

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

MAR

Next Meeting:
March 5

ORCHID SHOW PREPARATION—PLANTS AND EXHIBITS

At our meeting for March will focus on the show, getting jobs assigned, any needed discussion about plants for displays and so on.

We will talk about grooming and things you can do to make your plants look their best and things that you shouldn't do.

Everyone should go to the SWROGA website, and look at the plant tags as well as the show schedule and try to have a listing of the plants you think you will put in the show and what class you think they are in. If in doubt, you might bring the plant, or a picture of it, with you.

Remember, if it is not in the right class it might not get judged, and the registration committee will NOT have time to check on each plant as it is getting registered.



OFFICERS

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Judy Cook

VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara McNamee

SECRETARY

Kathi McKenzie

TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

SWROGA DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Beber

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Wow, what an incredible plant display we had in February, with so many of you bringing really beautiful things! Keep up the great work, and start getting things groomed for the show. Our meeting for March will focus on the show, getting jobs assigned, any needed discussion about plants for displays and so on. If needed we can talk about grooming or any other concerns you might have. I would suggest everyone who can be sure to go to the SWROGA website, and look at the plant tags as well as the show schedule and try at the meeting to have a listing of the plants you think you will put in the show and what class you think they are in. If in doubt, you might bring the plant, or a picture of it, with you. If it is not in the right class it might not get judged, and the registration committee will NOT have time to check on each plant as it is getting registered. I know things change right up to the last minute (including those plants where the bloom falls off just as you set it in the display...) but it will be a big help to Kathy if she has some idea ahead of time of what plants she might be getting

Wow, what an incredible plant

Please step up, join the fun, and be a participant in the show. That's the time you get really involved in some of the fun of being an orchid grower, and who knows You might 'grow up to be a judge, just like me'. If you will not be able to bring your plants to the show on Friday morning, please be sure you find someone who can transport them for you, but do your own entry tags so they are in the category you choose. We will have blank tags at the meeting for those of you who may need some at that point.

I am so delighted to be president and help move things forward and hopefully make orchids even more fun for you as well as being a good source of information. Barbara McNamee is VP and thus in charge of getting speakers, but if there are things some of the members really want to hear about, let Barbara or me know and we will see if we can arrange it.

Apparently some of you have been reluctant to step up and volunteer at the meetings, but please do. Having more hands in to help just adds to the fun for everyone, and keeps from having all the load on just a few people.

Look forward to seeing you on the 5th.

Regards, Judy



GREEN HOUSE TOUR?



Wanna have another greenhouse tour? Let me know if you are interested and maybe we can put one together.

If we can get 4 or 5 people who want to show their greenhouse or their growing area be it a backyard or sun porch let me know.

How about April 23rd so everyone participating will have their orchids moved

outside and will be ready to show. Also the weather is usually good.

This is an extra activity and is not in place of our usual meeting.

It would be from 1 to 5 on April 23rd.

Let me know if you want to show everyone where you grow yours.

dave gould

GNTOS ORCHID SHOW

Mike Beber
Show Chairman

The show and sale are upon us. I want to thank everyone who has contributed and is working so hard to pull it together. Thank you for all your support sponsoring trophies. There was a great response.

Please help! Kathy Halverson still needs donations to apply to the Hospitality Suite. At this time she is asking for cash donations to purchase items from Sams.

Show schedule:

8am: Opens for show setup. We are going to open at noon for guests. Kathi McKenzie will need help with setup and plant registra-

tion. Please get your plants in, as close too 8am so Kathi can determine how they will go into the exhibit. If you need help getting your plants to the civic center early, please let me know. We will get you in touch with someone who can help get them there. Plant registration will continue after the exhibits are setup.

