



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

NOV

Next Meeting:
November 1

Speaker:
Charles Hess

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

Critical ecosystems are shrinking under the pressure of our global model of continued and unlimited economic growth. The Earth and its resources are finite. In order to preserve orchids' genetic diversity we must find means to conserve natural habitats. Will current efforts in protection, reforestation, and reseedling be enough to sustain the ecosystems, without which many plant and animal species will vanish?

Speaker's Bio: 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. By doing so he developed an ever deeper appreciation of the breathtaking beauty and seemingly endless variety found in the orchid world. It also led him to an understanding of 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 orchid prints, with proceeds going to various organizations actively involved in conserving critical ecosystems around the world.



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Gerry Darver

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hi Orchid Lovers
and Growers,
What a great
show we had! I
want to thank

everyone who participated and made it a successful one. Even the vendors were excited as they didn't have to take many things home with them.

I am writing this as the weather has finally turned into a cool fall period. It is beautiful and a cool change to the heat. My greenhouse has just come alive with blooms! I read something in Orchid Digest that I wanted to pass on. I have been given a lot of Phalaenopsis over the last year and have started to see some leaf rot. I tend to water a lot in the summer and try to keep the air moving with fans. But there are some areas that might not have dried.

To that end, cool nights, watering late and fertilizer may have led to a lot of my problems. Water sitting on the leaves with fertilizer, tends to feed the fungus that causes leaf rot. And so with the cooler weather setting in, water before noon and watch out for water standing on leaves or in leaf axils.

See you at the next meeting
Cheers,
Mike

MINUTES

Barb McNamee

NOW ANYONE CAN VIEW AWARDED ORCHIDS ON THE AOS WEBSITE

New AOS Awards Page Captures the Brilliant Imagery of Orchids

For more than 90 years the AOS has documented the best-of-the-best of the world's most popular flower through its premier judging system. Each awarded orchid is meticulously described, measured and photographed. The AOS is pleased to announce that these awards and the stunning photographs that accompany them—previously accessible by AOS members only—are now open to the public at large thanks to a newly designed awards page on the Society's website.

"AOS awards are a recognized measure of quality the world over and coveted by hobbyists and commercial growers alike," explained Frank Smith, president of the AOS. "As the orchid's popularity has grown, demand for accurate information about the flower has increased. And nowhere is their more precise information than in the AOS' vast award repository. People will love the award photographs, not only for their beauty but from what they can learn from them. This is a great way to advance their knowledge and appreciation of orchids." Six things you will absolutely love about the new awards page...

- It's free! Gaining access to orchid awards previously required a subscription to the AOS' Orchids Plus award registry platform.
- You don't have to be an AOS member. These breathtakingly beautiful photographs haven't been available to non-paying visitors until now.
- The page shows the 30 most recent orchid awards, including its name, parentage, description, award, score and photograph. This information can help make you a better orchid grower.
- Clicking on any photo in the page opens up a larger photo with a gallery feature, allowing you to click through all of the large photos for the latest awards.
- The page also includes a social sharing function to allow you to share the page with your friends via your favorite social media or bookmarking site, as well as by email.

You can start exploring now. Just go to: [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org) > Recent Awards



FALL ORCHID SHOW

Photos from the GNTOS Fall Show
September 25 - 27



Miller's Tropicals Exhibit



GNTOS Exhibit



Prairie Orchid's Exhibit



New Earth's Exhibit



Student Orchid Judge's Exhibit



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

at the GNTOS Show

AOS Dallas Judging Center at the GNTOS Show

September 25, 2015

Fourteen plants pulled for consideration,
two awards given:

AOS Show Trophy went to the GNTOS exhibit

Nancy Cropp

Rlc. Stan Hutto 'St. Christopher'

(Lorraine Shirai x Dickie Brooks)

AM 80 points

Owner: Chris Aiena, Austin



Habenaria Regnieri 'Pink Dream' (carnea x rhodocheila)
AM 80 points
Owner: David Gould, Mesquite



*Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling*

This month:

Q&A

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

Oct. 4, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: David Hines, Lorna Kissling & Charles Hess

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

- Blue – C. labiata “Schuller”
– Jeanne Thompson
- Red – C. White Reception – Mike Beber
- White – C. Makahi Surf
x Slc. Bright Angel – Gerry Darver

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

- Blue – Cyc. Cooperi – David Gould
- Red – Den. Rinnapa x Diamond Queen
– Kathi McKenzie
- White – Habenaria Regnieri
– David Gould

ONCIDIUMS

- Blue – Onc. Gower Ramsey
– Don Brigham

PAPHS & PHRAGS

- Blue – Paph. Supersuk x Raisin Pie
– Kathi McKenzie

VANDAS & PHALS

- Blue – Phal. Joshua Irwin Ginsbegt
– David Gould
- Red – Phal. Sogo Grape – Hortons

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

- C. maxima – Jeanne Thompson
- Den. oligophyllum – Barb McNamee
- Habenaria lindleyana – Hortons

PEOPLES CHOICE

- Cyc. Cooperi – David Gould



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center
October 10, 2015

Four plants entered for consideration, two awards given:

Nancy Cropp

Phal. Yungho Princess Gelb 'Dragon Tree'

(Yungho Gelbliambo
x Princess Kaiulani)

HCC 78 points

owner: Orchid Konnection



Phal. Mituo King Bellina 'Fat Boy'

(LD's Bear King
x LD Bellina Eagle)

HCC 75 points

owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

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

The next meeting is November, 14 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.

CATTLEYA TRIANAEI

Cattleya trianaei is one of two cattleyas often referred to as “the Christmas Orchid” (the other is peruviana), due to its mid-winter bloom season. It is the national flower of Colombia and it grows abundantly in much of the country. It was first discovered in 1842 in Columbia by botanist Jean Jules Linden, but the first plant to reach Europe was sent as a gift to a Mr. Rucker from a friend in Colombia. When it bloomed, Rucker gave the flowers to the English botanist John Lindley. However, Lindley did not have enough information on it to determine that it was truly a new species. Finally in 1851 Colombian botanist José M. Triana found large numbers of *C. trianaei* and sent them back to Linden. Soon Linden was offering them for sale under the name “Cattleya Trianae.” By 1916, the Royal Horticultural Society in England had awarded 22 First Class Certificates and 24 Awards of Merit to *C. trianaei*, and it is one of the AOS most-awarded unifoliate Cattleya species. Interestingly, the “i” on the end of trianaei was dropped for roughly 100 years, and the pronunciation was established as “tri-an-ee.” In 1960, the name was restored to its original form, but the pronunciation has not changed.

Cattleya trianaei has well-shaped flowers with a wide range of colors, including many pastel varieties, as well as varieties with flares or feathering in the petals. It is often used in breeding to impart a rounded shape to its progeny. The blooms have a delicate texture, and yet it is a very long-lasting flower, lasting up to five weeks. Cattleya trianaei is a vigorous grower, and typically blooms on two new growths in rapid succession, each with 2-3 flowers of 6-8" in size. It is a good orchid for those who haven't yet gotten a firm handle on watering orchids, as it is resistant to rot, and thus more tolerant overwatering than most Cattleya hybrids.

New growth begins in the early spring and continues till August. The sheaths are formed when the growth matures but flower buds do not start to grow until October, so be prepared to look at those sheaths for a while!

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Kathi McKenzie



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles Hess

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

Part 2

Being retired is wonderful. I have time to do a lot of reading as well as pursuing my interest in conservation, orchids, and watercolor art. But everything has its downside. In my case it means that despite my best efforts, many of my orchids still die, they don't always bloom when I am ready to paint, and in all the reading I do I may encounter articles that are quite discouraging.

