

# The Houston Happenings

*The Houston Orchid Society's Monthly Newsletter*

**JULY 1, 2004 MEETING**

**Meeting Time:** 7:30 P.M.

**Plant Table:** Setup 7:00 P.M.

**Place:** Hermann Garden Center

**Speaker:** Joe Liggio

**Program:** In Search of Wild Orchids

**Book Sale:** 7:00 P.M.

## Summer Workshop 2004

**August 6th and 7th, 2004**

**YOUR CALENDAR**

**HOLIDAY INN SELECT**

**2712 Southwest Freeway**

**Printable registration forms @**

**"<http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org>"**

**Registration limited to 150**

**Contact: Kelly Moseley**

**email: [Kelly.moseley@roche.com](mailto:Kelly.moseley@roche.com)**

**Or 281-208-8154**

**see page 4 for tentative agenda**

Joe Liggio is the co-author, along with his wife Ann Liggio, of *Wild Orchids of Texas*, published in October 1999 by University of Texas Press. He is an environmental specialist with a state agency, freelance writer, and nature photographer whose photographs and articles on wild orchids and wildflowers have appeared in books, magazines, and calendars. He has spent nearly 20 years finding and photographing native orchids in the wilds of North America, Central America and South America.



Joe Liggio, our July speaker and his wife, Ann, co-authors of *Wild Orchids of Texas* will have books available for sale and signatures. The book is pictured on the back page of this issue.

Joe Liggio's slide presentation will illustrate orchids from North, Central and South America and some of the more beautiful and unusual of the 54 types of wild Texas orchids. He will provide an overview of some of topics discussed in his book, including orchid habitats, pollination and reproduction, and threats to orchids in the wild. He will relate some of the adventures, joys, and mishaps he experienced while searching for and photographing the wild orchids. Books will be available for sale after the presentation, and both authors will be present to sign copies.

**Pam Vinson**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the month of July, our routine roughly becomes one of maintenance and avoidance. Maintaining the collection by proper fertilizing and watering while avoiding the heat and infestations that are a part of this time of the year usually sets the stage for this hobby. Smaller collections may find this to be a lackluster season, but those of us fortunate enough to have a larger collection, still have a wealth of bloom. By careful planning, each of us can have the year-round flower abundance that is the hallmark drawing card for our addiction.

Dividing your collection and repotting are among the myriad of chores that are especially essential during the summer. Many of us have one-of-a-kind plants that we cannot afford to lose and certainly cannot replace. One of the best ways to insure a plant's continuance is to share a division with a close friend. I have always been an advocate of this practice. We all have situations, despite our best intentions, where we manage to cause the demise of a cherished orchid. A certain amount of contentment and comfort reigns when we know there is a backup plan. Any of you that have divisions of really select plants can always donate them to the HOS for raffle at a later time. Funds for operational purposes remain a constant pressure each year as we strive to bring you the best programs and speakers.

I am especially gratified that our summer attendance has kept pace with the other months. Sometimes it is difficult to manage the meetings during this time of year while so many of us take vacations and engage in other family activities now that school is recessed. Please keep in mind that we need to support our speakers by attending as often as possible as many of them travel great distances to be a part of our success.

Our officers and board of directors openly solicit your input. While we cannot always meet all the needs and requests, we do need to understand what you want from your society. Have a safe summer and happy orchiding.

**Greg Scott**

## JULY NEWCOMERS

The July newcomers will meet Sunday the 11th at 2 pm. Jeff Bradley, a long-time Cattleya and Phal. Grower will host. Jeff's address is 623 Hawthorne #9 Houston, TX 77006. Please note that newcomers is meeting on the SECOND Sunday this month due to the travel schedule of the host. I will have printed maps at the monthly meeting.

Newcomers wishes to thank Don Ghiz for hosting in June. A special thanks to all the long time growers and AOS judges in attendance to answer questions. Thank you to all the members who have donated plants for the newcomers group. If anyone has extra plants they wish to donate I will be happy to accept any extras you may have, please bring them to the general meeting.

**John Van Domelen**  
*john@tropicalbloom.com*

**BOX TOPS = FREE  
RAFFLE TICKETS  
BRING THEM TO THE  
MEETING**

## HOUSTON JUDGING CENTER

**Web site:** <http://hjc.houstonorchidsociety.org>

### HOUSTON JUDGING CENTER

6/19/2004

There were 25 plants entered for judging with one provisional award:

Paphiopedilum \_\_ (Julius x moquettianum) 'La Selva' AM 80 points, owned by Dan & Eddie Ruth Chadbourne, Bryan, TX

There were 16 Accredited Judges, 3 Probationary Judges, 1 Student Judge and 1 Clerk present with 28 people attending.