Clerks need to be at the Richardson Civic Center by 6:30pm. Judging to begin at 7pm

If you have any questions, please email or call me.
Mike.h.beber@gmail.com



ORCHIDS 101

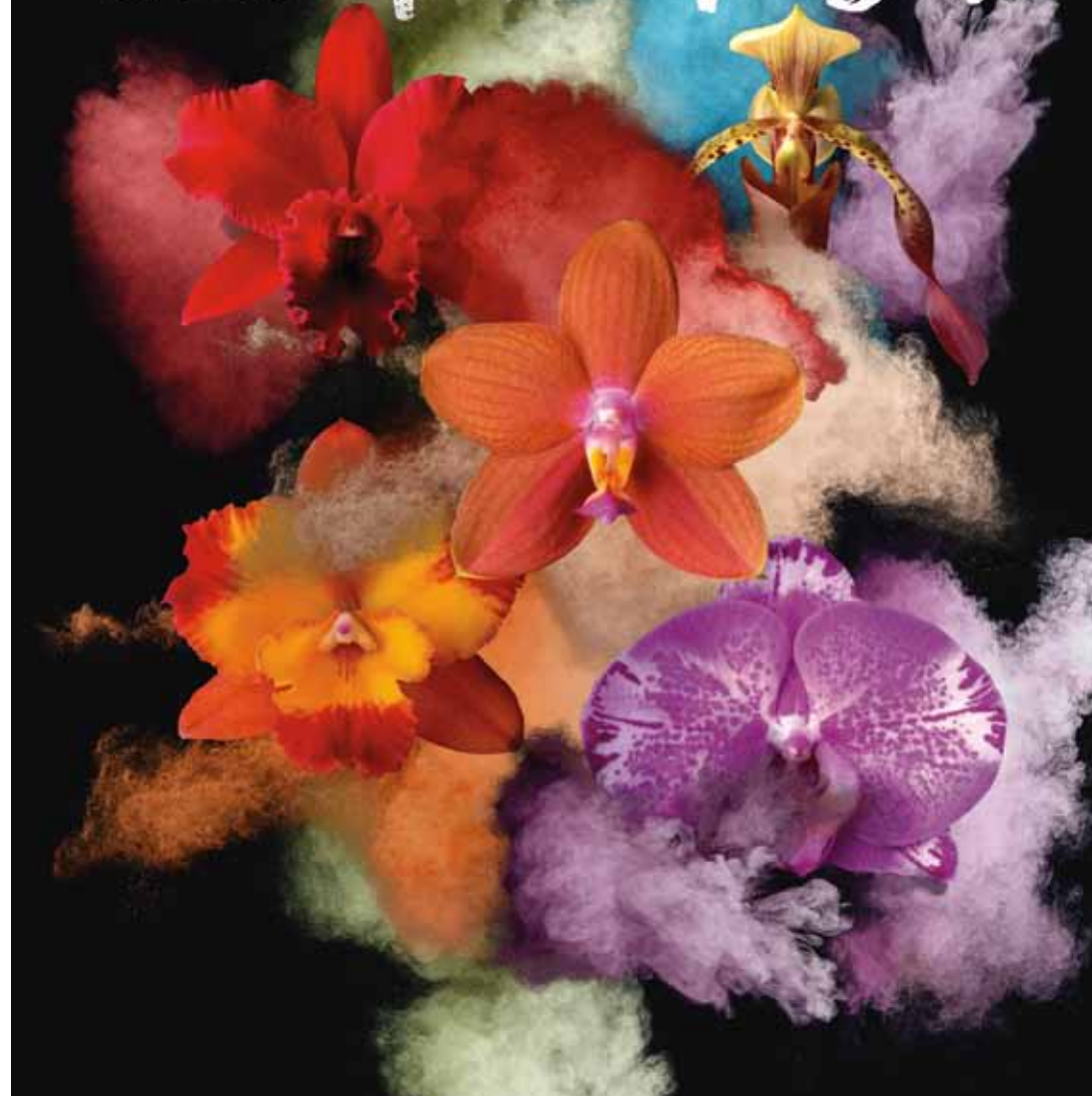
Kathi McKenzie
& *Lorna Kissling*

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

The Greater North Texas Orchid Society

Orchid Show + Sale



Come and see hundreds of orchids on display and for sale at the Richardson Civic Center March 10th and 11th. It's Free.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS Feb. 5, 2017,
Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Shane Stewart & David Hines

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

(17 entries)

Blue – C. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'
– Gerry Darver

Red – C. Kitten Kisses – Kathi McKenzie

White – BC Pastoral 'Innocence'
FCC/AOS – Sarah Hardesty

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(17 entries)

Blue – Bulb. phalaenopsis – Linda Horton

Red – Angrecum sesquipedale
– Dave Gould

White – Den. Momizokura
'Sanokku' – Gerry Darver

ONCIDIUMS

(4 entries)

