

Next Meeting:
June 7th
Speaker:
Robert Marsh

MEETING AGENDA

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

- 1** Program Speaker
- 2** Calendar
- 3** Orchids 101
- 3** Meeting Minutes
- 3** Show Info
- 4** Plant Table Results
- 5** Judging Center Results
- 6** Orchid of the Month
- 7** Conservation
- 9** Growing Tips
- 11** Speaker Notes
- 13** Membership Info

Robert Marsh has nearly 60 years of experience with growing orchids. He was enticed to start growing orchids in his early teen years by articles in popular magazines and the book “Home Orchid Growing” by Rebecca Northern. With encouragement and advice from Craig Foster of Bluegrass Orchids, which was located near Lexington, Kentucky, and orchid enthusiast Katherine Stewart in his hometown, Winchester, Kentucky, Robert’s multi-generic collection quickly grew to fill a greenhouse that he and his grandfather built.

For a time, the pursuit of a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Vanderbilt University, followed by several years of post-doctoral research in Germany and at Princeton University, put the orchids on a back burner. But, in the early 1980s, after joining the faculty of the University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Marsh – at the naive urging of one of his doctoral students – returned to the avid pursuit of

orchids: first of *Oncidium* species and then *Barkerias*, after being introduced to them by Jim Balch of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1982 he joined GNTOS. Three years later Dr. Marsh’s *Oncidium enderianum*

‘Lorenz Marsh’ AM/AOS was awarded the AOS Botanical Trophy, called the Nax Trophy at the time. Since then he has written articles and registered a number of *Oncidium* and *Barkeria* hybrids, several of which have received AOS quality awards.

Eight years ago Dr. Marsh retired as Associate Head of the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at UT Dallas. Now he teaches biochemistry as a part-time Senior Lecturer and works to popularize *Barkerias* among orchid hobbyists and establish them as mass-market pot plants. Last year he and Dennis Szeszko, who grew up in Dallas and now resides in Toluca, Mexico, founded MAS Orchids LLC, which is working with Floracultura in Holland to commercialize *Barkerias*.

Dr. Marsh’s talk will review the *Barkeria* species, their habitats in Mexico, and will highlight the progress he has made in hybridizing them, in addition to providing a few tips on growing them.

Beautiful *Barkerias* From A to Z



Barkeria Rebecca Marsh

Officers

PRESIDENT

Mike Beber

VICE PRESIDENT

Rhonda Whitson

SECRETARY

Barbara McNamee

TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

SWROGA

DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS

WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Gerry Darver

President's Message

Hi everyone,

I am so impressed by the knowledge of our members and how well they have presented at our meetings. Just recently we have had Charles Hess (*Orchid Conservation*), Meir Moses (*Phalaenopsis*) and Daniel Callahan (*Orchids that Grow Well in Our Area*). I am sure that a great amount of their knowledge has been gained from

research, trial and error, and just plain hard work.

I am also betting that a large part of their information was gained by asking questions of a knowledgeable individual.

My point being, don't be afraid to ask those questions. I can just about guarantee we can find someone within our GNTOS organization with the right answers.

Have you ever ventured out while in a new city, state, or country, to see what magical place might be close by? And no, I am not talking about Disneyland! Recently Rhonda Whitson, AKA our GNTOS VP and I took a trip to Atlanta, Georgia to visit the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. I had grown up close to it and never knew it existed. What an experience! Not only did they have outdoor gardens similar to the Dallas Arboretum, but also included two, two-story orchid houses; one containing rainforest plants and the other, higher altitude plants. Many species I have never seen before. Most weren't in pots but were clinging to trees and rocks as they would be found in the wild. What a great find. I highly recommend a trip to see it if possible and, the next time you are traveling, take time to investigate. I'll share some of our pictures in the upcoming months.

See you in June

Mike Beber



Calendar

by Rhonda Whitson

June	Robert Marsh	Barkerias
July	Auction	
August	Alan Koch	Mini Catts
Sept	Linda Horton	Show Prep

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: "Why Won't My Orchid Bloom?"

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 3:15.



Fall Orchid Show

Lorna Kissling

Friday thru Sunday, Sept. 25-27

Southfork Hotel
1600 N. Central Expy
Plano TX 75054

Hi!

