



# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS  
**ORCHID  
SOCIETY**

DEC

Next Meeting:  
**December 4th**

This month we will have our SemiAnnual Auction. we will start at 2:30 so we have more time than usual. Bring a plant or divisions, as well as collectibles or any orchid related item so you can get a paddle and bid.



This is one of our two fund raising events for the society, so bring your bucks and get ready to buy! Auction and Potluck starts at 2:30pm. Please bring a dish to share with the group and lets have some fun.



# 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

Hello to all of you orchid enthusiasts!

Our December meeting is our biannual potluck meal and auction, which is always a fun event. It is also our biggest means of support for our society to cover expenses, such as speakers, for our meetings. Our auctioneer again is our artist, Charles Hess. So, bring orchids in or out of pots, other orchid-related items, food to share, and your wallets or check books, and bid away!

The meeting will not be held in our regular room. We will meet in the building to the left of the greenhouse and although it may be a little tight, we will make do.

We eat at 2:30 and start bidding after everyone (especially me) is full!!

Remember, no orchid judging at this meeting.

It is time for dues to be paid for 2017. Please get them to Kathy Halverson, our Treasurer, no later than January 31. Dues are \$30 for the first family member and \$15 more for each at the same address.

One last item, we will be electing and installing officers for next year at this meeting. So please be there for this important event.

The year is winding down and so is my time as your GNTOS President.

I want to thank all of the officers and those that volunteered for other society positions over the year. Everyone is so important to the success of our meetings.

See you soon at the auction!

Mike

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

# MINUTES

Barb McNamee

President Mike Beber called the meeting to order at 3:00 with 27 people in attendance, Carol Varian announced our three visitors and 2 have joined us beginning in 2017.

Rhonda Whitson introduced our speaker, Judy Cook, who gave us an armchair tour of Ecuador titled "Beauties of Ecuador". Thanks for the tour Judy, made us wish we all could go there!

We received an award from the AOS for our participation in over 50 years membership in the American Orchid Society. Our mention in the "Orchids" magazine this month says 61 years. If you didn't get to see it, it will be on display in January and February.

Our December meeting is a pot-luck dinner and auction - STARTING AT 2:30 - this is one of our two fund raisers for the year to help with the cost of bringing in speakers, we all enjoy. It will be held in the building next door to the greenhouse (where we used to meet) beginning at 2:30. Please bring a dish to share with the group and a plant(s) or anything else orchid related to donate to the auction. There will be no show and tell plant table or raffle this month.

The nominating committee (Mike Beber, Rhonda Whitson, Kathy Halverson and Barbara McNamee) announced the proposed slate of officers for 2017; President - Judy Cook, Vice-president - Barbara McNamee, Secretary - Kathi McKenzie and Treasurer - Kathy Halverson. We will be voting on the officers at the December meeting.

Nancy announced the plant table winners assisted by Don Brigham; judges were Tim Carr and Barbara McNamee, AOS students of the Dallas Judging Center.

Mike conducted the plant raffle assisted by Dave Gould. Refreshments were provided by Tham Johnson and David Hines - many thanks to all.

Mike thanked the group for a great year. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Meeting concluded at 4:30.

# PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Nov. 6, 2016, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Barb McNamee & Tim Carr

## **CATTLEYA ALLIANCE** (16 entries)

Blue – Lc. Arid Acres (?) – Mike Beber

Red – Slc. Bright Circle – Kathi McKenzie

White – unknown – Kathi McKenzie

## **DENDROBIUM & OTHERS** (6 entries)

Blue – Fredclarkera

(Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. barbatum) – Linda Horton

Red – Bulb. Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry – Kathi McKenzie

White – Den. Chompu On – Karl Varian

## **ONCIDIUMS** (4 entries)

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

Red – Onc. (Maureen x haematochilum) – Gerry Darver

White – Onc. Sharry Baby – Gerry Darver

## **PAPHS & PHRAGS** (1 entry)

Blue – Phrag. Franz Glanz – Linda Horton

## **VANDAS & PHALS** (1 entry)

Blue – Neo. falcata 'variegata' – Linda Horton

## **SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

C. bowringiana v. coerulea – Karl Varian

Neo. falcata 'variegata' – Linda Horton

## **PEOPLES CHOICE**

Lc. Arid Acres (?) – Mike Beber

## ORCHID HISTORY

As one of the oldest flowering plants, orchids have developed a complex relationship with their pollinating counterparts.

