

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS
ORCHID
SOCIETY

MAY

Next Meeting:
May 7
Tim Carr

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOWS

Tim is a native of Ohio, moving to Texas 26 years ago. He retired from the Department of Defense as a member of the Senior Executive Service after 34 years of service.

He has been struggling, and killing orchids for the last 5 years and has recently grown and bloomed a *Lycaste* indoors. Next month he moves his growing efforts into a greenhouse (right after his wife kicks him out of the house)!

Tim is in his third year as a student judge at the Dallas Judging Center, AOS.

This is his first speaking engagement for the Society!



OFFICERS

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Judy Cook

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Barbara McNamee

SECRETARY

Kathi McKenzie

TREASURER

Kathy Halverson

SWROGA DIRECTORS

Brandenburgs

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Gould

GNTOS WEBMASTER

Manuel Aybar

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Beber



GREEN HOUSE TOUR



The greenhouse tour is on Sunday, April 30th from 1pm to 5pm. It is open to all members who wish to visit them.

- **Kathi McKenzie,**
4536 Harvest Hill Road, Dallas, 75244
- **Gerry Darver**
4230 Woodfin Drive, Dallas 75220.
Go through front gate to front door and enter (if weather is nice it will already be open). Go through dining room to back patio through open sliding doors and down walk or steps to greenhouse at far back of yard. Call if you have questions 214-616-4288
- **Karl Varian**
3702 Buckboard Drive, Plano, TX 75074.
House is on a corner lot. It is best to park on the side of the house on Morton Vale. and walk up the alley to the greenhouse.
- **George Bogard**
2032 FM 1141, Rockwall, TX 75087.
Look for the balloons on the mailbox. Long drive and use the side gate in the fence.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

GNTOS April 2, 2017, Plant Table Judging Results (50 total entries)

Judges: Manny Aybar & David Hines

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (17 entries)

Blue – Epicat. Florida 'Pine Knot'

– Mike Beber

Red – Rth. Love Passion – Karl Varian

White – (Blc. George King 'Serendipity'

x Pot. Little Toshie 'Gold Country')

– Gerry Darver

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS (5 entries)

Blue – (Ctsm. gladiatorum

x Ctsm. barbatum) – Emily Quinn

Red – Promenaca silvana – Emily Quinn

White – Den. Green Mist – Karl Varian

ONCIDIUMS (7 entries)

Blue – Brassia Rex 'Sakata' – Gerry Darver

Red – Psychopsis Kalihi alba

– Lorna Kissling

White – Tolumnia Pink Panther

– Nancy Cropp

PAPHS & PHRAGS (7 entries)

Blue – Paph. Robinianum 'Big Red'

– Dave Gould

Red – Paph. delenatii – Kathy Halverson

White – Paph. Armeni White

– Kathy Halverson

VANDAS & PHALS (14 entries)

Blue – Rhyncocentrum Ladda Gold

– Lorna Kissling

Red – Phal. unknown – Gerry Darver

White – Phal. Guadalupe Pineda

(amboinensis x bellina) – Vinh Du

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Leptotes bicolor – Barb McNamee

