

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Houston Orchid Society, Houston, Texas

Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice President



Photo (left): April 2006 Speaker, Ernie Gemeinhart; Topic: "Growing Under Lights"

Ernie, born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Marine Biology and Aquaculture from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. He

spent three years of graduate study at the George Washington University and National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, investigating the evolutionary biology and taxonomy of freshwater, South American catfish in the genus *Corydoras*. He currently works as a laboratory manager and technician in the Biomedical Polymer Sciences Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, performing research using polymers for targeted, controlled-release cancer treatments and directed cell growth for tissue regeneration.

Ernie is a student AOS judge at the Chicago judging center in his third year of training. He has been growing orchids under fluorescent lights since 1997. He grows primarily Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Phalaenopsis/Doritis/Doritaenopsis, and mini and compact Cattleyas. In his spare time, aside from maintaining over 1,000 orchids under fluorescent lights in a dedicated 8'x10' second story room and unique garage growing room, Ernie likes to spend time with his wife, two toy poodles, and three cats; brew beer; keep tropical fish; play volleyball and roller hockey; and SCUBA dive as a PADI-certified Divemaster.

What does he bring along for sale? Mostly Paphs, then Phals, Phrags, and other weird things that are doable under fluorescents (compact growing and/or low light stuff, mostly like Cochleanthes, Zygos and intergeneric Zygos, mini and compact Catts...even some Paravanda clones!). How about this for Texas -- "warmth tolerant" complex Paphs?! He also totes around assorted supplies like mixes, fertilizers, pots, etc. If you need dry goods, preordering is strongly recommended as he usually packs small amounts in the cracks and crevices that the plants don't fill!

*Source: the above biographical information comes from Ernie's commercial website at www.enlightenedorchids.com. Check out Ernie's site to see his offerings, including orchids and supplies, and some great Paphiopedilum photos!

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The Houston Orchid Society was established in 1945 and is a recipient of the AOS Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award.



On With the Show

By Terri Palmer, HOS Spring Show Publicity Chair

The Houston Orchid Society, now completing its 61st year, proudly presents the **May 2006 Houston Flower and Plant Expo!**

The Expo, including the HOS "Orchid Show Downtown Houston," will be held **May 5-7, 2006** at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Avenidas de las Americas Houston, Texas; Exhibit Hall C on Level I.

Thousands of blooming plants will be displayed by domestic and international growers, hobbyists, and local plant societies. You will be surprised to see so many varied shapes, sizes, colors and fragrances! Seminars and workshops will be scheduled throughout the Expo.

Hours:

Friday Show	May 5 th	Noon to 6pm
Friday Sale	May 5 th	10am to 7pm
Saturday Show & Sale	May 6 th	10am to 7pm
Sunday Show & Sale	May 7 th	10am to 5pm

For more information call Don Ghiz at 713-661-1885 or Terri Palmer at 713-472-1364 -OR- visit the Expo website at: www.houstonflowershow.com.

President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

Writing this article sets a time for me each month to assess changing growing conditions. At this month's writing, both day and night temperatures have risen to the point that most of my plants are happy to get out into the open -- good timing as my plastic is starting to rip. The Crepe Mertyls have their first leaves, and the Plumerias are leafing with some even in early bloom - all just in time for the hanging orchids which will need shade.

I'm no longer sending Sheila off to work in the dark. The Dendrobiums and Catts are responding to the increased daylight by sending out new growth. The day-to-day swings in humidity tell me that it's not yet summer. I still watch for watering needs on days with really low humidity, knowing that it will soon be a constant 90%. No matter what month of the year, each grower looks forward to the individual orchid's "scheduled" bloom time. Growers with larger collections are blessed with year-round blooms.

Don and his Show Committee Chairs are excitedly preparing as our Show date gets closer. We all wonder whether our special orchid will be in flower in time. The Rose Society members are also wondering whether our May date will match the window of their first flowers.

At the last meeting, our membership responded well to Dolores Field's request for Show Clerks. Please be as positive when other Show Committee Chairs ask for help.

Finally, note that our May "meeting" will be an all-day event at the George R. Brown show site all day on Thursday, May 4th from 7:30am-. There will be an opportunity to learn, have some fun, and contribute to the Show set-up. Please plan to bring your plants to add to the HOS display.

