



# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID  
SOCIETY

OCT



MEETINGS  
NOW  
START  
AT 2:30



If you show up  
at 3:00 when  
we used to start,  
we'll probably  
just talk about  
you behind  
your back.

Next Meeting:  
**October 1**  
Jim Williams



## GYMBIDIUMS FOR TEXAS

Jim lives in Sherman with his wife, Barbara. He has been growing orchids for 50 years (+/-) in California, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Virginia, and of course, Texas. He is a 45-year member of the American Orchid Society, and an accredited judge. He grows in greenhouses, and outside in the summer. His collection contains a wide variety of genera, but heavy on the cattleya and dendrobium side. He grows many cymbidiums, some of which actually bloom. He is three-times retired, and now works at Lowe's garden center, to keep him off the streets and out of honky-tonks. It also helps fund his orchid addiction.

# OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

*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

*Judy Cook*

We had a really good turn out for our meeting despite it being a holiday meeting, and once again had a marvelous show and tell table. Last I heard at the meeting, we have 3 people on board for a greenhouse tour on Oct. 15, which will be a beautiful time to see more flowers.

My C. bowringianas are in their full glory right now – wish I were closer so folks could easily come see them!

Charlie Hess did a wonderful presentation on conservation and our need to be aware of things to do to protect, preserve and defend this beautiful blue orb floating through space that we are all blessed to be living on. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the First.

Judy

# MINUTES

*Kathi McKenzie*

The meeting was called to order at 2:47. We had 34 in attendance, including several guests. Judy reminded us to bring and use reusable water bottles, in order to help the environment.

Our speaker, Charles Hess, gave a fascinating presentation on “Rethinking The Planet,” which stressed the need for conservation of habitats and maintaining species diversity. Nancy announced our show table winners prior to our adjournment at 4:25.

# NEWSLETTERS

*Manny Aybar*

I am trying to find old newsletters from before 2009. If you have any please let me know so I can get copies.

# GREEN HOUSE TOUR



## OCTOBER 15TH

There is going to be another greenhouse tour on Sunday, October 15th, from 1 to 5pm.

All members are invited to visit.

### Here are the greenhouses on the tour:

- Manuel Aybar  
3207 Woodwind Lane  
Dallas, TX 75229
- George Bogard, DDS  
2032 FM 1141  
Rockwall, TX 75087
- Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg  
11045 Swaffar Drive  
Dallas, TX 75228
- Charles & Trudy Hess  
16816 Davenport Court  
Dallas, TX 75248
- Forest Shipps  
2400 Powderhorn Drive  
Plano, TX 75025
- Karl and Carol Varian  
3702 Buckboard Drive  
Plano, TX 75074



**See you on Sunday  
October 15th  
1 to 5 pm**



# PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Sept. 3, 2017, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Barbara McNamee & Lorna Kissling

## CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (15 entries)

Blue – San Damiano 'Halona' AM/AOS

– Kathi McKenzie

Red – C. bowringiana – Judy Cook

White – Ctna. Jamaica Red – Dave Gould

## DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(10 entries)

Blue – Max. achrotenca – Kathy Halverson

Red – Dendrochilum magnum

– Judy Cook

White – Cym. Golden Elf – Karl Varian

## ONCIDIUMS (7 entries)

Blue – Onc. Midnight 'Ebony & Ivory'

– Ashley Nguyen

Red – Vuyl. Melissa Brianne 'Dark'

– Linda Horton

White – Bnfd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'

– Ashley Nguyen

## PAPHS & PHRAGS (3 entries)

Blue – Phrag. Sedenii – Linda Horton

Red – Paph. Psyche – Judy Cook

White – unknown (Ksinying Citron

x fairieanum) – Judy Cook

## VANDAS & PHALS (4 entries)

Blue – unknown Vanda hybrid

– George Bogard

Red – V. christensoniana vietnamica

– Dave Gould

White – V. Vara Korn x merrilli 'Carmela'

– Kathi McKenzie

## SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Max. achrotenca – Kathy Halverson

Dendrochilum magnum – Judy Cook

V. christensoniana vietnamica

– Dave Gould]

## PEOPLES CHOICE

San Damiano 'Halona' AM/AOS

– Kathi McKenzie

39 total plants and weren't they beautiful?

# ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie  
& Lorna Kissling



Orchids 101 classes are tailored to the beginning orchid grower. Our topic this time:

## “Windowsill Orchids”

We will meet in the greenhouse at 2:00 for 30 minutes so we can discuss that and also get all questions answered in time for the meeting at 2:30.

Manny Aybar

# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

AOS Dallas Judging Center, Sept. 9, 2017

Six plants entered for consideration,  
one award given:

**Phal. bellina var. 'Blue Ribbon'**

HCC 82 points,  
owner: Orchid Konnection,  
Dallas





## MARGARITAS & MAYAN ORCHIDS

### ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess

For many snorkeling fans or beach lovers, Cancún was or still is a favorite destination for a summer or winter getaway. But my most recent trip there was mainly to see local orchids. Okay, I confess, maybe a margarita or two after a long day, trekking around the forest, looking for orchids.

