

The Houston Happenings

The Houston Orchid Society's Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 3, 2004 MEETING

Meeting Time: 7:30 P.M.
Plant Table: Setup 7:00 P.M.
Place: Hermann Garden Center

Speaker: David P. Banks - Hills District Orchids
Program: Australian Dendrobium and Sarcocochilus
Plant Sale: 7:00 PM. See note below re: payment

Our June speaker is David P. Banks. He was born in 1965 at Parramatta, a suburb of Sydney, Australia and has been growing orchids for over 30 years, having started at the age of five. He is a Past President of the Orchid SPECIES Society of New South Wales, Past President (at the age of 20) and a Life Member of the Parramatta and District Orchid Society and also served two terms as Vice President of the Orchid Society of New South Wales. David has served on the Council of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (and was bestowed Life Membership from ANOS in 2002), the Committee of the Orchid Society of New South Wales, and is one of its representatives on the Ira Butler Trophy Committee - which recognises significant developments in Australian native orchids and their hybrids. He also served a period as Patron of the Launceston Orchid Society in Tasmania. David is a qualified orchid judge (since 1988) with the OSNSW as well as the Australian Orchid Council. He is the current Editor of the Australian Orchid Review (since 1999) and served a six-year term as Editor of The Orchadian - the journal of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, from 1996 to 2002, overseeing two volumes. David has had over 200 papers relating to orchids published since 1980. He is also a member of the Australian Orchid Foundation (AOF), an elite organization with restricted membership (100), after being invited to join. In 1998, David was also appointed Editor of the series - Australian Orchid Research, the scientific publication of the Australian Orchid Foundation, having overseen two volumes. After accepting an invitation in late 1998, David also joined the newly formed 'Orchid Specialist Group' of the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Species Survival Commission, being one of only four Australian delegates. This organisation's headquarters are at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the United Kingdom. He is also a Research Associate of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research - in conjunction with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. David has written many articles for Orchids Australia, where he served five years as Editorial Consultant, and his acclaimed photographs continue to appear in this and other domestic and international journals, as well as a number of books. Over one thousand of his images have been published to date. David is also one of the major photographers featured in the recent reference book, Orchids of the Philippines (2001) by Jim Cootes, where over 120 of his images are showcased. He has also served on the Publications Committee for the Australian Orchid Council. Recently, he has also contributed orchid features to Australia's popular Your Garden and Burke's Backyard magazines. David lectures extensively



throughout Australia and overseas at various workshops, society meetings and Orchid Conferences. He has already conducted ten successful international lec-

ture tours, the most extensive being in April-May 1999, after accepting an invitation to the USA and Canada. This was in conjunction with the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, Canada, where he presented a paper on "Australian Sarcocochilus Species and their Hybrids". His most recent lecture tours of the USA were in May 2001 and July 2001, including four dates in Hawaii. He has also conducted four tours of New Zealand, managing workshops, illustrated lectures and judging seminars - the most recent in March 2004. He will be doing 11 lectures in Texas and California (USA) in June 2004, with a further date at "Speakers Day" in New York in late October 2004. David also regularly appears on a number of television networks and radio stations, both in Australia and the USA, promoting orchids (plus other collectable plants), and has been seen on Burke's Backyard. David and his father Graeme, who is a Past President of the Australian Orchid Council and Past President and Registrar of Judges of the Orchid Society of New South Wales and recent recipient of the prestigious Order of Australia medal, trade as Hills District Orchids. They have a large collection of many different genera, with an extensive

catalogue of species orchids from around the world. David P. Banks' first book, Tropical Orchids of Southeast Asia, was published in 1999. His second book, Growing Orchids, was published by Kangaroo Press (an imprint of Simon & Schuster) and released in August 2001. It is now out-of-print, having sold out in less than two years. His third effort, the first of a planned series of four instalments - Orchids of Australia, Volume 1 by John J. Riley and David P. Banks was released in October 2002, being published by University of New South Wales Press. David wrote the orchid text for the major botanical opus, Flora - published in 2003. His next book, Orchids at Home, is due for release in late 2004.

Don't miss David's wonderful slides and great program about Australian Dendrobium and Sarcocochilus species and hybrids. He will be bringing orchids plants to sell. There will be MANY exclusive delights including first release mericlones of Australian bred cymbidiums and Sarcocochilus intergeneric hybrids - some of which have not yet been released in Australia. There will also be a grand selection of choice Australian and Exotic species orchids. David's preferred method of payment is cash, he does not take credit cards and there are to many bank charges in Australia for him to process checks (\$25.00 per check).