Blue – Oncidium Twinkle – Charles Hess

Red – Colm. Pusycat – Gerry Darver

White – Onc. unknown – Judy Cook



C. Newberry Firehouse x Rth. Paxton Brooks

Bulb. phalaenopsis



Lc. Mildred Rives



Photos by Forest Shipp

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Continued

PAPHS & PHRAGS

(9 entries)

Blue – Paph. (Winston Churchill
x Big City) – George Bogard

Red – Paph. Michael Koopowitz
– Judy Cook

White – Phrag. April Fool
– George Bogard

VANDAS & PHALS

(6 entries)

Blue – Phal. Little Gem Stripes #1
– Jim Williams

Red – Phal. Nobby's Sara Beauty
– Sarah Hardesty

White – Darwina Charm x Asctm.
Christonsonia – Barb McNamee

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

C. percivaliana 'Summit' – David Gould

Bulb. phalenopsis – Linda Horton

Den. speciosum – Kathi McKenzie

PEOPLES CHOICE

C. percivaliana 'Summit' – David Gould

53 total plant entries!



Cym. Strathdon 'Cooksbridge Noel' AM/RHS

Pot. Rubescence 'SVO' AM/AOS
X Sc. Beaufort 'Hartford's Elmwood' AM/AOS



Epi. Pacific Parade 'Mini Mango'
x Pacific Sunsplash 'Gnarly' AM/AOS

Paph Robinianum



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center Feb. 11, 2017

Five plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

Photographs are of plants previously submitted for judging.

1. Barkeria (unidentified)
2. Barkeria Friedericke Kuehl 'With Love'

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

The next meeting is March, 11th 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.



A CONSERVATION MOON SHOT

There is nothing more real and rewarding than the feeling you get when you walk into your greenhouse and experience that wonderful earthy fragrance, or when you notice the new flower spikes just forming on your *Phalaenopsis* that refused to bloom last year. It grounds you, it soothes your emotions, and you realize that the rest of the world we are bombarded with every day is just so much theater. It is all made up by fallible humans.

Your orchids are the result of millions of years of evolution in a symbiotic world of plants and animals from which we were all created. We are eukarotic brothers and sisters with our orchids sharing the same type of cell structure. And we both are fighting for survival in this Anthropocene period. We, our orchids, and 10 million other species on this planet, are all in the same boat.

When we read the day's news it is easy to feel that we are losing ground in the battle for our own

survival, and for the survival of species, including the orchids we love. Only recently I was saddened to learn that deforestation in the Amazon is on the rise again, after it appeared to be under better control. We know that a large number of species have already gone extinct, and we are aware that even species not yet discovered have disappeared before they could be documented and classified. It is easy to project, as some have, that eventually we will be left with nothing but humans living on our planet, with only monocultures and domesticated animals left to sustain us.

But before we allow ourselves to sink into despair about such a bleak picture, we should note that there are experts in the field who bring a message of optimism. One very important person who sees a better answer, one we should listen to, is E. O. Wilson, considered to be one of the most influential biologists of our time. His most recent book "*Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*" has received much attention in the international conservation community. The title is based on an established principle of biological diversity, which he developed in the 1960's, along with Robert MacArthur. Together they carried out studies on island

biogeography where the environment was in equilibrium. This is what they found:

Remove
50%
of natural
environment

80%
or more of species
will survive and
continue at a
new sustainable
condition.

Remove
90%
of natural
environment, such
as experienced in
the Atlantic
Rainforest of
Brazil, or in the
Philippines

50%
of species will
survive.

I learned about this study from a Mongabay website interview with E.O.Wilson. Jeremy Hance, who conducted the interview, is an amazing free-lance science writer who reports on nature. In that interview (link below), Wilson explained what was so revolutionary about the half earth theory: "I think what was not realized in the past was the application of that [50% removal] principle to conservation. And that from that principle, you could actually predict with lots of hope and lots of effort – you could actually predict saving the rest of life, the great

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles
and Trudy Hess

majority of it, for an indefinite period of time in one stroke.”