Even though I did not know

this while there, I was actually at the northern end of the second largest tropical forest in the Americas (the Amazon being the largest). This forest, which begins near Cancún, consists of a breathtaking 25 million acres in Mexico alone, covering the entire Yucatán peninsula. The remaining portion of the forest extends into two Central American countries, Guatemala and Belize. All told, it comprises a 38-million-acre forest called Selva Maya. Most of us know that this area contains archeological remains of the vast Mayan empire. But the area has recently become known for an equally important treasure, that being the vast forest itself, now the subject of numerous preservation efforts.

Not only does this forest contain enormous biodiversity, much of it still unexplored and uncatalogued, but it is also an enormous carbon sink. Nature has everything figured out so beautifully. We exhale Carbon Dioxide (one part Carbon, two parts Oxygen), the plants take it up, use the carbon for their photosynthesis process, and release the oxygen back into the atmosphere.

Removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is important for combatting climate change, while releasing oxygen is vital to all or-

ganisms, including humans, which depend on oxygen for our survival. The challenge here is to keep these rainforests intact as much as we can, or at least as long as we wish to continue breathing.

For us orchid lovers these forests have an additional attraction, because they are home for 117 orchid species. The March 2011 issue of AOS Orchids contains beautiful descriptions and photos of orchids found in the Yucatán peninsula in an article entitled “Orchids amid the Ruins” by Susan Ludmer-Gliebe, a freelance writer and photographer. (If your stash of AOS magazines does not extend that far back, never fear – the article is also available at the AOS website).

Ludmer-Gliebe paints a wonderful picture of the local terrain much, of which had remained unexplored until the 1930’s when the ancient Mayan ruins were first discovered. Due to the uniformity of the terrain this area does not contain the most prolific biodiversity of orchid species in Mexico, and represents only about 10% of what Mexico offers. Its highest peak on this limestone shelf is only 800 feet. By comparison, Nicaragua, which is so small that its area is only about the size of the Yucatán, has four times the number of orchid species.





The 1.5 million-acre Calakmul Biosphere enjoys world-wide recognition, having been declared “one of the most important tropical forest regions of North America with 1,500 species of plants, including 73 orchid species”.

The Nature Conservancy has been working in the Yucatán Peninsula for 30 years helping protect this and other Biosphere Reserves around the famous archeological ruins. Recently their efforts have extended to also helping protect forests outside of these preserves. Deforestation outside of the preserves is around 200,000 acres per year, half of this loss being a result of clearing by cattle ranchers, and about a third from cutting and burning to open new fields for agriculture.

The Nature Conservancy’s Fall 2017 magazine issue features articles about projects designed to slow down tropical deforestation which, worldwide, contributes 15% of annual greenhouse emissions. What makes these projects look so promising is that they replicate nature while at the same time building on and helping to maintain 4000 year old Mayan agricultural methods. As a result they are able to practice “sustainable intensification”, a process which improves both agriculture

and cattle ranching.

Why are rain forests lost at such alarming rates? It is because in rainforests the layer of fertile soil is surprisingly thin. After clearcutting and converting to agriculture or cattle ranching, the land remains fertile for only a few years, after which time the land is abandoned and a new area of rain forest is cut down, repeating this wasteful and unsound practice.

By contrast, modern “conservation tilling” allows the soil to preserve its nutrients, thereby improving crop yield and reducing the need for clearing additional land. Farmers do this by tilling their fields only once every four years. They plow deeply to break up the soil, but in the other three years they harvest their crops and leave the stubble in the field, creating a mulch which returns nutrients back into the soil.

This process is further enhanced by adding the ancient Mayan practice of growing up to 15 different plants together in one field, thereby reducing the need to add additional fertilizer. The clever Mayans figured out that plants growing together in the same area are able to complement each other in amazing ways. For example, beans replenish the soil with nitrogen, which is a valuable



nutrient for the other plants. Even with all our modern knowledge, we have much to learn from ancient civilizations which were very much in tune with the nature.

Land used for raising cattle can also be treated more efficiently. Ranchers are learning that by replicating the movements of herds as found in nature, along with planting shade trees in currently un-used areas, the number of cattle sustained can be increased by a factor of three.

These methodologies have been modeled in experiments on the Yucatán peninsula. Governors of the three Yucatán states have committed to a goal of net-zero deforestation by 2030. They will do this by combining the agricultural methods above with a systematic plan for reforestation. Net-zero deforestation with its vague and flexible definition has been known to allow deforestation if it is accompanied by replanting. This will cause Mexico to be one of three countries that will be able to sell carbon offsets. We can then expect that the more powerful agricultural interests will be moving into the area. Think cattle.

Only time will tell whether these efforts will be a complete success. Climate change has al-

ready altered the reliability of wet and dry seasons on the peninsula. In addition, we now know from history that the droughts in the ninth century likely played a major part in the loss of the Mayan civilization, despite their advanced water management systems. Ludmer-Gliebe tells us that at the Calakmul reserve, for example, “archaeologists have discovered that the inhabitants of that huge Mayan city, responding to the need for a continual source of drinking water during the winter dry season, had built the most sophisticated and largest water management systems in the Mayan world, including 17 public reservoirs, one of which is used to this day”.