Pam Vinson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our April meeting was almost a milestone. Attendance reached one of its highest levels of recent memory. We had over 147 orchid addicts show up to absorb the nutritional information offered by Weyman Bussey and share in the fellowship of other orchidphiles.

Many thanks to each of you for your consideration and support during these meetings and for helping to create an atmosphere of learning, sharing and genuine interest in your fellow orchidists.

The hot weather months are now upon us. Plans should now be underway to protect heat sensitive plants from the onslaught of the summer sun. When exposed early in the year to the lengthening daylight and heat, many orchids flourish. However, most of them will continue to require some protection during the hottest portions of the day. It is often best to install some type of alarm device for those collections totally enclosed within a greenhouse. Planning and caution will keep us all from that wrenching discovery of a sunbaked and irreplaceable collection.

On another subject: the job of refreshment coordinator should be a fun and simple effort. Please be a willing volunteer. It is not necessary to assume you must feed the entire attendance, but since we all enjoy and look forward to a few snacks, just 3 or 4 volunteers each month will make that job so easy. Do your part. Even if you have not signed up for a particular month, bring a few goodies anyway. They are always welcome.

Hoping each of you have a safe and joyous summer, filled with blossoms of choice. Remember that our August workshop will soon be here. Make plans now to attend and to participate.

Greg Scott

JUNE NEWCOMERS

The June newcomers will meet Sunday the 13th At 2 pm. Don Ghiz, a local AOS awarded grower and student judge specializing in Cattleyas will host. Don's address is 3217 Amherst Houston TX 77581. I will have printed maps at the monthly meeting.

Newcomers wishes to thank Ric Hepler for hosting in May. A special thanks to Joe and Delores Fields for leading the meeting in my absence.

John Van Domelen
john@tropicalbloom.com

HOUSTON JUDGING CENTER

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

HOUSTON JUDGING CENTER

5/15/2004

There were 34 plants entered for judging with 4 awards:

1. Phal. I-Hsin Salmon 'Olympia' (Princess Midas x Kuntrarti Rarashati) AM 80, owned by Bill Tippit, Friendswood, TX
2. Lc. ___(Lc. Love Knot x L. anceps) 'Alicia' provisional HCC 78, owned by Millie Perner, Friendswood, TX
3. Cirr. osmophorum 'Jo's Gift' (species) provisional CHM, owned by Bill Tippit, Friendswood, TX
4. Enc. parviflora alba 'Albaluz' (species) provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX

There were 13 Accredited Judges, 3 Probationary Judges, 2 Student Judges and 1 Clerk present with a total of 29 attending.

The next regular judging will be held June 19, 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

IN MEMORIA

Its with a feeling of great sadness that I report the passing of Rebecca Tyson Northen on April 30, 2004.

Unquestionably one of the most recognizable and popular personalities in the orchid community, Rebecca, 93, was friend and educator to countless individuals throughout our fraternity. A trained biologist, Rebecca attended Radcliffe College and received an AB from Wayne State University and an MA from Mt. Holyoke College. With her late husband, a plant physiologist and professor of botany at the University of Wyoming, she traveled extensively in central and South America studying and collecting orchids in the wild. She spoke to hundreds of groups over the years, and her wonderful articles graced the pages of Popular Gardening, Flower Grower, Horticulture, and the American Orchid Society Bulletin. In addition to the orchid bible-- Home Orchid Growing -- Rebecca wrote Orchids as House Plants and co-authored with her husband The secret of the Green Thumb and The Complete Book of Greenhouse Gardening.

Personally, it was an honor and a privilege to have direct contact with this legend on more than a few occasions in the past decade and a half. On each occasion, Rebecca was always gracious, always giving and always upbeat. I could certainly see why her varied and rapt audiences always came away with on a smile and a lesson.

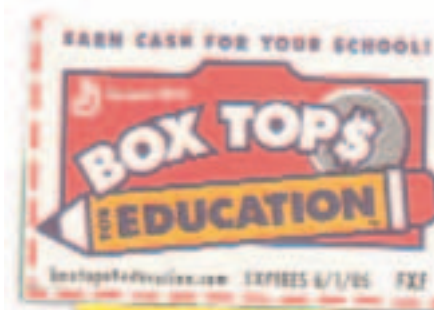
Rebecca joined the AOS in 1949. She received our organization's highest honor, the AOS Gold Medal of Achievement, in 1979. In 1999, at the Vancouver World Orchid Conference, she was presented with the AOS Certificate of Meritorious Achievement in Orchid Education. As her son, Phil, told me this afternoon, this incredibly classy woman had a very full life and generations of orchidists are, indeed, testimony to that fact.

