

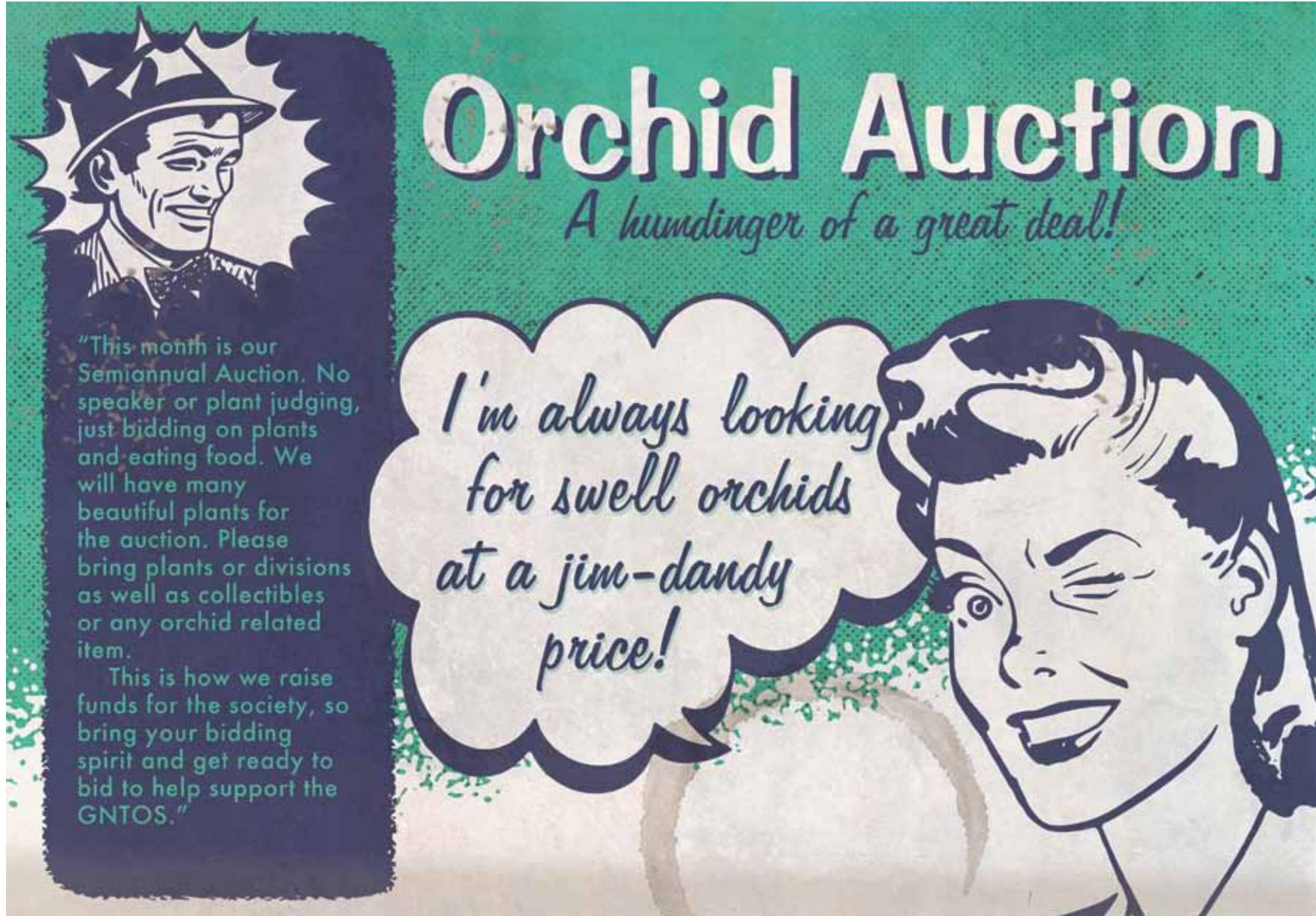


ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

DEC

Next Meeting:
December 6



Orchid Auction

A humdinger of a great deal!