Recap: March 2006

Speaker: Renee Gerber

Topic: *The Fruits of Summer*

Renee Gerber presented a colorful slide presentation called, "The Fruits of Summer," which incorporated Renee's passion for orchids, family, friends and food. Renee noted a number of orchids that she and Marvin have had success with as summer bloomers -- see next month's newsletter for her complete list.

Plant Table Winners:

Hybrid: *Phal 'Sweet' (amabilis x [Coral Nosa x equestris])*, Owner/Grower: Susan Dally

Species: *Schomburgkia superbiens*, Owner/Grower: Jean Finalle

Susan Dally and Jean Finalle are the Plant Table winners for March 2006. Thanks to Susan and Jean and to all who contributed to the March Plant Table for our enjoyment!

Winners' Tips

with March 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Susan Dally and Jean Finalle



Hybrid Winner: *Phal 'Sweet' (amabilis x [Coral Nosa x equestris])*, by Susan Dally

I purchased this plant a year ago from Norman's Orchids. This is one of my favorites because it is the only Phal I have that has a fragrance. I have it potted in a charcoal/spongerock/Pro-mix medium. I switch between Peter's, Dyna-Gro, Schultz's and just clear water when fertilizing, with the watering cycle varying widely during the year (5 to 15 days) depending on how fast the plants dry. This plant grows indoors in a solarium room among other *Phalaenopsis* plants getting very bright indirect light most of the year and some direct light in the winter. I have no pest problems with this plant.

Species Winner: *Schomburgkia superbiens*, by Jean Finalle

This is one of a few *Schomburgkia superbiens* that I grow. All my *Schomburgkias* are grown outside and brought inside during the winter months. I have had this plant for only a few years, and it is my youngest.

I have a hard time blooming my *Schomburgkia* plants in time for meetings! This one is mounted on a log, given full sun all year long and watered every other day, with a mild mix of Jack's 16-4-20-3-1 water-soluble fertilizer with cal/mag, seaweed extract and Everclear. Because this plant began developing a large spike last summer, Denny and Renee Haase gave it a winter home inside their greenhouse (thank you very much Denny and Renee!). I also use Merit 75wp once a month to keep my plants pest free. *Schombos* are relatively easy and fun to grow, but, because of the size of the spike, they take a lot of space to bloom.



Hybrid: *Phal 'Sweet' (amabilis x [Coral Nosa x equestris])*, Owner/Grower: Susan Dally



Species: *Schomburgkia superbiens*, Owner/Grower: Jean Finalle

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Judging Results
March 18, 2006

There were 46 plants entered for judging with 37 nominated and 10 AOS awards:

1. Phalaenopsis Sunrise Red Peoker 'Remar' (Golden Peoker x Kuntrarti Rarashati) AM 84 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
2. Doritaenopsis Mount Lip 'Nobby' (Phal. South Cha-Li x Dtps. Mount Beauty) AM 81 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
3. Zygolum Louisendorf 'Rhein Harlekin' (Zygosepalum labiosum x Zygopetalum Artur Elle) AM 80 points, owned by Nina Rach, Houston, TX
4. Laeliocatonia Party Time 'Remar' (Lc. Mari's Song x Ctna. Capri) HCC 79 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
5. Brassavola Aristocrat 'Supreme' (glauca x digbyana) HCC 78 points, owned by Greg & Irma Scott, Houston, TX
6. Paphiopedilum glanduliferum var. wilhimiinae 'Irma Scott' (species) HCC 78 points, owned by Greg & Irma Scott, Houston, TX
7. Paphiopedilum lowii 'Holly' (species) HCC 78 points, owned by Holly Miller, Houston, TX
8. Tolumnia Lonesome Reef 'Sundance' (Sundown Reef x Hawaiian Sunset) HCC 76 points, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
9. Phal.__(Everspring King x Rafifi) 'Tien-Nong' provisional HCC 77 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
10. Bulbophyllum ruginosum 'Vera Cruz' (species) provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX

There were 16 Accredited Judges, 1 Probationary Judge, 5 Student Judges with a total of 34 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held **April 15, 2006** at the Jerebeck Athletic Center, Room 202, St. Thomas University, 4000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston, TX 77006. Plants must be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly

About AOS Awards

The American Orchid Society (AOS) grants awards to encourage and recognize meritorious achievement in all fields of orchid endeavors in accordance with the established rules set out in the *Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*. There are awards for flower quality, excellence of culture, advancements in hybridizing, botanical interest and other recognition-worthy aspects. There are also prestigious specialty awards granted annually for exceptional plants singled out as the best of the best from each year's awards.

