

Next Meeting:  
December 7  
Meeting:  
Auction starts at  
2:00

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## *Semi-Annual Auction*



This month we will have our Semi-Annual Auction and Snacks and we will start at 2:00 so we have more time than usual. Bring a plant or divisions, as well as collectibles or any orchid related item so you can get a paddle in order to bid.

This is one of our fund raising events for the society, so bring your bidding spirit and get ready to buy!

Auction and Potluck starts at 2:00pm. Please bring a refreshment like finger food or dessert to share with the group and let's have some fun.

# 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

# Presidents Message

2014 has just flown by. Our orchids have either flourished or gone to orchid heaven. During the past year we have helped an orchid collection survive and raised money for G.N.T.O.S. at the same time.

Our December auction meeting will begin at 2:00 instead of 3:00. The Brandenburg's have graciously agreed again to be our auctioneers and to provide good stories and jokes. You will need to bring a nice plant or orchid memorabilia in exchange for your bid paddle. Please bring a substantial hot entrée, vegetables, salad, appetizer or a dessert so that all will be fed. Do not bring plant table plants only auction plants.

We will give out annual awards for the plant table participation and we will vote on the new officers.

Dues can be paid for 2015 so that you will be listed in the directory.

It has been a pleasure serving as president and I hope that all have learned and benefited as much as I have from our society this past year.

I would like to thank the officers, volunteers, and all the members who have so graciously given their time to help throughout the past year.

See you at the December auction meeting and social.

Gerry

# Calendar

by Mary Heifner

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January 2015 Dotty Woodson

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March 2015 Jason Fischer Phrags/Paphs

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April 2015 Tom Harper Specialty Phals

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August 2015 Alan Koch Mini Catts

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*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.*

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.

*Newsletter*

I will give

\$1 to the first person who asks for it at the meeting.

Send submissions to me at: david@gouldcreative.com

## November 2, 2014

At 2:30 pm, Kathi McKenzie conducted a session “What’s in a Name?” and then led a question and answer session during Orchids 101.

## Minutes

Rhonda Whitson

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

Denise Griggs introduced one visitor. About 30 members were present.

### Announcements:

- Bobby Dillard mentioned the SWROGA sale next fall and opportunities with that.
- Lorna Kissling reported that she has one vendor for the April 2015 GNTOS orchid show. She hopes to obtain two more vendors for the show. She noted that the Houston society has booked a show at the same time (2nd weekend in April).
- Gerry led the discussion of a dues increase for GNTOS members. Members voted to increase the dues to \$30.00 a year for new or renewing individual members and \$15 for each additional member within the same household.
- 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.

- Kathy Halverson noted that the group can have access to the meeting room earlier for the December auction (around 2 pm).

Mary Heifner introduced the speaker, Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms. Mark’s

passion for plants began during childhood. In 2004, he and his partner, Gary Collier, began the Marble Branch Farms business. Mark is active in the Western North Carolina Orchid Society and is the current President of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

Mark gave an interesting presentation, “Decoding Dendrobiums, The Surprising Orchids You Thought You Knew!” He stated that Dendrobiums are a very diverse genus with 1200+ species and 40+ sections. It is important to find the right Dendrobium for the local environment.

Mark noted that there are three nearly universal characteristics of Dendrobiums: (1) inflorescences are produced from the side nodes of stems; (2) flowers only occur on fully mature growths; and (3) growths can flower repeatedly over several years. Mark then discussed the different sections and growing needs. There was time for Mark to

answer questions.

During the refreshment break Mark had plants for sale, there was plant judging, raffle ticket sales, and plant sales on the snooper’s table. Nancy Cropp announced the winners of the orchid plant judging, and noted that the



grand prize winners for the year will be announced at the December auction.

Gerry Darver conducted the plant raffle and name badge drawing. Kathy Halverson announced that the Officer Nominating Committee has proposed the following officers for 2015:

- President – Mike Beber
- Vice-President – Rhonda Whitson
- Secretary – Barbara McNamee.

The proposed officers will be voted on during the December auction. There being no further business, Gerry Darver adjourned the meeting.

# Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Nov. 2, 2014

Photographs by  
M. Forest Shipps

Judges: Lorna Kissling & Jeanne Thompson

## CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – C. Arid Acres – Mike Beber  
Red – Blc. Sa-Ngob Delight – Sarah Hardesty  
White – Lc. Acher's Madison x  
(Slc. Stacy Miyamoto x Ctna. Keith  
Roth) – Sarah Hardesty

## DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Bulb. phalaenopsis – Linda Horton  
Red – Bulb. longissimum – Kathy Halverson  
White – Den. unknown – Gerry Darver

## ONCIDIUMS

Blue – Burr. Austin Powers  
– Andrew Sherman  
Red – Onc. Sweet Sugar – Don Brigham  
White – Onc. Sherry Baby – Gerry Darver

## VANDAS & PHALS

Blue – Phal. unknown – Kathi McKenzie  
Red – Neofinitia falcata Toutenkom  
– David Gould  
White – Doritis pulcherrima  
– Don Brigham

## SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Laelia anceps – Kathy Halverson  
Bulb. phalaenopsis – Linda Horton  
Den. acerosum – Barb McNamee

## PEOPLES CHOICE

C. Arid Acres – Mike Beber



LC Arid Acres



Bulb. longissimum

Bulb. phalaenopsis



# Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

**AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER**  
**NOV. 8, 2014**

Seven plants entered for consideration, one award given:

Bulb. crassipes (species) 'Judy's Little Stinker'  
CCM 80 points  
owner: Judy Cook, Gunter

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

The next meeting is December, 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

November

Cattleya Labiata  
Rhyncholalia digbyana



Cattleya labiata var venosa estriata



Cattleya labiata var. alba

DECEMBER

**CATTELEYA LABIATA**  
**CATTELEYA PERCIVALIANA**

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. percivaliana*s 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.

I hope you can enjoy the great variety available in the *Cattleya* genus. I did not include the compact growers that are bred from *Cattleya* (formerly *Sophranitis*) *coccinea*.

They tend to bloom in the winter months and have flowers that are long lasting. Why don't you add some of these to your collection and enjoy all that *Cattleyas* have to give?

January

Cattleya trianaei  
Cattleya loddigesii



Cattleya percivaliana ' El Diablo '



Cattleya percivaliana coerulea ' Ondine '



# Focus on Photography

Written and Photographed by  
M. Forest Shipp

Wow! What a great year we had! I hope that you enjoyed the photography articles and that in some way they have helped you become a better photographer. This will be my last article for the GNTOS newsletter as I move forward to other endeavors. I thought as we sit by the fire sipping our egg nog, reflecting on the year gone by, we should also take look at what we have learned about photography.

In January and February, we learned that focus, exposure and color all affect the way we see a photograph and you don't need expensive gear or a lot of knowledge to get started, just a willingness to learn and experiment to see what works for you. Oh, and don't forget when you pick up your camera to MAKE pictures, not TAKE pictures.

In March, we learned that K.I.S.S., Keep It Simple Stupid, was about eliminating distracting elements in our photography. Simply put, anything that doesn't help tell the story shouldn't be in the photograph. In April, we discovered that color has an impact on the way we see certain elements in a photograph. Remember that warm colors, red/orange, move forward in a photograph and catch the viewers eye as cool colors, blue/green, move

backwards.

In May, I showed you how composition can make or break a photograph: "Dead Center is Deadly." Remember, in most photographs to offset the subject to intersect with the lines in a tic tac toe grid. How are you doing on that egg nog? Need a refill? Why don't you put another log on the fire and I'll get more egg nog.

Okay, where were we? Ah, yes, June. In June, we learned how to build a light table out of an old folding chair and a sheet of white plastic. Who would have thought that for under \$30 you could have build such a versatile tool while saving about \$200? And in July, we used a LED rope light to make great photographs in the absence of flash lighting.

