



ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
**ORCHID
SOCIETY**
JULY

Next Meeting:
July 3rd
Auction

This month we will have our Semiannual Auction. There isn't a speaker or plant judging, just bidding on plants and eating food. Bring a refreshment, finger food or dessert of your choice to share. Please bring plants or divisions for the auction, as well as collectibles or any orchid related item. This is the event that we do to 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

Welcome to July Orchid lovers!

Just when I was hoping we were going to have a mild summer, Texas popped out with unbearable heat and humidity. I can now monitor my greenhouse through a mobile app. It showed the temp was hitting 100 degrees before 10am! I made some adjustments to misting and swamp cooler trip points and now seem to be under control.

Point being keep a watchful eye on your plants and their environments and make changes as they are needed.

July is also time for The GNTOS semiannual auction. This auction is how the club finances

speakers, shows and other society costs. This is the time when you can clean out plants you have too many of, can't bloom, or just tired of, by donating them to the auction. Any orchid related items as well can be donated.

We will also have a pot luck dinner prior to the meeting. Bring something you like and share it with everyone.

Again our Auctioneer extraordinaire will be our own Charles Hess. A man of many talents!

To recap, bring: Orchid plants and orchid related supplies to donate to the auction, Bring food to for the pot luck (drinks will be supplied)

Bring your Checkbooks and Bid it up!

Mike

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

MINUTES

Barb McNamee

Our meeting got under way with 27 people, 2 visitors and 1 new member.

Mike introduced our speaker Gerry Darver, past President and current member of GNTOS who walked us through the ins and outs of building a greenhouse "50 Years and 7 Greenhouses Later". He talked about size, type, maintenance, site, style, materials, etc. Thank you Gerry for an excellent talk and lots of really useful information.

Mary Cash had nice pairs of plant hand pruners for sale at \$10 each. Nancy mentioned some of Cecilia's plants will be donated for auction.

Nancy announced the plant table winners.

Mike conducted the plant raffle. Thank you to Kathy Halverson and Mike Beber for refreshments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McNamee



ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

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

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.

Know your orchid

With nearly 30,000 species of orchid (growing on six continents) and many times that in hybrids the question of “How do I grow this orchid” could have many, many answers. It is best if you know the exact name of your orchid, or if that’s not available, what type of orchid it is (what “genus” or “alliance”). If you have no tag and are unsure of this, why not bring the plant to your local orchid society for some identification?

Once you know what type of orchid(s) you have you will need to find out what the requirements are in the basic categories of LIGHT, WATER, TEMPERATURE and if there are any other special requirements for that orchid such as a dry winter spell. This will include the best way to pot or mount your orchid considering where you grow. We have a chart that covers some of the orchid groups on our website here.

Oregon Orchid Society

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

June 5, 2016
44 entries

Judges: Rhonda Whitson & Lorna Kissling

CATTELEYA ALLIANCE – 16 entries

Blue – C. Canhamiana coerulea
– David Gould
Red – Bc. Goldenzell 'Lemon Chiffon'
– Karl Varian
White – Enc. Babe's Jewels
– May Lorfing

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS – 7 entries

Blue – Den. unknown – Karl Varian
Red – Cym. Little Black Sambo 'Black Magic'
– Linda Horton
White – Den. laevifolium
– Kathi McKenzie

ONCIDIUMS – 4 entries

Blue – Wils. Aloha Sparks 'Halloween'
– Kathi McKenzie
Red – Onc. Burgundium 'Too Sweet'
– Gerry Darver
White – Pacific Paragon 'Honey Butter'
– Kathy McKenzie

PAPHS & PHRAGS – 6 entries

Blue – Phrag. unknown – Mike Beber
Red – mini Phrag. 'Green Hornet'
– Kathi McKenzie
White – Phrag. Sorcerers Apprentice
'Red Bird' – Linda Horton

VANDAS & PHALS – 11 entries

Blue – Phal. unknown – Gerry Darver
Red – Phal. (Haur Jin Diamond)
– Gene Cawlfeld
White – Phal. 0832 – Jim Williams

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Vanda falcata 'Golden Peacock'
– Sarah Hardesty
Vanda falcata 'Red Emperor'
– Sarah Hardesty
Phal. intermedia – Charlie Hess

PEOPLES CHOICE

Bc. Theresa Ricci – Sarah Hardesty

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

Dallas Judging
Center
June 11, 2016

Three plants
entered,
no awards given.



1

Plants previously entered for
consideration:

1. *Catasetum ochraecum*

2. *Cirr. Elizabeth Ann*

3. *Cirr. longissimum*



2



3

TOLUMNIAS

Tolumnias grow in nature as “twig epiphytes,” meaning they grow on twigs on the tips of trees in their natural habitat. Their natural habitat is the Greater Antilles, with a few species extending into Florida, the Lesser Antilles, Mexico, Central America and parts of south America. They have only been hybridized for the past 60 years, but since they mature quickly, can be very rewarding to breed.