Award Explanation for March 2006 HJC Results

AM (Award of Merit)

A flower scoring 80 to 89 points on a 100-point scale. This flower-quality award is a fine, though lesser, achievement than the FCC (First Class Certificate).

AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

Here are a few news tidbits from the AOS:

- The AOS website – www.aos.org – is one of the most popular websites in the horticultural community. In addition to consistently achieving status amongst the top-three rankings in all popular search engines (e.g., Google) for keyword “orchids,” the AOS website is receiving, on average, 115,000 “visits” and 3 million “hits” each month! That’s a lot of traffic!
- Sadly, a great many volunteer leaders of local societies aren’t familiar with the myriad tools and services that are available to official AOS-affiliated societies. From help with marketing your show and getting it AOS judged, to getting assistance with your society’s newsletter, and securing wholesale discounts to help you with fundraising efforts, benefits are plentiful! Be informed, and help us help your society grow.
- If you are visiting the South Florida area during the next few months, be sure to check out the events and classes being held at the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Gardens. Visit www.aos.org for more information.
- The 2006 Spring AOS members meeting to be held in Orlando April 5-9 is approaching. If you have never attended, or even if you have, you should consider it. The event will be hosted by the Central Florida OS and will feature internationally known speakers. There will be an orchid show, of course, and 30 vendors from Venezuela, Brazil, Japan, Europe and the U.S. will be selling orchids! Check out the website at www.aosorchidmagic.com.

HCC (Highly Commended Certificate)

The HCC is granted to a flower scoring 75 to 79 points on a 100-point scale. The great majority of awarded orchids receive this award, which implies that, while the flower is outstanding, there is room for improvement.

CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition)

Awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest; granted provisionally and filed with the judging center Chair pending the exhibitor's supplying full taxonomic verification by a taxonomist acceptable to the AOS.

Source: excerpts from the AOS website at <http://aos.org/aos/judging/page01.aspx>; for more information about AOS judging and awards, visit <http://aos.org/aos/judging/default.aspx>.



Culture Q&A

HOS Culture Q&A Panel: Ted Baenziger, Jay Balchan, Dolores Fields, Joe Fields, Marvin Gerber, Renee Gerber, Doug Harris, Rick Hepler, Julius Klehm, Nina Rach, and Greg Scott.

Q: I have read several pieces where they talk about how important it is to have your plants in the same potting mix. I take it that it is so your plants dry out at the same rate. How vital do you think this is?

A: Yes, that is a good approach to have, except if you have different types of plants, they may need different types of potting media -- for example, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum and Vandas will require slightly, if not totally, different potting mixes. Then, to complicate matters further, all pot sizes are not the same and will dry out differently. Commercial growers can pretty well do this with a crop of plants, as they will move them along at the same rate and in the same mix. The idea is to watch your plants and to "feel" when they need watering. Some plants like to be kept on the moist side and others on the dry side. --Julius Klehm

A: Actually, I do not think that you want all your plants to dry out at the same rate. This is because Paphs, Phals, and other plants, with no ability to store moisture or nutrients, never want to be completely dry. This is not the case with Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, and Oncidiums, which have pseudobulbs.

You can control the rate at which your plants dry by varying the potting medium, pot material (clay pots dry faster, plastic pots dry slower), pot size (small pots dry faster, large pots dry slower) and location in your greenhouse. We normally water our entire greenhouse once a week and then water those plants requiring additional moisture again on day three or four. --Marvin Gerber

A: Having your plants dry out at the same rate is only a help for the person watering! If you are able to selectively water or segregate the plants based on their dry-out time, then there is no need to worry about having the same mix. Some people like to have only a few plants dry out each day which they need to water, rather than watering the whole collection at once.