Aerangis harriotiana – Barb McNamee

PEOPLES CHOICE

Epicat. Florida 'Pine Knot' – Mike Beber

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

AOS Dallas Judging Center April 8, 2017

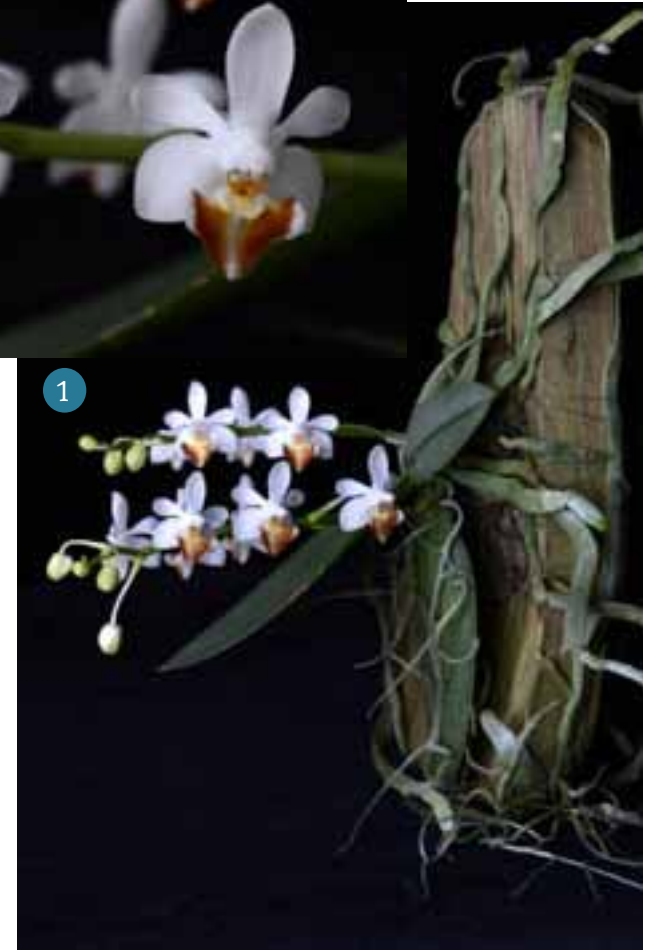
Fourteen plants entered for consideration, five awards given:

1. Phal. Sacha 'Pylo's Cutie'

(parishii x malipoensis)
HCC 76 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

2. Paph. Shun-Fa Web 'Promiscuous'

(Hsinying Web x Hung Sheng Bay)
AM 80 points
owner: Vinh T. Du, Coppell



DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

3. Phal. Pylo's Sweet Orange 'Peter's Rainbow'

(Katie Morris
x Yungho Gelb Canary)
AM 80 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

4. Phal. Pylo's Princess Star 'Texas'

(Yungho Princess Gelb
x Star of Dixie)
HCC 77 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

5. Phal. Jong's Gigan Cherry 'Prince'

(gigantea x Kung's Red Cherry)
AM 81 points
owner: Peter Lin, Southlake

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

The next meeting is April, 8th 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.



SELECTING A POT FOR YOUR ORCHID

by Sue Bottom

St. Augustine Orchid Society
www.staugorchidsociety.org

There are so many decisions an orchid grower must make when the annual repotting marathon begins. You may choose to grow your orchids au naturale on a mount with no potting mix around the roots. You may find that you do not have the time to water your mounted orchids frequently enough so you choose to house your orchids in a pot with your orchid media of choice. Or you may choose the in between route and place your orchids in a basket with or without potting mix so the roots will be exposed to lots of air.

Selecting the Type of Pots for Your Orchids.

If you decide to grow in pots, there are many choices to make when se-

lecting a container for your orchid.

The first step is deciding what works best for you, your growing conditions and your orchids. Do you want to grow your orchids on a mount? In a pot? In a basket?

Plastic or Clay Pots?

Plastic pots are cheap and they tend to retain more water. Plastic deteriorates rapidly in the sun due to exposure to the ultraviolet light (UV) unless UV inhibitors have been added to the plastic. Clay pots breathe and they are heavier so more stable in the wind. Plastic pots may keep roots warmer in cool climates while clay pots may keep roots cooler in warm climates. Many orchid growers prefer clay pots over plastic, but I often pot divisions in both plastic and clay pots and many times those in plastic pots end up having more blooms, from which I infer that I'm not watering the orchids in clay pots enough during the growing season.

I think it's a matter of personal choice, clay pots are perhaps more aesthetically appealing, but plastic pots work well.

Clear or Opaque Plastic Pots?

There must be a reason that so many phalaenopsis are sold in clear plastic pots. One of the functions of orchid roots is to photosynthesize and if roots are exposed to sunlight, they can increase the plant's energy yield by maybe 10%. Clear pots also allow you to assess the health of your plant's roots, determine if the potting mix is ready to be watered and perhaps allow the plant to ramp up its growth rate earlier in spring. One negative is the algae, weeds and ferns that are encouraged to grow in clear pots.

Do Clay Pots Have to be Orchid Pots?

Clay orchid pots used to have large slats on the side to improve drainage and allow more aeration around the roots. The pots you find today have three additional small holes for drainage but are these pseudo orchid pots worth twice the price of the non-orchid pots? The old fashioned deep slatted orchid pots are great for orchids if you can find them as are the shallow bulb pots with multiple large holes in the pot sidewalls. If you can't find good orchid pots,



you'll find that you can simulate the conditions in non-orchid pots by using a porous inorganic potting medium like lava rock or by placing a net pot or adding Styrofoam peanuts at the bottom of your pot to increase aeration around the roots.