I am looking for someone to line up clerks to help during Friday evening's judging. It does not require a lot of time or even require that you be a clerk. I will be able to give you the information you need to help out in this way. Please contact me at lornajk80@gmail.com if you are interested. And if any of you have questions about the show, check out our GNTOS.org website for information.

Lorna Kissling
lornajk80@gmail.com

Minutes

Barb McNamee

Orchids 101 started at 2:30 in the greenhouse.

Mike began the meeting at 3:15

26 members in attendance and 3 visitors.

Reminder – our new meeting starting time is 3:15, doors open at 3:00 – not before. Please no one allowed inside before 3 p.m. unless appointed by the society officers.

Lorna discussed show information – the last weekend in September, the 26 & 27th. Clerks are needed to assist the judges, please contact Lorna to sign up. Mike mentioned being a clerk is fun and also a great learning experience. Help is also requested to break down the show on Sunday afternoon. Another way to help is to be an award sponsor, see Lorna to sign up.

Rhonda introduced our speaker, Dan Callahan who gave an excellent talk on "Growing Orchids in Dallas", basic culture, what grows here, insect/disease control and even where to buy on-line.

Nancy announced the plant table winners; Mike conducted the plant raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Plant Table

Nancy Cropp

May 3, 2015, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: *May Lorfing & David Hines*

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – Lc. Ken Stromsland 'Eric'

– Mike Beber

Red – Jkf. Apple Blossom 'Woodlands'

– Kathi McKenzie

White – Blc. Guess What 'SVO' x Pot. Pure

Love 'Yellow Circle' – Gerry Darver

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Bulbo. Doggy Doo – Lorna Kissling

Red – Pleuro. tribuloides – Barb McNamee

ONCIDIUMS

Blue – Unnamed Onc. alliance

– Kathy Halverson

Red – Onc. Mendenhall 'Sun #7'

– Gerry Darver

White – Unnamed Onc. alliance

– Kathy Halverson

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. Chamberlanium var. Margaret x
hayzldianum – Charles Hess

Red – Paph. Faire Maude – Kathi McKenzie

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue – Ascocentrum curvifolium

– Lorna Kissling

Red – Phal. unknown

– Gerry Darver

White – Phal. Sogo Lawrence x Tying Shin

Wonder – Gerry Darver

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Tolumnia triquetra – Jeanne Thompson

Cym. caniliculatum – Kathy McKenzie

Phal. parishii – Jeanne Thompson

PEOPLES CHOICE

Lc. Ken Stromsland 'Eric' – Mike Beber



Dallas Judging Center

APRIL 11, 2015

Six plants entered for consideration,
one award given:

.....

MAY 9, 2015

Five plants entered, no awards
given.

Center Chair, Manny Aybar, announced that at the recent AOS Trustees meeting in Portland, OR, Ronnie & Jerry Brandenburg were granted Judge Emeritus status. Congratulations to them!



Phal. Orchid Konnection Passion 'O.K.'

(Hannover Passion x Tabasco Tex)

HCC 76 points

owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

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

The next meeting is
June, 13 at the:
Garland Senior
Activity Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am
Everyone is welcome.

Orchid of the Month



by Kathi McKenzie

LAELIA ANCEPS

Laelia anceps is one of a group of Mexican laelias. It was first described in 1835 by John Lindley. *L.*

anceps grows on the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range, which extends from the northern areas near Jalapa to the southern areas near Oaxaca. It tolerates a very wide range of temperatures from the 30s to the low 100s, and may be found in many varieties including lavender, pink, blue, and white; even a striated form.

In the 1880s when the species was first made available for sale in England it created quite a stir. During the 1800s, the Royal Horticulture Society gave nearly 30 awards to varieties of *Laelia anceps*, in a wide variety of colors. One collector even tried to corner the market on one variety, *L. anceps schoerderae*, by buying every available plant.

Due to its range of colors and its temperature tolerance, *L. anceps* has been widely used as a parent for crosses within the cattleya family. One of the best known hybrids is *Lc. Puppy Love 'True Beauty'* AM/AOS. One of my personal favorites is *Lc. Hsin Buu Lady 'YT'* AM/AOS, a compact cattleya.

L. anceps and its hybrids enjoy bright light, and good air movement. While it prefers 40-60% humidity, it is tolerant of variations in both humidity and temperature. As in its natural habitat, it prefers to be watered less-often during cooler months. Potting should be done with a fairly coarse mix; plants also do well mounted. Be sure to repot if needed when new roots are starting to appear, as the plants may sulk if repotted too late in their growth cycle.