Like most twig epiphytes, they are small plants that like to dry out fast after a rain (or watering). In cultivation, they are typically grown mounted, in small baskets, or in tiny (1-3") clay pots. Their former name “equitant oncidiums” refers to the habit of the leaves, which grow closely, overlapping or “straddling” each other (equitant is from the Latin, and refers to riding a horse). Another older name for them was *Oncidium* section *Variegata*.

Tolumnias require bright light (similar to other oncidiums), and high humidity, but never want to stay wet. Typically, media in a pot of basket is limited to a few bits of charcoal, cork or Styrofoam. Flowers are produced in 12-18" inflorescences, often blooming in the spring. Plants can re-bloom a second time on the same stem.



Tolumnia Jarak Rainbo



Tolumnia Volcano

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Kathi McKenzie



Tolumnia triqueta



Tolumnia variegata

EXTINCTION IS THE ULTIMATE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess



I confess, I don't read my AOS *Orchids Magazine* from cover to cover, though I promise myself I will do so every time one arrives in my mailbox. And there are times I only flip through it, thinking "OK ... later".

One of those instances of "later" occurred recently. Last week, while heading out the door to an appointment, I decided to take something to read. I grabbed the first thing at hand, which happened to be the October 2015 issue. What a fortunate little accident that turned out to be. This particular issue contained an article written by Brenda Oviatt and Bill Nerison of Botanica LTD. Some may remember that they were our speaking guests for our February 2014 meeting.

The title of the article was *Aerangis maireae*. But actually it was the subtitle, *Facing Extinction*, that caught my eye. Extinction?! That sounds rather final – something that is supposed to happen only to dinosaurs. No, it happens to many species, including orchids. It occurred to me that we should be thinking of this more often. After all, we know that we are in an era of rapid extinction called the Sixth Mass

Extinction, and it is occurring at a rate faster than was seen during the decline of the dinosaurs. That, alone, ought to give us pause.

The article tells the fascinating story of an African species *Aerangis maireae* (MY-ra-ee), named after Maire Spurrier, who rescued the plant from a felled tree at a Tanzanian logging site in 1990. This was the only specimen found and known to exist in the entire world. Brenda and Bill relate the journey this orchid took, and how they came to be in possession a piece of the original plant, which they are now able to grow in their greenhouse.

Shortly after its dramatic rescue at the logging site, the plant was given to Joyce Stewart and shared with Isobyl la Croix in the 1990's. A number of seedlings were produced, but it is not known how many of them are still alive today as they were distributed around the world. Brenda and Bill were fortunate in being able to obtain a few of them.

They are doing everything possible to keep this plant from going extinct. Although they have not been able to produce viable seeds at Botanica LTD, they have been famously successful at preserving many other angraecoids through ex-situ propagation.

Through the fascinating story of this one orchid species, the authors bring to light the need for conservation in general. I highly recommend this



article to anyone interested in conservation. It gives an excellent overview of the creation of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and the difficulties involved with collecting and protection. A number of dedicated individuals and organizations have been hard at work for decades, trying to preserve as many species as they can before logging and mining destroy the habitats forever. We needed these stringent rules to protect endangered species from over-collecting and poaching, but methods to preserve and rescue are still without easy answers, even years after CITES came into effect.

Brenda and Bill urge all of us to protect our prized species in our own collections, and to give them the care needed for their preservation. This message is a very personal one for me. I have a number of plants which I brought back from the Philippines in the eighties. Only over the last few years have I developed a true appreciation for how unique my situation is, having jungle-collected plants in my collection. These species are very precious, not only to me, but to the orchid world in general. I may have had some unique varieties. After all, orchids vary from region to region. Sad to say, I have lost many of them over the years, due to diseases and to the difficulties of maintaining a hospitable environment for them. I can see the battle with extinction taking place in my own green-

house. As a result, I now resolve to give the care of my orchids top priority and, whenever possible, share keikis with others.

At the end of the article the authors make a plea for us to care more about protecting endangered species in general. They point out that this mass extinction is human-caused and state that the “five major reasons for this Sixth Mass Extinction are habitat destruction, pollution, invasive species, overpopulation of humans, and overharvesting by humans (i.e., hunting, fishing and gathering).” They question the practice of logging in critical habitats, and also touch on special issues in Africa such as civil wars, the thirst for natural resources, and the impact of foreign extractive industries leaving a wake of destruction and poverty.

After reading this article, I went to the Rainforest Trust’s website to learn about their preservation efforts in Africa. I learned that their new project is west of Tanzania in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Rainforest Trust is working to establish the 1,194,507-acre Balanga Forest Reserve. The proposed protected area will strategically expand protection for wildlife beside the Lomami National Park.

Together these two sites will preserve 3.4 million acres and, of course, many orchid species. The area in Tanzania where the *Aerangis maireae* was found may have been destroyed, but certainly we can say that some areas in this rich biodiversity of Africa are being preserved. We can all be proud that our society and many others in SWROGA have supported the Trust, and know that we are preventing extinction of orchids in at least some areas of the world.

