

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

MAY

Next Meeting:
May 1

50 YEARS AND 6 HOME GREENHOUSES LATER...

Gerry Darver is a native of Dallas, graduate of Highland Park High School, and Graduate of SMU with a major in Spanish and a minor in Biology. He opened the interior landscape department for North Haven Gardens while at SMU, and was promoted to General Manager 1966. He worked at Local & Western of Texas as a meat trader from 1966 to present and purchased Local & Western in 1986. Gerry currently serves as President and Director of Sales.

His hobbies include gardening, orchids, snow skiing, and fly fishing.

From 1966 until present, he has raised orchids, mostly in greenhouses, and has built 6 home greenhouses. Gerry is going to speak about home greenhouse construction.



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David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Gerry Darver

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello GNTOS

Welcome to May,

We certainly have had our April showers and that means if you are growing in a greenhouse or outside, you really need to make sure your plants aren't getting too wet. The humidity has been staying high inside and out, so I have been running my fans constantly and backed off any watering. I monitor each pot now to make sure they are drying out. There are a few places in the greenhouse the fans just don't reach, so I am watching out for those areas in particular.

Crown rot, once started can take over a plant in a hurry, is not fun to deal with, and can kill a plant in a short time! Remember to use cinnamon as a natural fungicide if you trim a leaf with rot. We learned this trick from our Q&A talk two months back!

Thank you Manny Aybar for a great presentation on orchids from the Dominican Republic. He is always passionate about orchids and his birth country.

As Manny said, he is Chair of Dallas Judging Center (DJC). If you can, try to attend one of the DJC meetings. You will be amazed what else you can learn about orchids. They meet the second Saturday of each month. Check out their website for more information.

Next meeting get your questions ready about greenhouse building and growing for Gerry Darver.

Mike

ORCHIDS 101

Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. It will be an informal discussion so come bring your questions.

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

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.



MINUTES

Barb McNamee

The April meeting got underway a bit after 3, had a lot of plants for our 'mini' show table, there were 26 people in attendance, 2 visitors.

Mike introduced our speaker, Manny Aybar, whose presentation was titled "Orchids of the Dominican Republic". Manny invited society members to attend the Dallas Judging Center with their well-grown plants. He then took us on a tour of his homeland and then spoke about the individual orchids found in the Dominican Republic, temperatures, how beautiful the beaches are and culture of the plants found there. Very nice talk, Manny, thank you very much.

Sad news: we have lost Cecelia Pinson, in February, she fought a lengthy battle with cancer. No other information is available.

Mike also mentioned that Rhonda Whitson, our Vice President is undergoing cancer treatment.

Mike announced that North Haven is having a get-together for all the societies that meet in their buildings on April 30 from 2-4; we can have a table with society and AOS information.

Nancy announced the plant table winners assisted by Don Brigham, David Hines and Forrest Shipp's judged.

Barb announced the raffle plant winners. Thanks all.

Thanks also to Karl and Carol Varian and Dave Gould for refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30.



Vanda Unknown

PLANT TABLE *Nancy Cropp*

April 3, 2016, Plant Table Judging Results
Judges: David Hines & M. Forest Shipp

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE - 19 plants

Blue - Lc. Orange Passion 'Tangerine'

- Karl Varian

Red - Iwan. Apple Blossom - David Gould

White - Epicat. Florida 'Pine Knot'

- Mike Beber

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS - 13 plants

Blue - Phaias tankervillaea - Mike Beber

Red - Cymb. fidloysonianum - Mike Beber

White - Zygo. Advance Australia

- Linda Horton

ONCIDIUMS - 6 plants

Blue - Onc. altissimum - Judy Cook

Red - Catatante 'Pumpkin Patch'

- Kathi McKenzie

White - Tol. Tequila Sunrise

- Kathi McKenzie

PAPHS & PHRAGS - 4 plants

Blue - Paph. Robinianum 'Big Red'

- David Gould

Red - Paph. Agape - Judy Cook

White - Paph Avalon Love Stone

- Linda Horton

VANDAS & PHALS - 13 plants

Blue - Vanda no name - Kathy Halverson

Red - Phal. I-Sin Waltz - Manny Aybar

White - Phal. schilleriana - Manny Aybar

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Leptotes bicolor - Judy Cook

Cym. fidloysonianum - Mike Beber

Onc. altissimum - Judy Cook

PEOPLES CHOICE

Phaias tankervillaea - Mike Beber

55 total plants - another huge month!



