

# Orchidist

Next Meeting:  
March 1

Speaker:  
Meir Moses

## MEETING AGENDA

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

- 1** Program Speaker
- 2** President's Message
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- 3** Plant Table Results
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- 5** Orchid of the Month
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- 10** Membership Info

## New Trend in Phalaenopsis Breeding

Meir is also part of the Dallas Judging Center and has been an accredited judge since 2001. Meir will present a program on the new trend in Phalaenopsis breeding – the **Big Lip Phalaenopsis**.

Meir started growing orchids about 25 years ago. A good friend took Meir one weekend to visit North Haven Gardens, where he bought his first orchid. The rest is history. A few years later and with a growing collection around the TV set in the living room, he built his first greenhouse that has served him well to today. At that time he joined the GNTOS and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance as he found his passion specializing in Phalaenopsis. About that time he also founded his company – The Orchid Konnection, which became his trademark and is well known around the country for the numerous AOS awards The Orchid Konnection has received over the years.

Meir and the Orchid Konnection are well-known in the Southwest region, where he participates as a vendor in many of the societies' spring shows.



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Welcome to March,

I don't know about you, but I am tired of the cold ... but not looking forward to the long hot summer either.

February was a great meeting. We started on time and even finished without being rushed. Thank you Charles for a great program and all for helping with the new time schedule. Doors open at 3pm and the meeting starts at 3:15pm.

Please make note: we will not have a meeting on April 5th because it conflicts with Easter. Make sure

you put that on your calendars as a reminder.

Our April show is now being pushed out to a Fall show. We are still looking for a venue for that show but Lorna, our Show Chair, is working diligently on a couple of possibilities and we hope to have more information to share shortly.

I am curious how some of our members got into orchids. If you would like to share this, send me a short email [mike.h.beber@gmail.com](mailto:mike.h.beber@gmail.com), and maybe we can get David to get it into one of our monthly newsletters. FYI, my Mom had me take her to a Greenhouse in Florida where she bought a few ... I couldn't resist and brought a blooming one home. It survived about 2 years and never bloomed again, before I killed it. But I loved the flower and the color, and that was all it took.

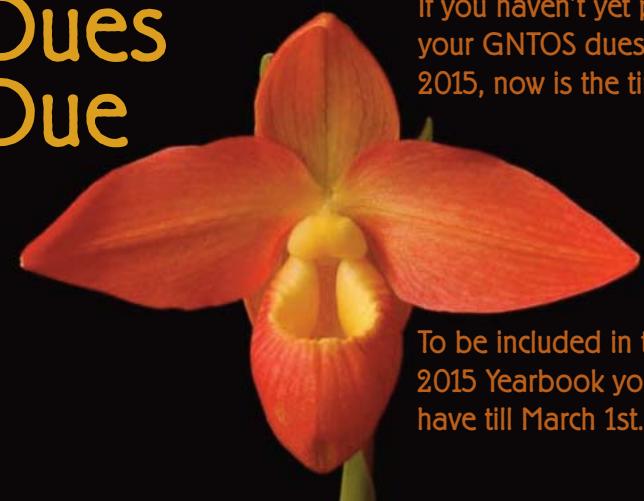
See you at the March meeting,

Mike

## President's Message

# Dues Due

If you haven't yet paid your GNTOS dues for 2015, now is the time.



To be included in the 2015 Yearbook you have till March 1st.

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

## Calendar

by Rhonda Whitson

March	Meir Moses	Phals
April	No Meeting due to Easter	
May	Robert Marsh	Barkerias
June	Dan Callahan	Growing Local
July	Auction	
August	Alan Koch	Mini Catts

*This calendar is accurate at the time the newsletter is published. However changes often happen. If you wish to hear a specific presentation please verify that the speaker is still scheduled.*

# Orchids 101

Kathi McKenzie  
& Lorna Kissling

## This month: "Summering Orchids Outside"

**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.

Photo by Forest Shippss.

# Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

Feb. 1, 2015

Judges: Emily Quinn & Jeanne Thompson

## CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

*Blue* – Blc. Pamela Hetherington

– Mike Beber

*Red* – Blc. George King x Pot. Little Toshie

– Gerry Darver

*White* – Blc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon'

– Sarah Hardesty

## DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

*Blue* – D. Gilleston Jazz x D. (Tosca x Rutherford Starbright) – Gerry Darver

*Red* – Den. Fire Wings – Sarah Hardesty

*White* – D. aberrans – Kathy Halverson

## ONCIDIUMS

*Blue* – Tolumnia Tequila Sunrise

– Barb McNamee

*Red* – Beallara (name unknown)

– Sarah Hardesty

## PAPHS & PHRAGS

*Blue* – Paph. philippinense – David Gould

## VANDAS & PHALS

*Blue* – Phal. (unknown) – Gerry Darver

*Red* – Vanda Dona Lourdes Flores

x Ascd. Fuchs Fiesta – Kathy Halverson

*White* – Phal. equestris var. ilocos

– Charles Hess

## SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Bletilla striata – Charles Hess

Angraecum sesquipedale – Gerry Darver

Paph. philippinense – David Gould

## PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Pamela Hetherington – Mike Beber

# Dallas Judging Center

Nancy Cropp

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

The next meeting is March, 14  
at the:

Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A,  
Garland, TX 75040

11am  
Everyone is welcome.