Their colors, shapes and smells have made them cunning attractors of specific insects (and in some cases animals) that will transport their pollen packets (pollinia) from one plant to another.

Interestingly, as a true perennial, orchids can continue to survive in the wild without this pollination process at all. A common mode of spreading is the very same method that orchid collectors have used from the beginning of their trade: division. As epiphytes (plants that grow on trees) it is not uncommon to have a part of the host tree, or a part of the orchid plant itself, break off in high winds, storms or other adverse situations. These parts of orchid plants that break off and spread across a forest continue to thrive as plants in their own right wherever they land, as long as it is hospitable to their specific needs.

## SCIENTIFIC STUDY

Renowned biologist Charles Darwin wrote volumes on orchids and their pollination. *Angraecum sesquipedale* from Madagascar is sometimes called “Darwin’s Orchid” because he posited from its composition that a specific moth must exist with an unprecedented 13 inch long proboscis in order to pollinate it. Twenty-one years after Darwin’s death this moth, *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, was documented with its amazingly long proboscis. It was only a few years ago that this moth was captured on film via night-vision photography.

## ORCHID MANIA

During the mid-19th Century Victorian era “orchid hunters” served to popularize the orchid among horticulturists but also plundered much native orchid habitat. One of the most prominent figures in the Orchid Mania era was Frederick Sander who served as Queen Victoria’s “royal orchid grower”. He employed numerous orchid hunters to bring to England the exotic orchids of South America. While many of the orchids we grow today are named after these hunters there was little concern among them for orchid conservation. One of Sander’s orchid hunters, Josef Warszewicz, even boasted that he plundered all of Quito and Cuenca of its orchids. Hybridization of orchids became very popular during this era and it was Sanders that published the first list of orchid hybrids.

## MODERN DAY PROPAGATION AND CONSERVATION

Most of today’s orchid collectors give much more thought to orchid habitat conservation than their Orchid Mania predecessors. Orchids have been included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). While CITES has proven to be more effective for animals than orchids, and in some way has worked to the detriment of orchid conservation, its enactment shows that today’s generation is at least concerned about the preservation of the orchid. Numerous orchid conservation organizations exist on the national and international stage. These include organizations focusing on in situ conservation (preserving native habitat) and ex situ conservation (propagating species in a greenhouse setting).

Thanks to The Oregon Orchid Society

# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nov. 12, 2016

Four plants entered for consideration, one award given:

**Phrag. Franz Glanz 'Dallas Beauty'**

(besseae x richteri)

HCC 78 points

Owner: Linda Horton, Garland

Accepted at Fall AOS Meeting, Karl Varian is now a Student in the Judging program.



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

The next meeting is December, 10th at the Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A,  
Garland, TX 75040

11am. Everyone is welcome to bring plants or to just watch and learn.

# THE ONE PER CENT FORMULA FOR ORCHID CONSERVATION

## ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess



“I am just one person, and I have limited financial resources. What can someone like me possibly do to address the magnitude of environmental problems the world faces”? This is a question some of

us ask ourselves, and we usually come up short, trying to find a workable answer. But one man decided to not allow himself to be deterred. He created a system whereby individuals, organizations and business

could all work together to make a significant impact in preserving native habitats.

If you take a short journey

back in time to 2006, you can see that this idea was well underway with the creation of the Orchid Conservation Coalition (OCC) by the artist and orchid hobbyist Mark Sullivan. The coalition, only a year old at that point, proposed that member societies donate one per cent of their net revenue to the conservation program of their choice. The Orchid Society of San Francisco was the first to join, followed by the South Coast Orchid Society, the Springfield Orchid Society, and the Species Orchid Society of Western Australia.

The idea of donating one per cent was a groundbreaking concept, quickly endorsed by the *Orchid Digest*, leading them to feature the OCC in their first quarterly issue of 2006. Ten years later OCC’s unique logo is recognized worldwide as a symbol of “sharing a collective responsibility and stewardship for nature”. These are the very appropriate words of Harold Koopow-

itz in his 2006 editorial, describing the yellow logo with the outline of a Phalaenopsis, now quite familiar to many of us.

