

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

DEG

Next Meeting:
December, 3
Orchid Auction

MEETINGS
START AT 2:30

This month we will have our SemiAnnual Auction. Bring a plant or divisions, as well as collectibles or any orchid related item so you can get a paddle and bid.

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



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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

David Gould did a marvelous job with his presentation on Orchid Photography. He showed many tricks to make your photos look better without spending a lot of money on pricey equipment. It was a talk with useful pointers whether you are just starting or have been doing photos for a long time.

For some reason we had fewer members than usual at the meeting, which meant fewer plants on the show and tell table, but what we lacked in quantity was made up in quality and Barbara did a fantastic job of running the judging in Nancy's absence. Karl and David reported on the Society's display at the Fort Worth show, and it was a beautiful display that won many ribbons and a couple trophies. Great going, especially since it was done on pretty short notice. For those of you who did not go to the Fort Worth show, it was really lovely and much larger than the last one.

Also, go on FaceBook to Robert Fuch's page and scroll down to the photos on Nov 8. which show the marvelous WOC show in Ecuador. He also has some subsequent groups of pictures of other events there and in Peru.

Kathy Halverson addressed the financial issues for our upcoming Orchid Show in March and explained the funds we need to raise to pay for expenses like food, room space, trophies and so

on. Last year's experience made it clear that having one person responsible for the purchase of all the food via combined funds will work much better than hoping everyone will bring what they planned to bring - life does happen for all of us. I do hope a lot of you are gearing up to determine your favorite way(s) to participate in the show, because it does take all of us to make it happen.

Kathy also gave the report of the nominating committee, basically nominating the current officers to continue another year. The election will be held at the December meeting where you can, if you wish, volunteer to go on the ballot or nominate someone else. The December meeting will be our Auction and pot-luck meal and I encourage all of you to bring some of those extra divisions to donate, and then participate in the fun of acquiring some new plants for your own greenhouse. Remember this is a major fund raiser for the society and be generous.

I will not be able to attend the December meeting, so at this point I want to wish all of you a really wonderful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you next year. Judy

SWROGA UPDATE

Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg

The Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association (SWROGA) directors met at the recent Fort

Worth Orchid Society's show on November 4-5. There were nine societies represented out of the 23 currently-dues-paying affiliated societies (39%). (There was an unfortunate conflict with another show in Kansas which adversely affected the attendance.) Each rep received a copy of their annual report and a budget for 2018 prepared by the current Treasurer, Carolyn McCabe. It is available from either Jerry or Ronnie Brandenburg. The SWROGA year extends from October 1, 2016 thru September 30, 2017 and the following is a summary of this report:

- Inflow of \$1,529.88

which is composed of show tag sales, interest and membership dues.

- Outflow of \$2,389.71 which is primarily from general office expenses, AOS membership, and the web domain costs.
- Total amount in the various bank and money market accounts amounts to \$126,850.34
- Various committees gave reports (*Conservation* by Charlie Hess, *By-Laws* by Lena Parker, *Trophy* by Jana Butcher (35 trophies are provided at no cost to the hosting society), and *Show* by Don

Maples)

- A paper orchid-gami was given to each rep and these are available for \$5 as a fund raiser for the North American Orchid Conservation Center (see Charlie Hess)
 - The next SWROGA show will be in Tulsa in April, 2018 and they need a society to host the Fall 2018 show
 - New officers were elected: Jana Butcher, *President*; Judy Cook, *Vice President*; Charlie Hess, *Secretary*; Tim Carr, *Treasurer*
- Submitted by Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg



GNTOS Exhibit
at the Fort Worth
Orchid Show.

PLANT TABLE

Nancy Cropp

Nov. 5, 2017, Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Lorna Kissling & Kathy Mead

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (9 entries)

Blue – Blc. Chia Linn 'New City'

– Gerry Darver

Red – Rlc. Port of Paradise 'Irish Lace'

– Mike Beber

White – Sc. Crystelle Smith 'Aileen'

– David Gould

DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS

(2 entries)

Blue – Cirr. medusa – Judy Cook

Red – Den. unknown – Judy Cook

ONCIDIUMS (3 entries)

Blue – Milt. Anne Warne 'Blou'

– Judy Cook

Red – Milt. Sheldo Tolkien

– George Bogard

White – Brs. Rattler – Judy Cook

PAPHS & PHRAGS (2 entries)

Blue – Paph. Memory – Judy Cook

Red – unnamed (Keylime x philippinense)

– Judy Cook

VANDAS & PHALS (3 entries)

Blue – unnamed (V. Pon pimol x Ascda.

