

Next Meeting:  
February 1  
Speaker:  
Charles Hess

## MEETING AGENDA

- 2:30 – Orchids 101
- 3:15 – Meeting Begins
- 4:15 – Break
- 4:30 – Announcements
- 5:00 – Adjourn

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## Orchids of the Amazon

One of the great botanical artists of our time, Margaret Mee spent 30 years in Brazil taking around 15 trips into the forests of the Amazon. We will follow her travels and enjoy a number of orchids she painted found among her many botanical drawings now preserved at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Charles Hess has been raising orchids since the 1980's when he discovered various native species in the Philippines during a work assignment with Texas Instruments. After retiring from TI he began drawing orchids in bloom in his greenhouse. To date he has produced over 40 watercolors of various favorites in his collection.

Painting requires that the artist examine his subject very closely, from all angles, and for extended periods. This led to an ever deeper appreciation of the breathtaking beauty and seemingly endless variety to be found in the orchid world. It also led to the realization and understanding about the fragile state of many environments where orchids are naturally found. For this reason, much of his efforts today are devoted to raising funds through the sale of his limited edition orchid prints, with proceeds going to various organizations positioned to conserve critical ecosystems around the world.



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Hi everyone,

We kicked off the first meeting of 2015 and all went smoothly...well sort of. Please remember, the doors will open to our meeting area at 3pm the first Sunday of each month and our main meeting will begin at 3:15pm. This will allow volunteers time to set up the tables and chairs prior to bringing in plants.

When the doors have opened, please sign in your plants for the judging first, as this does take a bit of time to accomplish.

The weather still can't make up its mind if it wants to be warm, cool, or downright cold.

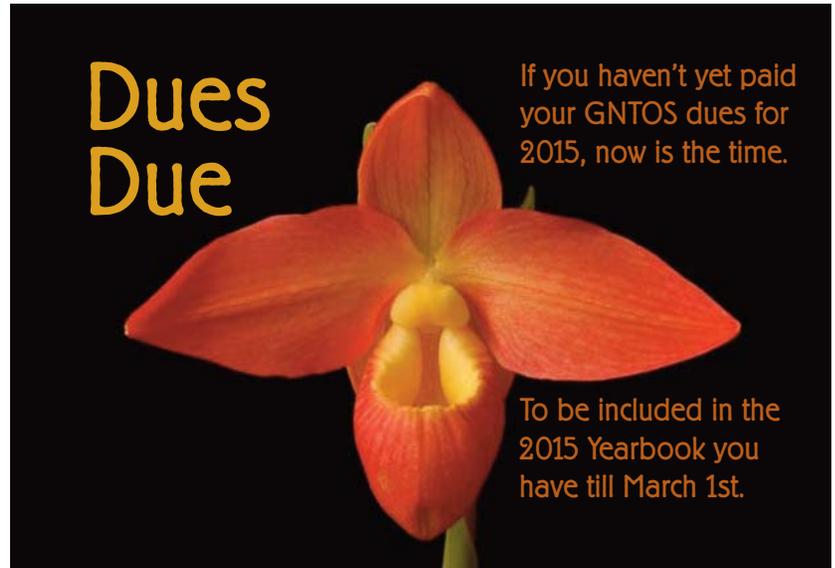
# President's Message

Most of us still have our orchids crowded together inside our house or greenhouse and if you're like me, have several non-orchid plants tucked

in next to them in the greenhouse. Keep a close eye on them for pests like scale that grow in spite of the cooler temps. I even came across a very cold Katydid that had been doing some munching! He turned out to be good food for the birds close by! Even slugs can come out of the medium when it warms a bit; especially if you are bringing them into a nice warm house!

Just want to remind everyone, when you bring plants in for judging or for sale, take a close look at the plant and make sure you aren't bringing in the pests with them. It happens to everyone who has been growing for awhile, so just keep your eyes open.

See you at the February 2015 meeting,  
Mike



Membership and Dues information is on page 10 of this newsletter.