At this point, the Northen family has not finalized details related to a memorial service, which will be in Des Moines, Washington, nor have they determined their preference for memorial gifts. I will pass both sets of details to you when I receive them.

I'm sure you join the AOS staff and Rebecca's countless friends throughout the world's orchid community in extending our deepest sympathies and prayers to Phil, Betty, Tom and the rest of the Northen family.

Lee Cooke - Executive Director, AOS

FREE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YOUR BOXTOPS. BRING THEM TO THE MEETINGS!



AOS CORNER**About the AOS -- Did you know?**

It would be impossible for anyone to tell you all there is to know about the American Orchid Society (AOS). But for starters, following are a few facts, some things you may not already know.

The American Orchid Society (AOS):

- Was officially founded on April 7, 1921 in Boston, Mass. (but began to form a year earlier when a group met on March 25, 1920 and decided it was a shame that an orchid group had not been started before).
- Is the largest organization in the world devoted exclusively to orchids.
- Is the largest horticultural specialty organization in the world.
- Has the largest number of national and international affiliated organizations of any orchid (and perhaps horticultural specialty) entry.
- Publishes the award-winning Orchids magazine (monthly publication received by AOS members – cannot be purchased anywhere else).
- Publishes several books (e.g., Your First Orchid, Growing Orchids, Orchid Pests and Diseases) and informational pamphlets (e.g., orchid conservation, orchid research).
- Publishes Awards Quarterly – The Essential Pictorial Encyclopedia of Orchids, the only periodical devoted solely to illustrating and describing the finest orchid flowers and overall plant culture, as recognized by the AOS awards system.
- Produced a series of educational videos, available to orchid societies.
- Offers, through toll-free and Internet access, an unrivaled selection of orchid books at members-only discounts, and the most educational and comprehensive orchid booklist (with more than 250 titles) in the world.
- Maintains an ever-growing, comprehensive repository for orchid-reference works, history, art and artifacts, which will one day compose the premier orchid resource center in the world.
- Is the sole distributor for the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids addenda in North and South America.
- Provides a first-class, interactive web site -- www.aos.org -- the ultimate online orchid-information resource, offering up-to-the-minute event schedules; orchid news, spectacular graphics, culture information; an active and popular Orchid Forum where visitors exchange ideas and seek help.
- Provides to all new members a free, information-filled newcomers' packet (including FAQs, culture sheets, Your First Orchid, etc.); the AOS Almanac, a one-stop information service (in concert with Orchid web) including data such as: Local Affiliated Societies; Orchid Source Directory; quick referral to resources; orchid-site addresses; international information, such as public orchid collections; network to special interest groups; import information; government-site addresses; calendar of events.

(The above information was gleaned from The American Orchid Society 1999 Membership and Speakers Directory)

The AOS is now located in Delray Beach, Florida where members and visitors are invited to enjoy the orchid garden, the gift shop, and register ahead to attend classes on orchid subjects, and more. The AOS is all of the above and oh-so-much-more. For your convenience, join at next HOS meeting. Visit with Jim Butler at the AOS booth, near the refreshment table. See you there!!

Melba Butler

NOTICE TO BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a short Board meeting at 6:15 PM in the Azelia Room prior to the regular June meeting.

Greg Scott

Reminder: Thank the Following for the April Refreshments Table

Coordinator: Sarah Bentley and Linda Livesay
Deborah and Gary Beck 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

Guest Hospitality	Theresa Riggs Claudia Hanson
Happenings Editor	Don Ghiz
Newcomers Group	John Van Domelen
Librarian	Deana Roberts
Petals and Wings	Sheila Skov Laurie Skov
Plant Raffle	Dennis Tomjack
Spring Show Co-Chairs	Jay Balchan Don Ghiz
Refreshments Co-Chairs	Sarah Bentley Linda Livesay
Silent Auction	Emily Lam-Jones
2004 Workshop Chair	Kelly Moseley
Webmistress	Nina Rach
Parliamentarian	Linda Brandenberger

Directors

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

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HOUSTON HAPPENINGS
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

JUNE 2004 ISSUE

