

# The Houston Happenings

## The Houston Orchid Society's Monthly Newsletter

### **MAY 6, 2004 MEETING**

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

**Speaker:** Weyman Bussey, Abunda Flora  
**Program:** Native Mexican Species Orchids

### **APRIL/MAY CALENDAR**

#### **April 29-May 10. HOS's 'Petals and Wings' Cockrell Butterfly Center - Hermann Park**

Loaner Plants needed. HOS will set up an educational display upstairs, above the Butterfly Center. Laurie and Sheila Skov will personally maintain the orchids daily. To make arrangements, please call them at 281-286-1471 or let them know by email at [www.orchidsandtropicals@msn.com](mailto:www.orchidsandtropicals@msn.com)

#### **FIESTA HOUSTON SHOW AWARD WINNERS**

- Best grown from classes 102-104, Alabama Orquidario for Epi. Stamford
- Best flower from 102-104, ABC Orchids for Epi. Hokulea
- Best flower from classes from classes 110-116, Renee' & Marvin Gerber for Bc. Hippodamia "Hunabu" HCC/AOS
- Best grown plant from classes 122-138, Galveston Orchid Society for C. violacea "Muse" FCC/AOS
- Best flower from classes 122-138, Galveston Orchid Society for C. violacea "Muse" FCC/AOS
- Best grown plant from 201-210, The Orchid Konnection for Paph. Susan Booth "Select"
- Best flower from classes 201-210, HOS, for Phrag. Mont Fallu
- Best grown plant from classes 302-318, Orchids Plus for Trichoglottis breviacema
- Best flower for classes 302-318, HOS for Ascda. Leopard (Frazzle Dazzle)
- Best grown plant from classes 325-343, Olympia Orchids for Phal. Maraldee "Plantation" AM/AOS
- Best flower from classes for 325-343, Olympia Orchids for Phal. Maraldee "Plantation" AM/AOS
- Best grown plant from 402-430, HOS Newcomers for Onc. sphacelatum
- Best flower from classes 402-430, Deana Roberts for Bllr. Marfitch
- Best grown plant from classes 602-616, Jim & Melba Butler for Den. Wonder Nishii
- Best flower from classes 602-616, ABC Orchids for Haleahi Twist X Johannis var. nigrensis
- Best Grown plant from classes 702-716, Palmer Orchids for Mediocalar Decoratum
- Best flower from 702-716, (Large-greater than 2.5 cm.), Galveston Orchid Society for Phaius Dan Rosenberg



Weyman Bussey will be our guest speaker this month. Born in Germany and raised in Florida, Weyman was a normal kid who liked everything about nature, from tropical fish to birds. Then he collected his first orchid in the Big Cypress swamps on a Boy Scout camping trip. His notoriety even got him a brief mention in the *Orchid Thief*, the popular book by Susan Orleans. He grew up in the same

town as Milton Carpenter and worked part time for Milton. He is a grad of the University of Florida, where he studied Botany and Ornamental Horticulture with his major professor Dr. Tom Sheehan. After college he spent four years in Colombia setting up a tropical foliage nursery, and looking for orchids!

Weyman lives in Mission, TX with his wife, Albaluz, and two boys. There they have set up a small nursery, Abunda Flora, to distribute plants from Mexico. His oldest, Laelia, (I wonder why he named her that?) studies law in Washington DC.

You will receive a brief psychotherapeutic introduction, be asked to participate in the talk and be rewarded with floor prizes. Don't be shy or think you don't know anything, you'll get an easy to follow handout with all of the answers in it. The presentation will involve a short slide show of the most beautiful, easiest to grow orchids of Mexico which will do well in your area with a minimum of care. Finally you will be able to purchase plants mentioned in the talk at very reasonable prices and ask him personally how to take care of them. As Weyman says the company is not called ABUNDA FLORA for nothing!

**Pam Vinson**

*(Con't on page 4)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

April has been the most orchid filled month most of us have experienced in a long, long time. From the legendary visit of Madge and Frank Fordyce, the ten day orchid sale during Galleria's Primavera, and the grand finale of our Fiesta Houston at Memorial City Mall—just typing this passed agenda makes me tired—the Houston Orchid Society strutted its stuff and in big fashion.

Nothing could have been accomplished without the extreme dedication of our volunteers. Kudos to the many of you who did so much. I do want to personally thank Don Ghiz and Melba and Jim Butler for masterminding and keeping the polish on the HOS for La Primavera. We had great exposure.

