

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President



Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will speak at the August HOS meeting on the subject of, "Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes" (this talk will differ from the one he is giving at the HOS Summer Workshop the following Saturday).

### Biography

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 29 years and has been hybridizing for 19 of those years. With over 22 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Fred is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids. His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently, the grex, Fredclarkeara 'After Dark,' which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed." This grex has received four FCC's and two AM's on the first flowers shown for judging!

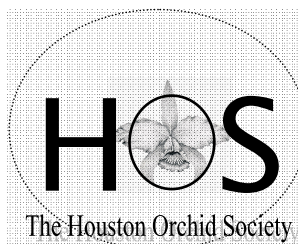
Fred is a Probationary Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. He will be bringing plants to sell at our meeting and will be a featured speaker at the HOS Summer Workshop on the following Saturday.

Fred's talk at the HOS meeting will feature a widescreen computer slide show on some of the new hybrids and breakthroughs in the hybridization of Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes. Commercially, Catasetum, Cycnoches (or 'Swan' orchids), and Mormodes (or 'Goblin' orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear Fred. It is my somewhat educated guess that he has garnered more AOS quality awards, based on volume, than anyone else in the marketplace. That's just my guess, but I know you won't want

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Speaker Spotlight · HOS Partners with Kroger .....	1
President's Post · Recap · Winners' Tips .....	2
Houston Judging Center · On the Web · AOS Corner .....	3
Culture Q&A .....	4
Miscellaneous News.....	6
Committee Bulletins.....	7
Calendar of Events 2006 .....	8



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



to miss his presentations either day. Check out his website beforehand to pre-order at [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) or contact Fred at (760) 639-6255 or by email at [fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net](mailto:fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net).

## HOS Partners with Kroger

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President

On July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from the Houston Orchid Society took shifts manning an information booth at the Kroger store on Buffalo Speedway and Westpark. The event was part of an ongoing project partnering with Kroger to focus attention on both the HOS and the orchid plants that Kroger sells.



Volunteers, Jay Balchan and Juilus Klehm, man the HOS booth at Kroger on Buffalo Speedway in July.

We will be hosting a similar booth at the Kroger store on West Grey in August and at the store on Voss and San Felipe

(Continued on Page 2)

## President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

It's hard to believe that one can feel refreshed after a day spent in the heat, but that is how I felt the evening after hosting the Newcomers Meeting last month. Experiencing the group's enthusiasm is refreshing. I recall when I approached Holly, last year, to ask her to chair the group. She was reluctant, at first, knowing the commitment it required, but she took the post after some minor arm twisting and a like commitment from Sandra to help. Holly, Sandra, and mentors, Claudia and Mary, are having fun and their enthusiasm feeds the group. Take a gander at their website: [www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html](http://www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html).

The Newcomers are already planning their display for the September Galveston Society Show. It is amazing what enthusiasm and support can accomplish. We all owe something to the Society and as with our plants, your efforts can be rewarding.

See you at the Workshop!

P.S. My new e-mail address is: [orchids.tropicals@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orchids.tropicals@sbcglobal.net).

## HOS Partners with Kroger

(Continued from Page 1)

in September. It is our hope that this partnership will draw more attention to orchids, in general, and the Houston Orchid Society as well.

Those interested in volunteering to man the two-hour shifts on Sunday and Monday afternoons should contact me. I am looking for people with orchid experience who can answer a variety of questions on culture, pests, and so on.

## Recap: July 2006

**Speaker:** Dr. Glenn Lehr, *New World Orchids*

**Topic:** *Japanese Orchids*

Dr. Glenn Lehr's presentation included a discussion on Japanese orchids and orchid shows and a visual slide-show "tour" of the people, cities, and culture of Japan. For more information on Japanese orchids, visit Dr. Lehr's website at [www.newworldorchids.com](http://www.newworldorchids.com) and the Japanese Grand Prix Orchid Show website at [www.jgpweb.com](http://www.jgpweb.com).

**Plant Table Winners:**

**Hybrid:** *Catyclia El Hatillo*, Owners/Growers: Jim and Melba Butler

**Species:** *Brassavola cucullata*, Owner/Grower: Ted Baenziger

Jim and Melba Butler and Ted Baenziger are the Plant Table winners for July 2006. Thanks to Jim, Melba, and Ted and to all who contributed to the July Plant Table for our enjoyment!

## Winners' Tips

from July 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Melba Butler and Ted Baenziger



### Hybrid Winner: *Catyclia El Hatillo*, by Melba Butler



I bought *Catyclia El Hatillo* (*C. mossiae* x *E. tampensis*; registered in January of 1977 by Graf) from H&R Orchids about three years ago. It grows under an arbor at the end of our pool where it gets bright morning sun and plenty of

light all day. I use half-strength fertilizer in my watering device, and it gets water every day as it does well bare-rooted in a slat basket. It does get some moisture naturally from rain. So far, I haven't had any problems with pests or disease. I was pleased this year to have it bloom for the first time, and the blooms lasted approximately two months. In the fall and winter when the temperature reaches the 50s, it and all our outside orchids are moved to the greenhouse.