You need to consider, though, that even if you pot them in the same mix, the dry-out time depends on a lot of other factors like the size of the pot, the amount of roots in the mix, the location of the pot relative to fans, the material the pot is made out of, how decomposed the material is, and probably many other things.

Personally, I use all kinds of different mixes. I'm always tinkering with them. They all dry out at different rates; some plants are a bit dry when I water and some are probably still moist. But that's the way it is...the plants learn to cope, or I don't have them very long! If I was a big commercial nursery,

then I would need to get optimum growth, but since I'm not, the plants may not grow as well, but it is more fun for me, and the plants get more personal attention in the long run. --Jay Balchan

A: Potting media should be matched with the orchid and pot size. Seedlings with smaller roots should have media mix that is appropriate for the plant's roots.

Those orchids which require constant moist conditions still must receive oxygen at the root area, but the mix can include more moisture-retentive components.

Phragmipediums which require constant moisture at the roots can be potted with components which retain water, but still need to receive aeration at the roots. Phrags like caudatum, warcewiczianum, and wallisii grow best with conditions allowing partial drying before re-watering occurs. Many hybrids with parents in the long-petaled phrags also prefer such media. Mine are potted in a mixture of ½-inch diameter sponge rock (big perlite), ½-inch pieces of charcoal, plus roughly an equal part of fine peat moss.

On the other hand, many Cattleya, and larger-rooted orchids like media which is very airish, like large bark pieces. If you use fir bark in your media, plan on repotting every year because of bacterial decomposition that occurs rapidly here on the Gulf coast. --Doug Harris

A: It is a start toward good culture. Use the same medium, same pot size, same pot type and the same plant types in groups. We need to water when plants first need water. Phals should never completely dry out, whereas Cattleyas and many others need to dry. Also, when a new plant arrives in your greenhouse, you should repot. Most, if not all, purchased plants need repotting. Examine the roots and plant during the repotting, and treat any problems.

When working with different pot sizes, realize that large pots stay wet in the middle longer than smaller pots. One way to prevent root-rot in the middle of a large pot is to turn a small clay pot upside down over the center drain hole of a large pot and fill with plant and medium. The center of the large pot will dry quicker. With time, you can adjust the size of the small clay pot so that the large pot dries evenly.

Remember to always treat all plants as if they are virused. Sterilize all tools before and after repotting. --Joe Fields

A: This is not a question of "how vital," but rather a concern for "how much time does one have to water each plant differently?" When potting all the same types of plants in the

same mix, maintenance is held to a minimum. On the other hand, different genera respond differently to the same mix so the grower has to be aware of the individual plant's needs.

--Greg Scott

Q: I've noticed some tiny black spots on the back of some of the leaves of a baby Cattleya I have. The plant looks healthy overall. I've noticed this before on some other plants also -- a Brassavola nodosa and Cattleya Lc. Aloha Case 'Ching Hua.' Should this be a concern, or do some leaves just get little spots or discolorations from time to time?

A: Some plants normally produce these spots, both on the back and the front (light side) of the leaves, especially certain Oncidium hybrids, like Sharry Baby. In order to get enough light to bloom, the plant seems to need to protect itself with these spots, which are melanin, the same substance causing us to tan. In other high light plants, the extra light produces red or purple overlay; in others, it is a powdery gray substance (as in some rupicolous Laelias). On Cattleya and Brassavola, however, these spots may be mildew. If they smear when you rub them, it means you need to increase air circulation. Although the mildew causes no real harm, it indicates too much humidity and a possibility of getting Botrytis on the blooms (another kind of mildew that is very damaging). It also attracts ants that bring aphids to suck on the juices of the plant. You may also be watering too much, not letting the plants dry out enough before wetting them again. Once again, if the spots are in the pigment of the leaves, it is not mildew. If they grow larger however, they may indicate other problems. For the moment it does not look serious. --Ted Baenziger

A: A few small black spots on Cattleya leaves should not be a problem. If they cover more than 1-2% of the leaf, it might be a concern. --Marvin Gerber

A: Black spots signal a quick need for a pesticide. These spots are the reproductive parts of a fungus or bacteria. I spray with a cocktail of 1 teaspoon of Consan or Physan, 1 teaspoon of Benlate, 1 teaspoon of Banrot, and 6 drops of Subdue. Put all of these in a gallon of water, and spray three times, seven days apart. If you don't have Benlate, just skip it. Aliette, by label directions, works well as a fungicide. If this pest is a rust, you will have to look up a pesticide for rusts. It may be available from a commercial business only. Don't fear the Benlate, as the label directions usually read 1 teaspoon per gallon once a month. In the past, people got their nursery plants in trouble using 3 teaspoons or one tablespoon per gallon, four times a month. An important note, here, is to follow the label instructions to the letter. More is seldom better.