The next regular judging will be held July 17, 2004 at the B. J. & Margaret Bradshaw Wellness Center, 7751 Southwest Freeway (Highway 59 South). It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 A. M. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

**Marg Putman**

## HJC needs your help

The Houston Judging Center (HJC) is responsible for the monthly judging of orchids and the judging of orchids at local shows in the Gulf Coast areas of Texas and Louisiana. is looking for a new location to conduct it's meetings on the third Saturday of each month. An ideal location would include a classroom that could accommodate up to 40 people for lectures and judging orchids, a second classroom where orchids could be entered for judging and perhaps even a third classroom where training can take place while other normal activities are occurring. A fourth space is needed to secure (store) our cabinets and monthly meeting supplies. Although not absolutely necessary, kitchen facilities would be useful.

Should anyone know of any location that might be available for HJC use, please contact Julius Klehm (281) 398-3012 or Marvin Gerber (713) 729-9586. An ideal location would not only have the facilities above, but be centrally located.

Although the Houston Judging Center operates under the auspices of the American Orchid Society and in accordance with their guidelines, it has had significant support from the Houston Orchid Society, and given significant support to HOS from it's initial conception.

Effective December 31, 2004, the current landlord has elected to not renew our lease due to internal requirements. Although HJC has no source of income other than donations from Orchid Societies, Individuals and raffles (both at the HJC and HOS), we would expect to pay nominal rent for the facility used.

## THE LIBRARY - BOOK REPORTS

Summer seems to be officially here and everyone is busy with repotting, feeding, watering and hopefully, enjoying lots of blooms. There are several books in the HOS library that are very good reading material for this coming month and I think that orchid lovers should take the time to read books by those who grow orchids in other countries. I have found that whilst the information may not be specific to our weather and climate, I find lots of very good, helpful tips that I have been able to use. These growers have other nemesis and travails, fighting cold rather than heat, too little sun as opposed to too much and yet they prevail and are successful.

"**ORCHIDS AND THEIR CULTIVATION**" by David Sander, a good place to start, The British House of Sander (Orchid Nursery) for over a hundred years have pioneered the development and continuation of orchids. David Sander was a foremost authority on species, cultivation and hybridizing of orchids. His book is extremely informative and offers a vast amount of information, an excellent account of orchids, their general culture, propagation, seed raising, culture of hardy orchids in the garden, indoor culture and how to deal with pests. He provides a calendar of activities which is a useful guide, along with a table of popular genera and species. The book was first published in 1932, so there are a number of things that have changed and have become easier to accomplish in the 62 years since it was written. The chapter on collection and importation along with some interesting anecdotes of past collectors make this an interesting and easy book to read.

"**THE COMPLETE COOK OF ORCHID GROWING**" by Peter McKenzie Black, a man who believes every orchid collector's dream is to double his collection every year until all the most superior and exotic of these fascinating flowers have been obtained. Peter attempts to prove that his suggestions will help an orchid collector realize this goal by showing that cultivation, care and propagation of orchids is neither difficult nor expensive. Mr. Black has a highly selective and comprehensive orchid collection of species from all over the world. He regularly advises amateur and professional growers on a consultant basis, sharing his secrets and suggestions on orchid care. Black illustrates how the necessary daily chores of watering, damping down, ventilating, shading, feeding and pest control can be mechanized in the most simple of orchid collections. These suggestions mean that even the most concerned orchid grower can leave his orchids unattended for more than several days without harm.

Note: the Library Lady found aspects of this book humorous, considering

that Black is a Brit and therefore, his comments on raising orchids which thrive in lower temperatures, thereby saving money on large heating bills is worthless to us, here in Houston. Since I will be in and out of the country for the next few months, I plan to put his suggestions to the test to see how my orchids fare with just my husband's hit or miss care, he who calls all plants "flowers" whether they are non-blooming ivy or a cymbidium in full bloom. I will let you know if Mr. Black's tricks work.

Nina Rach has recommended a book that is not in our library: "**Slipper Orchids of Vietnam**". However it is available online and here is a little bit of information about the book and how one may purchase it.