Standard, Azalea or Bulb Pot?

The shape of the pot is a very important consideration. The three basic pot shapes are the standard pot, the azalea pot and the bulb pot. The standard pot is taller than it is wide, the azalea pot is about as tall as it is wide and the bulb pot is much wider than it is tall. For most orchids, the azalea or bulb pot is preferable, although you can cheat with a standard pot by placing Styrofoam peanuts or the like at the bottom of the pot to simulate the conditions found in shallower pots. Some orchids like paphiopedilums and cymbidiums prefer an ultra tall pot, perhaps one that is two or three times taller than it is wide.

Decorative or Glazed Pots?

Decorative glazed pots can be used for your orchids though the glazed pots do not breathe and it is possible you will damage the pot when you try to remove the orchid sometime down the road. It may be preferable to pot your orchids in a utilitarian pot and drop it inside the decorative

pot for presentation. Be careful with decorative pots without drainage holes so as not to let the roots stand in water.

Selecting the Proper Sized Pot.

Like many other plants, orchids tend to like being somewhat underpotted. There are two basic rules to use when you are selecting a pot for an orchid:

Root Mass. Root mass is much more important than the amount of foliage in determining the size of the pot to choose. Don't have preconceived notions of what pot is to be used for a given orchid based on how the plant looks sitting in the old pot. Take the orchid out of its old pot, clean off the old potting medium and dead or decaying roots, and consider whether you're going to give the roots a general haircut. Then select a pot that will accommodate the roots without them being overly cramped and twisted and without there being an excess ratio of potting mix to roots.

Allow for Two Years Growth.

The general rule of thumb when repotting orchids is to use a pot that will accommodate at least 2 years of growth before the orchid needs to be transferred into another container. For a sympodial orchid, this means you'll have to consider how closely

the canes or pseudobulbs grow together. As a rule, if you put the oldest part of the plant against the edge of the pot, the youngest part of the plant should be in about the middle of the pot with another half of the pot to grow into.

Potting Considerations for Different Types of Orchids.

We can apply these general rules to the specific potting issues for common genera you may grow.

Phalaenopsis. About 95% of all phalaenopsis will be repotted into either a 4 or 6 inch azalea pot, you will almost never use a pot larger than 6 inches for a phalaenopsis. The choice of clay vs. plastic, or clear vs. opaque plastic is one of personal preference. More important is assessing the root mass of the phalaenopsis and choosing your pot to comfortably accommodate the trimmed roots. Don't be afraid to move a phal that was in a 6 inch pot down to a 4 inch pot if the root mass is small. If the root mass is too large for a 4 inch pot but too small for a 6 inch pot, use the 6 inch pot and compensate with another inch or so of Styrofoam peanuts.

Cattleya Alliance. Cattleya pots will vary all over the board in both the type, size and shape of pots. Cattleyas with closely spaced pseudo-

bulbs like those with *nodosa* or *bowringiana* in the genetic background will enjoy being more tightly packed in the pot. Cattleyas with more sprawling rhizomes like those with *walkeriana* or *digbyana* in the genetic background will require larger pots. You'll decide whether to use a bulb pot, azalea pot or standard pot based on the root mass left once you have cut off the old growths and trimmed the roots. With cattleyas, the most important things to remember are:

- A cattleya will only bloom on new growth so you retain old growths for only two reasons, either for the food and water reserves retained in the old pseudobulbs or for the hope that a new lead will develop from a blind eye on an older pseudobulb,
- You need a minimum of 3 and preferably 5 pseudobulbs for a cattleya to have sufficient reserves to undergo repotting without a long period of transplant shock.
- Be brutal in removing the older growths because the new growths will be more attractive, healthier and be able to grow longer in the pot than if you have wasted that space on the older, damaged and sometimes ugly older pseudobulbs that will never bloom.

Dendrobiums. Always use a pot that

appears to be a little too small for a dendrobium. If you look at how closely the canes grow together and assume your plant will stay in that same pot for 2 or 3 years, you can appreciate how it will thrive in that almost too small pot. You will generally use azalea or bulb pots and a fairly inorganic mix because their roots don't like to be disturbed.