Wilson presents this “Half Earth” concept as a goal for the world of conservation which, he concludes, had not previously defined a target for success. <https://news.mongabay.com/2017/01/e-o-wilson-on-half-earth-donald-trump-and-hope/>



Flying D Ranch

Goals and targets are critical for motivating action in people. Take, for example, our country’s history with the space program. When President John F. Kennedy spoke about U.S. goals for space

exploration, he did not simply say that by the end of the 1960’s, the U.S. would make progress toward sending a man to the moon. Instead, in an address to Congress, he set a very clear, specific and measurable target. He said, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space.” -President Kennedy, Address to Congress on Urgent National Needs, May 25, 1961.

This is exactly the kind of specificity and urgency recommended by E. O. Wilson. In Wilson’s words, “This goal of setting aside half of the earth for humans and half for the other species would give us something to shoot for like getting to the moon and back.” The big question is, having set such an ambitious goal, how can we implement it? Without having read the book yet, I will go on Hance’s assessment that the book does not have all of the answers. Wilson is a scientist. He studies nature and explains how it works, and what we can expect if we continue on our present path. It is up to our

world governments to formulate the required policy.

Just thinking about the natural areas remaining today, it is clear we do not have 50% of this planet set apart and protected. While the U.S. is far below that goal, some countries actually have more than 50% set aside already. Hance writes: “According to the World Bank, Venezuela and New Caledonia already had over half of their land in protected areas as of 2014. Bhutan had 47 percent; Zambia, Namibia, and Nicaragua 37 percent; Belize over 36 percent; and the Republic of the Congo 35 percent – and all of these are developing countries. In contrast, the U.S. has only protected 13.9 percent.” If we want to be regarded as word leaders, we certainly must do better.

Simply setting aside additional land for more uninhabited nature parks is probably not feasible. But other possibilities exist. We could implement what are called “National Natural Area Designations”, a concept which has been already been successful in the U.S. For example, within some of our actual protected parks, areas have been set aside where people live sustainably with the land. Increasing the number of such arrangements would reverse the trends of mul-

**There are no passengers
on spaceship Earth ...**



...we are all crew.

Marshall McLuhan

tinational corporate destruction in places like Brazil. If more effort were made to respect the rights of indigenous people, these people could maintain their way of life while at the same time allowing nature to thrive. Indigenous people in almost every case, are the best protectors of land.

Other approaches could be like the example of the Flying D Ranch in Montana, where Ted Turner has designated his private property as a reserve. This ranch is thought to be the biggest in America, converted into one of the best prairie reserves in the world, with its native megafauna intact. People still use the land, but nature is respected and protected.

Wilson's 50% plan would, in addition to existing parks, factor in reserves, private property and other forms of ownership. Where currently conservation efforts have focused on setting aside the most biodiverse "hotspots" on the planet, Wilson's plan would do more.

Even "re-wilding" is happening naturally in areas that are abandoned, and is most successful in forests that have been only harvested for timber but not totally

cut down. Wilson talks about areas that were once rainforest, where the forests were subject to clear-cutting, with the land designated for agriculture. In most cases, the farms have been abandoned because they ceased to be productive within a few short years. As we have learned over the years, rainforest soil is shallow and poor in nutrients. Without the constant replenishment that occurs in its natural state, the land which was formerly forest floor is not good for growing anything at all. But, given some time, the adjacent flora and fauna will expand out from existing forests and eventually reoccupy the area.

One noted example: In the 1993 book "*Orchids of Brazil*", authors Jim and Barbara McQueen recount that the guide books misidentify the Tijuca forest, a 120 square kilometer national park within the city of Rio. What is described as remnant forests (from the original Atlantic Rainforest) was actually cleared for growing coffee over a hundred years ago. The climate was unsuitable for growing coffee and the owner replanted many of the original tree species. Now *Encyclia patens* are reestablishing themselves naturally.

When we experience feelings

of helplessness about current world affairs, a return to nature is where we can all find hope. Orchids have been my refuge from the high stress world of today. By studying orchids through my research, and by caring for my own orchids in my greenhouse, I am constantly reminded that nature has a great deal of resilience and adaptability built in. If we can manage to work alongside with nature, rather than exploit and abuse it, we can survive as a species and enjoy our beautiful Earth that is our home.



Encyclia patens

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.