L. Anceps veitchiana var. Fort Caroline



Lc Puppy Love 'True Beauty'



L. anceps var. *lineata*



Lc Hsin Buu Lady YT AM/AOS

Orchid Conservation Update

Charles Hess



Accelerating into the curve.

As I write this, the news of the Amtrak train in Philadelphia accelerating into the curve is all over the news. How could such a tragedy occur when the technology for preventing it is readily available? In the coming days and weeks more information will certainly give us a clearer explanation. In the meantime, however, this incident can serve as a valuable learning tool when we regard it as an analogy with conservation. We have a great deal of technology and information about how we can slow the effects of climate change and prevent the loss of human life and property, as well as the loss of countless species of plants and animals. So why is it, that despite all this knowledge available to us on the condition of our planet, we are accelerating into the curve of environmental destruction rather than pulling back on the throttle?

We know, for example, that our heavy use of automobiles is adding many tons of CO₂ to our atmosphere, thereby exacerbating the greenhouse effect. One would think, then, that we would be doing all we can to reduce

the amount of CO₂ we generate. Unfortunately, we are doing the opposite. Recent news stories report that the demand for hybrid automobiles is decreasing, while SUV sales are increasing, all because lower gas prices makes the SUV's more popular. The slight improvements in fuel efficiencies on many SUV models are really beside the point. We give it a cute name like "One and Done" to explain our fling with the hybrids. When will it be trendy to be part of the solution, and very un-cool to be part of the problem? And how is this preference for SUV's going to get us off of hydrocarbons by 2050?

I mention this as just an example of the role we consumers play in what happens to our earth. As hard as it is to understand, each and every one of our actions is important. Are we pushing on the throttle or on the brake? Are we waiting for the engineer to throttle back or will we notice the speed and pull the emergency cord in our passenger car?

I am currently reading the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Living Forest Report. As many of you may know, loss of habitat is a topic I cover frequently as critical to orchid conservation. The WWF report highlights a project called "Zero Net Deforestation and Forest

Degradation (ZNDD)". To give a reference point, an area the size of 5 football field is cleared every 10 seconds for all forests worldwide. That comes to an area the size of Costa Rica each year. Just for perspective, that means 43,200 football fields every single day. Please pause for just a moment, close your eyes, and imagine how many trees that might be, and how many animals lose their habitat. And consider also, how this affects the earth's ability to deal with the increasing CO₂ levels, when we lose the trees which breathe in CO₂ and breathe out the oxygen we need for ourselves.

Here are three excerpts of the WWF Living Forest Report:

Achieving ZNDD by 2020 depends on preventing further forest loss caused by poor planning, weak governance, excessive consumption, inequitable or insecure land tenure and user rights, unregulated or illegal forest clearing, poor forest management, inefficient agriculture and over-harvesting of fuelwood.

WWF envisions a world where humanity lives within the Earth's ecological limits and shares its resources equitably.

In the longer term, maintaining near zero forest loss will require forestry and farming practices that produce more yield with less land, less water and less pollution, along with new consumption patterns that meet the

needs of the poor while eliminating waste and over-consumption by the affluent.

The ideas above are representative of so many reports and well-crafted strategies that depend on a myriad of laws and enforcement efforts; all efforts over which we citizens have little control. But the third idea puts the control of the forests in the underdeveloped nations squarely in the hands of the developed countries, and that means each and every one of us consumers will need to do our part to turn a concept into reality. The market system really can work toward the end we desire. If we refuse to purchase goods which contribute heavily to climate change, the manufacture and sale of those goods will cease. We can make that decision.

Farming with less land, water and pollution eliminates animal products as the mainstay diet. Cattle raising is only about 10% efficient use of land and water, and is known for its heavy contribution to pollution, mainly in the form of vastly destructive methane gas. As a consumer, are you still demanding your steaks and hamburgers? Or are you willing to move to a plant-based diet, which is healthier not only for the earth, but for you as well?

Even more insidious than animal agriculture is the world demand for palm oil. This substance is found in a variety of foods, such as ice cream, snacks, chips and many of the en-

gineered “edible food-like substances” to quote noted food author Michael Pollan. Palm oil plantations have accelerated their expansion into Indonesia and Borneo over the last decade, wiping out vast areas of rain forest and natural habitat in these countries. Knowing the harm caused by the use of palm



Palm Oil Production

oil, will we be motivated to read labels and avoid this ingredient?