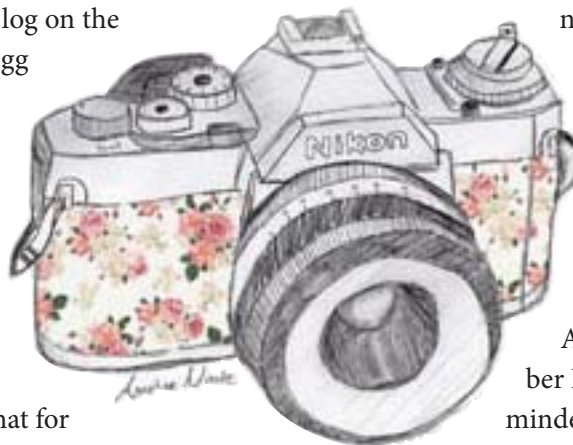
In August, I shared a cool technique on how to get great reflections by using a 27" x 40" poster frame and painting the backboard black. Remember, you can use white paint, too, for a totally different look. Does it get any

better than that? I think it does. In September, I showed you how to take amazing photographs WITHOUT a camera! By using a little foam core board, black paint and a desktop scanner. For under \$6 you can take stunning photographs without a camera.

In October, for pennies I showed you how to make a homemade tripod for your point and shoot camera using a two liter soda bottle and a small bolt. It doesn't get simpler than that. And finally, in November I gave the thrifty minded photographer some great ideas to put on this year's Christmas list.

Well it looks like I'm out of egg nog and the fire is burning low, so it must be time to go. Remember to always K.I.S.S. and to MAKE photographs, don't TAKE photographs.

M. Forest Shipp



# Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



## *An Eye for Conservation*

Going from living and growing local species in the Philippines, to painting watercolors of orchids, and then working to preserve the native species through conservation has been a logical progression for me. I call it my win-win-win program.

Everyone understands my enthusiasm for growing and caring for orchids. If you are reading this, you know fun it can bring. Also, human beings are conditioned to appreciate things we consider art. The question that

comes up, however is this: With the ready availability of more species and hybrids than any of us can possibly add to our collection, why should we be so concerned about conservation?

In my explanations I have tried to avoid the more unpleasant as-

pects, such as how deforestation has left our orchid habitats decimated, or how population growth is forcing our local species into small cramped parks, or how few species we can

document before they are gone. The challenge seems hopeless to many, and the motivation for action fades to the low end of the scale.

A recent article by Alan Mattingly in the New York Times clearly addresses the question of why we are motivated to work on conservation projects. The article explains that because people naturally procrastinate, they need external goals linked to financial incentives in order to be more productive and increase their earnings. “That sort of incentive has been a hallmark of industrialization” noted Mr. Mattingly. In the author’s view, we have monetized everything we do, and our various efforts are worthwhile only when there is a dollar value attached.

So far, so good. But then the article took an unexpected, but important, turn when the author quoted Richard Conniff, a writer for the Smithsonian. “I am bored of pretending usefulness is the thing that really matters”, says Mr. Conniff. He encourages us to love nature and care for wildlife, not for potential financial gain, but simply for the sake of preserving the beauty of the wild.

In our society we expect the reason for caring to be financial incentives, such as new medical cures yet to be discovered in the rainforest. But Mr. Conniff sees it in another way, and his view applies equally well to orchid

species in nature. Here is what he says: “Wildlife is and should be useless in the same way art, music, poetry and even sports are useless. They are useless in the sense that they do nothing more than raise our spirits, make us laugh, or cry, frighten, disturb, and delight us. They connect us not just to what’s weird, different, other, but to a world where we humans do not matter nearly as much as we like to think. And that should be enough.”

If the rules of logic allow me to make an analogy for an analogy, conserving orchid species is like preserving the great art treasures we have today. Indeed, orchids are one of nature’s truly wonderful works of art. We don’t miss, and don’t know about, many great art treasures lost over time. But we do treasure those we know about, and don’t want them to be lost, damaged or stolen. And just like the orchid species lost before being discovered, we can only preserve what we have today, as well as nature’s art in the rainforest or in other backwoods “store rooms” we have yet to open.