Yip Sum Wah – Mike Beber

Red – unknown cross – Mike Beber

White – Phal. (K.S. Happy Eagle x tetrapsis

C1 – Gerry Darver

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Cirr. medusa – Judy Cook

PEOPLES CHOICE

Cirr. medusa – Judy Cook

Only 19 plants this month – I know some plants and people were at the Fort Worth Orchid Society Show. Thanks once again to Barb McNamee for covering for me in my absence!

At the December meeting we'll announce this year's plant table top points awardees.



ORCHIDS 101

Kathi McKenzie
& Lorna Kissling

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

“Q&A”

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.

Basic Orchid Culture

Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well.

Light

Without enough light, orchids may produce lush looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have evolved as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

How much light is enough? The answer to this seemingly simple question is “as much as they will take without burning”. This means that the foliage should not be a lush, dark green. Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

Thanks to The American Orchid Society, AOS.org

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center, Nov. 12, 2017

Three plants entered for consideration, no awards given.

December 9 Judging Center meeting will be the Semi-Annual Business Meeting, Pot Luck (Center providing meat) and Auction. Training begins at 11 AM.

Cesar Uchima will be interviewed as he has submitted application to be a Student Judge.



Fort Worth Orchid Society, Show
November 3, 2017

6 plants entered for consideration,
one award given:

Ludusua discolor

Owner: Fort Worth Botanic Garden



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

ORCHID CONSERVATION UPDATE

by Charles and Trudy Hess

We orchid growers don't often think of The Great Outdoors (not the store or movie!) because we can safely grow our orchids in our homes or greenhouses. But it has not always been this way. If we look back at the 1800's, orchids were the hottest new thing since the Tulip mania of 1637. All of us had caught the botany craze, and there was an enormous interest in the strange new world of mysterious plant forms from exotic locales, such as South America and Indonesia. Botanists were the "rock stars" of the day, and works by Sanders, Reichenbach and Humboldt were not only best sellers, but were a popular topic of conversation.

Today, we scarcely talk about the outdoor world of plants and nature. We are far too busy following the activities of our friends on social media and reading news blurbs on our smart phones. We willingly sign agreements which rob us of our last vestige of privacy, but we spend less time learning about our fascinating natural world. Sad to say, we have become a corporatized society that is de-

taching us from nature. How many children today know where their food comes from? For that matter, how many adults know? (Not a fair question as it takes a world Atlas and a degree in Operations Management to track the route of a coffee bean or a banana!)

Fortunately, many of us are realizing the need to de-corporatize our agricultural system and bring it back into the hands of the local providers who can deliver products which are more ecofriendly and healthier.

But agriculture is just one of the area we need to

address as we focus on habitat rehabilitation. Educating the current generation of young people on the importance of plants is the coming direction recognized by our communities.

Many organizations are setting goals to teach young people and get them involved in the preservation of our natural world. One such organization in our area is the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). We've written about them before, when they acquired

the vast major botanical collection from the University of Monroe in Louisiana.

Most recently in the news, however, is the BRIT's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) just signed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) formalizing the two organizations' commitment to plant conservation, exploration, and education. A press release dated November 14 announced this new effort. The following quote from that release sums up the importance:

"As the newest Texas member of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) organization, BRIT's goal of documenting and protecting rare native plants is paramount," says Dr. Ed Schneider, BRIT's executive director. "Our research and education work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ensures that these plants will be discovered, protected, and appreciated by future generations of Texans."

You will be hearing more about the BRIT in the coming year in this Conservation Update part of our Greater North Texas Orchid Society monthly Newsletter. BRIT has been added to the select group of organizations our society and the other SWROGA societies support with fundraising activities. You



BOTANICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

may also have heard of the activities of some of our society members in the Hexalectris orchid survey which is a “citizen scientist” program tied into the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department through the volunteer activities of the Dallas Master Naturalists, an active source of volunteers for TPWD projects.