The uniqueness of this concept is aptly described by Wikipedia: “*The Orchid Conservation Coalition’s structure is unique for a non-profit. It does not take contributions or distribute money itself. The member organizations in the coalition give directly towards orchid conservation. There is no fee to participate in the OCC. There are no board members. There are no decisions to be made because the organization is structured around agreements, and no money coming in to account for. No money means no need to incorporate. No donations accepted means no tax status. The OCC was structured this way to eliminate cost and to direct energy and money directly to orchid conservation.*”

Today 23 orchid societies are involved, along with numerous businesses that share the same vision. Each participating organization displays the ‘One Percent For Orchid Conservation’ logo on their newsletters and websites as a “beacon to other groups to join in the cause”. Both AOS and the *Orchid Digest* now endorse the OCC.



In the words of Mark Sullivan in the OCC website, this is a “grassroots coalition”. How it works is simple. Donor societies select the conservation effort that has the greatest appeal to them and send their conservation funds directly to that organization. The OCC never handles any funds. The member orchid society essentially makes a promise with itself to contribute each year to protecting orchids in the wild.

The well-designed OCC website offers suggestions of places to donate, along with a list of approved organizations, such as the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). The OCA funds local entities such as the projects of Lou Jost in Ecuador or, more recently, the Dracula Reserve, also in Ecuador through Fundación EcoMinga. Recently the North American Orchid Conservation Center has been added to the list, with useful links to such items as the Go Orchids identification tool for north American orchids. There are 15 other non-profits listed, showing a wide spectrum of conservations

efforts around the world.

The OCC website is a testament to the dedication of Mark Sullivan in making conservation information accessible. It also features educational materials, such as informative essays on fund raising, speaker lists, videos of conservation, and more. Links to the websites of all the member organizations are also included. Take a look at the website [www.orchid-conservationcoalition.org](http://www.orchid-conservationcoalition.org).

*Orchid Art By Charles Hess* is the most recent donor business to be affiliated with OCC. Qualifying as a donor business was easy, since 100% of art revenue is donated to conservation.

SWROGA member societies have been showing a renewed interest in conservation. It seems appropriate, therefore, that SWROGA become a member of the Orchid Conservation Coalition as well. Membership in OCC would give us recognition for the growing commitment to conservation so many of our member societies have made this year. For the benefit of the many of our new members who have joined this year, the Greater North Texas Orchid



Society is one of over 20 orchid societies making up the South West Regional Orchid Growers Association we just refer to as SWROGA.

Great ideas are often very simple, and usually start small. Mark Sullivan’s is a case in point. He had an idea of how individuals, orchid societies, and businesses could all be involved in orchid conservation. The beauty of his idea is that the process is totally seamless, involving no bureaucracy, with all funds going directly to the organizations doing the actual conservation work. It is this elegant simplicity which has made Mr. Sullivan’s project achieve such success in its eleven-year existence.

# ORCHIDS THROUGH THE YEAR 2016

by Ned Nash  
and James Rose

## MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

**Cattleya** Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening – hardening – in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The

sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

**Cool-Growing Orchids** One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

**Cymbidium** Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

**Oncidium crispum Complex** This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRACTICE GOOD  
SANITARY PRACTICES IN YOUR GREENHOUSE  
OR GROWING AREAS, AS PEST AND DISEASE  
PROBLEMS HAVE A WAY OF MULTIPLYING  
RAPIDLY IN THE DARKER AND MORE  
CROWDED CONDITIONS THAT GENERALLY  
MARK THE WINTER GROWING AREA.

***Paphiopedilum*** The flowering season for the “toads” or “bulldog” paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath’s rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While *paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease prob-

lems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *paphiopedilums*, especially, “cleanliness is next to godliness” and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

***Phalaenopsis*** Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early

inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine’s Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a “bloom booster”-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

***Vandaceous Genera*** Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for *vandaceous* plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

# 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.

## VERY BASIC ORCHID CARE

Orchids are viewed by the public and many new hobbyists as very exotic plants; difficult to grow.