From the Timber Press newsletter, June 8:

"The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries has awarded the 2004 CBHL Annual Literature Award to Slipper Orchids of Vietnam <<http://www.timberpress.com/books/isbn/0-88192-592-6?s=em>> by Leonid Averyanov, Phillip Cribb, Phan Ke Loc, and Nguyen Tien Hiep. The award is given annually to both the author and publisher of a work that makes a significant contribution to the literature of botany or horticulture."

Perhaps this would be of interest to include in the next Houston Happenings, since we have paph/cyp growers among our members, and we had Cribb here in Houston somewhat recently. I heard Averyanov give a lecture on Vietnamese slippers at the Mid America Orchid Conference last August. Perhaps others have heard him on tour.

### "SLIPPER ORCHIDS OF VIETNAM"

By Leonid Averyanov, Phillip Cribb, Phan Ke Loc, and Nguyen Tien Hiep  
Illustrations by Carol Woodin

This book provides comprehensive accounts of the history, nomenclature, and relationships of each of the 22 slipper orchid species and natural hybrids found within Vietnam. It provides the first detailed accounts of their habitats, biology, and ecology, and highlights the imminent threat of extinction faced by many of them. This book also surveys non-orchid flora, and it will enthrall the reader with descriptions of Vietnam and its unique environment, rich flora, and endemic plants.

Houston Orchid Society has a small number of books written in Spanish as well as in Chinese and Korean characters, for those who can read in these languages, please check it out.

If you borrowed a book from the library and you are unable to attend the next meeting please mail you past due books to Deana Roberts, 306 Bonhomme, Houston, TX 77074 or you may drop them off at my office in Bellaire, call to get the directions, 713 666-3838. Remember, there is a \$1.00 per book, per month late fee if books are not returned the month following checkout.

Happy reading and have a good July.

*Deana Roberts*

New Orchid Store Opening

## ORCHID EXPRESS & LEASING

3420 W. DALLAS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019  
713-526-0018

MON – FRI 10:00 TO 6:00  
SAT – 10:00 TO 2:00

Orchids available for sale and lease.

Store is located at the corner of  
W. Dallas and Dunlavy, next to the Conoco.

**Lee Rowell, proprietress**

## ACT NOW!

Until September 1, 2004,  
membership in the **Orchid Digest** is:  
\$28 for One Year  
\$54 for Two Years  
(US Addresses)

Take advantage of these old rates by  
joining or renewing. After Sept. 1, rates will  
increase \$4 for one year and \$6 for two.

## AOS CORNER

Orchids Magazine is NOT "just a pretty face". It is true that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And this beholder has observed beauty inside and out. This is an incomplete example of what we find in Orchids magazine. There isn't space here in The Happenings to tell you everything, because James B. Watson, Editor and Art Director of Orchids needed three pages to do that in "Orchids Magazine, 2003 in Review", appearing in the cumulative index for 2003. Hope you have had a chance to read his fantastic description of the award-winning orchids publication by the American Orchid Society.

Of course the cover is designed to grab our attention, and it always gets mine. Sometimes I see breathtaking beauty in the orchids that grace the cover and other times I just can't wait to find out the name of the genus in the photo. On the inside cover, I usually find ads from one or more of the leading orchid retailers and immediately begin to wish that I had all those orchids in our greenhouse. Sigh! When I get to the features page, I scan it to see what is there and can hardly wait to get to articles and topics such as the following from the May 2004 issue:

"Growing with Orchids – Waiting for Stanhope" by Ken Slump

"Questions and Answers – Watering Vandas" by Greg Allikas, Donna Craig and Sandra Svoboda

"Orchid Ailments – Weeds" by Susan Jones

"Connoisseur's Collection – Podangis dactyloceras" by William A. Rhodehamel (photos and article about the Central African crystalline white flowered species)

"How I Grew that Orchid – Pride of New Guinea" by Tom Perlite (photos

and articles about a stunning HCC-CCE/AOS awarded *Dendrobium cutbertsonii* 'Red Parrot')

"Orchid Portrait – Brassia Intergeneric Hybrids" by Charles Marden Fitch (photos and article featuring *Odontobrassia* Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara', AM/AOS (*Odontoglossum cariniferum* x *Brassia arcuigera*) and *Odontobrassia* Gordon Dillon 'Mary K' AM/AOS (*Brassia malculata* x *Odontoglossum bictoniense*) and other *Brassia* intergeneric hybrids with photos.)

