

ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID
SOCIETY

JULY

Next Meeting: **July, 7th**

Robert Marsh

Robert Marsh has 60 years of experience with growing orchids. He was enticed to start growing orchids in his early teen years by articles in popular magazines and the book "Home Orchid Growing" by Rebecca Northern. With encouragement and advice from Craig Foster of Bluegrass Orchids, which was located near Lexington, Kentucky, and orchid enthusiast Katherine Stewart in his hometown, Winchester, Kentucky. Robert's multi-generic collection quickly grew to fill a greenhouse that he and his grandfather built.

For a time, the pursuit of a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Vanderbilt University, followed by several years of post-doctoral research in Germany and at Princeton University, put the orchids on a back burner. But, in the early 1980s, after joining the faculty of the University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Marsh – at the naive urging of one of his doctoral students – returned to the avid pursuit of orchids: first of *Oncidium* species and then *Barkerias*, after being introduced

RECENT BARKERIA HYBRIDS & LINE-BRED SPECIES

to them by Jim Balch of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1982 he joined the Greater North Texas Orchid Society. Three years later Dr. Marsh's *Oncidium enderianum* 'Lorenz Marsh' AM/AOS was awarded the AOS Botanical Trophy, called the Nax Trophy at the time. Since then he has written articles and registered a number of *Oncidium* and *Barkeria* hybrids, several of which have received AOS quality awards. Twelve years ago Dr. Marsh retired as Associate Head of the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at UT Dallas.

Now he teaches biochemistry as a part-time Senior Lecturer and works to popularize *Barkerias* among orchid hobbyists and establish them as mass-market pot plants. He and Dennis Szeszko, who wrote the recent authoritative work on the orchids of Mexico State, *La Orquideoflora Mexiquense*, have founded MAS Orchids LLC, which is working with Floracultura in Holland to commercialize *Barkerias*.



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EVENTS

UPCOMING SWROGA SHOWS

07/12/2019 - 07/14/2019

Baton Rouge Orchid Society's Show and Sale
Burden Museum and Gardens, Baton Rouge LA

08/02/2019 - 08/03/2019

**2019 Houston Orchid Society
40th Consecutive Workshop**
First Christian Church, Houston TX

09/13/2019 - 09/15/2019

Galveston Bay Orchids Society SWROGA Show
Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, Houston Texas

UPCOMING AOS WEBINARS

The Story of White Cattleyas
Jean Ikeson

Thursday, July 11th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT
White cattleya hybrids discussed.

Greenhouse Chat July 2019
Ron McHatton

Thursday July 18th, 2019
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST
Orchid Q&A

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center
June 8, 2019

Twenty-five plants entered for
consideration, six awards given:

1 Phrag. Ouaisne 'Dolly's Pick'
(dalessandroi x Eric Young)
AM 80 points
exhibitor: George Bogard, Rockwall

**2 Phrag. Acker's Beauty
'Charles Wesley'**
(lindleynum x kovachii)
HCC 78 points
exhibitor: George Bogard, Rockwall

**3 Encyclia Isle of Skye
'Dainty Nancy'**
(mooreana x Standard Setter)
HCC 79 points
exhibitor: Linda Horton, Garland

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MORE DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

- 4 **Paph. (prov.) 'Be Still My Heart'**
(Voodoo Kitty x Lorraine's Pride)
FCC 91 points
exhibitor: Vinh Du, Lewisville

- 5 **Phrag. Bel Croute 'Red Dragon'**
(Sorcerer's Apprentice x caudatum)
AM 82 points
exhibitor: George Bogard, Rockwall

- 6 **Phal. (prov.) 'Jimmy's Cuddlebug'**
(Vicky's Sensational Heartbeat
x Yaphon Blue Sea)
HCC 77 points
exhibitor: Vinh Du, Lewisville

Business meeting: Approved recommending to AOS elevation of Karl Varian to Associate Judge, accepted two new Students: Connie Koehler of Fort Worth and George Bogard. Auction was postponed.