Just before writing last month's Conservation Update article (The future of Conservation –Part 1) I had just read an article about a long time environmentalist and activist who had virtually given up on his activism and joined the many who feel as though it is too late, and who believe that "...human civilization is entering the first stages of a collapse from which no valiant activism, alternative energy, or utopian technology can ultimately save it." I admit that at first those words depressed me. But the more discouraged I got, the more I needed to remind myself that the human experience is to survive. The environmental problems we have today can be the source of hope for the future, rather than a predictor of the future. The key concept we must keep in mind

is that everything is connected. The more good things we do and the more habitat we protect, the more variety of life we save on the planet. And that brings me to what we all are particularly interested in – conservation of orchids. We all know that we can't conserve orchids without first conserving the environment in which they thrive and on which they depend.

Here is the good news: In my reading on conservation I am constantly surprised by how much effort and brainpower are currently devoted to solving environmental problems. Much of this work is not widely reported. Perhaps it is not considered entertaining or newsworthy by the media. As a result, the majority of the public hears little about it. No wonder so many of us are feeling discouraged.

At our next GNTOS

meeting (November 1) I will be giving a talk on conservation in which I will discuss some of the work currently in process by various conservation organizations. Here is a sneak preview:

In a TED talk by Greg Asner he demonstrates how he is able to map forests using both lasers and spectrometers. These





high-tech methods allow him to produce 3-D images of the forests, thereby showing the health of the canopy. The healthier the canopy, the greater its ability to absorb carbon dioxide. This aerial technology is particularly helpful in places like the Amazon, which is large and difficult to traverse. The spectrometers reveal a wealth of information. For example, they provide a way to accurately measure the amount of clear-cutting that has been done. In addition, they can detect the chemical makeup of the soils and point authorities to sources of illegal mining. Mining can be just as detrimental to the health of the forest as clear cutting. In the past it was quite difficult to detect cases of illegal mining because the canopy provided such an effective cover. Ordinary aerial photography was mostly useless in this endeavor. In order to make the important changes needed to save ecosystems, we need good information. We are now getting ever better data on the amount of destruction going on, and what the negative impact will be. With this information in hand, the leaders of the world are in a better position to make decisions that will halt and possibly begin reversing the process. As the world governments meet in Paris next month to map plans for reducing carbon emissions, focus will soon turn to deforestation, which is a greater hazard to the environment than cars, trains, ships and planes.

Not only is technology improving, but society's perspectives are changing. Consumers are beginning to pressure the producers of commodities such as palm oil to make them more rainforest friendly. France had even considered a 300% tax on palm oil intensive Nutella hazelnut spread, which is a favorite in that country. France recognizes the health risks of highly saturated palm oil and the destruction of so much of Indonesia and Malaysia rainforests to build plantations. Just becoming aware, as you are now, is a step forward in making change.

Knowledge is power. We know, for example, that palm oil plantations are responsible for the loss of a great deal of rainforest. Every time we choose a product that contains less palm oil than a similar product, we are voting with our dollars; we are helping to reduce the demand for palm oil. Every time we make a decision to forego a meal containing beef, opting instead for plant-based protein, we are reducing the demand for soy. The world's demand for beef has caused the loss of huge amounts of rainforest habitat, which is being clear-cut and used for growing soybeans, which are in turn fed to cattle. It is absolutely the most inefficient, destructive and unhealthy way for us to nourish ourselves. Surely we can do better.

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.

WINTERIZE YOUR ORCHID CULTURE HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS IN THE WINTER

Fall is a time when some kinds of orchids need very different care from what they required in the summer. In some cases, these differences are very great, while in others, the cultural changes required are more subtle.

Standard Phalaenopsis, those with large flowers and no fragrance, require a cool down period of 7-10 days to initiate flowering. How cold should they get? Most experienced hobbyists let temperatures get into the low 60s or even upper 50s, which generally works well. This process is even more effective if day length is getting shorter and plants are allowed to get a little drier than usual. It is also a good idea to only let phals get cooler when there is some assurance that day temperatures will warm up at least 10-15° F. Many commercial growers accomplish spike initiation simply by providing this day to night temperature differential and do not worry about how cool the night temperature. Many indoor growers of phals find that their plants do not initiate spikes until much later in the year because they do not let their home get as cool or experience this temperature range. Putting phals in an unheated porch can get them to spike.