Lycaste Skinneri



Blc. Golden Sands
'Elizabeth Off' AM/AOS



Onc. altissimum



Paph Robinianum



Phal. Young home
New York 'KA01801' AM/AOS

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

FORT WORTH ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

3/26/16

60 plants entered for ribbon judging,
eight pulled for AOS consideration,
two awards given:

- 1. Paph. Lady Isabel 'Pylo'**
(rothschildianum x stonei)
AM 82 points
Owner: Peter Lin, Big Leaf Orchids,
Southlake
- 2. Paph. rothschildianum 'D&B'**
(species)
AM 87 points
Owner: Dotty & Berry Woodson,
Fort Worth



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

Dallas Judging Center, 4/9/16

14 plants entered,
two awards given:

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

The next meeting is May, 14
at the Garland Senior Activity
Center
600 West Avenue A,
Garland, TX 75040

11am. Everyone one is wel-
come to bring plants or to just
watch and learn.

1. Paph. rothschildianum
'Pylo's Dark Spiders' (species)
HCC 77 points
Owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake

2. Phal. AL Redsun Queen
'Pylo's Perfume'
(Ba-Shi Redsun x LD's Bear Queen)
AM 84 points
Owner: Big Leaf Orchids, Southlake



ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

THE MAGIC OF BORNEO

*Bulbophyllum
catenarium*



The word “Borneo” has always conjured up an image of someplace truly exotic, full of mystery and promise of new discoveries. I am reminded of this each time I walk out to my greenhouse, because one of my earliest orchid purchases (1983) happened to be a species from Borneo. It is called *Rhynchosstylis gigantea* variety *Sarawak*.

The island of Borneo is composed of three nations, the largest being Indonesia. To the north and west are Sabah and Sarawak, which are the two states comprising Malaysia. And in between the two Malaysian states sits the tiny sultanate of Brunei. This concludes your geography lesson for today.

I wish I could say that my motivation for writing this article is to “revisit” this island. Sad to say, I never had the opportunity to visit Borneo; my orchid was actually purchased in Thailand. But I have written about Borneo in earlier Conservation Updates so it is almost the same thing, right?

I do have a specific motivation for writing about Borneo, however. It comes from the April 2016 edition of *Orchid Digest* which features an article by Charles G. Wilson, retired Director of the Memphis Zoo and member of the

AOS Conservation committee. This well written article entitled “Postcard: Orchids of Borneo” describes a 12-day tour with the Memphis Zoo photo safari program. It takes the reader on a journey from the Crocker Mountain Range and the Tenom Orchid Centre in north central Borneo, through the Kinabalu National Park, a world Heritage site near Mount Kinabalu, known as one of the world’s richest areas of floral biodiversity, with 1400 orchid species, 26 rhododendron species, 400 ferns, and 10 pitcher plants. The tour ends at Danum Valley, an area containing 108,000 acres of virgin rainforest, a critical habitat for many endangered species, including the critically endangered orangutan.

Borneo is rich in dendrobiums and bulbophyllums. Wilson’s article documents photographically the *Dendrobium panduriferum* as well as the *Bulbophyllum catenarium* found during their tours. His group also photographed

*Dendrobium
panduriferum*





Grosourdyia
appendiculata

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum, *Eria lasiopetala*, *Plocoglottis gigantea*, *Stichorkis labongensis* and *Plocoglottis lowii*. It is estimated that between 12,000 and 13,000 plant species are found in Borneo, with up to 1,500 orchid species among 150 genera.

