

# ORCHIDIST

GREATER NORTH TEXAS

ORCHID  
SOCIETY

AUG

Next Meeting: *August 4th*

## LEARN ABOUT A.O.S. AWARDS

Ever wonder how plants get an AOS award? Do you know what the judges are looking for? Do you think you might have an award quality plant?

Come and find out at the August meeting. We will have accredited AOS judges select a few plants from the show table and judge them while we all watch. It will be a chance to see and understand how the judging process occurs, and what the criteria are in judging orchids. We will have the AOS judges do the Ribbon judging – just as they would at a show – and during that process, select plants that they feel should be more carefully reviewed.

We can field some questions during and afterwards.

Please do 'clean up' your plants – trim off old bloom spikes and dead leaves, make sure there aren't bugs on your plant and be sure it has a name. AOS judging cannot be done on an unidentified plant. Learn what it takes to be an AOS judge.



**PRESIDENT***Linda Horton***VICE PRESIDENT***Tim Carr***SECRETARY***Barbara McNamee***TREASURER***Kathy Halverson***SWROGA DIRECTORS***Barbara McNamee**Linda Horton***NEWSLETTER EDITOR***David Gould***GNTOS WEBMASTER***Manuel Aybar***PAST PRESIDENT***Judy Cook*

## PREZ LETTER

*Linda Horton*

Yes, I'm already talking about next years' GNTOS show. As I said at the last meeting, It will be at the Richardson Civic Center, same room same times but the dates have changed as we could not reserve the room for the 2nd weekend in March. We will have our show on the 1st weekend instead. Open to the public 12 noon Friday and all day Saturday. I am striving to get better participation, larger room, more attendees, more vendors. Right now we are status quo except for the dates.

If you did not attend judging Saturday July 13th you missed a lot of fun. We awarded 3 plants, evaluated a total of 12. Our auction was held a month late this summer. Emily Quinn was auctioneer and did a fine job. We had some exciting bids. All are welcome at both judging and auctions. If you want to learn what is considered a quality flower, come and listen to what the judges say as they evaluate/score a flower.

*Linda*

## PLANT TABLE

*Nancy Cropp*

GNTOS July 7, 2019

Plant Table Judging Results

Judges: Tham Johnson &amp; Tim Carr

**CATTLEYA ALLIANCE** (6 entries)

Blue — Schombocatonia Garnet Glory

'Juno Beach' — David Gould

Red — Encyclia radiata — Nancy Cropp

White — Lc. Rustic Spots — Vee Du

**DENDROBIUMS & OTHERS** (9 entries)

Blue — Den. antoenna var. d'albertisii

— Ashley Nguyen

Red — (Stan. jennischiana x Cory.

macrantha alba) — George Bogard

White — Den. sulawesianse — Karl Varian

**ONCIDIUMS** (2 entries)

Blue — Lockhartia lunifra — Linda Horton

Red — Mmtd. Sunset — Jim Williams

**PAPHS & PHRAGS** (10 entries)

Blue — Paph. callosum — Karl Varian

Red — Phrag. Mayling Nielsen — Vee Du

White — Phrag. Inca Embers

— George Bogard

**VANDAS & PHALS** (11 entries)

Blue — V. Sanchai Gold Spot

— Shane Stewart

Red — Phal. (Vicky's Sensational  
Heartache x Yaphon Blue Sea)

— Vee Du

White — (Phal. Sogo Shuto x Brother  
Sara Gold) — Linda Horton**SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

Bulb. frostii — Linda Horton

Paph. callosum — Karl Varian

Angraecum distichtum

— Barbara McNamee

**PEOPLES CHOICE** (a tie)

Schombocatonia Garnet Glory

'Juno Beach' — David Gould

(Stan. jennischiana x Cory.  
macrantha alba) — George Bogard

# EVENTS

## UPCOMING SWROGA SHOWS

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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

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**Greenhouse Chat August 2019**

*Ron McHatton*

Thursday, August 8th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Orchid Q&A

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**Judging Vandas with Robert Fuchs**

*Robert Fuchs*

Tuesday, August 27th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Discover the finer points of what makes a good Vanda.

