

Next Meeting:  
January 4  
Speaker:  
Dotty Woodson

## Don't Throw Away that Orchid

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### MEETING AGENDA

- 2:30 – Orchids 101  
3:00 – Meeting Begins  
4:15 – Break  
4:30 – Announcements



Dotty Woodson and her husband, Berry, have grown and hybridized orchids since 1973. They grow their orchids in 5,000 square feet of greenhouses, 2,000 in their back yard and 3,000 at D & B Orchids, 5608 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth, TX. They have registered 64 hybrids and won many awards for their orchids and orchid exhibits. Berry Woodson was named the Herb Hagar Hybridizer of the Year by American Orchid Society in 2013.

Dotty has presented orchid programs to orchid growers in many states, at two International Master Gardener Conferences, two International Phalaenopsis Alliance Conferences, and to international audiences on Norwegian Cruise Line. Woodson is a member of the Fort Worth Orchid Society, Greater North Texas Orchid Society, Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association, and the American Orchid Society.

Woodson has also written articles about orchid culture for many newspapers and magazines and appeared on many television and radio shows to discuss growing orchids. In addition, she has produced several orchid videos and contributed orchid materials and photographs for several books. Woodson's DVD "Growing Orchids Made Easy with Dotty" is available through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bookstore at <https://agrilifebookstore.org/>.

Dotty Woodson is an Extension Program Specialist



for Water Resources assigned to the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas, Texas. Woodson is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Urban Water Team.

Dotty appears each Sunday on NBC DFW channel 5 Sunday Morning News to discuss water issues, landscape water conservation, and of course orchids.

Woodson started with Extension in May 1995 as a County Extension Agent in Tarrant County. Woodson has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Horticulture from Tarleton State University and a doctoral degree from Texas A&M and Texas Tech Universities.

Jose Carreras

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Gerry Darver

Happy New Year, welcome to 2015!

I am looking forward to serving as GNTOS President and with everyone's help, hope I can be a benefit to our Society.

First, some housekeeping:

## Presidents Message

North Haven Gardens has limited our access to the meeting room to 3 pm on Sundays, and we cannot put anything on the tables until they have been covered. There will be several of us setting up the meeting room at 3 pm so, unless you are helping to set up, please do not rush in or stand around inside. We need to have room to set up tables and get them covered quickly. We will begin our meeting at 3:15 pm. Orchids 101 is still at 2:30 pm in the Greenhouse outside the meeting room.

If you haven't done so already, please see Treasurer, Kathy Halverson, to pay 2015 dues. They need to be paid by the end of January to have your name in the GNTOS Directory.

Remember, we have a show this year so baby those plants. At the meeting prior to the show, our speaker will describe how to prep and clean your plants and what you can expect at the show. More information will be presented as we get closer to show time.

I would like to try and get meeting information out to other sources to bring in new members. If you have any thoughts please see me or Nancy Cropp.

If you have any questions or suggestions, always feel free to contact me or any of the other Board members.

The Board is looking forward to a great year in GNTOS and of course...enjoying orchids!

Mike

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

# Orchids 101

Kathi McKenzie  
& Lorna Kissling

## This month: 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.

# Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Plant Table Judging Report for 2014

During nine meetings, 25 members brought 227 plants and garnered 416 total points. Nine judges volunteered during the course of the year. Winners for the year:

1st place - Mike Beber with 54 points

2nd place - Gerry Darver with 50 points

3rd place - Kathi McKenzie with 41 points

Runners-up:

Charlie Hess

Don Brigham

Sarah Hardesty

Manny Aybar

Barb McNamee

Andrew Sherman

# Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

## AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER DEC. 13, 2014

Five plants entered for consideration,  
one award given:

Paph. Shin-Yi Pearl  
'Orchid Konnection Too'  
(Shin-Yi's Pride x Sanderiana)  
HCC 77 points  
owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas

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

The next meeting is  
January, 10 at the:  
Garland Senior  
Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A,  
Garland, TX 75040

11am

Everyone is welcome.



# Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie

## Zygopetalum Orchids

Zygopetalum orchids have an unusual appearance, produce multiple blooms that can last up to 8 weeks, and are often quite fragrant. Flowers come in a variety of colors, with greens and purples being most common.

Zygos were first discovered in 1827, when John Mackay found one in Brazil, and gave it to botanist Sir William Hooker. Hooker, realizing this as a new orchid type, created the genus Zygopetalum. The name is derived from the Greek words for “yoke” and “petals,” as he was reminded of oxen yoke by the way the petals are joined. The first species of Zygopetalum orchids was named Zygopetalum mackayi in honor of its discoverer. Today there are 15 recognized species, as well as some interesting hybrids.

Native to South America, these prefer bright light (3,000 to 4,000 foot candles). They prefer somewhat cooler temperature and more water than do cattleyas. While they will take temps up to 85° in the day, they prefer 50-55° at night. They should never dry out completely, but like other orchids, they do not want to be soggy. They are not usually potted in bark, but in moss or a blend of moss/perlite. They should be potted loosely so that their roots can breathe.