Oncidium Alliance. Oncidiums are not too particular about their potting mix or type pot. After you have trimmed up the plant and given its roots a haircut, select a pot size suitable for the remaining root mass. *Paphiopedilums.* *Paphiopedilums* tend to like tall and slender pots. They grow fine in plastic pots and they seem to thrive in clay pots as well. You'll select your pot size based on root mass once you've cleaned up your plant. Don't be afraid to go down in pot size if the roots were not vigorously growing in the old pot.

Cymbidiums. *Cymbidiums* like any pot that is well drained and has more depth than width. The roots tend to go straight down in a lot of the species and shallow pots slow down growth. When selecting a pot for a *cymbidiums* with more than one bulb, choose one which will allow for two years growth, or

leave about two inches in clearance around the plant. One pot that works very well for *cymbidiums* is the Rootmaker Gallon (see www.rootmaker.com). This pot was designed for tree seedlings but is an ideal container for *cymbidiums*.

Selecting the proper pot to house your orchid for the next two or three years is just as important as the potting mix you use. Once you've got your plant cleaned up and ready to repot, choose a pot based on the plant's root mass and ability to fill up the pot over the next two years. Your orchids will always bloom best when they're a bulb or two out of the pot, which tells you something if you are listening!

CONSERVATION AWAKENING IS ON THE RISE ...

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess

It is exciting to see the emergence of articles in business publications, showing at last a willingness to talk about a subject that until now has been strictly taboo. The subject in question is, of course, the shortcomings of capitalism as currently structured.

Recently I wrote about Mongabay, my new favorite source of conservation news. And I have also written about Paul Simon's 17-city tour in support of E.O. Wilson's Half-Earth goal. Both these efforts are encouraging signs that the public's awareness of the need for conservation is increasing. Mongabay's web site shows the flood of new knowledge coming into the field, while the famous biologist E.O. Wilson gives us a roadmap for saving the remaining species of our planet, be they orchids or orangutans. But until recently, businesses have avoided the topic of capitalism's endless

need for growth and its effect on our planet.

All this denial on the part of business is about to change. The business community stands to lose a great deal of profitability if people suddenly amend their behavior and become more environmentally responsible. A case in point is the on-going lawsuit against Exxon-Mobil for its apparent suppression of research dating back to the 70's, showing that our ever-increasing

burning of fossil fuels has a detrimental effect on ecology and on human health.

Fortunately, some business leaders are beginning to acknowledge the consequences of the damage caused, and the inevitable drastic damage to come, if major steps are not taken to adopt a different business model.

An article in Forbes magazine, dated February 9, 2016, struck at the heart of the matter. Written by

Drew Hansen and entitled *Unless It Changes, Capitalism Will Starve Humanity By 2050*, the article drew many negative comments, but also a surprising number of astute comments in support. The significance of such an article appearing in a conservative business publication cannot be ignored. By publishing this piece, Forbes has broken a long-standing taboo by openly recognizing that our economic model of continued growth in a limited world environment is ultimately unsustainable.

In the very first paragraph Hansen states that "Capitalism has generated massive wealth for some, but it's devastated the planet and has failed to improve hu-



man well-being at scale.” He follows with four major, measurable outcomes the planet has already undergone:

- Species are going extinct at a rate 1,000 times faster than that of the natural rate over the previous 65 million years, according to the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School.
- Since 2000, 6 million hectares of primary forest have been lost each year. That’s 14,826,322 acres, or just less than the entire state of West Virginia, as per a 2010 assessment by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN.
- Even in the U.S., 15% of the population lives below the poverty line. For children under the age of 18, that number increases to 20% (U.S. Census).
- The world’s population is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050 (United Nations' projections).

Hansen goes on to say:

Human activities are behind the extinction crisis. Commercial agriculture, timber extraction, and infrastructure development are causing habitat loss and our reliance on fossil fuels is a major contributor to climate change. [Corporations are] committed to the relentless pursuit of growth, even

if it ravages the planet and threatens human health [and that] corporations are able to continue engaging in increasingly environmentally exploitative behavior by obscuring the link between endless economic growth and worsening environmental destruction.

As an example, Hansen tells us that “fund managers at global financial institutions own the majority (70%) of the public stock exchange. These absent owners have no stake in the communities in which the companies operate. Furthermore, management-con-



trolled equity is concentrated in the hands of a select few: the CEO and other senior executives.”