Once the first spikes appear, it is important to maintain a night temperature of at



least 65° F to limit disease. This becomes more critical when those gloomy days appear in winter. It is also important to increase fertilizer, especially nitrogen to growing spikes and buds. Conventional wisdom used to dictate a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus until buds began to form and then switch to high nitrogen fertilizer to get the most and largest blooms. Recent studies point to just using nitrogen-rich fertilizers throughout the process. While commercial or exhibition growers practice this, the hobbyist is better advised to use their normal fertilizer regimen if their phals are growing well.

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

Catasetums and related genera are in the process of becoming dormant. Withhold water and fertilizer as their leaves begin to yellow. A light misting is OK, but let the plant and medium become much drier than when the plant is actively growing. Any orchid that loses its leaves needs to be treated similarly. Many semi-terrestrial orchids, e.g. *Eulophia* species, need similar treatment. Too much water at this time of year will cause the plant to lose its roots to rot and the entire plant could follow. The ideal situation is to set orchids with this requirement in a different growing area where water can be carefully controlled until growth begins in late winter or early spring.

Many members of the **Cattleya Alliance** will also benefit from drying more thoroughly. Bifoliate cattleyas and cattleya species are generally grown drier in winter, although there is much variation among

them. Some species reputed to be hard to grow, e.g. *C. warscewiczii* and *C. dowiana*, need to be kept very dry from about October through February or they will not produce good flowers and might even die. Modern hybrids have had the tendency to “die if they do not dry” “bred out”, but they still grow better if they are kept drier in winter. The exceptions to the rule are those small stature mini-catts that have a good dose of *Sophranitis coccinea*. They usually are generally identified by their bright red, yellow or orange flowers. These need a constant temperature, above 60° F, regular water supply, and may not experience any dormancy.

Cymbidiums require cool weather to initiate flower spikes too, but they require far cooler temperatures and lots of light. Place them outside as temperature drop and keep them there until there is the forecast for a hard freeze or hard frost. They will tolerate light frosts.

Vandas are the last group that needs to be singled out. They like it hot and bright all year long, although they are perfectly capable of surviving nights in the mid 50s on occasion. They may, however, drop flowers or buds if the cold is prolonged. The exceptions are those members that have blue flowers. The parent contributing blue color to flowers comes from higher elevations and so, tolerates or even prefers cool nights.



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.

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.

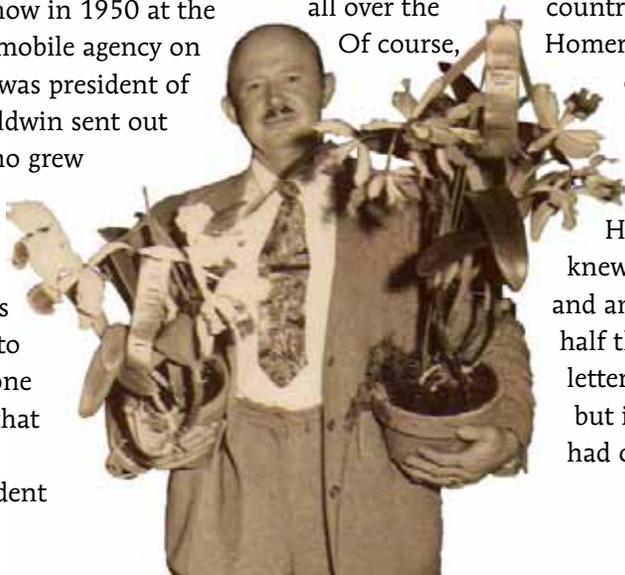
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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: _____

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