With this new MOA, the BRIT now becomes the perfect trifecta for the conservation activities of the SWROGA Conservation committee. We can support plant conservation through our direct fundraising activities as we have done this year and now through the citizen scientist orchid survey project because of the MOA link with TPWD. And under consideration will be a third method of conservation support that makes volunteer activities on line much easier and more universal.

You recall one of the BRIT projects which I have recently become involved with “digitizing” herbarium sample sheet data. I’ve enjoyed being able to view actual herbarium images emailed to me in the comfort of my home office where I fill out an Excel template with key pieces of information hand-written on the herbarium samples. It is like bringing “The Great Outdoors” indoors, and is an opportunity for any of our society members to perform

volunteer work in conservation.

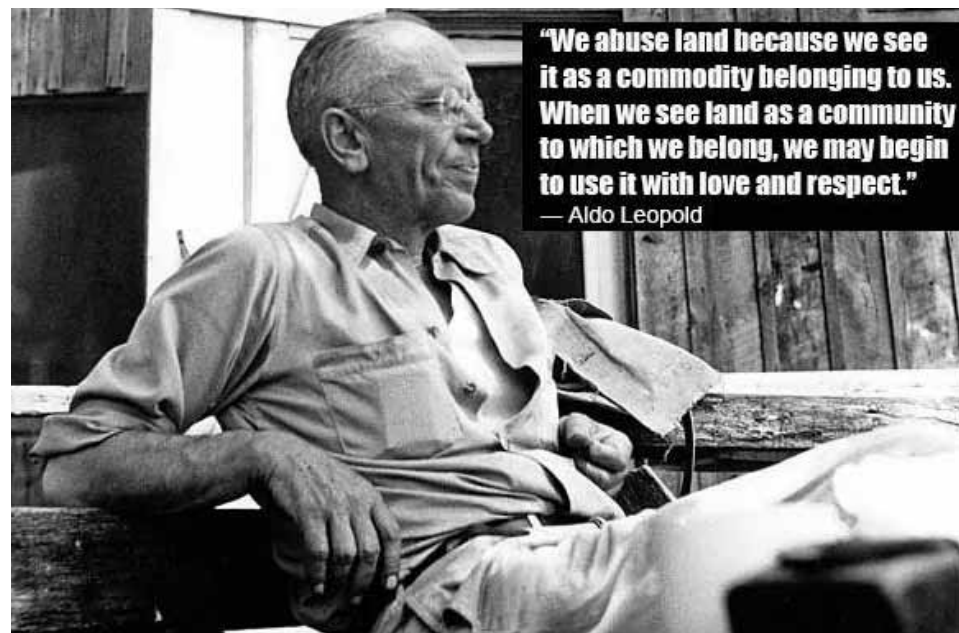
This digitizing process is being made easier and in future columns we will cover this opportunity for budding citizen scientists. Yes, they do have orchid herbarium samples and I will be investigating that opportunity.

As Chair of the SWROGA Conservation Committee, members often ask for information about the organizations we support with our conservation budget. It is important to note that that our contributions go directly to conservation and education and support organizations (such as BRIT), not to the ones that send frequent solicitation mailers. The following disclosure is from the BRIT's press release:

About the Botanical Research Institute of Texas

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT®) is a non-profit, international research and education center that collects and safeguards plant specimens, studies and protects living plants, and teaches about the importance of conservation and biodiversity to the world.

BRIT's scientists and educators work together in achieving the organization's two-fold mission of conservation and education. Its scientists travel the globe investigating habitats, finding rare and endangered plant species, and docu-



menting biodiversity. BRIT educators create new ways to turn information into knowledge through outdoor discovery, discussion, and experiential learning for both students and teachers.

BRIT's work impacts our community and the world in several functional areas, including environment, by giving people a local sense of stewardship; society, by training a new generation of thinkers and problem solvers; and conservation, by offering methods for better stewardship of the land.

BRIT is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is free. For more information, visit <http://www.brit.org>.

Why not join me in volunteering a few hours of your time to serve as a citizen scientist?

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.