I'm always looking for swell orchids at a jim-dandy price!

"This month is our Semiannual Auction. No speaker or plant judging, just bidding on plants and eating food. We will have many beautiful plants for the auction. Please bring plants or divisions as well as collectibles or any orchid related item.

This is how we raise funds for the society, so bring your bidding spirit and get ready to bid to help support the GNTOS."

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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hi everyone,
The year is almost over
and it has flown by.
It is time for our
second auction of the

year. As most of you know the two auctions are our major fund raisers for our society. They help to pay for speakers and other society related expenses. Please bring orchids, potting medium, pots, or anything else orchid related, to be placed in the auction.

Oh, and I haven't mentioned the food! We will be starting at 2pm this time and will have enough time to sit down, socialize, and enjoy real food, so bring anything you enjoy - soups, BBQ, sandwiches, or surprise us! Most of you know I love to eat as much as I love orchids so I am looking forward to this too!

Now for some business. We have been asked by North Haven Gardens to please park in the lot near the pickup area. This is the lot on the far right (facing the building). The gate in the back will be open, so we will have access to the meeting room. And finally, it is time to get your GNTOS dues in for 2016. You can pay them on the same check you use to pay for your auction goodies. Just remember, dues need to be paid no later than Jan 31, 2016 to be included in our yearbook. This date is set by our bylaws and a requirement to get our membership sent into SROGA. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Halverson.

So get ready for the auction, clean out your piggy banks, bring your checkbooks and food, and bid up!
Cheers,
Mike

Mike brought the meeting to order at 3:10 with 25 people in attendance, 3 visitors. He announced the meeting next month is our semi-annual auction and dinner. Please bring a dinner item to share with the group and plant(s) or orchid related items to donate to the auction.

Rhonda introduced our speaker, Charles Hess, whose topic of the day was "The Future of Conservation". Major air pollution from burning forests; the bogs catch fire and are hard to put out emitting methane and carbon. Emissions are so large that on several days it has surpassed the daily emissions of the entire US economy, has killed 10 people so far. For more information and/or how to help, see this website: change.org - go online and look see if anything interests you and sign

MINUTES

Barb McNamee

up! Charles art website is: orchidartbycharleshess.com. Thank you Charles for an informative talk.

Kathy announced the proposed slate of of-

ficers for next year:

President - Mike Beber

Vice President - Rhonda Whitson

Treasurer - Kathy Halverson

Secretary - Barbara McNamee

AOS reps - The Brandenbergs

SWROGA rep - Charles Hess

There were no nominations from the floor - voting will be held next meeting.

Nancy announced the plant table winners.

Barbara conducted the plant raffle.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 4:05.

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 > Recent Awards



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center Nov. 14, 2015

Six plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

Next month, Dec. 12, is the Semi-Annual Business Meeting, pot luck luncheon - Center providing meat main dish, and with regular judging.

Photos are of plants at the Fort Worth Orchid Show. October 24-25, 2015

Holcoglossum Wangii, 'Dr. Mark'
CCM 80 points
Owner: Karlene Sanborn



Catasetum ochraecum

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Nov. 1, 2015, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: David Hines & May Lorfing

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue - Lc. Arid Acres - Mike Beber
Red - Lc. Christopher Gubler 'Betty Beau'
- Gerry Darver
White - Blc. Copper Queen
- Kathi McKenzie

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

Blue - Monn. Millennium Magic
'Witchcraft' AM/AOS
- Forest Shipp
Red - Cirr. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry
- Kathy McKenzie

ONCIDIUMS

Blue - Onc. Mendenhall 'Sun #7'
- Gerry Darver

PAPHS & PHRAGS

Blue - Paph. spicerianum - Gerry Darver

VANDAS & PHALS

Blue - Phal. Pylo's Green Valentine
- Barb McNamee
Red - Phal. Guadalupe Pineda
- Lorna Kissling

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Paph. Spicerianum - Gerry Darver

PEOPLES CHOICE

Monn. Millennium Magic
'Witchcraft' AM/AOS
- Forest Shipp



Cirr. Longissimum
"Elizabeth"