Other subjects in the May 2004 issue are: "*Leaching – A practice for growing Quality Plants*" by Fred J. Bergman; "*Bark and Water Molds – Sudden Oak Death Could affect orchid Production*" by Yin-Tung Wang, PhD, and Larry W. Barnes, PhD; "*Orchids on the Half Shell – A Novel Way to Mount Orchids*" by Gerard Brender a Brandis; "*Orchids in Art – Phragmipedium longifolium*" with a photo of a painting by Janet Moore and text by Harry Zelenko; Books – "*Rumphius' Orchids*" reviewed by Carl L. Withner, PhD, Conservation News – Updates on CITES by Roddy Gabel.

I have only scratched the surface, but to see a copy of Orchids magazine, stop by the AOS booth near the refreshments at the next HOS meeting or visit the AOS website [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). You will have to agree with me that "Orchids magazine is not just another pretty face."

(Too much more to mention here, appears in the May 2004 issue of Orchids magazine and other equally wonderful orchid subjects appear in the monthly publications.)

**Melba Butler**

## What is an Epiphyte?

H. Bruce Rinker, Director of Canopy Ecology  
Selby Botanical Gardens

The word, epiphyte, is derived from two Greek terms, epi- and phyte, literally meaning "that which is found above or on a plant." The term is not exclusively botanical and can broadly include epiphytic snails on grasses! However, among botanists, the term refers to plants that perch on other plants. Historically, the word, epiphyte, has been used almost exclusively as an epithet for plants with a mutualistic or commensal association with their hosts:

Mutualistic to its host, providing services that the supporting plant would not have otherwise (e.g., mosses to prevent host desiccation and certain orchids to attract pollinating euglossine bees to Brazil Nut trees)

Commensal to its host, offering neither benefit nor detriment while taking support (e.g., Spanish Moss, a member of the pineapple family and not a moss at all)

In other words, as botanist David Benzing wrote in his 1990 book, *Vascular Epiphytes*, "True epiphytes routinely spend their entire lives without contacting either forest floor or host vasculature."

Yet, after centuries of exploration and laboratory investigations, ecologists have learned two important lessons about organisms: living things are sometimes difficult to pigeon-hole into taxonomic systems, and they manifest a spectrum of responses to their surroundings rather than a strict black-and-white dichotomy often found in textbooks and field-guides.

Are there parasitic epiphytes? That is, are there plants that show features commonly associated with epiphytes and that also exploit their supporting hosts for water and/or nutrients? Most biology primers state unequivocally that the terms are mutually exclusive. If a plant is an epiphyte, then by definition it cannot also be a parasite. Nevertheless, there is a wide spectrum of "suspect" associations that are neither commensal nor mutualistic. What about mistletoes, tapping into their host's food and water systems via specialized attachments called haustoria that act like a leach's mouth on the supporting plant? What about strangler figs that wrap their feeder roots around their hosts for support and then out-compete them for sunlight? What about achlorophyllous (i.e., without sugar-producing pigments) orchids that take nutriment from their hosts indirectly through specialized fungal interactions?

What about numerous bromeliad tanks crowded so closely together that they collectively cause the branches of the host tree to snap off under their tremendous weight? Do these plants display features often associated with parasitic organisms?

Parasites, commensals, and mutualists are all part of a continuum of interrelationships among organisms. That continuum is called symbiosis. As Lynn Margulis, distinguished professor in the Botany Department at the University of Massachusetts, asserted in the periodical *BioScience* in 1990, "symbiosis [sic] refers to protracted physical associations among organisms of different species, without respect to outcome." In the life sciences, words are battle cries for entrenched (and often static) viewpoints. Life itself resists the obscurity of our nomenclature and unsettles us by its diversity. The three categories of symbiosis are unavoidably fuzzy and cannot be delineated with any amount of finality. Perhaps it would be more constructive just to drop the words, parasitic, commensalistic, and mutualistic, from our vocabulary and use the more expansive term, symbiotic, to describe organisms' interrelationships.

What are some other examples of epiphytes apropos to the mission of Selby Gardens? Members of the pineapple family, bromeliads are abundant epiphytes through the New World tropics. Their overlapping rosettes of leaves often form tanks or cisterns of water high off the forest floor and provide important aquatic habitats for insects and frogs. The orchid family, perhaps the largest family of flowering plants on Earth, contains numerous, even spectacular, epiphytes! Other epiphytic plants include ferns, liverworts, philodendrons and other aroids, even cacti (e.g., Christmas cactus) high up in tropical forest canopies where the intense equatorial sunlight provides ideal dry habitat.