## UPCOMING SHOWS:

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

## AOS DALLAS JUDGING CENTER FEBRUARY 14, 2015

Six plants entered for consideration,  
three awards given:

Below:

Paph. Shun-Fa Golden  
'Orchid Konnection Too'  
(malipoense x hangianum)  
AM 81 points,  
owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas



Above:

Phal. LD Queen Meili  
'Pylo's Orange'  
(Sogo Mellie x LD Bear Queen)  
AM 81 points,  
owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake

Below:

Phal. Meiderland Golden Salazar  
'Pylo's Red'  
(Golden Sun x Lea Marie Salazar)  
HCC 79 points,  
owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake



## Myrmecophila

The genus Myrmecophila is sometimes known as the ant orchid.

The genus name is derived from the word myrmecophile, referring to the plants' symbiotic relationship with colonies of ants. The large, hollow pseudobulbs have a hole in the base which serves as an entrance for the ants. The ants associated with *Myrmecophila tibicinis*, for example, harvest nectar from the peduncles and flowers, and they pack many of the pseudobulbs with debris that includes dead ants and insects, bits of plant material, sand and other scavenged organic matter. *Myrmecophila tibicinis* then utilizes this organic debris as fertilizer. *Myrmecophila* was formerly known as *Schomburkia* (the non-ant loving schoms were moved to *Laelia*).

These orchids are native to southern Mexico, Central America, the West Indies and Venezuela, and may be either epiphytic or lithophytic in their growth habit. Flowers are typically lightly scented, and produced on long growths that can reach anywhere from 4-12' high.

In recent years, there has been a trend of hybridizing these orchids with cattleyas, resulting in some striking crosses in more manageable sizes. You will still sometimes see these listed as "schombo-catts." These examples are *Myrmecocattleya Anne Gripp 'Raspberry Trifle'* HCC/AOS (C. Helen Veliz and *Myrmecophila tibicinis*), and a cross between *tibicinis* and *C. forbesii*.

## Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie



*Myrmecophila humboldtii*



*Myrmecocattleya Anne Gripp 'Raspberry Trifle' HCC*



*tibicinis x C. forbesii*



*Myrmecophila tibicinis 'Midnight'*



'Joyce Kelly' CHM/AOS

# Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



why are we reading about this in a newsletter for orchid lovers? Believe it or not, this story is part of the big picture – organizations working together to protect habitat, preserve species, and in general make our planet more livable for the multitude of life-forms it supports.

In several past columns I have written about several U.S. conservation organizations, but have not yet mentioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A recent article in the *Dallas Morning News* presented a golden (or should I say “orange”) opportunity to talk about one of the many important projects of our federal government.

The DMN article tells us that \$3.2 million is being pledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist the plight of the monarch butterfly. As we know, milkweed is being eradicated due to increased weed control in our prairies, which are systematically being converted to cropland (GMO). The Monarch Butterfly project will restore more than

