

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

OCT

SEX AND THE SINGLE ORCHID

or How to Get Pollinated

Emily Quinn is an Environmental Geologist that retired to raise a family. She was introduced to orchids when she went to the (now closed) firm of Orchids and Ferns in Houston, Texas to acquire some ferns. She left with both ferns and orchids. The ferns died, the orchids didn't. Thereby firmly setting hook and beginning a long time fascination with the exotic flowers.

Today she juggles four children, a husband, and a greenhouse with the local AOS judging center for which she serves as Training Coordinator. Emily has been an accredited judge for several years. She has a predilection for slippers, red and blue phals, and a soft spot for the small botanicals. The greenhouse contains the broad spectrum of species and hybrids of a person who never saw an orchid she didn't like.



Orchids use bizarre devices to ensure they reproduce – including impersonating the sex organs of a female bee

Ophrys eleonora and Ophrys lupercalis, a wild hybrid orchid, whose pollinator, a male solitary bee, is engaged here in pseudocopulation. Photograph: Christian Ziegler Minden Pictures

Next Meeting:
October 4th

Speaker:
Emily Quinn

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hi Orchid
Lovers,

Hope everyone
has their orchids

ready for judging at our upcoming show. Linda Horton along with daughter Emily Quinn gave a great review of how to “make ready” your orchids for any show. Also what not to do is just as important. Nothing should distract from the flower being judged.

I also want to personally thank Linda for her donation of show trophies this year.

All clerks need to be at the show no later than 6:30pm on September 25th. Judging will start at 7pm. Even if you haven’t clerked before, please volunteer. It has always been a learning experience each time I have participated.

Days are getting shorter so if you have orchids outside, you need to start thinking about where they are going to fit; either into your house or greenhouse before the days become too cold. I have acquired a few more through the summer so it is going to be interesting how they are all going in! But there is always room for one more ... somehow!

Cheers,
Mike

CALENDAR

by Rhonda Whitson

November *Charles Hess* The Future of
Conservation

December *Holiday Party and Auction*

MINUTES

Barb McNamee

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Cheers,
Mike

FALL ORCHID SHOW

Lorna Kissling

Schedule of Orchid Show Events
at Southfork Hotel
1600 N. Central Expy, Plano TX 75074
September 25-27

Friday Sept.25

- 9 am – Show setup begins
- 10 am – Vendor setup begins
- 4 pm – Plant/Exhibit Registration closes
- 5 pm – Judges' Dinner
- 7 pm – Judging begins

Saturday Sept 26

- 9 am – 5 pm Show & Sale

Sunday Sept 27

- 10 am – 4:00 pm Show & Sale
- 4 pm – Teardown and clean up

Remember to:

- Park on the north side of the hotel and enter through the north double doors.
- Have your orchids to the hotel by 11am Friday. If they aren't there by then, there is no guarantee they will be in the exhibit. If you can't bring and/or pick them up after the show, you are responsible for getting someone to get them back to you.
- Have your name on the pot/containers somewhere secure and out of sight so we know to whom they belong.
- Register your own plants! Please do not just drop them off and expect someone else to take care of this for you. Registration is easy and there are people to help you do it.
- E-mail BARB with the name and approximate size of the plant(s) ahead of time so she can be preparing for the exhibit. Text her at 972-279-9685 or email her at bmcnamee@tx.rr.com.

For more information, go to GNTOS.org.



*Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling*

This month:

FERTILIZING YOUR 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.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Sept. 6, 2015, Results

Judges: Charles Hess & Jim Williams

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue – Catt. C. G. Roebling

– Kathi McKenzie

Red – Slc. Ann Komine

'Breathless' AM/AOS – Dave Gould

White – Blc. Ports of Paradise

x Fortune Dragon King – Dave Gould

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue – Dendrobium (unknown)

– Kathi McKenzie

Red – Zygo. Advance Australia

'HOF' AM/AOS – Kathi McKenzie

White – Cadetia taylori – Hortons

ONCIDIUMS

Blue – Oncidium (unknown)

– Kathi McKenzie

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue – Paph. Luna Light Glow

x philippense – Kathi McKenzie

VANDA & PHALS

Blue – Phal. maculata

x CTL Cornu Queen – Hortons

Red – Dtps. Purple Gem – Hortons

White – Vanda tessellata

– Jeanne Thompson

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Cadetia taylori – Hortons

Bulb. carunculatum v. swanesii – Hortons

Phal. cornu-cervi 'Red' x sib – Hortons

PEOPLES CHOICE

Blc. Ports of Paradise

x Fortune Dragon King – Dave Gould



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center
Sept. 12, 2015

Ten plants entered for con-
sideration, two awards given:

Nancy Cropp

Phal. (provisional)
'Memoria Hank Horton'
(maculata x C.T.L. Cornu Queen)
HCC 75 points
owner: Linda Horton, Garland



Phal. Orchid Konnection Super Girl
'Orchid Konnection'
(Dou-dii Super Star x Penang Girl)
AM 80 points
owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas



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

The next meeting is July, 11 at the
Garland Senior Activity Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am. Everyone one is welcome to bring plants
or to just watch and learn.