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**Orchid Gardens of Latin American**

*Tom Mirenda*

Wednesday, September 18th, 2019

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Visit beautiful orchid gardens.



# DALLAS JUDGING CENTER

Nancy Cropp

AOS Dallas Judging Center July 13, 2019

Two judging teams considered 12 plant entries, and three awards were given:

**Phal. Mituo Purple Dragon 'Pylo'**  
(LD Purple 3S x Mituo Princess 'Blue')  
AM 80 points  
exhibitor: Peter Lin, Southlake

**Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Dolly's Dream'** (longifolium x sargentianum)  
HCC 78 points  
exhibitor: George Bogard, Rockwall

**Phrag. Ecuagenera Dream 'Hayden P.'**  
(sedenii x kovachii)  
HCC 76 points  
exhibitor: George Bogard, Rockwall

A lively auction raised over \$900 for the Center.

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

The next meeting is August, 10th at the Garland Senior Activity Center  
600 West Avenue A, Garland, TX 75040.



Phal. Mituo Purple Dragon 'Pylo'



Phrag. Ecuagenera Dream 'Hayden P.'



Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Dolly's Dream'

# BRAVO, BRAVO, BRAVO!!



## ORCHID CONSERVATION

by Charles and Trudy Hess

Orchid conservation hit pay dirt in 2019 as native Texas orchids were found in record number.

Was it the rainfall? Dallas has had rainy years before but this year the native orchids found at Cedar Ridge Preserve have broken all prior survey count records. Totals for the nitidas and the warnockiis led the way with 301 and 534 being tagged, respectively. With the arizonicas and spicatas added in the total is a spectacular 900 plus.

It has been a spectacularly good year for the *Hexalectris warnockii*, with the number of these orchids found surpassing any year since 2006 when the North Texas Master Naturalists began conducting their survey. Lately the survey tag count

for *H. warnockii* has shown a steady increase from the high 200's to the low 400's, but 2019 has been the highest yet.

The conversation going around in the survey teams is that prior year rainfall strengthens the trees which support the fungi, which in turn support the current year's orchids. Not to get too technical, but I have my own theory, which is that this year's sudden limelight is the reason for such abundant *H. warnockii* numbers. I believe I can make a strong case for my theory.

We orchid growers know that our 'chids like attention. They do better when we show them off and let them know they are special. What better way to give an orchid recognition than to have the North American Orchid Conservation Center at the

Smithsonian feature our Texas Purple Spike in the design of an Orchid Gami model? This is the Academy Awards for orchids and you can't get more limelight than that. Our *warnockii* are just trying to live

**Native Texas  
orchids were  
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Texas Purple Spike  
(*Hexalectris warnockii*)  
photograph by Jun Lao

up to all the award “buzz”. No red carpet necessary – the local fungi will do nicely, thank you very much.

As if this special recognition from the Smithsonian were not enough, our survey has also, for the first time, attracted not only national but international limelight. Native orchid photographers from Ohio (Jun Lao , Cincinnati Orchid Society) and Canada ( John Lamey botanist from Ontario) were our guests for the June 2nd survey, and they were not at all disappointed to have made the trip. Not only did they see stunning *H. warnockii* in bloom, but they also got to see the rare alba version which, could almost be called our own Dallas “ghost orchid”.

As the current year survey ends July 26, I am again reminded that with any volunteer effort, key enthusiasts keep the effort alive and thriving. Heartfelt thanks go to Stephanie Varnum who heads this annual survey effort for the North Texas Master Naturalists, and to Dana Wilson (North Haven Gardens/Master Naturalist) who, together with Stephanie, conceived of and promoted the commissioning of the soon-to-be available Texas Purple Spike Orchid Gami.