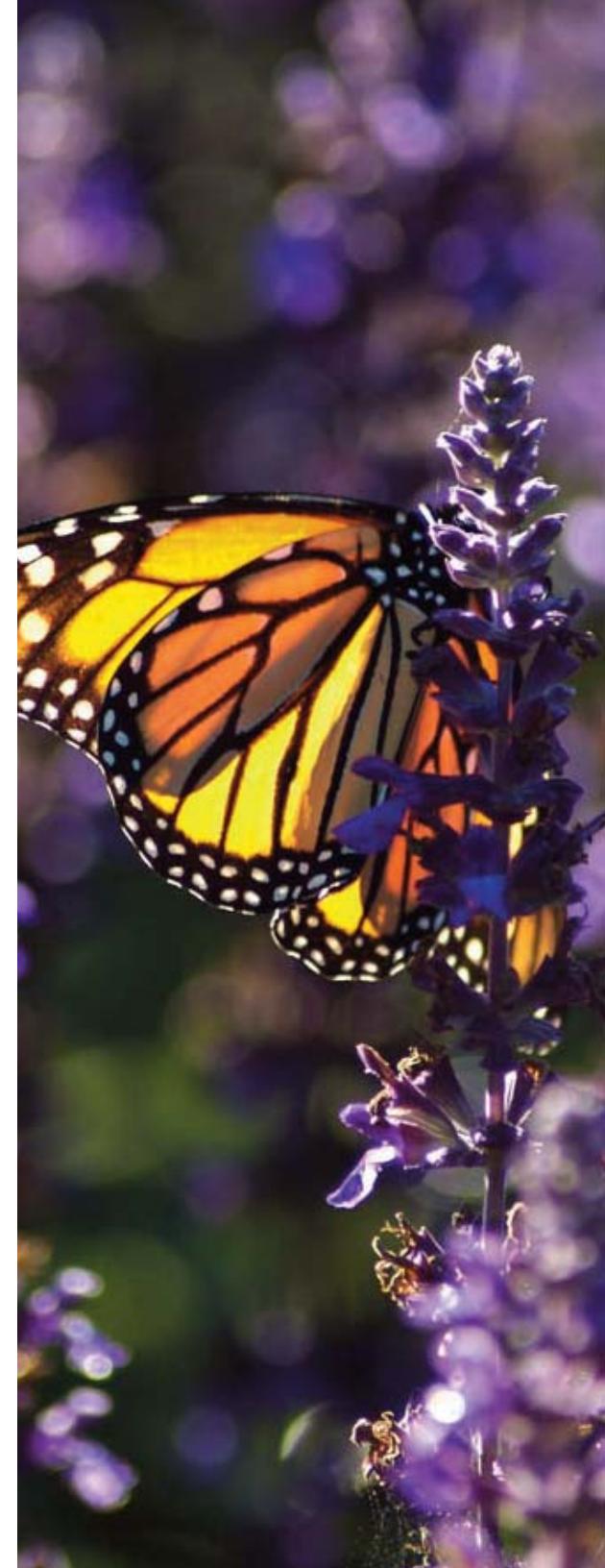
## Butterflies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

What does the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have to do with butterflies, and 200,000 acres of habitat from California to the Corn Belt, as well as a strip along I-35 in Texas going north all the way through the corn-belt. Texas will host 10 of 24 scheduled projects, with in more than \$700,000 in funding. The project’s main goal is to plant more milkweed, a plant vital to the Monarchs’ survival as they make their long trip from Canada to Mexico every year.

In particular, this funding will go toward on-the-ground conservation projects, with \$1.2 million anchoring a grant distribution fund for farmers and other private landowners who preserve habitat. What caught my eye was that this is reported to be the first funding effort of its kind.

The population of monarch butterflies, which peaked in the late 1990s at roughly 1 billion specimens, has fallen by a whopping 90 percent in recent years, according to the Center for Biological Diversity. This center has made an appeal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the monarch as endangered, thus providing even more protection. This funding has been pledged even before the final threat status determination has been made.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plays a



*Spiranthes parksii*



key part in protecting all kinds of species, both plant and animal. They are our eyes and ears for tracking threatened and endangered life forms. In fact, they are the ones who compile the information to determine the threatened or endangered status of plants and animals, and then make the recommendations for CITES (Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species). Orchid enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the Texas Navasota Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes parksii*) orchid is on this list which gives it increased protection.

The list of services performed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is impressive. For a good perspective of the USFWS in action, just scan the U.S. CITES BIENNIAL REPORT for 2011-2012 which is prepared by the Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS wildlife inspec-

tion program provides front-line enforcement of the CITES treaty at U.S. ports of entry. Go about 30 pages into the PDF report and you can see list of selected seizures of unlawfully imported CITES specimens for 2011 and

2012. It is mind-boggling if not disturbing. Although the funding discussed in the DMN article is not about orchids, so often when I



read the Nature Conservancy or the National Wildlife Federation magazines, I see that the US Fish and Wildlife Service as one of the partners in most of the important conservation projects currently in the works. For the Monarch project they are partnered with the National Wildlife Federation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This was just a good example of the efforts of conservation in our country, and it demonstrates the effectiveness of public/private partnerships.



# Orchid Growing Tips

by Courtney Hackney

A monthly growers advice column by Courtney Hackney.  
[Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto: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 Cattleyas

Last month's column was a list of my favorite orchids, but since cattleyas are my favorite group, I'm devoting a whole column to them.

With over 500 mature cattleyas in my collection it is difficult to choose favorites. However, here is my short list.

My all time favorite is *C. Penang 'Black Caesar'*. This hybrid between *C. bowringiana* and *C. Nigrella* is extremely vigorous and produces a large

head of 3" deep purple flowers every fall with an extremely sweet fragrance. The fact that it is a 40+ year old hybrid is testament to the

skill of hybridizers of the day. Another deep purple cattleya, but with very large flowers and a sweet fragrance, is *Blc. Chia Lin*, a *Blc. Oconee* hybrid. This is a more recent hybrid with a number of nice clones available as mericlones and is (in my opinion) the zenith of dark



Blc. Chia Lin



Blc Toshie Aoki

purple hybridizing.