RHIZANTHELLA GARDNERI

the Underground Orchid

For Halloween, let's talk about a rather weird orchid...*Rhizanthella gardneri*. It's a rather unusual orchid that lives its whole life underground, even blooming underground. *Rhizanthella gardneri* is very rare, with only about 50 plants left in the wild ... at least, that we know about. It typically takes researchers hours of searching under bushes to locate even a single orchid.

This orchid lives in Western Australia, and gets all its nutrients through parasite fungi associated with the roots of a woody shrub found in the outback called the broom bush (*Melaleuca*). The orchid's seed will only germinate in the presence of this particular fungus. It blooms a few centimeters underground, with a floral head that contains many individual florets. It is pollinated by termites.

Rhizanthella gardneri has become a subject of scientific study, because even though it has no green parts, and does not conduct photosynthesis, it still retains chloroplasts in its cells. However, the chloroplasts have lost about 70% of their genes. With those genes removed, it has allowed scientists to more easily study the other, non-photosynthesizing functions that chloroplasts handle for plants. It is also being used in the study of plant evolution and conservation, as the loss of chloroplast genes is believed to have occurred extensively as plants have evolved.

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Kathi McKenzie



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles Hess

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

Part I

As I look at conservation programs around the world, it is hard not to worry about whether enough is being done and whether current strategies will be effective. For orchids in Ecuador, to lemurs in Madagascar, habitats are shrinking at an alarming rate. Where there were tens of thousands, and in some cases hundreds of thousands, acres of rainforest and other natural habitats, currently only a small percentage of those areas are under active protection or still exist. What are the survival prospects of our orchid species, or any species, alive on this planet today?

An article I read recently stated it something like this: “You can be optimistic about the future but then you can’t acknowledge history; or you can be pessimistic about the future and acknowledge history.”

So, how can we be optimistic in the face of facts? Consider some of the challenges we face:

- As I write this article, rainforests are being destroyed at the rate of 150 acres a minute. By the time I finish writing and editing, 23,000 acres of rainforest will be gone from the Earth.
- We live in a world with 7 billion

people, all of them needing to be fed. In the process of producing enough food we have lost half of the earth’s topsoil, due to poor agricultural practices.

- Almost daily we see photographs of the polar ice caps which are melting irreversibly. The reduction in the ice mass has two disastrous consequences. First, it brings about a rise in sea level, which reduces the amount of land on which people can live and grow food. Second, a smaller ice mass at the poles means fewer of the sun’s rays being reflected, resulting in a rise in ocean temperatures and increasing the oceans’ acidification levels, which are already near the tipping point.

Suddenly the history of the Mayan or the Easter Island civilizations come to mind. Both of these societies continued to destroy their ecological foundations, even

when they could see what they were doing. And yet I remain optimistic, while at the same time acknowledging what history has shown us. We can’t change this history, but we can define the future. Being optimistic means we recognize that the arc of history can be bent. In fact, change is a normal part of nature and society. I know



from my work as an engineer, one has to be optimistic that something can always be done better and smarter just by looking, learning, and evaluating the possibilities. I spent thirty years of my first career doing just that.



Were the people on the island of Madagascar wrong in planting rice farms, thereby pushing the endangered lemurs into ever vanishing habitats? These farmers needed to feed themselves and the local population. Their focus was not on saving the lemurs. Whether what they were doing was good or bad is a matter of perspective, and that perspective can change over time. Today, many of these farmers, through education, are working hard to deter poaching in an effort to protect the lemur.

And we should not forget that history also has had major successes. As an example, the allocation and development of our national park system did not come about from a profit-and-loss analysis. It came from a love and reverence for nature. I don't actually know the history and it probably wasn't this idyllic, but I do know that people back then lived closer to nature, with a deeper appreciation for nature, and a healthy respect for how nature works. The fact remains that our parks exist today, and are very important to our society and culture. They are part of what is best about America. They are helping to bring the newer generations closer to nature. They just could be the catalyst for the changes needed now and in the future.

So I am most optimistic that as we see weather patterns changing and more coastal damage occurring, we will develop a deeper appreciation of, as well as a new-found respect for, nature. And we will learn to accept the fact that we can't sustain growth indefinitely. We will find that we can be happy and enjoy our lives by being less focused on material acquisition, and more dedicated to building relationships and community.