TOO MUCH RAIN AND GLOOM

“And the rains came ...”, but not for 40 days and nights, at least not yet. Orchid growers in Florida experience many days of torrential rainfall from Tropical Storms, but similar weather events, i.e. many days of rain or gloom can happen anywhere or any time of year. Of

course, orchids growing in Nature also experience extreme events. The difference, however, is that your orchids have been put into pots, grown in material that confines their roots, and locked in a relatively contained atmosphere.

Compare a “free range” orchid to its cified relatives and it is easy to see why the same event could lead to such different results. Days of rain and wind would soak the roots and leaves of a wild orchid,

bringing bits of new leaves and twigs where they can rot and release nutrients. The movement of wind and water across the roots and leaves would wash rotten materials away and remove fungal and bacterial spores from the plant.

Orchids in a greenhouse are likely in a closed environment where humidity is high and air movement

WHEN VENTING DOES NOT OCCUR, THE AIR BECOMES FILLED WITH BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL SPORES THAT SETTLE ON ORCHID LEAVES AND IN POTS.

nil. Most greenhouses vent during the day when exhaust fans rapidly replace the air in a greenhouse. When venting does not occur, the air becomes filled with bacterial and fungal spores that settle on orchid leaves and in pots. No matter how clean and neat your growing area; there are plenty of bacteria and fungi around to infect orchids.

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

While my immediate thoughts relate to a hurricane, the same basic conditions occur during winter storms or even just during a series of very cloudy days and little sun. Your pampered orchids have roots in pots that just barely have

enough air space to allow oxygen to the roots. In a greenhouse full of orchids and other plants, oxygen levels actually decrease too, making roots even more susceptible to death. Plants rarely die from low oxygen levels, but parts of plants, especially roots do die where they are very susceptible to invasions by bacteria and fungi.

Plants, including orchids, use oxygen. It is only when light is striking leaves that photosynthesis leads to the production of more oxygen than the leaf uses. Fungi and bacteria love high humidity and low oxygen



FUNGI AND BACTERIA LOVE HIGH HUMIDITY AND LOW OXYGEN LEVELS AND SO EVERY GROWER SHOULD EXPECT PROBLEMS AFTER PROLONGED PERIODS OF DAMP, HUMID CONDITIONS.

levels and so every grower should expect problems after prolonged periods of damp, humid conditions.

About the only time I recommend the application of a broad spectrum fungicide/bactericide as a preventative is when a major rain event is going to occur or right after it occurs. Indoor growers need to pay attention too, as the same phenomenon can occur when you water your orchids and your light source stops working for a day or so. There are many products that can be used. My favorite is Kocide, an old copper-based product.

Kocide leaves a light blue sheen on leaves so you know it has been applied. My strategy is to apply as soon as possible after the event at half strength and let the orchids and greenhouse vent and dry thoroughly before watering. Rarely, do I experience a disease problem. Physan is another, readily available product that many hobbyists use. Some tender leaves can be damaged by the recommended dose for orchids, but the half strength dose rarely causes any problems. It is also a surfactant and helps move water off leaves and stems. Killing disease spores, increasing air movement, and quickly drying your orchids and greenhouse is the best way to prevent problems after a major environmental event.

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.

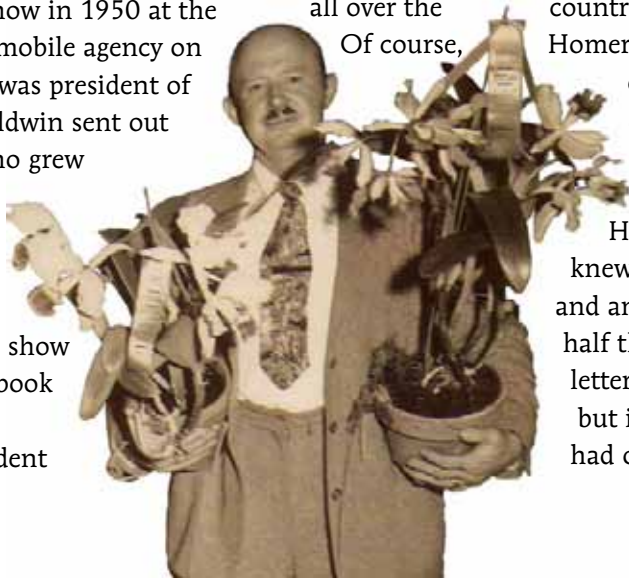
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____