Onc. Mendenhall 'Sun #7'



Monn. Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft' AM/AOS



Bc. Hippodamia
(nodosa x glandiae)



C. Hausermans Holiday Christmas

Photography by Forest Shipp

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Kathi McKenzie

LUDISIA DISCOLOR, A “JEWEL ORCHID”

Ludisia is a genus with only a single species, *Ludisia discolor*. It is a terrestrial orchid with a widespread range in Asia, growing primarily on the forest floor. Like other genera often referred to as “jewel orchids,” *Ludisia* is cultivated primarily for its velvety foliage, which may be deep maroon with red veins, dark green to almost black, or green with lighter veins. While known best for its colorful foliage, it also blooms, with upright stalks of up to 12-inches, bearing small white flowers which may last a month or more.

Ludisia discolor will do well in the home, or in a lower-light area of the greenhouse. Too much light will “bleach” the leaves, while shade will intensify the colors. It should be fertilized sparingly, and not allowed to dry out completely. Water to keep the soil moist, but not soggy. It will root easily from a cutting.

Other orchids commonly referred to as “jewel orchids,” and who share basic cultural requirements with *Ludisia* are

Macodes, and *Anoectochilus*



macodes petola



udisia discolor



Lud. discolor var. *alba*

Anoectochilus Formosanus





OXYMORON

Photo: Reuters

“Oxymoron” has always been one of our favorite words. Why? Because usually an oxymoron is funny. It’s a combination of two words which completely negate each other, yet they go together for some reason. For example, when a restaurant menu features “Giant Shrimp”, it always makes us chuckle.

Lately, though, we have been encountering an oxymoron that is not funny at all. While doing research on rainforest destruction, the term “Sustainable Palm Oil” occurs frequently. It seems there is a palm oil industry program that is certifying palm oil production which has not destroyed new rainforests, nor exploited the indigenous inhabitants of lands when for new plantations are created.

If you have been following the news you have surely read about the environmental crisis out of control in Indonesia, as peat bogs and forests are being destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations. On top of the devas-

tating impact of the severe air pollution caused by burning huge tracts of rainforest. In the process there is enormous destruction of orchid habitats. Entire ecosystems are being disrupted at an accelerating rate and being replaced by a monoculture.

RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) is the term used by the palm oil industry to certify their products as “sustainable”. On the surface, this is a good program and one we should support. Unfortunately, there is nothing “sustainable” in a system built on the principle of continuous growth. As corporations continue to manufacture more and more food products and personal care products which contain palm oil, the demand for this commodity continues to increase. The World Wildlife Fund reports the volume of palm oil production expected to increase by more than 65% by the year 2020.

Whenever corporate manufacturers come up with new products such as a new snack food or body lotion they consume

additional raw materials which in many cases includes palm oil or a derivative of palm oil. The oxymoron here is not what is said outright but what is implied: “sustainable growth”. Sustainable growth is a complete impossibility when you consider that our planet’s resources are finite, and they are rapidly being exhausted.

The more we learn about palm oil, the more convinced we become that the industry is protecting itself. By making the claim of “sustainable” but not talking about where the “growth” comes from, it is essentially fooling the public into thinking that palm oil products do no real harm to ecosystems, and that there is essentially no real loss of rainforests. An RSPO certification sounds good in theory, but there is nothing in this RSPO program that will actu-

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

ally curb deforestation. It serves only to inoculate suppliers from criticism.

The stated goal of RSPO is to certify that palm oil plantations are situated only in rainforest areas which were previously destroyed, and that no new existing forests are being lost in the process. In reality, this claim is more advertising than fact. No actual controls or moratoriums are in place to ensure compliance. Most shocking of all is the fact that the carbon-rich peat bogs are exempted under this certification. Perhaps they do not qualify as “forests”. But the release of the trapped highly concentrated CO₂ and the methane from decomposition after draining are in of themselves contributing 10% of the greenhouse gases impacting our planet.