Alba Texas Purple Spike  
(*Hexalectris warnockii*)  
photograph by Jun Lao



# 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.

It's starting to get hot and the humidity is dropping. If you provide the proper air movement required to keep your orchids from overheating in this weather, you are also accelerating the loss of water from your orchids. If the orchid's loss of water exceeds its ability to acquire water your orchid experiences water stress, usually indicated by shriveled leaves or bud drop. Some of my orchids that typically love high light that are near the glass even have burned leaves because they do not have enough water in their leaves to keep the leaf cool. Most plants, including orchids, have stomata or microscopic openings on the bottoms of leaves. Stomata open, allowing water to evaporate and cool the leaf. If the orchid does not have enough water it cannot keep its leaves cool.

Over the years there are many experienced growers, many commercial growers of orchids, that told me they routinely violated one of the cardinal rules found in most books on growing orchids. Most books suggest watering orchids early in the morning so that they will be dry by nightfall. Failure to do so, according to the books, will cause rots. During the middle of summer, however, if the humidity is low, I routinely violate

## WATERING ORCHIDS AT NIGHT?



this rule.

Whenever nights are warm, I heavily water my orchids near or just after sunset. The object is for them to be soaked all night. The next morning, I water heavily again and often fertilize

at this time. When I go out to water in the morning, vanda roots are swollen and green, as are the visible roots of my cattleyas and phals. Rots are very rare and almost always on newly purchased orchids or plants that have already had



## WATERING ORCHIDS AT NIGHT?

problems.

My orchids had been looking water stressed, but a week after starting this regimen, bulbs have become plump and new leaves abound. There are even newly branching roots.

If you decide to try this approach keep the days between watering the same as you did before. Apply only water in the evening and fertilize only in the morning. If you live in an area where night temperatures get lower than 60° F be sure you never fertilize at night. In the morning, plants are well hydrated and there is no risk of fertilizer toxicity, even at high levels. Roots are also ready to take up fertilizer as their surface con-

dition has changed from hard and stiff to soft and pliable. If you live in an area with hard water, salts that accumulate on the medium, pots and roots will become soluble overnight, allowing them to be flushed out the next morning.

If you ever visit the tropics where many cultivated orchids originated, it is surprising to read the prohibition to never water at night. In their natural habitat, orchids are soaked at night by rain or dew. Rarely, will you ever find an orchid with rot in nature. In the wild, orchids grow very slowly and are very limited by nutrients. Their leaves are thick and hard; even immature plants.

Bacteria require nutrients to grow

and the presence of water laden with nutrients in and on leaves is an invitation for bacterial and fungal invasions that cause rots. Orchids can grow quickly if pushed with lots of fertilizer. However, cell walls are thin and soft on these orchids making it easy for fungi and bacterial invasion. Cells also are loaded with excess nutrients providing fuel to any invader.

Growing under lower nutrient conditions does cause slightly slower growth and causes orchids to put more energy into root growth. This produces a better rooted orchid, less susceptible to disease, even if you water at night.



# 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.

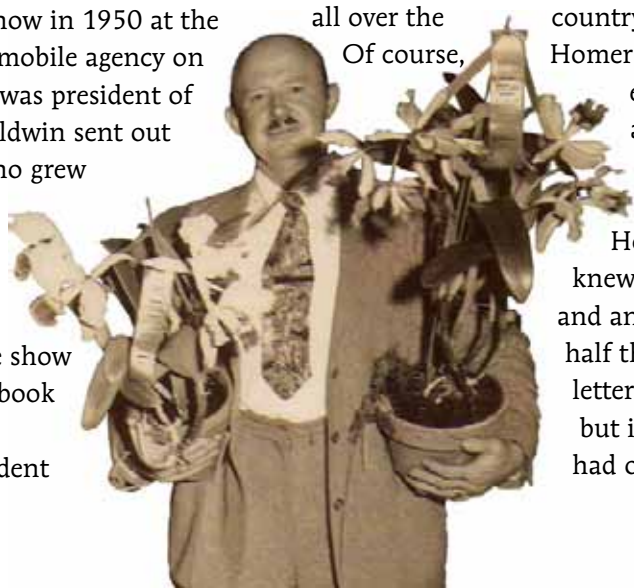
The following year with much encouragement from Homer Baldwin, most of the members from the Dallas Orchid Society came back to join the original society.

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