This delicate ecosystem of the Americas will be an interesting experiment as we adapt to the new climate norms. Stay tuned.



# 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.

## GROWING ORCHIDS UNDER HIGH HUMIDITY CONDITIONS.

Most of us have noticed the change in humidity that comes with summertime heat. What is significant to your orchids outside or in a greenhouse is that your plants lose less water each day than they did when the humidity and temperature were lower. Most plants open their cells to the outside through microscopic structures (stomates) on the underside of leaves that both cool and allow gas exchange. When the outside humidity is much lower than the 100% humidity inside the leaf, a leaf can lose more water than it can get. This causes stress and may cause stomates to close, thus limiting growth and causing the leaf to overheat. Thus, your orchids may not require as much water as they did in April and May.

High humidity also provides ideal conditions for both fungal and bacterial rots. Higher humidity means that plants do not dry as quickly. Reducing watering, coupled with increased air movement will minimize rot problems. If you have a small number of plants check for water in the crowns of Phalaenopsis and for water in



© AOS

developing leaves of Cattleyas. Remove any water that is still on plants at the end of the day by either dumping it out or blotting with a paper towel.

Growing inside is also affected by increased humidity because air conditioners run more. Besides cooling the air in your home, these systems also remove water from the air. Thus, plants inside may need increased water and you may need to increase the humidity around your indoor orchids with

trays of water, ferns placed alongside, or by some other means.

Several hobbyists have asked if they could use the water that runs from an air conditioning compressor to water orchids. This is the water removed from the air in your house and is essentially the same quality as rainwater.

High heat and humidity provides the ideal conditions for one of the most frustrating pests: slugs. These shell-less snails seem to ap-

# ORCHID GROWING TIPS

pear out of nowhere just before the buds you have watched for the last 3 weeks open leaving just a little nub. Slugs are hard to keep out of the greenhouse and even harder to get rid of outside. They are amazingly quick and will disappear in a minute or two after you turn on the lights. You may not notice them during most of the year as they contentedly consume dead leaves and algae at night. Even if they consume a few new roots you are not likely to spot them. In the summer's heat and humidity they can move six or feet or more in a matter of minutes, finding your most prized and carefully tended buds.

My strategy is to look for slugs before they do any damage. On warm rainy nights I check the inside walls of the greenhouse. Often I know where to look because I see their slime trails in the early morning before I water. Typically there will be one or two that are relocated far from the greenhouse. They are not poisonous, only slimy. My daughter kept one as a pet for a couple of weeks. They are interesting beasts as long as they are not in the greenhouse. Shallow plates containing stale beer (any brand) will also attract slugs that can then be removed. This may or may not be toxic to slugs unless they drown. They generally



refuse to leave the beer on their own.

Just to be sure my prize buds do not become snacks for slugs I use small quantities of a product called Deadline. I put a few drops of this black gooey liquid at the base of

the pot or on the bench nearby. This is more attractive than buds and kills slugs quickly. Rarely do I find dead slugs as the removal techniques listed above seem to be very effective at humanely removing them. Those small bush snails, however, are another problem not as easily managed. They tend to be attracted to moist media such as Sphagnum and do their damage on new growths and new roots. Each one by itself is not a serious problem, but there may

be a dozen or more in an individual pot. There are several bait products available that work well, but the limited mobility of these small creatures and the number of very tiny juveniles that are always present makes it impossible to eliminate them without covering the surface of every pot and surface with bait.

As with all pest control products, be sure you follow the application recommendations. This is especially important if you have pets with access to your growing area. Many of these products are tasty to your pets and can injure or kill them. Even products now deemed non-toxic may be found to have some toxicity someday. Use pesticides only when you have no other choice. Try other methods first. Be sure that you have a problem and have identified the pest. Consult local experts or your county extension agent.



# 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.

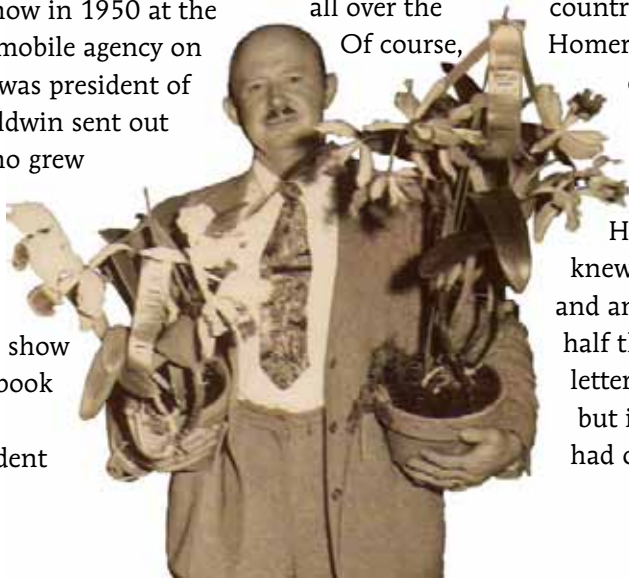
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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