



# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS  
ORCHID  
SOCIETY

APR

Next Meeting:  
**April 2**  
Manuel Aybar



## TOLUMNIAS

The April 2nd program on Tolumnias will be presented by Manuel Aybar, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, which he describes as “a grower’s paradise”. He has been growing orchids for more than 25 years, has made orchid collecting trips, and as an Accredited Judge of the American Orchid Society has judged shows in the Southwest region, around the U.S. and internationally. He is a member of our society, and is a visiting speaker for societies around the country.



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*David Gould*

**GNTOS WEBMASTER**

*Manuel Aybar*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

*Mike Beber*

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

*Judy Cook*

What an incredible show we had!!!

Congratulations and thanks to all of you who pitched in to make it all possible. There was wonderful and abundant help from many members making the tasks of those setting up exhibits and setting up vending areas so much more manageable. There were many who served in other roles – clerking, hospitality, setting things up, welcoming visitors and many other needed roles. We couldn't do this without all the tremendous team effort. Things went incredibly smoothly, we had 10 beautiful exhibits, an incredible array of beautiful plants, great turnout and tremendous sales for the vendors. Congratulations and thanks to Mike Beber who ran this in his first stint as Show Chair – I remember all too well my own first time at doing that and all the time, effort and coordination of so many things that it entails.

Specific thanks also to

Kathy McKenzie for putting in a beautiful display, along with her helpers and everyone who contributed plants, and came so incredibly close to winning the show trophy. Thanks also to Kathy Halverson for coordinating refreshments, to all the members who put in displays, and to Tim and Jim for running the registration desk. David Gould did his usual fantastic job as a photographer and also put in a display along with Karl Varian, one of our new judging students as well as a GNTOS member. I would also like to thank Madalyn Hernandez, from Sunnyvale Plant Society who actually “rewarded” some members for their efforts by writing them a thank you note and a check. It reminded me of just how wonderful and inspiring those “random acts of kindness” are – leaving a wonderful feeling behind, just as many of our plants grace our world with their wonderful beauty!

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. Thanks again for all the dedicated work everyone put in. You make it a pleasure to be your presiding officer.



We are going to have a greenhouse tour. It will be on April 30th from 1pm to 5pm. It is open to all members who wish to visit them.

As of right now it will have three greenhouses. I will send out all of the details and addresses later in a separate email.

There is still time to add other greenhouses or growing areas if you want to be included.

# GNTOS ORCHID SHOW

*Mike Beber*  
Show Chairman

March 10-11 at the  
Richardson Civic Center.



*Photos by Lorna Kissling and George Bogard*



# PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS March 5, 2017

Judges: Tim Carr and Emily Quinn

## **CATTLEYA ALLIANCE** – 8 entries

Blue – Blc. Dan O'Neil 'Jubilee'  
– Linda Horton

Red – Blc. Burdekin Wonder 'Lakeland'  
– Kathi McKenzie

White – C. intermedia alba  
– Sarah Hardesty

## **DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS** – 12 entries

Blue – Maxillaria sanguinea  
– Dave Gould

Red – Eria jovanica – Judy Cook

White – Bulb. cumingii – Linda Horton

## **ONCIDIUMS** – 4 entries

Blue – Onc. Tehoma Glacier  
– George Bogard

Red – Tol. Orchidom First Thrills  
– Judy Cook

White – Tolumnia – no name  
– Dave Gould

## **PAPHS & PHRAGS** – 5 entries

Blue – Paph. armeniacum  
– Kathy Halverson

Red – Phrag. Olaf Gruss – George Bogard

White – Paph. Druid Spring – Judy Cook

## **VANDAS & PHALS** – 7 entries

Blue – Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom  
– Dave Gould

Red – Phal. – no name – George Bogard

White – Phal. amabilis 'variegated'  
– Sarah Hardesty

## **SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

Maxillaria sanguinea – Dave Gould

Eria jovanica – Judy Cook

Bulb. cumingii – Linda Horton

## **PEOPLES CHOICE**

Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom – Dave Gould

# 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.

# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

GNTOS Show 3/10/2017

The Society exhibit featured 29 plants provided by eight members, received 12 blue ribbons, 10 red ribbons, 1 white ribbon, and several trophies. Great job Kathi McKenzie!