Equally as disturbing, palm oil producers are not able to completely verify that all of their suppliers are protective of new forests. And end users further down the chain (product manufacturers such as, say, Pepsico) certainly cannot make a claim of sustainability, since they have no control of the process. They simply have to take the supplier’s word for it.

If you read product labels and you see a product marked “Green Palm” you might assume that no forests were destroyed. But you would be wrong. “Green Palm” is the palm oil industry logo, owned and issued by the industry. It is not a designation awarded a company for ethical behavior. Rather, it is a certificate palm oil manufacturers can buy to indicate good intentions, but in practice it may only ac-

count for a portion of their raw material supplier base.

In an article by the World Wildlife Federation called “Creating Ripples of Positive Change” (with the sub heading “a more sustainable palm oil industry”) the WWF highlights the effort of Johnson and Johnson in palm oil sustainability, projecting 100% compliance by 2015. (You can read it on our web site – OrchidArt-ByCharlesHess.com; look under “Conservation”). This is just one example where two first class organizations are painting a picture of progress. If you read the article quickly you may feel encouraged. But upon closer examination, you will see that it is more of a show of support and not a real plan that significantly reduces deforestation.

Even the numbers from the palm oil industry itself show an unaggressive plan. The RSPO has certified 10% of the market in 2014 and hopes to reach 25% of the industry by 2015 and 40% by 2020. The forests can’t wait that long. And as we all know, “Hope is not a plan”.

The last two paragraphs of the above 2014 article by the WWF gives us a peek at



where the real solution might dwell:

“... even the world’s biggest brands are impacted by the voices of their loyal customers. David McLaughlin, WWF’s vice president of agriculture, reminds us to voice our concerns about the sustainability of companies’ operations to motivate changes like those undertaken by Johnson & Johnson.”

“As a consumer, your voice has an impact on companies, which can ripple through companies’ supply chains,” he said. “Together we can encourage industries, like the palm oil sector, to embrace a more sustainable future by voting with our wallets.”

Our wallets are our most effective voice. We vote at the grocery store, and we vote at the drugstore. Indeed, when we vote with our dollars, it is our only means of making ourselves heard by large corporations. Anything that affects their bottom line will have their immediate attention. Friends tell us that they have started checking labels on foods and personal products, and choosing those which have no palm oil or only a small amount. With enough people taking this action, change will occur. We have to reduce the demand and not accept a 65% increase in a world market.

Information about products which use palm oil is readily available on the internet. To help you get started, our website contains a checklist of such products. Look under Conservation/Palm Oil/Palm Oil Checklist.

Working together, we can put pressure on the manufacturers to reformulate their existing products to remove palm oil and its derivatives (numbering around 250). None of our research has turned up a single article showing highlighting a company making an effort to remove palm oil from their products, or to discontinue a product line with a high palm oil content. They will do it only if we persuade