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

The next meeting is July 13th at the Garland Senior Activity Center
600 West Avenue A, Garland,
TX 75040.



VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE

Show us what you grew.
Submit your orchid photos to:
youngdavegould@gmail.com
and subject "Orchid Photo"
for the newsletter.
Deadline is the 15th of the month



George Bogard



Gerry Darver



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Paraphalaenopsis labukensis – Dave Gould

C. bowringiana v. *coerulea*– Karl Varian



DG_Lc. Angle Love x Skinneri – Dave Gould

Encyclia diurna x *Encyclia fucata*– Karl Varian



SPICATAS, NITIDAS, WARNOCKIIS...OH MY!

The initial weeks of the annual Hexalectris survey, led by North Texas Master Naturalists Stephanie Varnum, have been exciting as well as challenging. Exciting is the word for the first pass over the trail-sides when the flower spikes are just coming up. Every season offers its surprises and it's anyone's guess what we might find on any given expedition. On our first day of the season we recorded 73 Hexalectris warnockii sites, a record for what any of us had seen before.

The biggest challenge for me is just spotting these flower spikes. Fortunately, when an experienced guide like Stephanie points out a spot as a good possibility, we immediately become very focused, because it is almost a certainty that we will find what we came for. But still, it takes a good pair of eyes to spot a pencil-thin spike, often no more than five centimeters high, poking up through the leaves.

Occasionally we get a lucky break and find some which are as tall as 20 – 30 cm. Plants that size are, of course, much easier to spot.

Even more of a challenge is identifying the species in the early growth stages. The Hexalectris nitida will display a slight crook in the spike as the buds start appearing. And it is safe to extrapolate to the smaller spikes since often they appear in groupings as shown in the photo. On my second day, we tagged 64 nitida sites containing a total of 144 individual spikes.

2019 is shaping up to be a spectacular orchid hunting year, and a record for the third week in June. Over 300 Hexalectris sites have been tagged so far this year, double the count found at the same time in 2018.

In addition to the spectacular numbers of orchids found so far, is the sighting of the rare variety of the Hexalectris spicata called Hexalectris spicata var. arizonica (now H. arizonica). Joe Liggio's 1999 "Wild Orchids of Texas" describes it as "much less attractive than H. spicata var. spicata". If one is interested only in the size of the flowers, that



H. arizonica

ORCHID CONSERVATION

by Charles and Trudy Hess

statement is certainly true, since this variety is cleistogamous (self-pollinating with closed flowers). But when it is first emerging it is impressive with a very robust structure and large diameter spike. All we could say was “wow” when we came across these. I am going to enjoy tracking these over the course of the survey which continues Tuesdays and Thursdays until the final survey on Friday July 26.

For anyone who would have to take off from work to attend a survey, the Friday survey might be more easily arranged than a Tuesday or Thursday. Additional people are always needed – and welcome! It takes a good number of people to make up 4 teams, which is what is needed to cover all the various survey trails and to collect the flags after making a final spike measurement.

If you have ever wanted to spend a morning visiting our Dallas, Texas orchids in their native habitat, this is your chance. Contact me at Charles_M_Hess@ymail.com and I can get you time and location information.

Hope to see you there!



Nitida
grouping

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 ROOTS

How do I get my orchid to grow roots? This is one of the most asked questions because so many new orchid growers start with the gift of a pot plant that, unfortunately, stays too long in the medium. But even those of us who have grown orchids for many years can find individual clones or times when an orchid just will not grow roots.

When the weather is warm most orchids will readily grow roots. There may be a few exceptions to the rule, but even those will at least grow a few new roots this time of year.

In nature, most orchids grow new roots when the growth of new leaves begins. For orchids with rhizomes, this usually happens when a new growth is maturing. For orchids that grow from a central stem, e.g. phalaenopsis and vandas, new roots are associated with the onset of the rainy season or warm weather. Thus, your orchids should be getting new roots right now.