AOS show judging: 2 teams reviewed 160 plant entries, pulled 9 for consideration, and awarded 1:

## **Paph. Odette On High 'Orchid Konnection Too'**

(Odette's Glory x Superb Fred)

HCC 79 points

owner: Orchid Konnection (Meir Moses),



# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Dallas AOS Dallas Judging Center  
March 11, 2017

Nine plants entered for consideration,  
three awards given:

## 2. Phal. **Pylo's Mustard 'Pearl'**

(Sogo Ponsai x Pylo's Dixie Gelb)

HCC 75 points

owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

## 3. Phal. (provisional) **'Pylo'**

(Tying Shin Golden Staff x Fureshing Ac-  
claim)

HCC 79 points

owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

## 4. Phal. **Pylo's Sofia 'Peters Pride'**

(Sogo Lawrence x Fancy Mania)

HCC 79 points

owner: Peter Lin, Southlake



# SPRING INTO ACTION

## Orchids are Awakening and Entering the Prime Growing Season

by Sue Bottom

The dull, gray, cold days of winter are behind us. It's warm, it's bright and new green orchid root tips are growing. It's time for you to spring into action!

**Move Plants to Their Summer Home** – Sometime after mid-March, it should be safe to move your plants from their winter to their summer homes. The plants may have been in a less than optimum situation during the winter while you were keeping them alive, perhaps too crowded, too cold, too shady or too dry. Never fear, they will regain their growing vigor when they are outside in the fresh air with enough sun and water.

- **Acclimate Plants to Increased Light** – Move your plants into higher intensity light gradually to avoid sunburn, transitioning them gradually for 2 or so weeks until they are in their ideal spot. The amount of light your plants receive increases in the spring, both from

the changing location of the sun and from number of hours the sun is out. Keep an eye out for potential sunburn on leaves and shade plants when necessary. If you notice that those nearest your light source are getting yellowish, make sure that they are not burning. Thin leaved orchids such as oncidiums and dendrobiums will show the problem first; most cattleyas will turn yellowish or show reddish shadows on their leaves.

- **Vary Your Watering Schedule** - With up-and-down temperatures, cloudy days and unpredictable weather, spring can be a hard time for orchid growers. Match your watering schedule to the weather. If the temperature is warm and the sun is out, water as you do during summer. If the days stay cool and cloudy, revert back to your winter schedule. Watch your plants carefully and check how damp the pots are. When everything feels dry, wait a day or two and then water.
- **Stake your plants** - Since orchids grow so slowly it is just our nature to leave them in one place, and very often they will start tilting in the direction of the most light. We need to stake our plants (particularly dendrobiums and cattleyas) so that they will grow in

an upright fashion to present their flowers aesthetically. Dendrobiums in particular will lean over without proper staking. Use stakes that are the same height as the tallest growth and tie or clip two or three times along the full length of the stake.

- **Turn Your Plants** - In addition to staking your plants, turn them one quarter of the way around each week if you are growing in a windowsill or with the light source on one side. This will allow the plant to grow more evenly and keep it from leaning in one direction. The exception to this rule is when the plant is producing an inflorescence or flowering stem. You want to stake the inflorescence, but do not turn the plant or you will ruin the presentation of your flowers as the flower stem grows toward the light.

**The Annual Repotting Marathon** – Get ready for the repotting season. Sterilize your pots ahead of time. Make sure you have enough potting mix to finish your repotting chores before the suppliers sell out of your ingredients. Select your potting mix to match your watering habits so orchids in a given area can be watered with the same frequency. If you've purchased orchids that are in different mixes you may want to

repot them into the same mix so you can deliver the right amount of water and fertilizer to each plant. Coarse, freely draining mixes are generally better for the cattleyas and dendrobiums that have pseudobulbs or canes to store energy and water. More water retentive mixes like coco husk, bark, soilless peat or sphagnum moss are better for the phalaenopsis that just have fleshy leaves to store their energy. Oncidiums seem to thrive in either mix.