# Calendar

by Rhonda Whitson

<b>February</b>	<i>Charles Hess</i>	Orchids of the Amazon
<b>March</b>	<i>Mier Moses</i>	Phals
<b>April</b>	<i>Linda Horton</i>	Plant Prep
<b>May</b>	<i>Robert Marsh</i>	Barkerias
<b>June</b>	<i>Dan Callahan</i>	Growing Local
<b>July</b>	<i>Auction</i>	
<b>August</b>	<i>Alan Koch</i>	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: "Identify that Orchid"

**ORCHIDS 101** classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower.



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.

Thanks to Forest Shipp  
for all of the photos on this page.

**GNTOS** Jan. 4, 2015,  
Plant Table Judging Results  
Judges: Cecelia Pinson & Lorna Kissling

### **CATTLEYA ALLIANCE**

Blue – Lc. Shellie Compton x C. walkeriana  
– Sarah Hardesty  
Red – Lc. Maikai 'My Love' – Mike Beber  
White – B. nodosa (might be Little Stars)  
– Mike Beber

### **DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS**

Blue – Monn. Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft'  
– Mary Heifner  
Red – Den. Royal Wings – Sarah Hardesty  
White – Cirr. Elizabeth Ann – Sarah Hardesty

## Plant Table

Nancy Cropp



### **ONCIDIUMS**

Blue – Onc. Twinkle – Tham Johnson  
Red – Beallara Tahoma Glacier – Don Brigham

### **PAPHS & PHRAGS**

Blue – Paph. spicerianu  
– M. Forest Shipp



### **VANDAS & PHALS**

Blue – Rnst. Bangkok Beauty – Dan Callahan  
Red – Neostylis Lou Sneary – David Gould  
White – Phal. unknown – M. Forest Shipp

### **SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

L. anceps – Kathy Halverson  
Den. aberrans – Kathy Halverson  
Paph. spicerianum – M. Forest Shipp

### **PEOPLES CHOICE**

Rnst. Bangkok Beauty – Dan Callahan





## Fertilizer

I would like to start a new feature this year. I would like to share our members orchid knowledge on various topics. But I need you to participate in order to get that knowledge.

This month tell us about what kind of fertilizer you use on your orchids and why. It doesn't have to be any more indepth than that unless you want to share more.

Have you found one you really like? Maybe it is one you have just always used and you never really thought about it. Tell us where you get it (if you have found a good source). Tell us how you use it, how often, and maybe some fertilizers you tried but didn't like.

I will share the results in next month's newsletter. All submissions will be kept anonymous.

Send it to me by February 10th: [david@gouldcreative.com](mailto:david@gouldcreative.com) with a subject line: Fertilizer. The more of you I hear from the better. Share your wisdom with the rest of us.

If you have a topic you would like to suggest for a member poll just let me know.

Next Month: Where do you order your orchids from?  
(Or, Where do orchids come from daddy?)



So I threw a piece of Dendrobium Speciosum in the back of my truck and forgot about it, then one day. . .

## Newsletter

Please submit articles, information, or suggestions for publica-

tion in our newsletter. No really. I'm serious. Help me out here. I'll take photos, stories whatever. I will give \$1 to the first person who asks for it at the meeting. Send submissions to me at: [david@gouldcreative.com](mailto:david@gouldcreative.com)

# Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

## AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER JANUARY 10, 2015

Two plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

### UPCOMING SHOWS:

- Tri-Center Workshop in Shreveport 2/28
- CETOS SWROGA Show in Tyler 3/28-29
- Tulsa Orchid Society Show 4/18-19

*Previously submitted plant for Judging:*  
Paph. Chiu Hua Dancer  
owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas



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

The next meeting is February, 14 at the: Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A,  
Garland, TX 75040

11am

Everyone is welcome.

# Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie

## Peristeria elata

Also known as the “Dove Orchid” or the “Holy Ghost” orchid, *Peristeria elata* is the national flower of Panama. It grows in the wild in Panama, Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Venezuela. It typically grows on the roots of trees on the edges of humid hardwood forests, often with roots covered by moss, decaying leaves and other forest debris. It is the national flower of Panama, and is currently considered endangered in its home habitat there, due to overcollection.

*Peristeria elata* gets its name from the Greek for “little dove,” as many people see the shape of a dove in flight in the center of its blooms. The pseudobulbs are large, elongated ovals, and its flower spike emerges from the base of the bulb. Flowers are white, and generally have reddish spots in the throat.