### Species Winner: *Brassavola cucullata*, by Ted Baenziger



The plant is a *Brassavola cucullata* that I bought from Dave Hunt about six years ago and mounted on a section of a peach-tree branch that I thought might work. Dave told me the plant he collected came from the Pacific

Ocean cliffs of Mexico and was covered with dust, so I believed it liked open air, breezes, and lots of light. It does!

The plant has thrived, on the peach-tree branch, hanging in a breezy corner of the house, receiving full sun from 10 a.m. to noon and then, shade, but still in bright light. While growing, it prefers to be well-watered, soaked even, every day so that the rather thick white roots get nice and fat, and not much fertilizer. It has been divided once, that is, someone asked for a division and proceeded to simply cut off one corner which grew over the next year.

Usually blooming from late June through September, the plant has flushes of flowers, sometimes bearing two flowers at a time on a single growth. The flowers start out with a deep pink flush then fade to white in two days, each flower lasting about a week. Each single growth is capable of blooming for two seasons, and new growths come mostly in the spring and summer.

As with most of the *Brassavola* family, the plant takes a rest in the drier winter air, but it always appreciates plenty of light and should never go completely dry for more than a few days. I winter it in the cool part of my makeshift greenhouse.

## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

### *HJC Judging Results* July 15, 2006

There were 10 plants entered for judging with 3 provisional awards:

1. *Rodriguezia secunda* Remar (species), provisional AM 86 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
2. *Encyclia thrombodes* Vera Cruz (species), provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX
3. *Encyclia pfanzii* Vera Cruz (species), provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX

There were 16 accredited judges and 3 student judges present with a total of 25 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held on **August 19, 2006** at the Jerebeck Center, Room 202, University of St. Thomas, 400 Mt. Vernon St., Houston, TX 70006. It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

## On the Web

### *Newcomers Group*

The HOS Newcomers Group's website provides information and photos for orchid growers new to the hobby including:

- photos from Newcomers Group monthly meetings
- photos of Newcomers Group members' orchids and growing areas
- links to websites with orchid culture tips and photos
- a downloadable "Newcomers Handbook"
- a downloadable orchid pronunciation guide
- an article on fertilizer concentrations
- a list of local orchid greenhouses for plants and supplies

The Newcomers Group is also using the website to solicit information from experienced orchid growers on cooling, heating, watering, feeding, and potting orchids. Experienced growers who would like to share their tips can go to the Newcomers website and download an "Orchid Growers Questionnaire" and mail their completed questionnaire to [cal@kr5e.com](mailto:cal@kr5e.com). The information will then be shared with the Newcomers Group and anyone else who is interested.

To visit the HOS Newcomers Group website, go to [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org) and click on the "New page for the HOS Newcomers Group!" link or go directly to the site at [www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html](http://www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html).

## AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

Hope you are having a wonderful summer! Here is some news from the AOS...

### Reciprocal Admissions Program

Did you know that the AOS is a member of the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program? A benefit of this important affiliation is that AOS members receive discounted or free admission to many gardens and arboreta around the world. The Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP) is an important offering of the American Horticultural Society, lengthening the Society's reach in the national community of horticulture while creating a network of organizations with similar objectives. RAP encourages the members of these various organizations to discover, explore, and share in this diverse community, making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens.

AHS members and members of organizations participating in RAP have access to a wide array of gardens offering free admission and many other benefits. The most current list of participating organizations can be found in the regularly updated online directory at the AOS website or at [http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal\\_events.htm](http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events.htm).

### AOS Member Get A Member Program

As announced at the June HOS meeting, AOS members are invited to take advantage of the AOS "Member Get A Member Program." AOS members who recruit a new AOS member receive a near blooming size (or blooming size) orchid; the newly recruited member also receives one. The more members you sign up, the more orchids you will receive -- one for each newly recruited member. Also, you may give the gift of an AOS membership -- the gift that keeps on giving all year long! When you do, you and your gift recipient will receive a free orchid! To learn all the details, go to <http://www.aos.org/aos/membership/page01.aspx>.

## HOS Classifieds

### Greenhouses for Sale!

I have two greenhouses for sale -- one is a curved glass aluminum frame lean-to style; the other is a free-standing Atlas 20x20 with wet pads, benches, fans, and controls. For more information, please call Greg Scott at 936-520-6631.



## 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 a white BLC in my greenhouse that flowered last month. Within one day of opening, the flowers were being eaten away by something invisible! These nasty creatures ate the lip to nothing but left the other petals. "They" also ate one Doritopsis flower on another plant but then did not attack the rest of the flowers. I do not have rats or mice in the greenhouse, I am certain of that, but I have seen roaches. What might be eating my flowers, and what can I do about it?