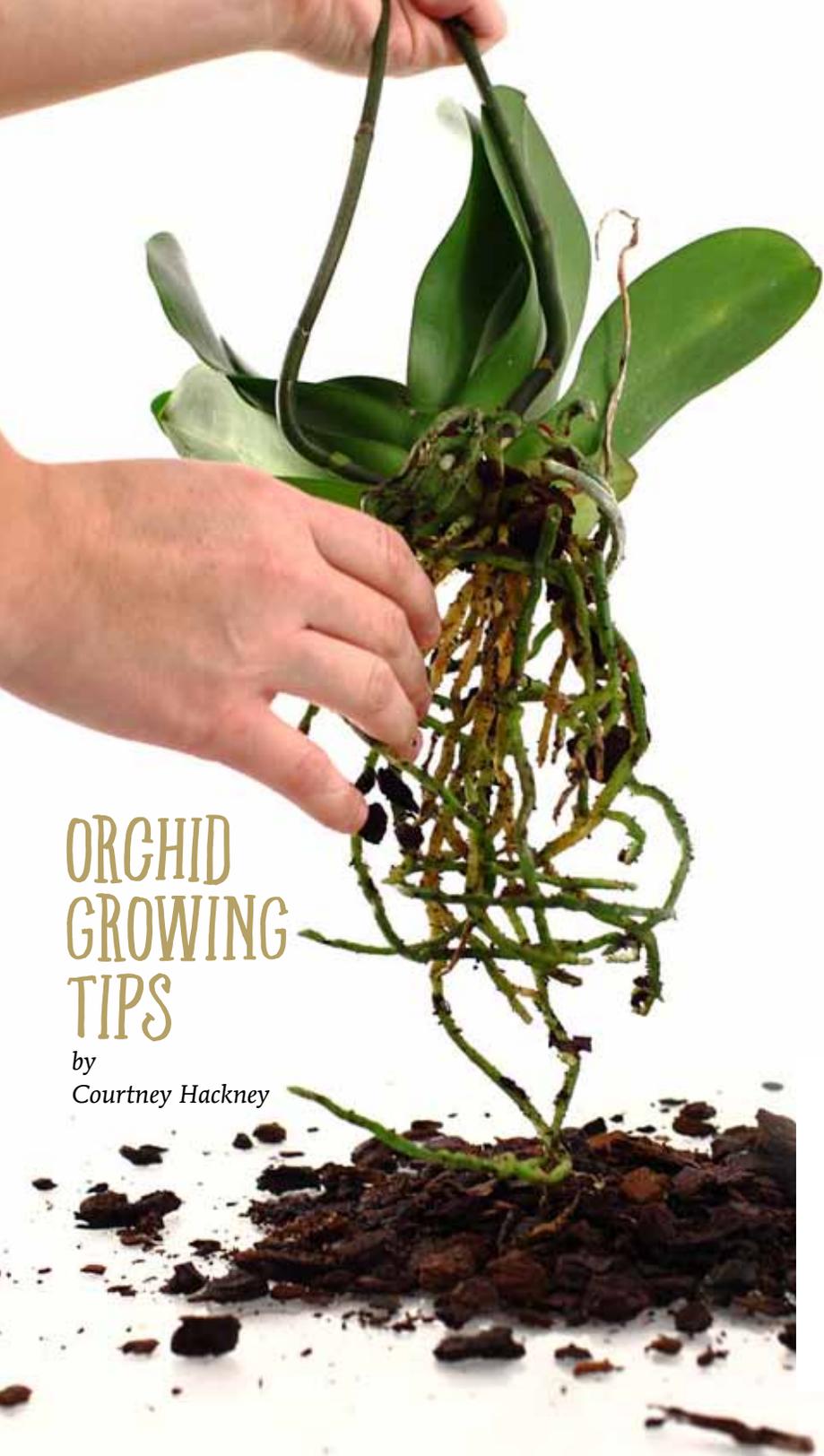
them by voting with our dollars. In the meantime, the already small remaining habitats in Indonesia will be gone. The industry will then turn to other prime forests, such as the Amazon, and the destruction will continue.

Of course, the palm oil industry firmly states they are against any kind of boycott of products not marked with their RSPO logo. But that is exactly what is needed to get the demand reduced.

The Rainforest Action Network has taken some daring and courageous steps to stop the destruction. Much like the “kayakavists” blocking the Shell Oil Arctic exploration, RAN targeted Pepsico with signs posted on vending machines showing a tree stump with the words Pepsico is OUT OF ORDER. Of course an actual boycott would have a greater impact on Pepsico’s bottom line, but it is an effective way to wake up the public, much as the Kayakavist did for Arctic drilling.

Companies do get these messages. With enough people working together, change will happen.

Your vote does count. Vote for saving the rainforests and our orchids!



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

by
Courtney Hackney

ORCHID DETECTIVE: WHAT YOUR PLANTS' ROOTS ARE TRYING TO TELL YOU

The growth of plants is directly tied to a root system that delivers enough water and nutrients to accommodate the plants needs. While your orchids may not consciously decide to grow additional roots because they need more water, the same effect occurs through plant hormones. What this means to the orchid grower is that the degree to which your orchids allocate energy for root or leaf growth depends on what they have in least supply relative to how much they require.