We consumers have the power to pull back on the throttle of excessive and unnecessary consumption. We have a clear choice here. We can be part of the solution by making wise consumption choices, or we can continue to accelerate into the curve of destruction.

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.

Repotting

Your repotting should be almost complete for most orchids now. Potting is the time when you learn how good your culture has been the past year or so. For me, it is also a time when I evaluate different media and the many experiments always ongoing in my greenhouse. I often have orchids that must be repotted that were purchased growing in different media. These orchids are examined more carefully than those in my medium because I am always interested in better ways to grow orchids. What type of medium was it? Was it in a clay or plastic pot? How many roots does the orchid have? Are there lots of dead roots? These are just some of the things I look at.

One medium that periodically surfaces in various forms is cypress mulch. This is the same stuff that can be purchased at Lowes, Home Depot or any of the large

hardware/lumber stores that carry garden supplies. It is usually from Florida and made entirely of chopped pond and bald cypress. Some of the most accomplished orchid growers use this medium and their plants are reported to grow extremely well. Beginners and sometimes commercial growers often fail miserably with this product, usually, because they do not use it properly. Also, beware of products labeled as cypress mulch that are cypress mixed with other kinds of bark. Several hobbyists and commercial growers have shown me plants potted in cypress mulch that were near death because the roots had rotted. In one case, a commercial grower had planted several genera (phals, cattleyas, and oncidiums) in cypress mulch with disastrous results.

Epiphytic orchids growing in the wild use their roots for more than just getting nutrients and water. Roots are also used to attach the orchid to the bark of a tree or a rock. Roots squeeze between ridges in the bark and even under bark, if possible, to better hold the orchid in place during strong winds. While there are also occasionally roots hanging free in the air, most roots seek out a hard surface to grow into.

That is a key point that the early 19th Century European growers finally figured out. Unfortunately, the importance of this has been lost on most orchid growers today. Now, the emphasis is on fast growing genera, and media that are designed to be easy to use. Easy to use does not mean best when it comes to flower quality or growth.

The best growers of the 19th Century used osmunda fiber, the dense fibrous root

mats of common European and American ferns. Most growers today that try to use this product are very disappointed. While finding quality osmunda is a problem today, that is usually not the main problem. The problem is in how the plant is placed in osmunda. It must be packed so densely that it resembles a solid piece of tree fern. This is difficult to do. Experienced 19th Century orchid potters could pot only 6 or 7 cattleyas in an hour and used heavy potting sticks to pack chunks of osmunda around the roots. The orchid had to be so tightly packed that one could pick the orchid plant up and the pot would remain attached. New roots emerging from new growths would quickly force their way into this dense environment.

The hard-packed osmunda had few spaces that could fill with water. Any water remaining in the osmunda after watering was bound directly to fibers where orchid roots could absorb them. The acidity of the osmunda fiber limited bacteria and fungal growth even if it remained moist. After re-potting, orchids in osmunda do not need to be watered as frequently, at least until new roots grow into the medium. Cattleyas potted this

way rarely send roots outside the pot.

Growers successfully using cypress mulch follow almost the same principle, i.e. dense packing of the cypress mulch around roots. Initially, plants may be watered only once every 3 or 4 weeks until roots penetrate the medium. The key is that new roots must encounter a dense medium. The acidity of the cypress also inhibits bacteria and fungi just as osmunda does. Reportedly, cypress is far easier to use and pack than the sponge-like os-

munda.

If you decide to try cypress mulch remember that the frequency of watering must be reduced or altered to fit the new medium. The real lesson is not to switch to a new medium until you have learned how to use it. Second is to

understand the necessity of being sure the medium you use appears to be dense to new roots so they will grow into it, rather than away. Many growers interpret roots that grow away from the pot as an indication that there is not enough water or fertilizer or that the medium has soured. It can also be that the medium does not offer the proper surface for new roots.



Orchids that Grow Well In Dallas Part 1 of 3

Here are some of the orchid growers I use:

Local Sources

NORTH HAVEN GARDENS (DALLAS)

Has a selection of Phalaenopsis and occasionally others. They are good at keeping labels (Most Big Box stores remove labels, or never had them to start with, which is annoying) They also have bark mixes, fertilizers, and some other orchid supplies.