Hansen proposes that “we need to build a new system: one that will balance economic growth with sustainability and human flourishing.” He goes on to discuss cooperative working arrangements that followers of Professor Richard Wolff (Democracy@Work) are well familiar. Wolff, a long-time professor of economics at an ivy-league university discusses the lack

of democracy in our work place. His rising popularity is just another good example of how the public is showing a readiness to adopt new business models.

One of Wolff’s ongoing topics is an idea that is not exactly new but has proven highly successful. This is the concept of worker co-operatives, of which the best example is Mondragon, a company in Spain. Hansen explains: “Mondragon is the oft-cited example of a successful, modern worker cooperative. Mondragon’s broad-based employee ownership is not the same as an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. With [the Mondragon model of] ownership comes a say – control – over the business. Their workers elect management, and management is responsible to the employees.”

Hansens’s conclusion: “These are small steps toward a system that values the employee more than what the employee can produce. By giving employees a greater say in decision-making, corporations will make choices that ensure the future of the planet and its inhabitants.”

Forbes’ decision to publish Hansen’s article is an encouraging sign. Even more encouraging is the insight of the readers in the comment section. A few examples:

This is the consequence not of our economic performance but our economic position and ability to externalize the incalculable costs — including planetary starvation, as this article discusses — of capitalism. The greatest power of capitalism is to externalize costs. And that US capital has done extremely well and to the benefit — for now — of Americans.

Another part to look at is the debt side of the balance sheet. There is a self-fulfilling prophecy pushing all of us to constant growth to repay before credit crunches and money become scarce.

Employees who have ownership in the businesses where they work have an opportunity to generate more wealth, and less wealth is concentrated in the hands of financiers who don't have a vested interest in the communities where these enterprises operate.

Collectively owned enterprises regardless of their ethical character will still have to go to banks to borrow. They will still need collateral and they will still need to take the pound of flesh out of workers, consumers, and planet. The debt money form itself is a major force behind all of this

disaster.

Orchid enthusiasts should welcome the news that the importance of conservation and environmental responsibility have been highlighted in a major business publication. It means that businesses will need to exercise more care in how they use the earth's resources, and take measures to avoid destruction of natural habitats. They know the public is watching, and they know that consumers vote with their dollars. If they want to retain their market shares, they have to look better than their competitors.

Currently, species-rich rainforest are being cleared for palm oil by major agricultural conglomerates. At the same time the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil is being overtaken by eucalyptus farming for the pulp industry. But as public awareness increases and consumer pressure mounts, industry will be forced to make changes. Business leaders know that they need satisfied customers, and increasingly they are bowing to public pressures.

Ever-increasing growth in a finite system is not possible. It

takes no sophistication whatsoever to understand that. If we allow ourselves to reach the limits of growth, by having destroyed the life-sustaining benefits of our old-growth forests, we will all lose, businesses included.

Whether they admit it or not, business leaders know this. Our job is to put the pressure on them, and keep the pressure on until the needed changes are made. And most important, we must vote with our dollars. Money is, after all, the universal language.



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.

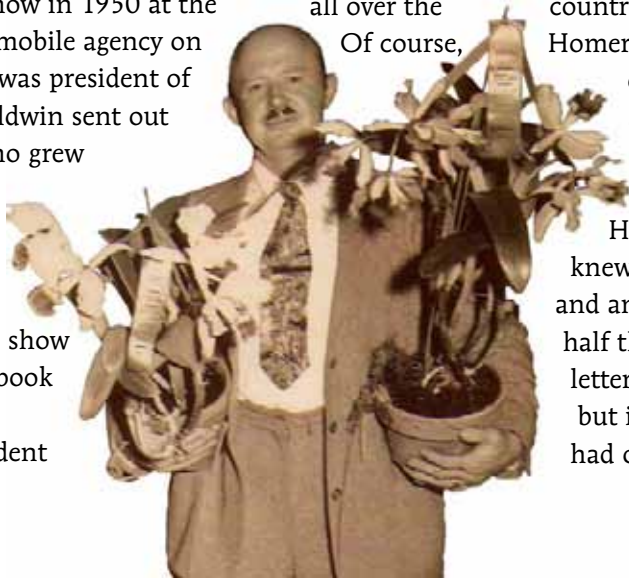
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____