Epiphytes are often slow-growing with thick, waxy leaves and unusual roots. Their dispersal methods vary from clouds of microscopic fern spores or millions of dust-sized orchid seeds to plumed or fleshy seeds of bromeliads dispersed by winds or hungry animals. Epiphytes interact with their surroundings in complex ways, too. Some contain ant nests, many hold gallons of water, still others capture forest debris that eventually becomes soil. Many epiphytes have root systems containing fungi called mycorrhizae that aid in the uptake of scarce nutrients. Epiphytes occur in many regions of the

(Con't on page 5)



Above: June plant table species winner, *L. purpurata* 'Amherst', owned by Don Ghiz.

Below: June plant table hybrid winner, *Ren. Brookie Chandler* x self, owned by Joe and Dolores Fields.



### Epiphyte (Con't from pg. 4)

world, even well into temperate zones; but they reach their greatest diversity in the wet tropics. On tropical mountainsides that face prevailing winds, they sometimes become so lush that we can hardly see the original host tree! Artificial propagation of epiphytic plants is an important component of the professional nursery trade in Florida. Some are cultivated or mounted in pots or in the ground. However, in the wild, many of these same species may live 100 feet off the forest floor! Their unusual leaves and flowers, their resistance to drought, and their eye-catching character make epiphytes among our most popular plants. Regardless of their types of symbiotic relationships, help us with our mission to conserve epiphytes and their habitats, many of which are at-risk worldwide, by becoming a member of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens!

### Reminder: Thank the Following for the July Refreshments Table

Coordinator: Sarah Bentley and Linda Livesay

**Jim and Melba Butler** will be helping with refreshments this month. Thank you! Thank you!

**Please sign up and volunteer for coming months.**

### Houston Orchid Society

#### 2004 Officers and Committee Chairs

#### Officers

President	Greg Scott
1st Vice President	Pam Vinson
2nd Vice President	Ted Baenziger
Recording Sec.	Sandra Higham
Treasurer	Bill Bartlett
Membership	Mavis Klehm

#### Chairs

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Happenings Editor	John Van Domelen
Newcomers Group	Deana Roberts
Librarian	Sheila Skov
Petals and Wings	Laurie Skov
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Refreshments Co-Chairs	Sarah Bentley Linda Livesay
Silent Auction	Emily Lam-Jones
2004 Workshop Chair	Kelly Moseley
Webmistress	Nina Rach
Parliamentarian	Linda Brandenberger

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Jim Butler	Julius Klehm
Melba Butler	Emily Lam Jones
Dolores Fields	Karin Luhnau
Joe Fields	Nina Rach
Marvin Gerber	Theresa Riggs
Don Ghiz	Sheila Skov
Denny Haase	Jerry Stephens
Renee Haase	Clark Whiteside

#### Representation

AOS Representative	Melba Butler
IPA Representative	Clark Whiteside
SWROGA Director	Mavis Klehm
SWROGA Director	Terry Palmer
ODC Representative	Nina Rach

Web-site: [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)

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HOUSTON HAPPENINGS  
Houston Orchid Society  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

JULY 2004 ISSUE



Paphiopedilum \_\_ (Julius x moquettianum)  
'La Selva' AM 80 points, owned by Dan &  
Eddie Ruth Chadbourne, Bryan, TX  
receives provisional award from HJC.

### Summer Workshop Agenda

#### Friday, August 6, 2004

- 2:00 P.M. Vendor Set-up
- 5:00 P.M. Plant entry
- 6:30 P.M. Judging
- 7-9:00 P.M. Dessert, Coffee, Sales, Silent Auction  
(Benefit Houston Judging Ctr-  
bids close at 8:30pm)

#### Saturday, August 7, 2004

- 8-9:00 A.M. Sales, Coffee, Silent Auction (Benefit  
Houston Orchid Society)
- 9:00 A.M. Welcome
- 9:10 A.M. Speaker: Jose Exposito of Soroa  
Orchids
- 10:00 A.M. Coffee break
- 10:30 A.M. Breakout sessions (topics TBA)  
Rick Helper  
Bill Tippit  
Nina Rach
- 11:30 A.M. Speaker: Norman Fang of Norman's  
Orchids/[www.Orchids.com](http://www.Orchids.com)
- 12:20-1:20 P.M. Lunch (provided)
- 1:30 P.M. Silent Auction ends
- 2:00 P.M. Speaker: Dr. Harold Koopowitz of  
University of CA- Irvine
- 2:50 P.M. Special Presentation: Nina Rach
- 3:00 P.M. Wrap-up