BIG LEAF ORCHIDS (DALLAS)

bigleaforchids.com
Local breeder Peter Lin has an on-line store and sometimes sells at local shows. He specializes in novelty phals and also paphs. Mostly unique plants, not clones.

ORCHID KONNECTION (DALLAS)

Local grower and breeder Meier Moses. He is at most local shows but no web store. Phalaenopsis breeder + paphs + importer / retailer (phals/paphs/others)

CLOWN ALLEY ORCHIDS (HOUSTON)

John and Sandy Stubbings have a retail store in Houston.
Mostly retail species and hybrid clones. Lots of diversity in genus, species and hybrids. They have a large selection of supplies like media and pots and fertilizers.

National Breeders

new types of orchids!

SUNSET VALLEY ORCHIDS

Fred Clark, lots of good plants and seedling 'SVO' branded hybrids – compact catts, coerulea catts, lots of others ...

A Hawaiian Quartet: many also offer clones

CARMELA ORCHIDS

Catts, Phals, Oncidium, Dens. ... at every big show

EXOTIC ORCHIDS OF MAUI

ATASUKA ORCHIDS

'Volcano Queen' branded hybrids

TROPICAL ORCHID FARM

JEWELL ORCHIDS

'Blue' Cattleya breeders, not jewel orchids ...

ODOM'S ORCHIDS

Active standard Catt breeder and retailer

CAL-ORCHIDS

the place for Reed Stem Epidendrums ... if you have a tall window for them.

Daniel Callahan, local Greater North Texas Orchid Society member and an American Orchid Society (AOS) student judge at the Dallas Judging Center, gave a talk at our May meeting on Orchids For Dallas: "What Generally Does Well and Where to Get Them". His talk covered many key lessons learned including common failures and successes in growing orchids.

Here is a summary of his presentation.

Retailers and Small Breeders

SEATTLE ORCHIDS

Occasionally really good sales; they like to turn inventory and get new plants in

NEW EARTH ORCHIDS

Ron Midgett, loves and breeds compact Catts.



Classic Growers

ORCHIDS BY HAUSERMANN

(1959, collected back to 1920)
Catts, Phals...some fantastic deals.

CARTER AND HOLMES

(early 1940s)
Catts, Phals, Dens, you name it. Huge catalog, mostly classic.

SANTA BARBARA ORCHID ESTATE

(1957)
Lots of species. May get your cattleya potted in granite.

WALDOR ORCHIDS

(early 1940's, florist since 1925)
The family Off, known for mericlone favorite classic Catts (e.g., Hazel Boyd)

Where do you get your plants?

Do you have a place you get your orchids from that you really like?

Have you bought from a grower that disappointed you?

Let me know and I will

share your sources both successes and failures so that we can all benefit from our collective experiences. (Let me know if you prefer not to be named.)

david@gouldcreative.com

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.

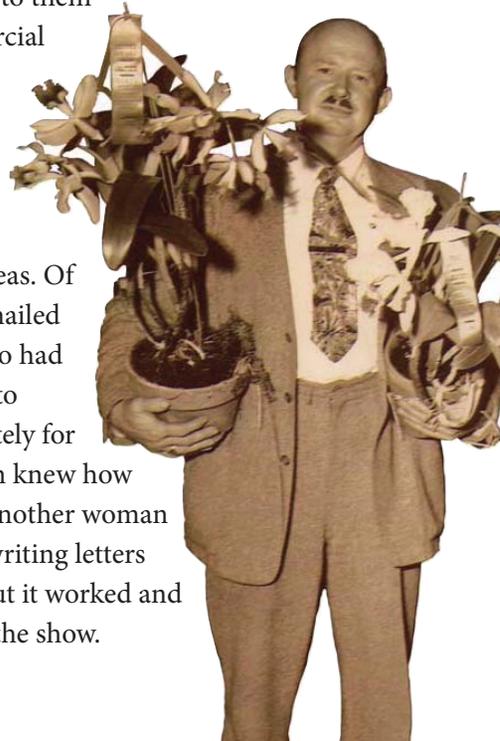
There was an incident over a plant raffle that year that upset several members of the North Texas Orchid Society, so several members chose to leave and form another society calling themselves the

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): _____