

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

JAN

GROWING ORCHIDS UNDER LIGHTS

Next Meeting:
January 3

Speaker:
Dotty Woodson



Dotty Woodson and her husband, Berry, have grown and hybridized orchids since 1973. They grow their orchids in 5,000 square feet of greenhouses, 2,000 in their back yard and 3,000 at D & B Orchids, 5608 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth, TX. They have registered 64 hybrids and won many awards for their orchids and orchid exhibits. Berry Woodson was named the Herb Hagar Hybridizer of the Year by American Orchid Society in 2013.

Dotty has presented orchid programs to orchid growers in many states, at two International Master Gardener Conference, two International Phalaenopsis Alliance Conferences and to international audiences on Norwegian Cruise Line. Woodson is a member of the Fort Worth Orchid Society, Greater North Texas Orchid Society, Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association and the American Orchid Society.

Woodson has also written articles about orchid culture for many newspapers and magazines and appeared on many television and radio shows to discuss growing orchids.

Dotty Woodson is an Extension Program Specialist for Water Resources assigned to the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas, Texas. Woodson is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Urban Water Team. Woodson started with Extension in May 1995 as a County Extension Agent in Tarrant County. Woodson has B. S. and M.S. degrees in Horticulture from Tarleton State University and a doctoral degree from Texas A&M and Texas Tech Universities.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS 2015 Plant Table Judging Report

Here are the final statistics for 2015 plant tables:

- Nine meetings and one show
- 21 members brought plants
- 250 total plants
- Nine members judging
- 452 total points

Top ten point recipients:

- 9/10. (tie) Don Brigham & Charlie Hess
8. Kathy Halverson
7. Sarah Hardesty
6. The Hortons
5. Barb McNamee
4. Mike Beber
3. David Gould – 46 points won \$50
2. Gerry Darver – 48 points won \$75
1. Kathi McKenzie – 63 points won \$100

Congratulations to all who brought plants and a reminder to those who didn't to start bringing them.

Here is a quick reminder of how points are awarded:

A first, second and third place may be awarded in each of these categories:

- Cattleya Alliance
- Dendrobiums & Others
- Oncidiums
- Paphs & Phrags
- Vandas & Phals

1st place	3 points
2nd place	2 points
3rd place	1 point
Species of the month	1 point
(up to three)	
Peoples Choice Award	1 point

Members bringing plants to display will be credited with one (1) point per plant, to a maximum of two (2) points per meeting.

Participation in our society show will be worthy of points as follows:

- Exhibit coordinator 7 points
- Individual exhibit 5 points
- Group exhibit (each family) . 2 points
- Plant(s) in the Society exhibit 1 point per plant (max. 6)

(Refer to the yearbook for full details on how plant table points are awarded.)

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center Dec. 12, 2015

One plant entered for consideration, no awards given.

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

The next meeting is January, 9 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.

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

A NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION

(that's not
a typo!)

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

Happy New Year to our orchid conservation readers!

It is time to bring out the champagne and celebrate not only the New Year but also the COP 21 in Paris at the climate talks. On second thought, maybe we should celebrate just the New Year. Although the COP 21 agreements will slow down the damage we are inflicting on our planet, they will not be enough.

So far we have witnessed 20 meetings prior to Paris starting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 each attended by enthusiastic and knowledgeable representatives of 195 countries. But over this time-



frame, and in spite of this enthusiasm and knowledge, global carbon emissions have risen from roughly 20 billion tons a year to 35 billion tons. The successes of prior climate summits have, of course, kept this

emission number from going even higher than that. But the emissions are still rising faster than the Earth can assimilate, and we are seeing the drastic results on a daily basis.

Since the 1992 meeting we have witnessed the massive loss of forests and orchid habitats. These forests have been converted to palm oil plantations, agricultural projects for growing animal feed, and other such uses. It is hard to imagine how they could ever be returned to their original state — as a habitat that supports a diversity of flora and fauna.

This is the issue that is near and dear to the hearts of orchid lovers. But it is also an issue that is important to the climate talks. “About 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from tropical deforestation (more than from all the world’s cars, truck and buses combined)” reports the Environmental Defense Fund. Addressing this issue, “Brazil has proposed emission reductions of 37% by 2025, but on forest policy, President Rousseff is unwilling to commit to more than stopping illegal deforestation by 2030.”

Perhaps we should leave the champagne in the bottle and put back the cork, good and tight. The knowledge and enthusiasm alone are just not enough to address the problem. To the major agricultural industry players the world’s forests are regarded in the same way as oil is to the petroleum industry. As long as oil is in the ground, oil companies are going to drill for it — least until such time as the demand for oil is significantly reduced. The same forces apply to our planet’s forests. As long as there is a demand for major agricultural commodities, the food industry will find a way to meet this demand. And

that means clearing more forests.

