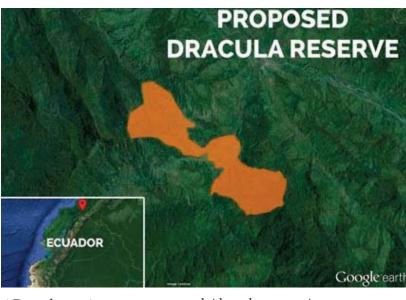
90% of all species found at three, or fewer, sites. Because these orchids are so restricted in their habitat requirements, they are inherently susceptible to extinction by habitat

loss. It is speculated that 14 Dracula species have already gone extinct due to deforestation events, which is equivalent to one species becoming extinct every three years due to forest conversion.

Despite being one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world, Ecuador's Choco region is also one of the most threatened areas, with less than 10% of the original forest remaining intact, mostly due to the expansion of agriculture in the area.

Contributions from orchid enthusiasts like you will help purchase property for this reserve, and it will then be protected and saved by the Fundación EcoMinga. In addition to the existing 343 acres, 309 acres, at \$190 per acres, are needed to complete the preserve. The Rainforest Trust has made it very easy for you to help with this important project. Simply visit the website below and click on the DONATE button.

https://www.rainforesttrust.org/projects/ur-



gent-appeals/dracula-reserve/

EcoMinga will staff the reserve and provide genuine and legitimate protection. In the coming years Fundación EcoMinga hopes to establish lodging facilities for eco-tourists and researchers, which will help to provide an income to help sustain the reserve's forest guard staff.

The Rainforest Trust has a long history with the Fundación, as I found out while researching the name World Land Trust US, which was renamed the Rainforest Trust in 2013. In 2007, just two years after the founding of the EcoMinga group, the WLT partnered with the Foundation and funded their first land purchase. Fundación EcoMinga has since grown as a major preserve manager in Ecuador, with four reserves in the region under their protection to date. The preserves currently managed by EcoMinga group are Rio Anzu, Rio Zuñac, Brandstand, and the Cerro Candelaria Reserve.



D. trigonopetala

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 Growing

Cool, gloomy weather is characteristic of winter, which



begins this month. Many of the problems that surface in late winter or early spring in greenhouses can be avoided now with just a little effort. Bacteria and fungi thrive

in the wet, cool conditions of winter, but are vulnerable to simple sanitation procedures. Brown spots on flowers (Botrytis) and soft wet spots

It is now more important than ever to water early in the morning

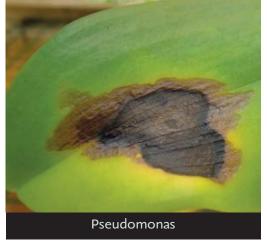
able. There are different formulations for treating surfaces and plants. Physan is a surfactant and keeps water from standing on surfaces and leaves of plants.

If you have thin-leaved phals or other sensitive species use the recommended formulation for plants at half strength. Also spray before the greenhouse gets hot. Spray bench surfaces, sides of pots containing plants, and even walls of greenhouses with the formulation specified for plant ap-

plication if the product is likely to get on your orchids. If you have problems with water condensing on the ceiling of your greenhouse and dripping onto plants, spray the ceiling as well. The idea is to kill as many of the spores that float around your greenhouse so they will not begin to grow on plants.

(Pseudomonas or Bacterial Brown Spot) on leaves that spread and kill small plants if untreated can be avoided or,

at least minimized with good sanitation.



Botrytis

Clean all non-growing surfaces with a 5% Clorox solution. Walk-ways, concrete surfaces, and even walls can be safely cleaned eliminating spores that can be a problem later. Avoid getting this solution on clothing and plants as it will bleach plant materials. Alternatively, you can also use Physan that is approved for steril-

izing surfaces. Physan is relatively inexpensive and avail-

Be sure you clean all dead plant materials from under benches, in pots, etc. That includes soft bulbs or leaf material. Hard brown plant parts can be left alone. This is a good time to survey your plants and space them so that leaves are not touching each other and will dry quickly. In summer, you increased air circulation to prevent overheating, now, do the same to help leaves dry quickly and prevent spores from beginning to grow.

It is now more important than ever to water early in the morning on days when your greenhouse will gain enough heat to vent and pull in fresh air. Your goal is for all plants to be dry by nightfall when temperatures drop in the greenhouse. Are there drip spots in your greenhouse? Most greenhouses will have places where condensation drips from the ceiling and

rafters. Check plants below and arrange them so the drips are not falling on leaves or sensitive buds. This is especially critical for phals and paphs. Conversely, I put phrags

and dendrochilums that have suffered all summer in my hot greenhouse directly under these drips and they thrive as long as they are in well-drained media. Generally, though, avoid drips on plants.