With magazine issues we can easily put them aside to read at a more convenient time. But with preservation of living things, we cannot say, “OK ... later”. There will not be a second chance.



ORCHIDS THROUGH THE YEAR 2016

by Ned Nash
and James Rose

MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR JULY & AUGUST

Cattleya Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their

blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.





**Phal. Mituo King
Bellina 'Fat Boy'**

Phalaenopsis Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Cymbidium Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Laelia purpurata The flowering season of this majestic plant will be coming to an end, presenting a good time to report. As soon as the new roots start to appear, clean off old bark and repot into a clean medium-grade fir bark. Place the plant in a little less light and higher humidity to relieve stress until it is more established, which is about one month after potting.

Odontocidium Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as *Odontocidium*, *Wilsonara* and *Colmanara*, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous Genera Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later.

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.

EFFECTS OF MONTHS OF MINIMAL CARE

A scientific observation on the effects of months of minimal care on the survival of an established orchid collection.
OR: Can an Orchid Collection Survive a Growing-Challenged Spouse?

If there was ever a doubt in my mind that most cattleyas need a rest in winter with little water or fertilizer, this year put those concerns to rest. Last winter my orchid collection was in North Carolina while I was in Florida. My orchids were left in the hands of “a master cactus grower”. The drought in North Carolina further necessitated keeping my orchids drier than usual because rainwater was my only water source. As a result, this spring and summer has produced the highest flower count and largest flowers on my cattleyas ever.

Vandas in my collection, however, were not as appreciative of the dry conditions and by the time they arrived in Florida in late spring showed stress with slightly shriveled leaves, no new root growth and less overall growth. With the additional water and heat of a Florida summer, vandaceous orchids in my collection have exploded with new root growth and leaves previously shriveled have taken up wa-

ter and returned to their normal, plump look. Flower spikes are everywhere on the vandas.

Phalaenopsis suffered the most from being kept dry, largely because they had been moved to a lava rock medium and had not had time to produce the extensive roots that occur in this medium over a few years. Those phals that had been in lava rock for a couple of years grew and flowered well this spring, despite the lack of fertilizer in previous months. With a good supply of water and heat phals, too have put out lots of new roots and leaves. Most of the bulbophyllums were repotted last fall into Chilean sphagnum,



ORCHID GROWING TIPS

“APPLICATION OF
PELETIZED LIME IS
NECESSARY IN LAVA ROCK
AS WELL AS IN OTHER
MEDIA..”

which holds water well and this group was given more water during winter. Only Bulb echinolabium suffered, while all other species in this group grew normally even with no winter fertilization.

Paphs, all potted in lava rock, were a real surprise. Application of peletized lime is necessary in lava rock as well as in other media. The lime washes through the medium faster in lava rock than in a bark medium and application of additional lime was spotty with some plants getting enough and others missing out entirely. Paphs with lots of lime had extensive roots in pots, despite limited water last winter, while those that clearly had not been limed regularly had very poor root systems. Requirements of paphs for the calcium and magnesium found in dolomite limestone were known in England 50 years ago, but largely ignored today where many growers prefer to repot frequently.

Observation is the key to becoming a good grower. Books and articles provide good information that will aid in interpreting your observations, but using that information requires examining your plants carefully from time to time. Even the most skilled grower consults fellow hobbyists and commercial growers, so do not be embarrassed to ask basic questions. Remember though, commercial growers are not concerned about individual orchid plants and may not even grow their own plants. Be careful about interpreting what you



see at a commercial operation unless you know that they grow their own orchids, a rarity today. The orchids in many commercial nurseries may have been in Hawaii, Florida, or Taiwan just a few weeks before so observing their medium, watering and fertilizing schedule may not be useful for your area.

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.

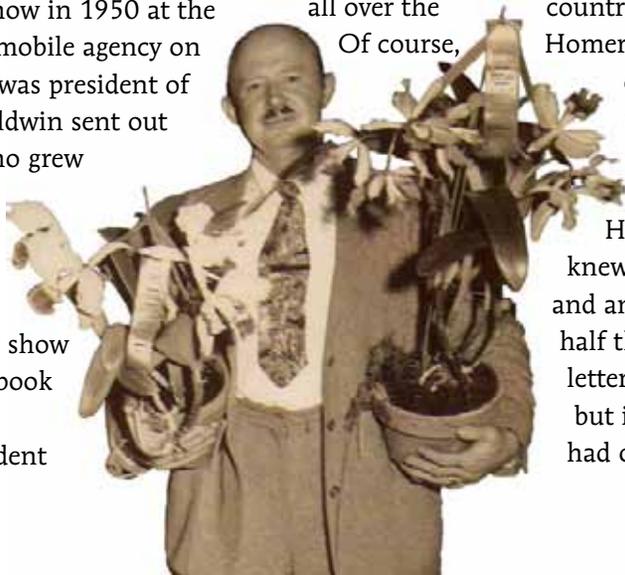
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____