Indeed, as we become more aware of nature we will change our behavior and our path of history. We can be optimistic, we can acknowledge history, we can learn from it, and we can change the direction in which we are headed. We, all of us, have to decide whether we are willing to do it soon enough.

This is the future of conservation – not just for orchids, but for our environment and for our species.

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

by
Courtney Hackney

A monthly growers
advice column by
Courtney Hackney.
Hackneau@comcast.
net

This column was
written in humid
coastal North
Carolina and Florida,
and the advice given
should be adjusted to
our climate.

COMMON ORCHID GROWING MISTAKES “HOW TO LOVE YOUR ORCHID TO DEATH”

“Do no harm” is a basic tenant of the medical profession that many orchid hobbyists would be wise to adopt. A large number of orchids I see in my travels suffered premature deaths or injury, largely because of a misinformed attempt to help the orchid grow. The following is a list assembled from my experience with other growers and from my own mistakes.

“My orchids get the best water money can buy.” My first question of the novice holding a shriveled, dead orchid is about their water. One person even admitted that she had a water softener installed for her orchid because she knew her water was “hard”. Hard or mineral laden water may not be ideal, but softened water introduces salts that are toxic to orchids and typically lethal within a few weeks.

Another common mistake is to over-fertilize based on the conclusion that a poorly growing orchid needs more fertilizer. If over-watering is the number one killer of orchid plants, over fertilizing is

number two. Fertilizers are nutrient salts that plants require along with water and light to grow. Recently purchased orchid that have a good root system do not require much in the way of fertilizer. Often, these plants have been grown quickly in commercial nurseries by maximizing light, water, and fertilizer. In the home environment, light is typically limiting and the medium contains all the nutrients the orchid needs in the short term. More often, the orchid pot needs to be flushed thoroughly



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

with water occasionally to remove nutrients and to keep roots healthy.

Some pesticide and fungicide warning labels seem to state the obvious, e.g. “do not drink this product”. Who would do such a thing? After fielding questions about pests, pesticides and orchids, I realize that no warning is too simple. Read the warning label carefully for both your own safety and the health of your orchids. The most common orchid-related pest problem seems to be overdosing and under dosing with pesticides. If the label calls for one teaspoon per gallon, use exactly that amount. Just because a scale infestation was “really bad” does not mean the concentration should be higher unless the label tells you to use a higher dosage. Some of the hormonal pesticides do prescribe lower concentrations after an initial treatment.

Another sometimes fatal error orchid hobbyists make is to change growing media because they see well grown orchids in some new medium. This often happens to rela-

tively new hobbyists after purchasing plants from a commercial nursery or a visiting speaker. The mistake is to immediately repot every orchid into this “new medium”. In most cases, the results are disastrous. There is much to learn by examining the growing medium of a commercial grower or very successful amateur. But remember that their success is specific to a set of growing conditions that may be very different from yours. In some cases, plants growing poorly at commercial nurseries are discarded, leaving the impression that all orchids grow well in this new medium. Some groups of orchids grow well in one medium, but not in another.

There is nothing wrong with experimenting with a medium and evaluating how well your plants grow in that medium, but avoid a wholesale conversion to a new medium.

The most surprised individual is the novice grower that brings their plant in and asks what they should do to their orchid. Typically, their “problem” orchid has outgrown the pot, has roots going everywhere, and shows signs of having bloomed repeatedly. There is also usually an admission by the grower that they have neglected this “poor” orchid, but are determined to take better care of it next year. In other words, they have “done no harm” and the orchid has thrived.



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.

11 There was an incident

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.

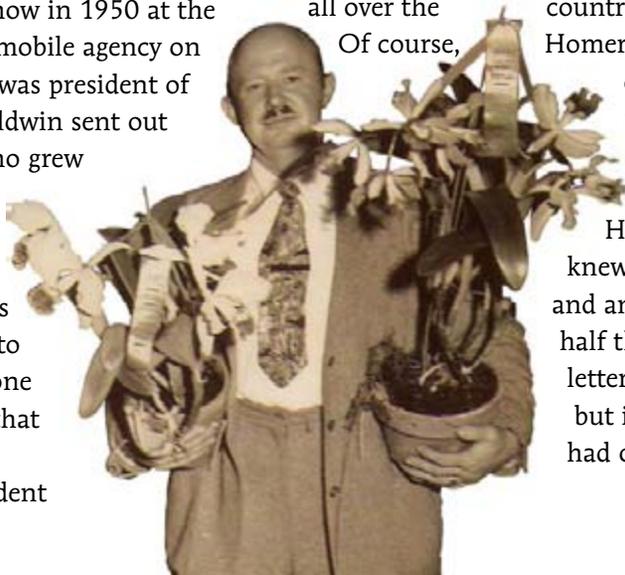
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

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)

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): _____