If you have plenty of pseudobulbs or leaves, trim off the infected part, and treat with your pesticide. A dab of Rootone on the raw, cut area will protect the fresh tissue. Just remember that Rootone is not kind to the human liver, so wash your hands thoroughly after use. --Joe Fields

Q: Where is the best place to trim Phal spikes down to when they finish blooming so they'll have a nice

presentation when they bloom the next year? I think that I didn't trim some of last year's far down enough, and they look kind of funny as they are blooming now.

A: If you want a second flowering on the old inflorescence, trim just below the first flower node. The Phal will flower from one or more of the buds left on the stump of the inflorescence. This flowering will occur about two to four months after the first flowering. So, if the first flowering was in March, the second flowering will be in June or July. I would second flower only mature plants that have lots of energy stored inside. If you are trimming for next years flowering, trim off as close to the main stem of the plant as possible without damaging the leaves. --Joe Fields

A: If you do not want the old spike to re-bloom, cut it off below the first node or joint, or just cut it off as close to the plant as possible. If you cut it above the first node, it might re-bloom on the old spike with about half the number of flowers, and they would also be smaller. --Marvin Gerber

A: Cut your Phal spikes at the base of the plant (the stalk of the plant) where the flower spike first emerges. You will notice "nodes" along the flower spike where flower branches can come from or further out, flower buds. When you do cut the spike, make sure none of these dormant nodes remain on the "spike stump." You will have a stronger plant in the growing season and a beautiful blooming the following season. --Rick Hepler

Q: What is the best spray for aphids?

A: I would treat aphids with any basic insecticide. I would think that either Orthene or Malathion would do the trick. I'm sure that Neem Oil would work as well if you don't want to use a toxic chemical. --Jay Balchan

A: If your plants are outdoors, you can probably just blow them off your plants with a water hose. In a greenhouse, try Malathion. --Marvin Gerber

A: Use Safer's soap, Diazinon, Dursban, Cygon, Knox Out, Orthene, or Oxamyl. Actually most of the insecticides will kill aphids. Aphids in a greenhouse should warn the grower that aphids are on some plant just outside of the greenhouse. Treat outside and inside at the same time. --Joe Fields

A: My personal favorite for all visible insects is powdered Orthene for fire ants mixed 1-2 tablespoons per gallon and sprayed with some liquid detergent added as a spreader. --Greg Scott

A: Water is good. Just blast them off. Fingers also work. --Ted Baenziger

*****Thanks to everyone who sent in questions for our April Culture Q&A and to our Panel members for their helpful answers. If your question was submitted but not printed this month -- we will print it next month. HOS members may email orchid culture questions to hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net.*



Houston Flower and Plant Expo

May 5-7, 2006

Exhibition	Sales
Fri 12-6	Fri 10-7
Sat 10-7	Sat 10-7
Sun 10-5	Sun 10-5

George R. Brown
Convention Center
C-Hall, First Floor
Downtown Houston

Show Website Updates

www.houstonflowershow.com

Visit www.houstonflowershow.com for the latest information on the upcoming HOS Show. Our webmaster has made a few recent changes, some of which are noted below.

Changes

The *Vendors* webpage has been updated and now lists the following participating vendors for the HOS Show:

Orchid Vendors

Andys Orchids	J & E Orchids
Bergstrom Orchids	Kawamoto Orchid Nursery
Burkhalter Orchids	Orchid Express and Leasing
Carmela Orchids	Orchid Konnection
Cesar Fernandez	Orchids and Tropicals
Chanthorn Orchids	Orchids Plus Nursery
Clown Alley Orchids	Palmer Orchids
Ecuagenera	Scott's Rainbow Orchids
Hawaiian Orchid Source	Spring Orchids
Its a Jungle	Whippoorwill Orchids

Other Vendors

Dream A Little Garden
Irene Chan
Texas Greenhouse Co.