Bollopetalum Midnight Blue  
'Cardinal's Roost'



Zygopetalum B.G. White  
'Stonehurst' AM/AOS



Zygopetalum mackayi AM/AOS



Zygopetalum crinitum



Zygopetalum Artur Elle

# Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



## A Big Boost for Conservation

As I was reading the November 2014 issue of Nature Conservancy Magazine

I came across an article on easements. Because I have never properly understood this concept, and because I wondered why an article about easements would be in a publication by The Nature Conservancy, I decided to read on. I learned that by using what are called conservation easements this fine organization is able to protect tracts of land from development, and thereby save the habitats of untold numbers of plant and animal species. Here is how this works:

A conservation easement is a binding agreement between a private landowner and the easement holder to preserve a property's natural value. The landowner gets tax benefits or payment for giving up development or other land-use rights. The easement holder is responsible for enforcing the agreement's conditions. Even in a case where the property changes hands, the restrictions remain in place.

In 1976, tax laws were written to allow landowners to begin reporting the value of an easement on their land as a tax deduction.

This change in the tax laws resulted in a sig-

nificant increase in landowners making properties available to various conservation organizations under easement agreements. Additional laws were later passed, raising the limits on the amount landowners can deduct from income taxes, thereby accelerating the use of easements. These Enhanced Easement incentives expire Dec 31, 2014 and the bill to make the enhanced incentives permanent failed to pass in the 113th congress. Unless

the new congress acts, it is back to the normal non-cash donation rule limits in 2015.

The Nature Conservancy is the largest non-profit easement holder in the United States. They protect 3.9 million acres as easements granted directly to the Conservancy as of March 2014. This is part of the 20 million total acres the Conservancy protects, purchased outright and through easements. Historically, since 1954, the cost to outright purchase an acre of land for protection has shown to be about 5 times more than the cost

Davis Mountains Reserve



of purchasing easements on an acre. Clearly this is an extremely cost effective method of increasing acreage to be put under protection. The Conservancy holds 2,475 easements with an average size of 1,250 acres.

A Nature Conservancy easement success close to home – in West Texas – is the Davis Mountains Reserve. With help from the Conservancy, this reserve was expanded by over 33 thousand acres and conserves almost 70 thousand acres of privately owned land with 20 easements. All told, the Conservancy has a total of 131 easements in Texas, covering almost 350 thousand acres.

This reserve is particularly relevant to orchid lovers, as shown in the book *Texas Wildflowers* by Campbell and Lynn Louchmiller (1984). The great coral root orchid, *Hexecltris grandiflora*, can be found in the Davis and Chisos mountains near oak and madrone trees. This species is myco-heterotrophic and lacks chlorophyll. This proximity to trees suggests that they subsist entirely on nutrients obtained by fungi in the soil. Other *Hexecltris* orchid species exist in our Great Trinity Forest south of Dallas under similar growing conditions. Shown here is the *Hexecltris spicata*.

We have in the United States alone, nearly 650 million acres of federally protected lands as National Parks and Wildlife Refuges. State and local land trusts, government agencies, and national conservation groups protect an additional 40 million acres through easements, most having been secured in the last few decades. Easements are an important and significant portion of our protected land. It is by the use of easements that organizations such as The Nature Conservancy are able to protect much more land than they could if they were to make an outright purchase.

We all can enjoy the good feeling we get when we support a cause we care about, particularly if by doing so we protect some valuable natural habitats for future generations to enjoy. With 4,000 acres a day of open spaces being lost to development in this country, our support is crucial. Put The Nature Conservancy somewhere in your support in 2015 and chances are some of our country's wild orchids will be given a secure future.



*Hexecltris spicata*

# Orchid Growing Tips

by Courtney Hackney

## TYPES OF GROWING POTS FOR ORCHIDS:

### Clay vs. Plastic

In the latest issue of *Orchids* magazine, there was an article on pots that got my attention. It was not the article itself, but comments from several new orchid growers. For them, this was all new, which reminded me how important it is to review the basics every now and then.

Containers used to grow orchids all have one thing in common. They are meant to simulate the environment in which an orchid evolved.

Even hybrids have ancestors that grew in the wild. Traditionally, orchids were grown in clay pots because that was all there was. Now, all types of plastic pots are available, which makes the decision on type of pot more difficult. The article emphasized the fact that the pot chosen was as dependent on the grower and their propensity for over-watering as it was on the type of orchid grown.

Clay pots breathe, so those that over-water are better advised to choose this type of pot. Most clay pots designed for orchids have additional holes or slots to allow more drainage and air flow. Orchids potted in a coarse medium in shallow orchid pots are almost impossible to over-water, especially if the medium is inert such as Aliflor, Lava Rock, or Stalite.

At the other end of the spectrum are plastic pots that do not allow air to pass through them except where there are holes, slits or grates. Plastic pots come in all sizes and colors; even clear. Clear pots are usually treated with a UV blocker to prevent the plastic from degrading and have the advantage of letting light hit the plant roots. This is more typical of the life style of wild orchids, as they have

lots of roots growing attached to rocks or trees. Best of all, clear pots allow the grower to tell if the medium is wet before watering.