Fiesta Houston—the many hours that Don Ghiz and Jay Balchan devoted to the myriad of details—you just have to had been there to appreciate this adventure—is beyond what most of us could envision, must less achieve. These types of folk are what makes growing orchids such a wonderfilled hobby.

Extra thanks to Joe Fields who always works so hard and so silently to achieve such results with the floor allocation for exhibits and vendors. What a gentle giant of a man, always there and always willing!

To the membership itself, so many thanks—I was especially proud of the newcomer exhibit and the HOS exhibit. Fr. Ted and John VanD, many thanks for a job well done! Congratulations to each of the others who exhibited. You did the HOS great justice.

I would like to encourage each of you to take on the Petals and Wings, ongoing until May 10th, with the same enthusiasm and dedication that you've shown for the Spring Show and Primavera events.

My final note is to thank our long time members, Weldon and La Verne Kettler for their generous donation of orchid plants for the unspecified benefit of the HOS. What a great way to welcome the month of May.

**Greg Scott**

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## APRIL PLANT TABLE

We'll all have to work hard at forging Fr. Ted, but no report was submitted.

*Editor*

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## MAY NEWCOMERS

The May newcomers will meet Sunday the 16th at 2 pm. Ric Hepler, a local grower specializing in Paphs will host. The Hepler's address is 2505 Mary Avenue, Pearland TX 77581. Printed maps will be available at the May meeting. Joe and Dolores Fields will coordinate since I will be unavailable for the meeting.

Newcomers wishes to thank all those who helped with the newcomers display – the plants, advice and helping hands all made a big difference. Special thanks go to Sandra Higham and Doug and Nanette George. With all the wonderful help, the Newcomers took many ribbons and trophies.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who contributed plants to the Newcomers. They are much appreciated.

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

## HOUSTON JUDGING CENTER

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

### IPA Workshop and Judging 3/27/2004

There were 34 plants entered, 9 nominated and 2 awarded:

1. Phal. Tristar Peoker 'Friendswood' (Salu Spot x Golden Peoker) AM 80, Stones River Orchids, (Tom Harper), Franklin, TN
2. Paph\_\_\_\_ (Luther Slaughter x Flame Arrow) 'Friendswood', prov. HCC 76, Stones River Orchids (Tom Harper), Franklin, TN

There were 9 Accredited Judges, 4 Probationary Judges and 2 Student Judges present.

### HOS Show 4/16/2004

There were 427 plants entered in the show with 25 nominated for AOS judging and 3 awards:

1. Phal. Brother Lancer 'Lynda' (Brother Buddha x Plantation Polkadot) JC, owned by Paul & Lynda Brandenberger, Friendswood, TX
2. Phrag. Mount Fallu 'Ruby Reed' (longifolium x Grande) HCC 76, owned by Doug Harris, Houston, TX
3. Phal. Nobby's Amy 'Remar' (Be Glad x Rothschildiana) HCC 77, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX

### Houston Judging Center 4/17/2004

There were 11 plants entered with 5 awards:

1. Onc. Dollar Reef 'Sundance' [Robsan x desertorum (guianense)] HCC 78, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
2. Onc. Sun Drops 'Sundance' [Golden Sunset x desertorum (guianense)] HCC 76, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
3. C. Granier's Blue Elegance 'Jewel' (Minerva x Mrs. Myra Peeters) AM 81, owned by Ervin & Carol Granier, St. Gabriel, LA
4. C. Granier's Success 'Blue Destiny' (Mrs. Myra Peeters x walkeriana) HCC 75, owned by Ervin & Carol Granier, St. Gabriel, LA
5. C. Heathii 'Blue Prince' (loddigesii x walkeriana) HCC 78, owned by Ervin & Carol Granier, St. Gabriel, LA

There were 13 Accredited Judges, 6 Probationary Judges, 3 Student Judges and 1 Clerk present with a total of 29 attending.

The next regular judging will be held May 15, 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 researched prior to judging.

**Marg Putman**

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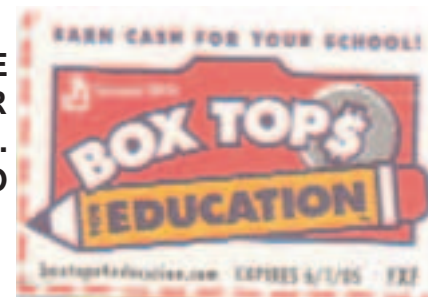
## QUIZ QUESTION

What plant from the Mascarene Islands is/was used to make Bourbon Tea, also known as Faham Tea?

**Nina Rach**

(Answer on page 4.)