**List may change.*

***The Show website provides links to vendor websites.*

The *Links* webpage now provides a link to the George R. Brown Convention Center website which offers extensive information about the venue.

Reminder

The *Downloads* webpage provides printable downloads including a venue layout, a downtown map, dock directions and driving directions to the George R. Brown Convention Center (see newsletter insert for smaller, printed version of downtown map and driving directions).

Show News

Volunteers Get Ready!!!

As with every HOS Show, we need your help in making sure the event runs flawlessly. I'll be asking for your help in the Security area, the Registration Desk, and in Clean-up duties. We will not have fixed time-slot sign-up sheets. Instead, I will be personally asking you when you plan to attend the Show and then, to plan on donating some time to one of these volunteer areas while you are at the Show.

As an incentive for you to donate your time, we are going to be raffling some of the vendor-donated plants to our volunteers. For every hour you work, you will receive one raffle ticket. At the end of the Show, we will then draw for the plants (you will not have to be present to win). We will reserve some of the BEST donated plants for this drawing. Of course, I know you will be volunteering your time because you want to help the HOS, not because you can win great plants! But, this certainly adds some potential benefit for volunteering.

Remember as Uncle Ben Parker told a young Peter Parker (a.k.a., "Spiderman"), "With a great Show, comes great responsibility..."

--Jay Balchan, Show Volunteer Chair

All Day Meeting

Note: HOS members can come any time during the day, Thursday, May 4th, for the HOS "All Day Meeting," to help set-up, do an exhibit, bring plants for the HOS exhibit, or help vendors and others unpack and get set up. *Note: we will discuss time, parking, and exhibit details at the April HOS meeting and in the May newsletter.

Hotels

Are you planning an HOS Show/weekend getaway? Here are some nearby hotels that might work for you:

Hilton Americas Houston, 1600 Lamar, 713-739-8000,
<http://www.hilton.com>

Downtowner Inns Houston, 2510 Hamilton Street, 713-651-1100

Courtyard by Marriott Houston, 916 Dallas, 832-366-1600,
www.courtyardhoustondowntown.com

Best Western Downtown Inn and Suites, 915 West Dallas, 713-571-7733, www.bwdowntown.com

Holiday Inn Select at 2712 SW Freeway at Kirby, 713-523-2782; located near Greenway Plaza, 15-20 minutes drive to GRB Convention Center (where past HOS workshops have been held); <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/sl/1/en/hd/HOUGP>

Source: <http://houstonflowershow.com/judges.asp>.



Committee Bulletins

Intermediate Group

Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)

The March Intermediate Group Meeting was held at Denny and Renee Haase's home. Deborah Beck provided refreshments. Their greenhouses were chock full of plants -- many in bloom and all growing vigorously. Denny demonstrated how to de-flask seedlings and revealed valuable information he has gleaned from trial and error. Denny also contributed to our Show efforts by providing essential materials for our display.

Progress is good for our Show display, and I'm sure our efforts will be successful. All Intermediate Group members are encouraged to enter display plants (properly tagged).

The April 9th Intermediate Group meeting will be held at Susan Dally's home. (*Interested in joining the Intermediate Group? Call Gary at 713-729-9307.*)

Newcomers Group

Chair: Holly Huston (hollyhuston@wt.net; 281-265-6787)

The April Newcomers Group will meet at 2pm, Sunday, April 23rd, at Holly Huston's home (1635 Creekside Dr., Sugar Land). We will work on the Newcomers' exhibit for the May Show; Nina Rach will show us how to prepare plants for the judging and exhibit. Please call or email to let me know you are going to participate in this meeting.

The Newcomers Group wishes to thank Bill Bartlett for hosting the March meeting and Sandra Higham for providing soft drinks and Mary Bahn & Claudia Ludwig for providing advice as mentors.