There are some things that can prevent an orchid from growing roots, including insects and disease. If you have an orchid that will not grow new roots, especially if it was just repotted, then some action may be necessary to



stimulate new root growth and save the orchid plant. An orchid without roots will eventually die.

The first question to ask is whether the problem orchid is a species. If that is the case, then a quick check with an appropriate book will tell you if there are special issues with respect to new roots for that species. Many of the large bifoliate cattleyas, e.g. *C leopoldii* and *C bicolor* have specific times when they grow roots. These should be repotted only when they are about to get new roots.

If your orchid is not a species or a species with no specific rooting issues then a check of the plant is necessary. Are there currently live roots on the or-

chid? Are the leaves wilted or shriveled? If there are many live roots, but leaves are shriveled then look for insect pests. Scale insects, mites, and mealy bugs can all suck enough liquid from a plant that has good roots to cause desiccation of leaves. You may need to take the orchid from the pot, look under leaves and even check the living roots. Don't be hesitant to use a magnifying glass because some of these "beasts" are tiny. If you just find one it is a good bet there are more and this is the problem.

A fine jet of water can be used to remove scale from the leaves, under roots and even between leaves. My preference is to follow this procedure several times from different angles to be sure all are

ORCHID GROWING TIPS

removed. It only takes one to regenerate a whole new colony.

If most of the roots are dead then the issue is likely either disease or decaying medium. Using the same fine water jet, wash the entire plant thoroughly and let it dry. If there are soft spots on the rhizome or stem apply 2% Hydrogen Peroxide, the stuff you have in your medicine cabinet. After 15 minutes, soak the entire plant, not just the roots, in the recommended concentration of “Root Tone” or similar hormonal stimulant. Some orchid books maintain that orchids do not respond to such a treatment, but they will. Soak for 15 minutes and then let dry.

Next keep your orchid in a shady location. For me they go under the bench. Some growers that have humidity issues will remove all dead tissues and place the plant in a clear plastic bag under the bench until new roots appear. It is necessary to be sure no water accumulates in the bag. Once new roots appear repot, but keep the orchid under lower light until there are enough roots to anchor the plant in the pot. Then it can be slowly moved into its normal light regimen.

Getting vandas to grow roots can also be an issue. Members of the vanda group will occasionally become very leggy and refuse to grow roots on the stem, resulting in large plants with leaves at the top, roots at the bottom and a long stem in between. Find a long plastic



window box that will hold the root mass and as much of the stem as possible and soak in “Root Tone” for 30 minutes. Place back in its normal location and wait. Typically, new roots will emerge from what looked like a dead stem. After these roots get 2-3 inches long you can cut just below these new roots and repot the top portion. Within a few weeks the lower part of the stem will sprout new leaves and you now have two plants.

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.

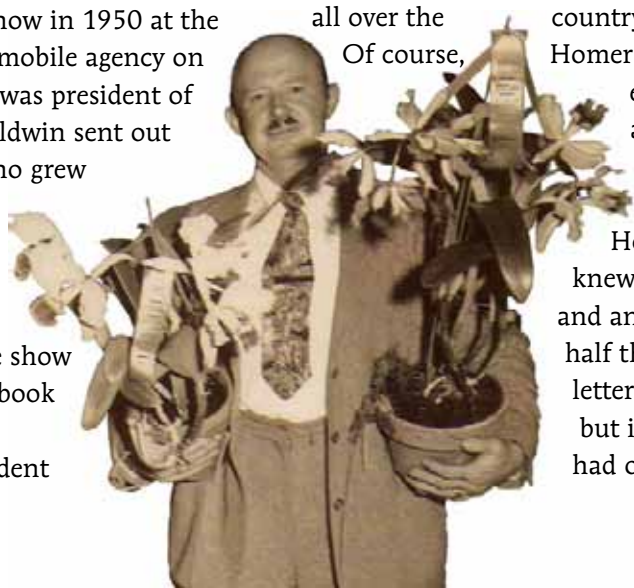
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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): _____