So let’s not allow our “museums” of the world go to ruin and thereby lose nature’s irreplaceable treasures. Our rainforests and local orchid habitats are our world heritage sites. Just like our world museums they must be protected. This is a motivation we can all feel good about. It is achievable, as long as we recognize the true value not in a monetary sense, but, like art, something vitally important to preserve for the future.





## 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.

# Paphiopedilums, Media and Fire Ants

Each fall, fire ants slip quietly somewhere into the back of my greenhouse and take up residence. Usually, I do not notice them until I pick up a pot and get a few nasty stings. For those that have not experienced this garden pest, fire ants are an imported species that has gradually spread across the Southeastern U.S. They have a very nasty sting, which they tend not to use until a large number of individuals have swarmed onto a pant leg where they all sting at once. They are easily eliminated with available pesticides. Many people are allergic to their stings, so, it is best to get rid of them whenever they are found in an orchid pot. Otherwise, they can get carried into the living room inside a prized flowering orchid.

This year something interesting occurred when fire ants took up residence among a group of paphs that have been in my collection for many years. These paphs are nothing special from an award standpoint, but have sentimental value, because I used them to learn how to grow paphs. They are usually the last to be repotted or cared for unless I am using them for a new experiment. I had noticed the vigor of these plants this fall because the leaves were especially large and colorful. While watering heavily one day, I noticed that the base of the plant was covered with fine soil that I washed away. The next time I watered it was there again and I realized there were ants in the pot. Fire ants had taken up residence among these old

paphs and every paph was growing extremely well.

Paphs are one of the few orchid groups that prefer continual repotting to keep them growing well. These paphs were in a

mix of fine bark, peat, lava rock, and perlite that had exceeded its lifespan. Usually, newly repotted paphs in this medium grow very well for 4-6 months then growth slows until they are repotted. If not repotted by the end of a year growth stops and the plant declines or dies. The ant infested pots had reached the end of the annual cycle and were scheduled to be repotted. These paphs were growing in clear, plastic pots so it was obvious what had happened.

The fire ants had increased aeration and drainage

within the pots. Their droppings also likely

increased the available nitrogen within

the pot as well. The lesson here is not

to import fire ants into your growing

area, but that paphs need good aera-

tion to grow well.

In general, the problem with growing all orchids is that the medium tends to compact after several months leading to less aeration. The more dense and fine the medium, the faster compaction occurs. In nature, roots are attached to the outside of trees in the case of most epiphytes. Orchids growing among the decaying leaves and stems on the ground, have earth worms and other insects to rework the medium in

which they grow, as well as a constant supply of new material added as leaves and twigs fall onto the soil below.

These are the conditions



*The lesson here is not to import fire ants into your growing area, but that paphs need good aeration to grow well.*

Continued

we try to replicate in our culture. Good culture recognizes the natural environment and cues found in the environment where orchids grow.

When the sun is low on the horizon and solar radiation weak, many tropical orchids do not receive enough light to grow or flower well. Shading can now be removed with little danger of leaf burn except on the South side of the greenhouse or South-facing windows. Each growing area is a little different, so it may take a few years to get the optimum shading required for maximum growth without burning. I usually remove all shading around the Winter Solstice (21 December) when the days are shortest and sunlight least intense and add shading in late February or March as the sun gets higher.

In winter, most phals need to be staked to keep the

weight of newly opened flowers from breaking the bloom spike. Stakes can also be used to guide spikes if light direction is causing spikes to orient poorly. This can be a serious problem in window culture and even in greenhouses this time of year. The spike should be securely staked, almost to the first bud before it matures. The goal is to produce an inflorescence that arches gracefully away from the stake with each flower almost touching the previous one on both side of the spike, an orientation known as shingling. Multifloral phals should be staked differently. The objective is to stake the main spike vertically, so that the flowering branches can hang down and not touch flowers on the main stem. In locations, such as windows where there is little room for an arching bloom spike, standard phals can also be tied using this method.

If older flowers drop as new flowers open every 3-4 days, there may be either a cultural problem, i.e. no roots, lack of water, etc, or an environmental one such as low humidity or unvented combustion gases.



# My Greenhouse

Story and Photos by David Gould

Part two of the three part story of my greenhouse so that you may learn from my mistakes.