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



**2004 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE**

New Membership Directories are ready and will be available for pick up at the HOS Meeting. I will ask that you sign a form that you have picked up your directory so that I will know who has not received their copy. A few members that are unable to come to meetings have asked that I mail them a copy. As this an extra cost to our budget, I will not be mailing many. Should you find an error in your information, please let me know either by mail, e-mail or phone call. If, you do not find your name in the directory, it is because you did not pay your dues and will need to reapply for membership.

**NEW MEMBERS - DIRECTORY UPDATES****Brian White**

4506 Stanford Ct, Houston, TX 77041  
281-300-9466  
*brianwhite@ev1.net*

**Doug & Edith Davies**

1400 Hermann Dr, 11D (office) 1400 Hermann Dr, 3E (home)  
Houston, TX 77004  
713-520-9173 home 713-527-8684 office  
*doughdwd@earthlink.com*

**George Cabigon, Jr**

13422 Chipman Glen Dr  
Houston TX 77082  
281-531-7618 home 281-517-1000 wk

**Sami Cronin**

11827 Sleepy Hollow  
Conroe, TX 77385  
932-661-7805  
*sjcronin@gba-inc.com*

**Cathie Fisher**

3638 Tartan Ln  
Houston, TX 77025  
713-569-5695 home 713-961-3993 wk  
*cfisher@ccschouston.com*

**RENEWALS****Bruce A Cameron**

6215 Knollwood Trail  
Spring, TX 77373  
281-784-1738 home 281-272-1669 wk  
*bacameron@adnov.com*

**Posey Parker**

4103 Lauark  
Houston, TX 77025  
713-666-0280 home 713-829-0129 cell  
*p.parker@burtonlafimevco.com*

**Alex Rippetoe**

15550 Kingfield #1512  
Houston, TX 77084  
281-855-1754  
*arippetoe@houston.rr.com*

**Chris & Estee Burnett**

13019 Wickersham Ln  
Houston, TX 77077  
281-959-8929  
*estee\_burnett@hotmail.com*

**2004 DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS**

Adams, Rick & Laurie 1st e-mail chg pablo90512@aol.com ( the only chg was in the # )

Butler, Jim & Melba e-mail melbajim@sbcglobal.net (take the dot out between sbc & global)

Fisher, Tim (spelling of last should be Fischer = add a c between s & h)

Haase, Denny & Renee drop Pam, this is now a 2person mbrshp and change zip code to 77389-4493

Hepler, Richard & Melinda have a new address and phone: 2505 Mary Ave. Pearland, TX 77581  
Phone 281-992-0431

Kitchens, Gerald change in phone 281-470-8140

LaForge, Anne has new info: 11555 FM 471 West #12, San Antonio, TX 78253  
Cell 713-444-5858 – home 210-688-9343

Miller, Holly has an e-mail address now hollymil@earthlink.net (she just forgot to put it on the form)

Skov, Laurie & Russell should read as Skov, Laurie, Sheila & Russell (Laurie is husband, Sheila is wife & Russell is son)

**Mavis Klehm****MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

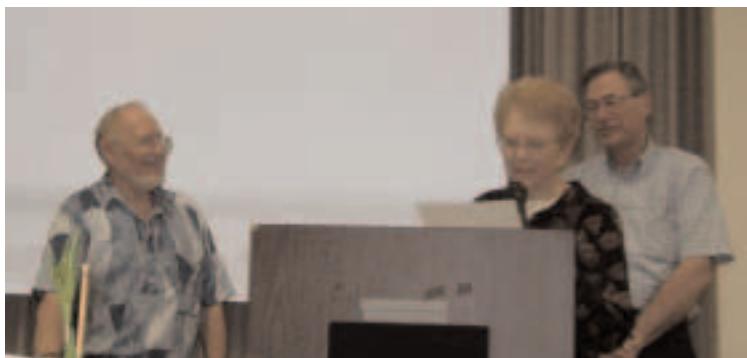
April 29-May 10. Petals and Wings, Houston Cockrell Butterfly Center. Contact: Laurie or Sheila Skov (281) 286-1471 or [www.orchidsandtropicals@msn.com](http://www.orchidsandtropicals@msn.com)

April 30-May 2. Terrebonne Orchid Society Show, Houma, LA. Contact: Brenda Daigle (985) 851-0193 or [bgdaigle@charter.net](mailto:bgdaigle@charter.net)

June 4-6. New Orleans Orchid Society Show. Lakeside Mall, Metairie, LA. Contact: Alice Barrios (504) 227-1127 or [orchidgal@cox.net](mailto:orchidgal@cox.net)

July 9-11. Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show, Baton Rouge Garden Center, Baton Rouge, LA. Contact James Jeansonne (225) 275-8103 or [jamesmj@cox.net](mailto:jamesmj@cox.net)

Aug. 6-7. Houston Orchids Society Fall Workshop. Contact. Kelly Moseley (281) 208-8154 or [kelly.moseley@roche.com](mailto:kelly.moseley@roche.com)

**SWROGA News**

Frank Fordyce, our April speaker (left), is recognized for his accomplishments in orchid hybridizing by Donna Craig, and Marvin Gerber. Both Donna and Marvin are past presidents of AOS.