Bright yellow cattleyas have always been my favorite, but are poor growers in my very hot, southern greenhouse. The exception is *Blc Toshie Aoki*, which originated in Hawaii. There are several different clones in my collection because I have not been able to decide which I like best. Some, like the clone 'Pokaii' have dark red-purple tips on their petals, while others are pure yellow with red lips. All are very fragrant, last a long time and grow extremely well and pass these traits to their offspring.

Semi-alba hybrids have always intrigued me because they have an unusual combination of genetic characteristics; no genes for pigment in sepals and petals, but also a colored lip. This color form of cattleya hybrid has lagged behind others, and few really good clones have come along with this color combination, good form, and relatively flat flowers. The exception is *Lc. Melody Fair 'Carol'*, a product of a cross with *C. Horace*. Most of its siblings are light lavender. A second favorite in this type of cattleya is *Lc. Mildred Rives 'Orchidglade'*. Anyone that has ever attended the Miami Orchid Show has seen many specimen-size plants of this hybrid.

While there are many spectacular white



Lc. Mildred Rives 'Orchidglade'



C. Bob Betts 'York'

cattleyas, my favorites remain some of the first modern white hybrids, notably C. Bow Bells and C. Bob Betts, many clones of which are still available. One white species that will always be in my collection is C. trianaei 'Aranka Germansky', not only because of its place in orchid history, but because it is such a vigorous and beautiful orchid. All of these cattleyas quickly make specimen plants and their fragrance fills the greenhouse when they are in bloom.

There are many lavender cattleyas in my greenhouse. One of my favorites is C. Horace 'Maxima' along with its hybrids. However, in

this color form it is the cattleya species that are my I love most. C. trianaei 'A.C. Burrage' and 'The President' are equivalent to most hybrids and grace the greenhouse all winter, while clones of C. mossiae do the same in spring. There are more clones of C. schroederae in my collection so it must qualify

as a favorite. The delicate, light pink color, as well as a distinctive, pleasant fragrance distinguish this species from other better known



C. mossiae

species. Flowers appear delicate, almost paper thin, yet last 6 or 7 weeks.

Summer in my greenhouse is dominated by large-growing bifoliate cattleyas most notably C. leopoldii. This sweet-smelling species alone would be enough for me to maintain a greenhouse no matter what the cost.

Finally, my one favorite small- statured cattleya is Slc. Final Touch 'Mendenhall'. Even though it has little fragrance, it has large, flat flowers of apricot-orange. Best of all, it flowers several times a year and the color of its flowers vary slightly depending on temperature. Thus, it is like having several different orchids in the space of one.

The key to developing any orchid collection is to learn about the many kinds of orchids found in nature, and how they grow. Discover the hybridizers' art in creating unique combinations and decide what you like best and can grow. Ultimately, your orchid collection is unique to your senses and reflects what you like and appreciate.



Slc. Final Touch 'Mendenhall'

# 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.

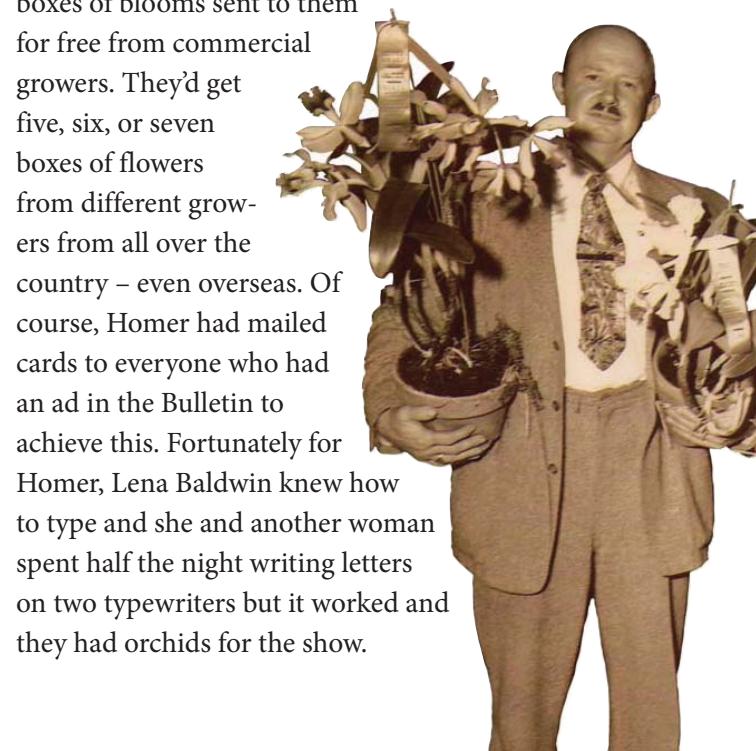
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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