There are certainly many orchid species that fit that category. However, most orchids given as gifts designed for the mass market are very easy to grow if one remembers the “KISS” principle. This axiom (*keep it simple stupid*) works well for

those of us that like to think that we have advanced beyond beginner status too. The following is my list of orchid growing rules that follow the “KISS” principle.

**1. Water only when dry.** Even if you under water, your orchid will not die. Over-watering kills roots, degrades the potting medium and attracts insects. All of these

problems are difficult to reverse even for experts. Under-water your orchid, and one



simply needs to water more frequently and your orchid will grow and flower.

**2. Under-fertilize or don't fertilize.** Every orchid growing manual recommends a particular nutrient formula or brand. Newly purchased orchids usually come in a medium

loaded with nutrients (fertilizer). Many new orchid growers purchase “orchid” fertilizer with their plant and feel obligated to use it regularly. Few orchids die from being under-fertilized, but many die from too much fertilizer. Over fertilizing is the second leading cause of death of orchids, often accelerated when the orchid starts to show signs of stress from over-watering.

# ORCHID GROWING TIPS

**3. Repotting.** As soon as an orchid begins to look stressed many growers decide to repot. If over-watering and over-fertilizing have not killed your orchid, this will usually finish the job. Repotting can save an orchid if the first two rules have been violated, i.e. roots are dead, and the medium shot. Rarely, however, is this effort successful once this stage is reached. There is a greater chance of success if the mistreated orchid and its medium is carefully transferred to a clay pot of the same size and allowed to dry thoroughly. Most orchids come in a plastic pot, often poorly drained, and sometimes have no drainage at all.

**4. Use the water you have!** Buying mineral water or distilled water may make you feel better, but it generally offers no better chance of survival for your orchid than water from the tap. Some folks have even installed water softeners for their orchids; a sure-fire death warrant. Good water quality is extremely important, but not critical for most orchids. Thoroughly soak your orchid at least once a month. This can involve setting your orchid in a sink full of water for 15 minutes or so or allowing water to run through the pot for awhile. This removes any salts, including excess fertilizer. Use water at about the same temperature as the air.



**5. Humidity.** Many beginners insist on misting their plants constantly to maintain a proper humidity and provide water. Often this seems necessary because some aspect of rules 1-4 above have been violated and the orchid appears to be wilting or suddenly drops all of its flowers and buds. If humidity is kept at the ideal for people, 50-60%, your orchids will lose water at an appropriate rate. Consider the location of your orchid and if you would be uncomfortable there, so would your orchid.

**6. Light.** Orchid books spend lots of time describing the ideal light environment. All plants need light to grow. However, orchids can adapt to a variety of light conditions and grow and flower there. They cannot grow in the dark. Orchids in windowsills often experience bright light for short periods of time and then low light levels for the rest of the day. As long as leaves do not become hot to the touch, this setting is appropriate as long as one does not violate rules 1-5.

# 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.

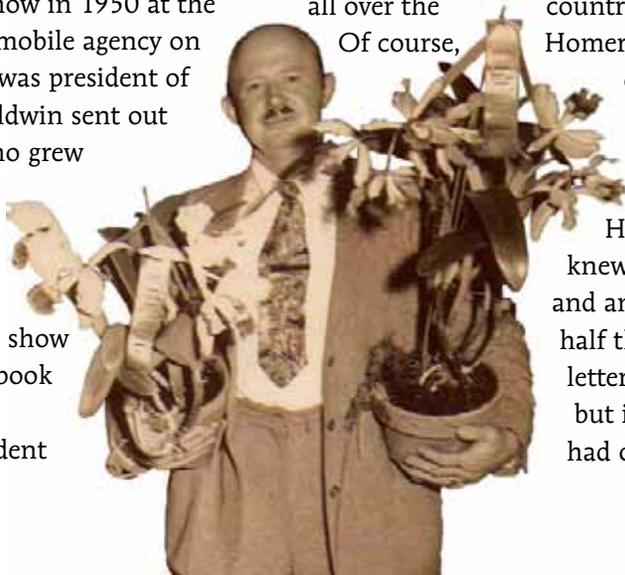
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): \_\_\_\_\_