*(Con't on next column)*

(From front page)

Best flower for 702-716, (small, equal or less than 2.5 cm.), HOS for Dendrochilum Wenzelii  
 Best of the best grown plants from 106, 118, 140, 212, 320, 345, 432, 618, 718, HOS Newcomers for Onc. spachelatum  
 Best interpretive arrangement, Renee Haas  
 Best amateur exhibit, Randall Shanks  
 Best commercial floor exhibit, Olympia Orchids  
 Best commercial tabletop or cut flower exhibit, ABC Orchids  
 Best educational exhibit, Fields Orchid Lab  
 Best orchid collectible exhibit, Nina Rach  
 Best orchid art exhibit, Orchid Portraits  
 AOS Trophy, Houston Orchid Society  
 ODC Trophy, Marvin and Renee' Gerber  
 Sundance Trophy, Marvin and Renee' Gerber  
 Best Private Exhibit, Marvin and Renee' Gerber  
 Sundance Trophy, Marvin and Renee' Gerber  
 Best Group Exhibit, HOS Newcomers  
 Best Society Floor Exhibit, 50 ft.+, Galveston Orchid Society

**Dolores Fields**

## QUIZ ANSWER

**Jumellea (Angraecum) fragrans**, which apparently has fragrant leaves.

References:

1. U.P. Hedrick, editor. 1919. Sturtevant's Notes on Edible Plants. Report of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station for the Year 1919 II. Albany, J.B Lyon Company, State Printers.

2. Luigi Berliocchi. 2000. The Orchid in Lore and Legend. Portland: Timber Press.

"Bourbon tea [came] from the Mascarene Islands, including Mauritius and Reunion, the former Bourbon. It reached its peak of glory in the drawing rooms of European capitals during the nineteenth century and consisted of an infusion from several types of orchids."

3. Mauritius Endemic Orchids, <http://www.orchids.mu/Mauritius.htm>, "The leaves of Angraecum fragrans are called Faham Leaves, belonging to the Orchidaceae. They have a strong and delicious aroma, and a sharp, aromatic taste. Introduced at one time in France as a substitute for ordinary tea (boubon tea, syn. faham tea). Fifteen grains are infused in a cup of cold water, brought to a boil for 10 minutes, poured into a closed container, and sweetened when partaken of. It comes from Mauritius and the Isle of Reunion, and contains coumarin. It is said to have a sedating effect on the nervous system and is used as a medicinal plant."

4. Moonraker. 2003. "This is an orchid indigenous to the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, in particular La Réunion. Although it appears to be a protected species, live specimens can occasionally be found for sale in local markets, usually sold dried in a small packet, along with other local herbs and spices, such as cinnamon leaf, cloves, tonka beans and so on, and is used to flavour the local over-proof rum, whence the drink becomes known as "rhum arrangé". It imparts a strange and unforgettable taste to the drink. The flowers look like small white narrow-winged moths."

Does anyone grow this in Houston?

**Nina**

## LIBRARIANS REPORT

It is interesting to note that two of my greatest passions are orchids and reading and while I love read, I have never thought myself to be a librarian, however I will now call myself the "Library Lady".

This being the first article of it's kind, I thought that I would start with a book especially for NEWCOMERS, and a good read for those who have been in orchids a while as well.

Rebecca Tyson Northen's book, "*Home Orchids Growing*". This is a book that you will hear Renee and Marvin Gerber recommend over and over, as they say this is how they learned to grow orchids. I admit to having a fat little plastic pouch filled with the tags of orchids I have killed. Since I have joined HOS I fill the pouch with less frequency than before.

Mrs. Northen covers all the how to basics of how to including fertilizing by use of the Hosun siphon system, and the Hydromis jars, especially useful is an easy to understand section on how to figure the ratio of mix for both liquid and dry fertilizer. The illustrations in the book for identifying leaves with scale, virus, bug infestation, too little water and too much water is exceptionally helpful for someone new to the hobby. While this book is not a quick read and I must admit that I do not see myself every getting into breeding and propagation she does spend quite of bit of time covering this subject. All in all for someone who is new to orchid growing this is book is a must to check out and photo copy and perhaps one should consider purchasing this book as a home reference.