This is actually an old concept developed by a German soil scientist, called “Liebig’s Law”. If an orchid is being grown and has less water available than it needs, it will grow additional roots. Conversely, if a plant has an adequate water supply in the presence of lots of light and nutrients more leaves will be added by the plant.

In “the wild”, the proportion of roots to shoots reflects what is limiting plant growth. More roots than shoots suggests water or nutrient limitations. Some desert plants have a 20 to 1 ratio of roots to shoots, while under almost ideal conditions in rainforests; this ratio can be almost 1 to 1. What is the ratio of roots to shoots on your orchids?

Most cultivated orchids are epiphytes, that is, they grow attached to trees or rocks and do not have access to soils where water and nutrients are stored in nature. Epiphytes in general are especially adapted to resisting water and nutrient loss and holding on to what they have, but still reflect a root to shoot ratio more than 1. One additional trick orchids use is to grow slowly to lessen their need for nutrients and water.

Cultivating epiphytic orchids requires us to be sensitive to the balance each plant maintains. Only when that balance is maintained will the plant favor us with exceptional blooms.

The orchids in my greenhouse came from many different growers that grow in all kinds of media, so there has been plenty of opportunity to observe both the quantity and quality of roots and the approximate root to shoot ratio. Phals have been especially noteworthy as a means of comparing roots because they are among the fastest growing cultivated orchids.

One commercial grower was noted for beautifully large, well-flowered phals grown in Promix. However, his phals had

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.

few roots when repotted and had a root to shoot ratio below 1 to 1. Obviously, he had mastered the “art” of maximizing nutrients and water availability. His plants did not require additional roots to obtain either water or nutrients, and so spent their available energy on growing more leaves and flowering. Most amazing was that this was done in a dense medium without suffocating the roots. Most hobbyists have difficulty obtaining this kind of growth without killing roots.

Hydroponic-growers accomplish the same thing, i.e. a low root to shoot ratio, by constantly bathing their plants in water and nutrients in an oxygen rich environment. Remember that roots need oxygen to grow. Phal growers using sphagnum moss also obtain rapid growth and also do so by growing fewer roots. However, their roots are very thick and fleshy because phal roots grown in a constant supply of moisture take on a different form. If repotted in a more open mix, these roots will die.

Grow phals mounted, in lava rock or other coarse medium, and there will be more roots than shoots, reminiscent of their natural state. These roots will be hard and flattened for life attached to a tree. Repotting a phal that is adapted for



such conditions will lead to the loss of most roots during and immediately after repotting. The result is usually fewer and smaller flowers the following year. The more growing time between repotting and flowering, the better the flowers will be. This is the reason most commercial growers repot after their plants have flowered. Growers that consistently get AOS awards have mastered Liebig’s Law.

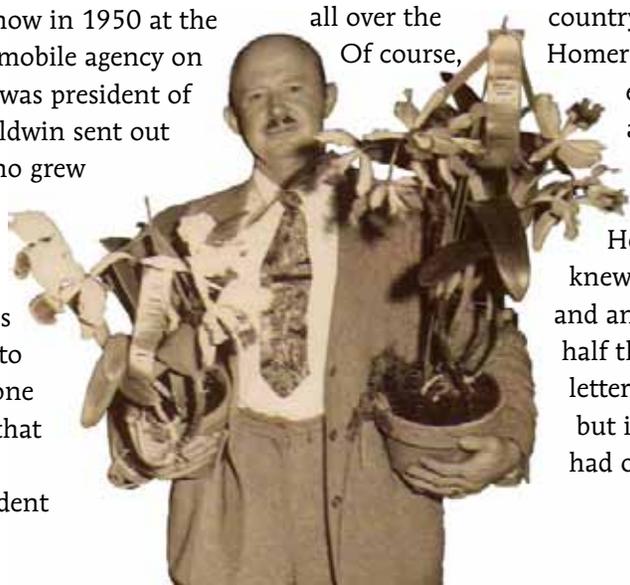
SOCIETY HISTORY

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.

12 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): _____