Copyright: Danilo Pivato



THE SPRING MIGRATION OF DOMESTICATED ORCHIDS

Spring has definitely sprung here in Jacksonville, Florida, but it is also happening everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere even if it does not feel like it outside. Officially, spring begins around 22 March, but a change in the sun's intensity is already noticeable. My low-light "Jewel" orchids, sitting in a window that received only indirect sun are beginning to look bleached from the intense light. High light orchids in south facing windows are also beginning to show signs of too much light.

Novice growers may be surprised that orchids normally grown in bright greenhouses can get burned in window sill situations. It is not just the light intensity that burns them, but the sudden increase of light on plant leaves, which have adapted to very low light levels during the long

winter. This time of year can be as difficult for indoor orchid hobbyists as it is for those with greenhouses. If there are deciduous trees that shade your house in summer, the situation gets more complicated as new leaves emerge and deep shade appears where there was once intense light flowing into your window sill growing area.

Many indoor growers in the very Deep South, i.e. Florida, have already moved orchids to outdoor growing areas. If you have done this for many years you already know about watching for late cold snaps. Many "migratory hobbyists" (Winter indoors-Summer outdoors) never realize the shock their orchids experience, especially from the change in humidity. This is especially true of hobbyists that have mastered

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

the maintenance of humidity in their indoor growing areas. Winter humidity, even in the South can be much lower than orchids prefer. The addition of more air movement also can lead to much higher water loss. Avoid moving orchids in bud or orchids that will soon be sending up buds outside until they have finished blooming. An orchid plant that has not received enough light to flower during winter is not going to suddenly gain enough energy to bloom this spring season. In fact, it may “decide” not to flower and put out new roots and leaves in response to the sudden change in light and temperature.

Many commercial growers do use this type of “shock” treatment to initiate flowering, but they are shocking plants that have accumulated lots of energy reserves to bloom and are just waiting for the appropriate environmental cues. Clearly, some commercial orchid nurseries were able to fool their orchids into flowering at the correct moment for the World Orchid Congress in Miami in January. Many orchids in exhibits and in sales booths were flowering early. There were also many tales of commercial growers who failed to get their best clones to flower in time or whose best orchids flowered too early.

Each time there is a major international show there are always aspects that surprise long-time orchidists. The surprise this year was the development and exhibition of multi-flora papahs, which always seemed to be an obvious underdeveloped breeding line. The lack of more cymbidi-

ums during a time when they should have been readily available was also noted. Some commercial growers noted a surprising lack of new lines of papahs. With the exception of the new “blue” violacea from Orchidview, there were no big surprises in papahs.

There were a number of new products offered orchid hobbyists at the WOC, but most had been available before. I purchased a number of these and will be testing them in the next year and reporting any good results.

One service that was advertised at the WOC is one that would benefit most orchid growers. One company, which formerly produced Peters fertilizers and now makes Jacks fertilizers, has a lab that will test your water and not only tell you what is in it, but what fertilizer to use, and how to use it. The cost may be high for an individual, but inexpensive for orchid clubs that have several members with the same water source. They even provide bottles for shipping water samples. Call 866-522-5752 or email info@jrpeterslab.com.

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.

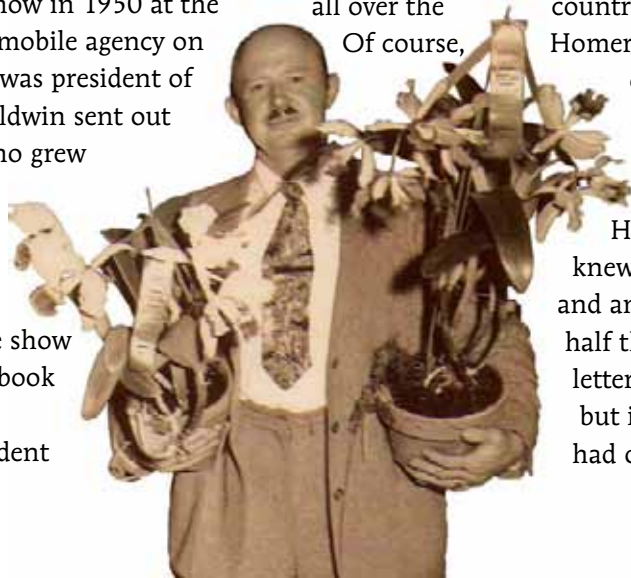
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____