For those interested in learning more about Borneo and its wealth of orchids, the September 1994 AOS *Bulletin* featured a wonderful 3-part series called “New Orchid Records from Borneo” by Jeffery Wood, deputy curator of the orchid herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Tony Lamb, a 30-year resident of Sabah and creator of the Orchid Centre at the Agricultural Research Station in Tenom.

Research facilities located in the native areas of these orchids are key to orchid conservation. By situating their work in the local areas, conservationists like Jeffery Lamb are able to keep many of the species in cultivation on site, such as the unique *Grosourdyia appendiculata* shown here.

In a unique way we in the Greater North Texas Orchid Society have helped with this conservation effort. During our 2015 orchid show we held a conservation raffle through which we raised funds

for the Rainforest Trust program. Our contribution helped support a project which creates a link between the Danum Valley and another sanctuary, thereby expanding protection for a critical forest region and orchid habitat. We should all pat ourselves on the back for this.

I quote from the Rainforest Trust news release:
Thanks to Rainforest Trust donors, a major logging concession in Sabah, Borneo, has been converted into a 168,032-acre permanent sanctuary for wildlife that links two of the most important reserves in Asia – the Maliau Basin and Danum

Valley – saving one of the most critical stretches of lowland rainforest remaining on the island.

Rainforest Trust in collaboration with Bornean partners Yayasan Sabah Foundation, the Royal Society South East Asia Rainforest Research Program (SEARRP), and Permian Global worked with Sabah’s state government to formally establish the new Kuamut Forest Reserve. Its protection comes after intense pressure to open these forests to repeated logging and oil palm development.

“The Kuamut Forest Reserve is a crucial link in a huge protected area complex extending across more

than 77 miles of lowland rainforest and encompassing a wide variety of habitats for wildlife,” said Dr. Paul Salaman, CEO of Rainforest Trust. “After a struggle against logging and oil palm companies and their desire to open up these forests to development, we have finally secured protection for this exceptional area. The declaration of the Kuamut Forest Reserve is one of the greatest refuges for biodiversity in all of Borneo.” This project is an excellent example of ways we can be a part of orchid conservation throughout the world. By supporting major organizations like the Rainforest Trust, the Orchid Conservation Alliance, and the North American Orchid Conservation Center we can preserve and protect critical habitat. Currently the Rainforest Trust is in the planning stages of a project which will protect an additional 113,668 acres of Kuamut’s forests by 2018. I will do my best to provide incentives for our organization to support this exciting and worthwhile project.

You will be happy to know that my *Rhynchostylis gigantea* is thriving. It keeps alive my enchantment with rainforests like the ones in Borneo, and even provides inspiration for my art.

ORCHIDS THROUGH THE YEAR 2016

by Ned Nash
and James Rose

MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR MAY AND JUNE

Cattleya The last of the spring-flowering types – those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb – will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While *Cattleya* will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by

your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum The *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their develop-

“AS ALWAYS,
WHEN WATERING,
IT IS SAFER TO ERR
ON THE DRY SIDE
THAN ON THE WET.”

ment. The multiflora types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so



Pylo's Perfume'
(Ba-Shi Redsun x
LD's Bear Queen)
AM 84 points
Owner: Big Leaf Orchids
Southlake

be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis Except for the latest-spiking plants, all Phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because Phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a Phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

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.

CONTROLLING ORCHID PESTS IN THE GREENHOUSE. PART 2

The final part of this series addresses pesticide application and products for those with large collections in greenhouses or growers that keep their orchids outside the home. Pesticides all have a prescribed re-entry time on the label, which must be followed after applications. If these products are applied inside the home there is always the possibility of contamination of surfaces where you and your family could contact the pesticide. Always err on the side of caution.

As noted in earlier parts of the series, most pesticides potentially have some negative effect on the plant. There are, however, a number of steps that can be taken to minimize damage to your orchids. First, always use exactly what the instructions recommend. Do not use “about” 1 teaspoon. Use exactly one teaspoon. Use a dropper for quantities less than 1 tablespoon. These can be purchased at the drug store with increments on them. Never use any utensils that might accidentally be used later for medicine or anything that humans would use. Keep it strictly for pesticides and away

from children and pets.