What temperature is best for orchids?

This is another commonly asked question. Phals should be kept at a minimum 65° F to avoid problems. The key for phals is to keep them growing, which tends to stop when the media and roots get below 65° F. This is also the point where Botrytis begins to grow.

Vandas and ascocendas also like 60-65 F as a lower temperature limit. Standard cattleyas and paphs tolerate 55° F or even a few degrees cooler with no problem. Lower temperatures mean that your orchids will require less water on these short days so adjust watering appropriately. This can be especially difficult for phals and paphs in soilless or dense media as they may never dry out. Many phals drop flowers and buds prematurely in spring because they lose their roots to over-watering in early winter.

Indoor growers have different problems and solutions depending on their growing situation. Heaters operating in living areas lower humidity. This requires an increased frequency of watering: the opposite problem experienced in greenhouses. If your orchids are totally dependent

Indoor growers

have different

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solutions depending

on their

growing situation.

on sunlight coming through windows, low light levels and cold spots can also cause problems. Tape bubble wrap to win-

bubble wrap to windows, which limits cool spots and diffuses light that can burn leaves. Humidity can be increased by placing fine sand in a shallow tray and placing each orchid on the sand. Sand has lots of surface area from which water evaporates. Add water

when the sand starts to dry. Each success-

ful indoor grower has developed their own technique specifically suited to their situation.

Indoor growers, lucky enough to have full spectrum lighting, have an easier time in winter as they can control light levels and the excess heat from lights is an asset. Humidity problems are now the major problem, but not much different than in summer when air conditioners were

causing the same problem. Under light growers may need to stimulate spikes by lowering temperature or changing day length if this has not been done already. Duplicating seasonal changes of the tropics is not necessary as long as the orchid experiences an environmental change that stimulates flowering and growth. Learning how to do this is not hard, but does require some trial and error-type experience.

My Greenhouse Story and Photos by David Gould

The three part story of my greenhouse construction so that you may learn from my mistakes. It was finally time to get a greenhouse. My wife had been very understanding as my orchid collection slowly grew and began obscuring more and more of the windows in our house, but now the time had come. So what do I do now? I had so many questions.

I began by visiting as many greenhouses of GNTOS members as I could. I found that people are happy to show off their greenhouse and they will gladly answer all of your questions and make recommendations as to how and why they did things the way they did. It is difficult to find information on the internet because most it is not pertinent to our DFW

growing area. That's why talking to people whi have their greenhouses up and running and have experienced a few winters and summers in our climate can offer so much guidance and help.

Most of the greenhouses I visited were too big to fit into the very small tight space I had in my backyard, but they still had ideas and suggestions that I could adapt to my situation. Some of them were custom built one-of-a-kind structures. Some were big kits that were designed for commercial growers. A couple of them were smaller that were designed for backyard growers like me and might actually fit into my space. I was able to see lots of different ideas and learned a great deal.

Next it was time to get to know what my local city government would allowed me to build. So I made a quiet little visit to the Building Permit Office and got the specifications of what I would have to do to be legal. Turns out I could build a "minor structure", up to 120 square feet in area and 8 feet in height or less that could be within 3 feet of my house. No problem. In my case I didn't really have enough room to go larger than that

I rigged up some tables to assemble the sections. Here is one of the wall panels going together. One big cool 3-D puzzle. anyway. If I had wanted to go bigger I would have had a whole different set of restrictions to deal with. With that info in hand I began to look at kits online and there were a lot of them. Some had very tall pitched roofs that wouldn't be allowed by my local regulations. A few had very low roofs which meant I wouldn't be able to hang anything. Some used glass for the infill walls and others polycarb panels. A few of the structures were made of redwood and some of aluminum. Some were very inexpensive and used thin wall material which would be very expensive to heat in winter. I also visited a local DFW manufacturer of greenhouses to see what they could offer compared to what I had found online. And on and on. Lots of variations and costs.

In the end I wound up ordering a kit I had seen on a greenhouse tour that one of our members had erected. It was designed in Scandinavia and was built to withstand extreme conditions with an extra strong aluminum frame and thick polycarb walls. It was designed using metric measurements and was just under the 10' x 12' x 8' size I needed to stay legal. They sell these around the world so in order to save a ton of money on translations the instructions used only pictures.

I carefully built the frame/foundation and set it in concrete so that it was exactly plumb and square. The instructions stressed this over and over because if the foundation isn't square nothing else will ever fit correctly and it won't be air tight. Then I put the bare walls and roof on and tightened everything down.



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)

Members

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): | |