- **Cattleyas** – The best time to repot cattleyas is right before they send out new root tips. You'll see a swelling on the youngest pseudobulb that will signal the beginning of the repotting season. Your unifoliate cattleyas will be ready for repotting first and the bifoliate a little bit later. If you're growing outdoors, select a tree fern/aliflor type open mix, so the roots will have the air they love so much around them. Remove the old growth leaving at least 3 to 5 pseudobulbs and select a pot that will allow the plant enough room to grow for 2 to 3 years (look at the distance between pseudobulbs and assume you'll get 1 to 3 new growths each year). Use a rhizome clip to anchor the plant until the new roots are established.
- **Dendrobiums** – In general, dendrobiums resent repotting and being overpotted. The canes tend to

grow very close together so several years of new growth can be accommodated in a smaller pot than you might select for a cattleya. They tend to like lots of water during the growing season and lesser amounts during the winter rest, so the mix should not contain too much degradable organic matter (like coco husk, sphagnum or bark).

- **Oncidiums** – Oncidiums can be repotted at any time though it is best to repot right before new root growth begins. Oncidiums are happy in a variety of mixes depending on your watering habits and growing conditions.
- **Paphiopedilums** – Paphiopedilums love to be repotted, perhaps because they are so sensitive to salt accumulation in the mix. They can be repotted every 6 months if you are so inclined. Jim Krull recommends a mix of 90% fine bark, 5% charcoal and 5% peat for most paphs, using half coarse bark for 6 in and larger pots.
- **Phalaenopsis** – Phalaenopsis should be repotted every year or two after flowering. The commercial growers all seem to favor sphagnum moss, which is great as long as you allow it to dry slightly between waterings. If you are a heavy waterer or find sphagnum difficult, perhaps a soilless peat, bark or coco husk based mix would

be preferable.

- **Catasetum Relatives** – Watch for signs of new growth on the catasetum relatives. Remove the old medium, cut off dried roots and pot in a sphagnum moss (if growing under cover) or soilless peat/sponge rock, coco husk mix (if growing outdoors) interlayered with the time released fertilizer Dynamite. DO NOT WATER until the new growth is about 4 inches tall.

**That River in Egypt** - Inspect your plants and note any that do not appear to be vibrant and happy. If the plant is not growing well for you, try a different regimen. Perhaps the plant would prefer a more water retentive or more freely draining potting medium or try mounting the plant and see if that works better. Perhaps the plant is growing but will not bloom for you. Try relocating the plant so it receives more light (gradually so a sudden increase in light won't sunburn the leaves). If you've tried everything, consider giving the plant to someone with a different shade green thumb to see if their conditions suit the plant better. And if all else fails, send the plant to orchid heaven to make room for plants that you can flower and enjoy more.



# ...MAKE A NEW PLAN, STAN—HOPEA...

## ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles  
and Trudy Hess

For all of us baby boomers, music was a special part of our growing up experience. This is true of every generation, but music played a special role before the age of social media. Music was our own form of social media, represented by the albums we bought and the radio stations we listened to. We formed many of our views of society from the words of songs and from the messages various artists projected through their music.

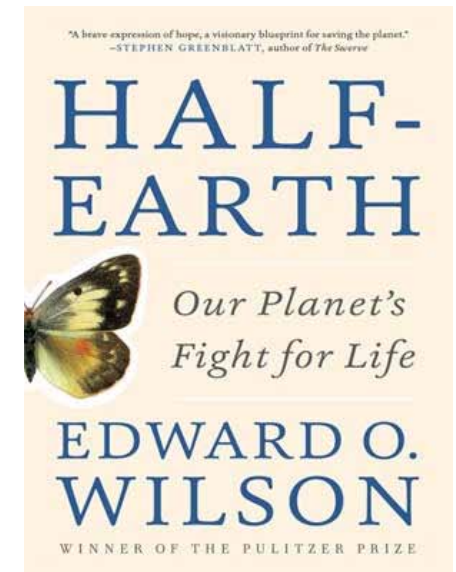
Perhaps today's song lyrics do not convey messages as much as they did in the past. Still, music is influential in shaping our views on major issues. Numerous examples come to mind. Remember how music played a part in bringing AIDS and Poverty to the world's attention? Similarly, concerts have been held to for Farm Aid, to help victims of natural disasters such as Katrina, and to fight specific diseases. Many of these mega events have been broadcast world-wide, thereby increasing global awareness. Stevie Wonder and Sting have

done much good with their global concerts, reaching out to millions across the globe. Music is the international language. It literally has no borders.