Plant Raffle Table

Chair: Holly Miller (hollymil@earthlink.net)

We will have species plants from Andy's Orchids on the raffle table at the April meeting. Andy's is a family-owned nursery specializing in SPECIES. They cultivate over 3,000 different species and grow everything from traditional favorites to the rarest exotics. Andy has been growing orchids since the age of seven and opened his nursery in 1990.

You may purchase 5 raffle tickets for \$1.00 or 30 tickets for \$5.00 to be used to win any of ten plants. Another plant will be raffled as a free door prize. Everyone who walks in the door gets a free raffle ticket for the door prize; if you wear your nametag, you get two tickets. We also raffle one plant for the Box Tops promotion. Bring in General Mills Box Tops for Education, and receive one raffle ticket for each box top. The box tops are donated to schools for purchasing needed equipment. Last month's box tops were donated to Valley Oaks Elementary School in Spring Valley, Texas. (*Suggestions for the Raffle Table? Email hollymil@earthlink.net.*)



Happenings Deadline for May 2006 Issue: 4/17/06.

Please email your articles to hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net. The *Happenings* may be viewed in color online at the HOS website: www.houstonorchidsociety.org. Special thanks to Susan Taylor for serving as proofreader for the *Happenings*!

Houston Orchid Society 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

<i>President</i>	Laurie C. Skov
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Don Ghiz
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	John Van Domelen
<i>Recording Sec.</i>	Nora Richardson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jay Balchan
<i>Membership</i>	Deanna Roberts

Chairs

<i>Guest Hospitality</i>	Susan Taylor
<i>Happenings Editor</i>	Nanette George
<i>Intermediate Group</i>	Garett Beck
<i>Librarian</i>	Sarah Bentley
<i>Newcomers Group</i>	Holly Huston
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Richard Champagne
<i>Plant Raffle</i>	Holly Miller
<i>Refreshments</i>	Sheila Skov
<i>Silent Auction</i>	Claudia Hanson and Theresa Riggs
<i>2006 Spring Show</i>	Don Ghiz
<i>Webmistress</i>	Nina Rach
<i>2006 Workshop Chair</i>	Ted Baenziger and John Stubbings

Directors

<i>Two-Year Term</i>	<i>One-Year Term</i>
Jim Butler	Sid Bosen
Dolores Fields	Melba Butler
Doug George	Richard Champagne
Marvin Gerber	Joe Fields
Julius Klehm	Richard Lund
Greg Scott	Marg Putman
Jerry Stephens	Theresa Riggs
	Pam Vinson

Representatives

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

Houston Orchid Society *April 2006 Meeting*

Speaker: Ernie Gemeinhart

Program: "Growing Under Lights"
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2006
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Place: Houston Garden Center

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

and

www.houstonflowershow.com



Calendar of Events 2006

(Updated March 25, 2006)

Date	Event
3/31/06 to 4/2/05	SWROGA Show, Red River Orchid Society, Wichita Falls, TX
4/6/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Growing Under Lights," by Ernie Gemeinhart, Illinois Orchid Society
5/4/06	HOS All-Day Meeting, Houston Flower & Plant Expo, George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall C, Level 1 (first floor)
5/5/06 to 5/7/06	HOS Spring Show, George R. Brown Convention Center, Downtown Houston, Hall C, Level 1 (first floor)
6/1/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Temperature Effects on Phal Flowering," by Dr. Y.T Wang, Texas A&M Weslaco
6/24/06	HOS Orchid Sale, Houston Garden Center, Main Auditorium, 9am-2pm
7/6/06	HOS Monthly Meeting; Speaker: TBA
8/3/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Cattleya mossiae -- Venezuela's National Flower," by Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
8/4/06 to 8/5/06	HOS Summer Workshop
9/7/06	HOS Monthly Meeting; Speaker: TBA
9/15/06 to 9/17/06	Galveston Orchid Society Fall Show, Nessler Center, Texas City
10/5/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, "Wild Orchids," by Dr. William Mathis, The Wild Orchid Company
10/20/06 to 10/22/06	SWROGA Show, Heart O' Texas Orchid Society, Austin, TX; 9am-5pm, Saturday; 9am-4pm, Sunday
11/2/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA
12/7/06	Annual Holiday Party and HJC Auction

Houston Orchid Society
The Houston Happenings
12710 Eagle Ledge Lane
Tomball, TX 77377