Now that I had the frame completed I needed to start addressing the other things necessary to get the greenhouse up and operating. First the electricians. I had seen other greenhouses and they had electrical outlets everywhere, so I did that too. And I'm glad I did. I currently have: four medium fans, one floor fan, overhead lighting, a fogger for humidity, a power vent and fan, a radio, and a swamp cooler all plugged in at once. In the winter I unplug the swamp cooler and plug in two small electric heaters that both have dedicated circuits in order to handle the load. In short I had the electricians install 7 boxes with 14 outlets and



I am using most of them.

Then the plumbers arrived. I had them install a double faucet at each end which gave me four spigots. At times I have hoses connected to all four at once: one to the swamp cooler, one to the fogger, one to a garden hose I use to water and one to a misting system.

Now I had to figure out what to put the orchids on. I divided the inside of the greenhouse roughly into thirds so that I could have benches on the right and left side with a walkway down the middle. Each third is approximately three feet wide and 9 feet long. On the left side I used a bench configuration that I had seen in other greenhouses which utilized stair risers to create a multi tiered rack. Add white wire closet shelving and it makes it easy to see and maintain my smaller plants.

I used to have wide benches in my house and I learned when they are tightly packed and full of orchids it can be difficult to keep an eye on each plant and be certain that you have watered them all. However I know that if I had followed proper Orchid Greenhouse Procedures I would carefully position my plants with 12" of space around them. Well I just don't have that amount of self control. I just keep packing them in. Now it takes about 10 minutes to find space to add a new plant.

For the other side I found some thick black plastic table tops on Craigs List like you see at nurs-

Time for the contractors

ery centers. I cut some PVC pipe for legs and staggered the tops for a two tier bench. My larger plants go here. I added gravel under the benches for drainage.

Leaving a three foot wide path down the middle might sounds too wide but remember that orchids hang over the side of the bench that they are sitting on. If you want to be able to move freely in the greenhouse without fear of knocking orchids to the ground you need to allow more room than you think. It might measure three feet wide but when the orchids are in place it is much narrower than that, especially in winter when the cymbidiums come inside. After you accidentally knock a few clay pots to the ground and they break or you have to repot a few plants that fell and came out of the pot with their medium scattered all over the floor you will wish you had a little extra room to move.

I covered the greenhouse with Aluminet to reduce the direct sunlight on the plants. Many people use many different coverings from white paint to rolls of screening from home centers but by asking around I found that folks really like Aluminet. I got two different densities: a 60% coverage for the summer and a 30% piece for the winter. Sometimes, when we are having a particularly hot summer I will put both on at the same time. It still allows lots of light but it reflects some of the heat.

Next Month: Bring in the Plants

# 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.

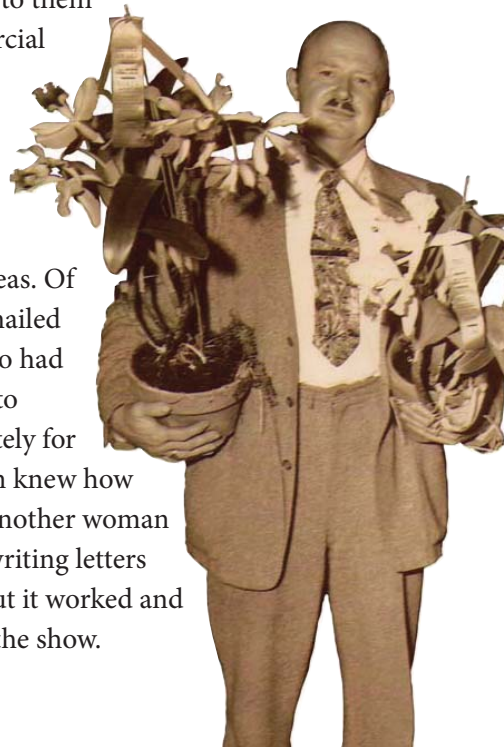
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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.

- \$30.00 – New or Renewing Member (individual)
- \$15.00 – 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): \_\_\_\_\_