The pseudobulbs are large, elongated ovals and the flowers emerge from the base of these bulbs. One spike may produce 4-20 flowers at a time. It prefers strong light, especially in the fall and winter. While in active growth, it wants a good deal of water, and regular fertilization. It should be planted in a free-flowing medium, so that it can be watered several times a week, as it enjoys fresh water often. Be careful not to over-pot, and watch for slugs, who enjoy its roots as well as its buds. When the leaves cease growing longer, water only minimally through the winter (just enough to prevent severe shriveling of the bulbs). It also requires a temperature drop during the rest period to ensure blooms.



*Peristeria elata*



*Peristeria elata*



*Peristeria elata*

# Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



## Compassion for the Earth

Do we need compassion for the Earth? We experience compassion in many areas in our lives such as the feeling we get when we see the appeals for adopting an animal, or when we see a malnourished child on TV. But does the Earth need our compassion, when we know that it can easily rattle us with earthquakes or sweep us away with floods? When these disasters strike, our attention and compassion is always for those who suffer and have been left homeless, not for the Earth itself.

The common paradigm is to think that Mother Nature has the upper hand, and the Earth's inhabitants are victims, prey to the whims of weather and geophysics. Why, then, should we think about having compassion for the Earth?

A dictionary definition of compassion says it is "a deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering or remove the cause".

Is the "another" in this definition neces-

sarily a person? Our planet is not a person, though we have humanized her by calling her "Mother Earth" or "Mother Nature". On the one hand, we would not feel sympathy for one of Mother Earth's mountains that experienced a landslide, because that mountain itself did not "suffer" in the way malnourished child suffers. On the other hand, we are saddened when we see pictures of miles of mountain ranges which have been flattened, their forests destroyed, their rivers polluted, all for the sake of mining coal.

It seems that somewhere in the core of our humanity we do feel a connection with anything in nature that might have suffered. We ache for the birds whose nests have disappeared as trees are swept up in a mudslide. We cringe and turn away from pictures of piles of ivory being loaded onto a truck, with the bloody car-

casses of the slaughtered elephants lying nearby. There is a mysterious connection to nature that many feel is in our DNA from millions of years ago when we first came out of the forests and cultivated the lands. Instinctively we love the sound of birdsong in the mornings, and we enjoy a window with a view of nature. Deep down we know that all of us animals and plants share the same cell structures, and we all need food, water and air. In that sense we are all part of the Earth.

Going back to our definition of "compassion" we next see "...stricken by misfortune..." as the second component. Misfortune we recognize as something that causes harm, and "stricken" implies something which was not



brought on by the actions of the victim. It is certainly a “misfortune” that half of the forests of the world have been lost to axes and bulldozers. It is a misfortune that the rivers we swam in when we were young are no longer fit even for fish to swim in. It is a misfortune that we don’t have clean air to breathe, or pollution-free water to drink.

The question is this: Are all these things the Earth’s misfortune, or are they the human race’s misfortune? Should we weep for Mother Nature, or for ourselves? The inevitable conclusion we must come to is that they are one and the same. When the Earth suffers, we humans must suffer in turn. We are mutually interdependent with this little planet that is our home.

The last, and most important, part of the definition of compassion reads “a strong desire to alleviate the suffering or remove the cause”. When we see a person or animal who

is hurt, or when we acknowledge that we are losing our rainforests

to agriculture and logging, we surely feel this kind of “strong desire”. But unless we take action, we cannot claim that we are compassionate.

We like to think of ourselves as being compassionate, but don’t always know what can be done. It is too easy to say someone else should adopt that dog or cat at the shelter or send money to a relief fund. It is always tempting to be outraged at things that are wrong, and say that “someone” needs to do something about it. But aren’t we all “someone”?

We live in the most compassionate time in all of history. There are hundreds of environmental groups that are working to save nature and the critical biospheres that our life on this earth depend upon. These groups provide a great venue for us to practice compassion for the Earth. We can support them in their efforts without having to leave the comforts of home to do it.

Whenever I speak to orchid societies about rainforest and habitat conservation I meet many compassionate people who care



enough to support The Rainforest Trust, the Smithsonian Orchid Conservation Center and other like-minded groups. Their support motivates me to continue in my effort to use my art to encourage others in practicing this kind of compassion.