So, the food industry is driving this demand and we, the consumers, are quietly complying. It is through our purchasing choices that what remains of our natural habitats is being destroyed. A major destructive force, the palm oil industry, is projecting a 65% increase in production over the next 5 years. That can only come from more forests being cleared. Nowhere have we seen any limits being put on this industry.

And moratoriums on deforestation have gone nowhere with governments as we just saw with Brazil. The industry makes claims that their palm oil is from “sustainable” sources. But if we investigate further, we find that their concept of “sustainable” is a gross misrepresentation, at best.

We, as consumers, are the only economic forces that can change this picture. Admittedly, reducing palm oil product consumption is difficult, due to the prevalence in so many products which contain

it. But, armed with a little knowledge and dedication, we can reduce, if not eliminate the demand. Every little bit helps.

That being said, an easier target might be soy. Soy production has grown by a factor of 10 over the last 50 years, and the demand for soy is as destructive to



habitats as the demand for palm oil. The worldwide cultivation of soy consumes an area roughly the size of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom combined, and in the U.S., is second only to corn. With increasing demand, its new expansion is creeping into native forests and grasslands in the US Northern Great Plains and Brazil’s Cerrado. You will be interested to know that if you use soy milk or tofu (a soy product), you are not the culprit, because an incredible 75% of soy raised worldwide becomes animal feed.

A commonly held assumption is that we need to consume animal products, notably meat, in order to meet our daily requirements for protein. Nothing could be further from the truth. While it is true that meat, dairy, fish, and eggs do supply protein, we can easily get enough protein from eating whole grains, beans and other legumes, nuts and vegetables. And because these plants are much lower in fat (and calories) than animal products, we can more easily manage our weight in the process.

We have read many books and articles on this subject, and are discovering new sources almost daily. The book that started us on the course of more sustainable eating is “May All Be Fed” by John Robbins (also published under the title “Diet for a New World”). Even back in 1992, when he first wrote this book, here is what was happening:

“The livestock population of the United States today (1992) consumes enough grain and soybeans to feed more than five times the entire human population of our country. We feed these animals more than 80 percent of the corn we grow, and more than 95 percent of the oats. “Two thirds of all grain exported to other countries from the U.S. goes to feed livestock, rather than to feed people. Only a tiny minority of the people in most of these countries can afford meat. In fact, many people go to bed hungry every night, and mothers must often watch helplessly as their children starve.” “In Guatemala, much of the land and other resources for food production is given over to producing meat, while 75 percent of the children under five years of age are undernourished. The meat produced doesn’t go to those in need. It goes to those who can afford it. Every year Guatemala



exports forty million pounds of meat to the U.S.” Robbins goes on to relate how Guatemala’s story is repeated throughout many other developing nations.

As the world’s population grows, and as productive farmland decreases due to drought and soil erosion, we must come together as a world community to manage usable land more effectively and efficiently. A given amount of land can feed more than six times as many people eating a vegetarian diet than those eating a meat-based diet. (Robbins, p. 34). When we couple that with the health benefits of a plant-based diet, it is difficult to justify any other method of eating.

And if anyone is still determined that we need meat in order to be strong and healthy, we would challenge that belief by using the example of a horse. These beautiful creatures subsist mostly on oats and other grains, along with water, and yet they are strong and powerful, to the extent that they have for many years been held as a standard. We say someone is “healthy as a horse”, and we measure a machine’s ability to do work in “horsepower”. What more proof do we need?

Let us make our New Year’s resolution a New Year’s revolution. Let the force be with you.

ORCHIDS THROUGH 2016

by Ned Nash
and James Rose

MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30° F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often

is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using Oncidium and Brassia, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called “bull dogs” and “toads”, are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you’ll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

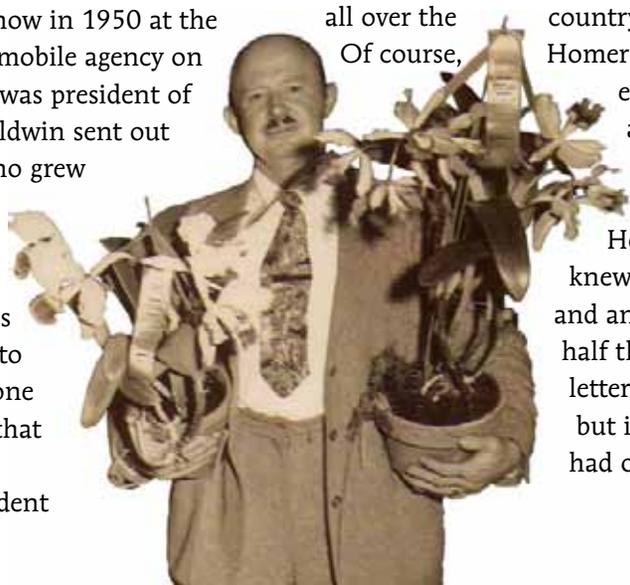
SOCIETY HISTORY

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.

8 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): _____