If you think further back into the past, you will remember another important artist, my favorite singer and songwriter, Paul Simon. In the 1980's he was a pioneer in benefit performance art, breaking with convention by going to South Africa and bringing back with him the music and the awareness of Apartheid. The list of songs he wrote that became classics would fill up this page. Having done so much important work, it was not entirely surprising to hear of his plans to retire.

Suddenly there is an idea whose time has come, and Paul Simon is ready to go back on the road to help this idea take hold in the public's consciousness. What is this idea that inspired him to shelve his retirement plans and get back to work? Here is a clue: He announced his tour in an article in Mongabay.com. Need another clue? Take a look at my article in the March edition of this newsletter. Paul Simon just announced that in June of this year he will start on a 17-city tour, with the proceeds going to support the *Half-Earth Project*. As outlined in

the March article, the Half-Earth concept formulated by famed biologist E.O. Wilson is a plan to set a goal for preserving half of all natural habitats, in order to save at least 80% of the species left on this planet. Proceeds from Paul Simon's tour will benefit the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation.



Paul Simon and E.O. Wilson first met in 2007 at a TED conference where Simon was performing. Their meeting planted the seed for a future collaboration, which neither of them envisioned at the time. Simon was impressed with Dr. Wilson's optimism and energy, as well as his belief that by the 22nd century, we could be living in a paradise on Earth. In the Mong-

abay interview Paul Simon says, “It was so inspiring to think about it. And I did think about it. Earth’s a jewel, but it’s endangered. And he said that, he said we could lose it. But we have the ability to fix it. It’s going to take a little while, maybe

100 years, maybe 200 years, to fix it. But we can, and then it would be like living in paradise. But he said it’s only going to take 75 to 100 years to make it into a desolate place.”

Going forward 10 years, Dr. Wilson invited Simon to join him at Biodiversity Days, a two-day conference on the campus of Duke University. Held in early March of this year, it was sponsored by the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity

Foundation. And again from the article: “And I heard what he [Wilson] was doing and he said he wanted my help. And I said, I don’t know what I can do. I said, I can sing. I can sing at a concert. I can bring some people together. I mean, the problem is immense. What can I do? So basically, Ed said, “You can help us bring people’s attention to this issue.

But read the book.” And the book was galvanizing!”

When Justin Catanoso of Mongabay asked him what he hoped the tour will accomplish, Simon replied: “The Half-Earth thinking and the name of Edward Wilson will be more familiar at the very least because of this, and that will accomplish who knows what. Hopefully something significant. It can’t be insignificant. It will be something. It makes sense to me. It gives me added incentive to go out and perform again ... I mean, look at Ed. At 87, he’s remarkable. And we’re so fortunate that he’s doing this.”

In describing what motivates him to take on this challenge, Paul Simon’s response expresses exactly what I am trying to do with my art. Except he expresses it better than I can.

“I would really like to help work on the environment. I would just as soon not work on some political battle for the next four years where you’re angry and exhausted all the time. There are other people who are going to do that. This is what I think is a priority. If we don’t have a planet, then all human rights issues are moot.”

Paul Simon’s New Plan is full of hope. I like and admire what he is doing. How about you?



# 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.

## SPRING CHORES, REPOTTING TIPS FOR PHALS & CATTS

April is the busiest time of the year for orchid hobbyists and commercial nurseries alike, because most orchids are beginning their annual growth cycle. Fertilizing now will make a difference later when plants put out new growths and flowers. Hobbyists using Nutricote or Dynamite, 6-month release form, should apply it now. By the time cattleyas and most dendrobiums are ready for a rest, the release of fertilizer from these products ends. Phals and other continuous growers will require this type of fertilizer again after six months.