Plastic pots are best for growers that forget to water or travel a lot and neglect their orchids. Most novice growers fail to notice that their orchids grow better in certain types of pots and assign good or poor growth to the medium or the orchid plant itself. While a good medium and a healthy plant are necessary, the type of pot in which most of orchids in a collection are growing best can indicate something about the grower.

One important caveat is that water quality may also dictate the type of pot used. Water high in dissolved salts, hard water, generally dictates that clay pots will not be as effective at allowing roots to get oxygen because these dissolved salts tend to accumulate and clog the pores of the pot. So much salt may accumulate that the pots become toxic to roots. Clay pots may appear white or even a shiny red-brown if calcium or iron is in the water.

Once impregnated with salts, clay pots should be discarded as it is very difficult to return the pot to its original condition. Plastic pots do not accumulate salts and any dry salts are washed away with the next watering. Note that some types of medium, e.g. Aliflor, Lava Rock, etc may also accumulate salts.

Lastly, remember that different kinds of orchids prefer different environments. At one end of the spectrum are vandaceous orchids, which must dry quickly, followed by cattleyas, dendrobiums, the oncidium alliance, then phalaenopsis and, finally, the almost-terrestrial paphs. It is hard to over-water two major orchid groups, phrags and dendrochilums. Sort these different types of orchids and determine if they are telling you anything about how you water or what types of pots should be used.



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.

# My Greenhouse

Story and Photos by David Gould

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

To cool the greenhouse in the summer I got an evaporative cooler (swamp cooler). It works best when the humidity is low outside the greenhouse by drawing air through cooling pads and cooling the air and adding humidity before blowing it into the greenhouse. I leave the top vents open all summer so that the cool air entering through the cooler will push the hot air out the top. It is less effective when it is humid because the air is already saturated and therefore can't cool down as

much. It is also why evaporative coolers and water walls are so ineffective in Houston where it is always humid.

The temp will frequently go into the high 90's and sometimes over 100° in the greenhouse in summer. Some days I can reduce the outside temp by about 10°. On humid days it is much less.

To heat, in the winter I cover up the evaporative cooler to stop airflow and seal the top vents. I use two electric heaters. One is on a thermostat and the other just cycles on and off. (Gas heat isn't an option at my house.) I asked around and found that most members try to maintain at minimum temp of 65° in

winter. With a heater at each end and the fans, I have been able to do that through the coolest days. It gets a little tense when there is a rolling brownout and you lose power for 15 or 20 minutes usually on the coldest point of the coldest days. But so far all have survived.

Even on the coldest days, if the sun is out I can usually shut off the

heaters and the temp will still rise to the 70s or 80s inside. Sometimes I will open a roof vent to try to keep it around 85°. In winter it is a constant balancing act. Always adjusting the heaters and vents to maintain the right heat: Sundown, close the vents, turn on the heaters, 10 pm make any adjustments to heaters based on the overnight forecast, 9 am back the heat down as the sun warms up, 11 am turn them off and open vents.

I have found that you don't need to buy the special greenhouse heaters or fans that the online suppliers offer. Items that are specifically designed for a greenhouse usually cost a lot more and the local stores can sell you heaters and fans that may not last quite as long but are still cheaper even if you have to replace them once or twice.

There are a thousand decisions that must be made when you get a greenhouse and everyone chooses to do things a little differently. I have never been in another greenhouse without seeing some idea that I could use to improve the way I was doing something in my greenhouse. It might be as simple as the way someone hangs their plants, or how they keep the humidity up or any of a dozen other things. And, just as important, I have seen things that I would not do or don't like but seeing those things also helps.

This is what I did and how I did it. You will probably do it differently.

That makes you wrong.



# 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.

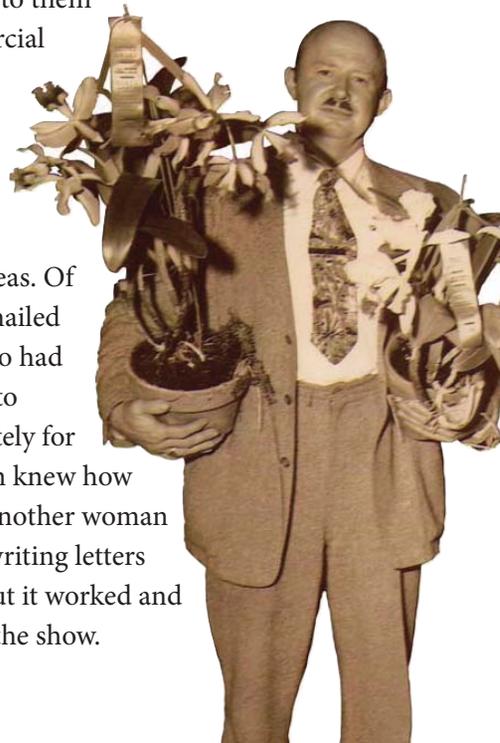
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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): \_\_\_\_\_