I heard a number of folks at the HOS show at Memorial City Mall this month talk about their lack of success with growing Cymbidiums and Slipper orchids. A great read for tips and help with this is a book in our collection by JN Rentoul "*Growing Orchids, Book 1. Cymbidiums and Slippers*" and I would highly recommend this book to those who have had difficulties with this genre as it concentrates on cymbidium and slipper orchids and it is written for both the amateur and the expert. It offers techniques of propogation, the proper medium to be used, the choice of containers, how to obtain the right atmosphere and many other subjects covered in this comprehensive guide. Lots of color and black and white illustrations make this a practical "how to" book for all.

**Deana Roberts**



Newcomers exhibit interests spectators with its balance, plant diversity, and focal attraction to it's star, *Onc. spachelatum*, flowing into center of exhibit.

**AOS CORNER**

By the time the May Happenings is mailed, some HOS members will have traveled to Wichita, Kansas to attend the spring AOS and SWROGA meetings and, God willing, returned safely back home.

In the meantime, as announced in the March issue of Orchids magazine, AOS is raising its membership dues on June 1, 2004. **THIS IS THE FIRST INCREASE IN FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS!** It is certainly justified, when we realize that just about EVERYTHING else in our world has gone up in price since the last time membership dues were increased. For a really good explanation, go to page 248 of the April 2004 issue of Orchids! Before it's too late, see Jim Butler at the May AOS meeting to take advantage of the old membership rates. This will be the last chance to sign up for an AOS membership at a Houston Orchid Society meeting before the new rates go into effect on June 1, 2004.

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>June 1</u>
US Single	One year	\$40	\$46.50
US Joint	One year	\$50	\$58.50
US Single	Two years	\$72	\$84
US Joint	Two Years	\$92	\$107
Non-US Single	One Year	\$48	\$56
Non-US Joint	One Year	\$58	\$67.50
Non-US Single	Two Years	\$88	\$102.50
Non-US Joint	Two Years	\$108	\$126

Also, visit the AOS website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for a tremendous amount of information and beautiful orchid photos!! In the meantime, have a wonderful time with your orchids for the remainder of May.

*Melba Butler*

**SHOW POSTER A WINNER**

Those of you that enjoyed the poster for this year's Fiesta Houston won't be surprised to learn that it won Third Place in a national poster contest conducted by Internation Paper Corp, the manufacturer of the paper. Denny Haase, who donated the paper on behalf of Bosworth Paper, entered the poster into the contest. Mike Wu, the Art Institute of Houston student who designed the poster, and Denny Haase, are both to be congratulated. Full details of the contest awards are not yet known.

*Don Ghiz, Show Co-Chair*

**Primavera – BIG Success – Thank You!**

The Primavera at the Galleria was a lot of fun and work but I believe all would say it was a great success! HOS was able to promote orchids, HOS, AOS, and sell orchids as well as promote our show that took place at Memorial City this past weekend. I send a special thanks to Don Ghiz, Jay Balchan, Bill Bartlett, and all who contributed! You know who you are and I won't forget you and how hard you worked! The shifts were well covered and I didn't have to call anyone or beg for help. It was wonderful! Thank you to each of you who helped. Primavera was a wonderful experience in orchids, flowers, exhibits and landscapes. Primavera at the Galleria was a great success for HOS! I hope we can do it again next year!

*Jim Butler*

**Reminder: Thank the Following for the April Refreshments Table**

Coordinator: Sarah Bentley and Linda Livesay  
 Punch/Drinks: Doug and Edith Davies  
 Sheet Cake: Doug and Edith Davies  
 Cookies: Doug and Edith Davies  
 Snacks: Doug and Edith Davies  
 Snacks: Doug and Edith Davies

**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](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)

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**HOUSTON HAPPENINGS**  
Houston Orchid Society  
Don Ghiz - *editor*  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**MAY 2004 ISSUE**



Marvin and Renee Gerber frame their award winning exhibit, one of many fantastic extries in the Spring Fiesta Houston Show. See awards on front page for details.



Tom Harper, guest speaker at the IPA meeting in Friendswood, took two AOS awards back home to Franklin, TN. See Houston Judging Center article, page 2, for details.



It may look like Bill Tippit is crooning the others, who are having trouble staying awake, but in reality it's IPA's panel of experts, pondering the answer to a question from the audience. From left to right, Jerry Stephens, Marvin Gerber, Tom Harper and the host, Bill Tippit.