I will end today with this quotation from Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan: “*There are no passengers on spaceship Earth. We are all crew.*”

# 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.

## My Favorite Orchids

Hardly a month goes by without an email from someone asking what the best orchid is. Often the individual asking the question has limited space and wants to spend their money wisely. If you have been one of those asking the question, then you know that my answer has been somewhat evasive. In fact, you likely got more questions than answers. The following is how I approach the question.

My collection is a real mix of genera and reflects my personal taste, available space, and growing conditions. About half of my plants are my permanent collection, i.e. mature plants. Because there is no space for new plants, every new addition to the permanent collection requires getting rid of a plant.

New hybrid and species seedlings are acquired each year to see what various parental combinations will produce. In most cases, once they bloom, I take a photo and sell or give the plant away, hopefully creating new orchid addicts in the process. Some seedlings become mulch or are occasionally so interesting or different that I cannot part with it. Often this new discovery replaces a similar orchid that is not as good with respect to flower quality or growth characteristics. My goal is to have a collection of vigorous orchids with at least one of each color combination, especially in cattleyas and phals.

My interest in classic [old] hybrids and clones of cattleyas continues, and these are added at the expense of new hybrids. Most orchid hobbyist gravitate towards some group, color, etc of orchid. Getting to see what types of orchid each orchid hobbyist likes best is what makes club meetings so much fun.

So what are the characteristics of some of my favorites? In phals, Dtps Newberry Parfait 'Picotee' has a unique picotee around the edge of each well-formed white flower, which is an unusual combination. It grows like a weed, will remain in flower all year long, and can easily be grown into a specimen plant. Phal Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure' or 'Orchidheights' is another unique orchid. It is a non-fading, relatively large yellow flower with stripes that is extremely vigorous. Virtually all other similar hybrids grow poorly and fade as the flower ages. These have both been made available through cloning and are inexpensive. Similarly, Dtps Martha Dolge is an easy growing white with stunning red lip with flowers as large as most standard white phals. Best of all, it is also very easy to grow, unlike many semi-alba phals. There are also clones with a unique orange lip. There are many different clones of Dtps Anna-Larati Suekarde



Dtps Anna-Larati Suekarde

in a variety of colors and all are desirable. This true miniature phal produces multiple spikes each year and the plant itself multiplies in the pot. After a few years a plant may produce 10 or more spikes in a 4 inch pot. Sadly, I have not seen this one available as a mericlone yet.

There are also orchids in my permanent collection that I would maintain even if the flowers were not beautiful because of their fragrance. Many, such as Phal. lueddemanniana and pulcra, are extremely fragrant for months. There are also some I love despite their fragrance, such as Bulb Elizabeth Ann 'Buckelberry', which produces whorls of unusual flowers covered with tufts of tiny hairs, and Bulb echinolabium, with spidery red-orange striped flowers almost 30 cm in length that is almost always in bloom.

# 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.

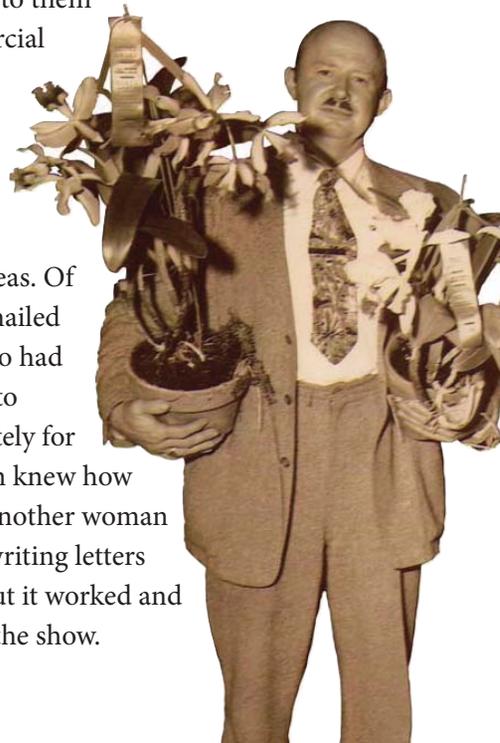
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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