Standard Phalaenopsis, those with large flowers and no fragrance, should be in peak flower now. If you grow indoors, your standard phals' flowers may be just beginning to open if they did not experience an early fall cooling period. If this happened to you, remember next year to cool them down at night to 60° F for 7-10 days to initiate flower spikes. For now, enjoy the phal flowers, which should last into late spring if the plants are healthy and you get them a good supply of humidity during the dry spring days. If your phals begin to drop flowers while still opening new ones, it may signal low humidity or an inadequate root system. A healthy phal will put out new roots and new leaves even while flowering.

If you plan to repot a phal, it is best to remove the spike when the last buds have opened. Remove the

old medium and any dead roots and place into a pot in which the roots fit with just a little extra room. It is always better to under pot than over pot. If your phal has lots of leaves, but few roots, pot into what may seem to be too small a pot. Once repotted, place the pot into a larger clay pot for support. If the plant is healthy, roots will quickly emerge and grow out the bottom of the small pot onto the clay pot, which is fine. This is preferable to over-potting and losing your roots and likely the whole orchid.

Most cattleya hybrids can safely be repotted now, but it is always best if repotting is done just when the plant is initiating new growth. There is no way to save most of the old roots that are attached to the pot, so most growers remove the bottom third of the root mass.



Most orchids that die right after repotting do not die from repotting itself, but from infections that occur during the process. Moist, damaged roots are easily invaded by both bacteria and fungi during this time.

# ORCHID GROWING TIPS



Some hobbyists cut the roots, tie a label on the plant and let it sit with lots of air movement in a shady, but well-lit location until new roots appear. This allows any wounds to heal and ensures that the cattleya is ready to grow when potted. Why waste a pot and medium if the orchid is not going to grow? Other growers do the same thing, by setting the orchid in a pot without medium until new growth is initiated.

Commercial growers often do not worry about infections and, instead, use anti-bacterial and anti-fungal drenches. Others buy cinnamon powder in bulk and sprinkle it on the roots to kill bacteria and fungi. The cattleya is then potted in dry medium and left un-watered for a week or so.

One of the hardest orchids to repot is a vanda. Most experienced growers never repot members of this group, but just hang them up and let them grow. Often the original container disappears amid the roots. Miniature versions of the vanda group, notably hybrids with *Neofinitia*, are now being grown for indoor hobbyists. These grow well under lights, but are sold in dense media, which requires repotting. The roots of this type of vandaceous orchid still like to dry out more than most orchids, but will tolerate more moisture as long as there is either good air movement around roots and/or the medium is acidic. New Zealand sphagnum is a favorite for this type of orchid and is used very effectively by the best growers in Japan.

# 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.

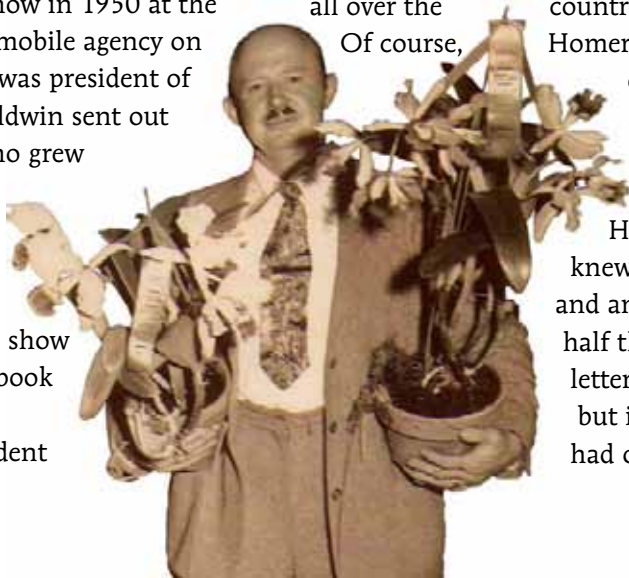
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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