Next be sure your orchids are watered thoroughly before applying the pesticide, preferably in the early morning when the greenhouse temperature is low. Orchids should be sprayed early enough so that plants are dry by the time intense solar radiation is heating up the leaf surface and your greenhouse.

When mixing pesticides use pure water, as water that is high in dissolved solids or that has been mixed with fertilizer can alter the relative toxicity of the product. Always wear gloves and respirator when handling the concentrated form of the pesticide. Follow this rule no matter how non-toxic a product is supposed to be.

There are two hormonal insect products that have worked well for me over the years, because they are effective against cattleya (Boisduval) scale. This type of product does not kill insects directly, but interrupts their molting cycle. Both are, unfortunately, relatively expensive initially, but worth the cost in the long run. *Enstar* was the first one that worked well for me. Insects



Boisduval scale is the most common type of scale found on orchids and can multiply rapidly



Soft brown scale is a difficult pest to eradicate

ORCHID GROWING TIPS



Thrips can make a mess out of flowers you have waited all year to see.



Soft brown scale is a difficult pest to eradicate

must come into contact with Enstar to be effective, which requires that orchids be soaked during the application, especially the undersides of leaves. The only problem I had with this product was that it seemed to lose its potency after the concentrate was opened. Because it worked so well initially, and my collection is relatively small, it remained on the shelf for over a year before it was all used.

The second hormonal product, *Distance*, has been more effective because it is a systemic, one incorporated into the plant tissues. Some botanical gardens use this as a drench and claim they need only apply it twice a year. That application rate, twice a year, seems to work well when it is used as a spray as well. This product is incredibly effective to the degree that I could not find a single live scale three months after application.

Most products labeled for scale suggest three applications spaced 7-10 days apart for complete scale



control. Do not apply *Distance* more than once every 3 months as there does seem to be a toxic effect, especially in thin leaved orchids, e.g. miltonias and oncidiums.

The only downside for this product is cost, over \$200/ pint. Because it lasts so long and works so well it may be necessary for several growers to join together and share. So far, there does not seem to be a loss of toxicity with storage of the concentrate.

Finally, there is one product widely available and relatively inexpensive. It is *Bayer's Rose and Flower Insect Spray*. There are two proven ingredients, an organic insecticide that kills insects on contact and one that is systemic. It is available at Lowes Garden centers for under \$10 in a premixed form. Concentrates are not usually available. The premixed bottles are ideal for smaller collections or for spot problems. Avoid reapplication within a month of application as there also seems to be cumulative plant toxicity.

Red Spider Mites live up to their name; they do make webs.

Mites can multiply quickly during warm, dry conditions and get out of control before you even notice them.



Early in the morning, you may be able to still find a snail that has been eating your flowers.



Snails and slugs can cause damage orchid roots to the point where they stop growing. As with any chewing pest, they can spread disease.

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

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.

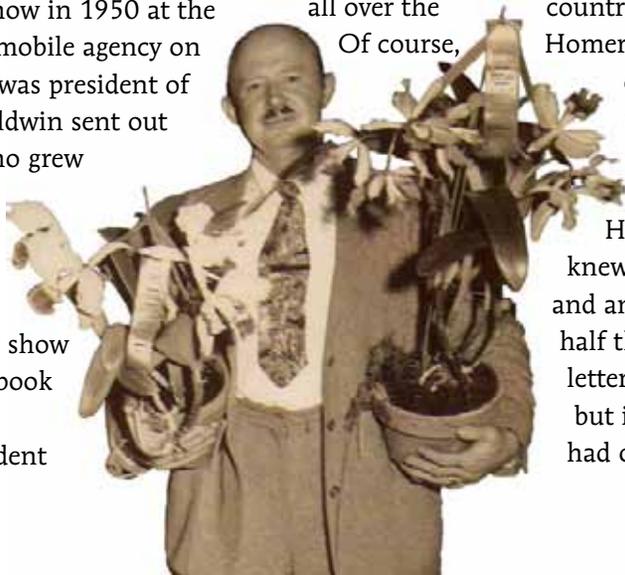
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____