**A:** You've probably got snails or slugs. These critters operate at night, so you can have a great flower one day, and it is eaten down to nothing by the next morning. They live in the pot by day and crawl around and eat at night. Treat the pot with a snail treatment...but, you'll probably need to treat the entire greenhouse, as these pests are very mobile. Even after treating, they will come back over time. You almost can't get away from them. --Jay Balchan

**A:** I would suspect that it was done by slugs, and you would need to use a slug bait to get rid of them as they would only come out at night. --Julius Klehm

**A:** Two things come to mind: large roaches or a roof rat/Norway rat. The large roaches usually eat a round hole, about the size of a nickel, out of a leaf or bloom. I am thinking you might have rats. The roof rat and Norway rat come down the electrical lines at night and seldom go to the ground. Young rats can squeeze through an opening as small as ½-inch wide. A likely place of entry is along the wall where it touches the roof or around any place where plumbing, fans, and water walls are installed. Set your alarm for about 2:00 a.m. or so, sneak outside in your p.j.'s with a flashlight, go into the greenhouse, and use the flashlight to look for them.

Yes, Joe and I have had rats. It becomes a war zone when we see the blossoms eaten. We have found that peanut butter smeared on a large rat trap works well. They are sold at the feed stores and come with a small chain to secure it in place. Yes, they are strong enough to run off after being caught and taking the trap with them. Premise control is important. Clean all the debris around your greenhouse.

**CAUTION!** Do not use rat bait. This is long acting warfare. It makes them go anemic and die a slow, painful death by bleeding out. The worst part is rats do not eat the bait in one place -- they carry it back to the nest where it is disbursed around the neighborhood. The bait is placed in a sorghum syrup. A lot of pets (dogs and cats) have been poisoned by eating the bait distributed by rats. Sad!!

There is a book written by Bill Zak, called *Critters; Common Household and Garden Pests Of Texas*. This is a great book -- it has every bug and varmint that affects our garden/ greenhouse and how to kill them. Hooray!! --Dolores Fields

**A:** It's probably the roaches. Snails and slugs usually leave a discernible trail and might only leave holes or irregularly munch on the margins.

Kill the roaches. Remove their hiding places, although this is often in the bottom of pots. You can try an insect bomb in the greenhouse overnight. Make sure to turn off the ventilation fans so they don't sweep out the insecticide vapor.

Or you can dunk all your potted plants in a bucket or tub of water. This sends any nesting roaches to the top immediately. It's not pleasant. --Nina Rach

**A:** When that happens to me, I have found it to be either roaches or the big, black fuzzy caterpillars produced by an unknown type of moth. Besides spraying, the best way is to begin periodic visits during the evening until the culprit is found. --Greg Scott

**A:** Your invisible herbivore may be several things -- one possibility is one or more snails. Look in the medium and under the pot and destroy. Snail bait can be purchased at any nursery like Teas or Southwest. A second possibility is a large, fuzzy black worm that comes out at night and grazes on orchids. They hide under the benches or under pots during the day. Take a flashlight into the greenhouse at night and search. Pull off, drop on the floor, and stomp. After the stomp you will feel much better!!! --Joe Fields

**A:** Sounds like a caterpillar or a roach. Actually, caterpillars are extremely destructive -- as bad as a rodent. They eat so much and digest so fast, you can almost always find droppings near the damage. --Marvin Gerber

**Q:** I have one of those \$29 foot candle meters that has the remote sensor connected by a wire. The question is, when I read the light, do I aim the sensor at the light source? Or do I read it from a white sheet of paper at 45 degrees? When I aim the sensor to the 11 a.m. blue sky, but the sun is not hitting the sensor, I read 5,500 foot candles -- is that about right? If my meter is correct, my Phals are getting 12+ hours of 2000 foot candles, and my Catts are getting 12 hours of 4000 foot candles. Some of my Phals look dark green, but not others. Is it light or high nitrogen food? My Catts have a nice, light green color to them, but my Brassavolas look dark to me.

I took all my plants out of my greenhouse, and they seem to like being in my south exposure patio, surrounded by my pool, better than my greenhouse in the summer.

**A:** You should aim it at the leaves of your orchid to obtain the amount of light that they are receiving. 2000 seems a bit high, but if they are a nice green there should be no problem. (4000 for the Cattleya types even seems a bit high).

You might check individual plants to see how much light they are getting and if there is a difference in the color of the leaves from plant to plant or if there are color differences isolated in certain areas of the greenhouse. After that, I would check the growing conditions (medium) to see if there is a difference from plant to plant (if some of the medium is breaking down, while some is not, which might cause a root problem on certain plants). If they are all getting the same amount of fertilizer, I would probably look for some other problem -- like what species is in their background to see if they are higher/lower light plants. --Julius Klehm

A: You now know that there is direct light and indirect light. Point the meter at the source, but realize that different places have different amounts of indirect light. A north window lets in indirect light. From your readings of 2000 and 4000, your plants are getting enough light -- although some like to grow Phals at 1300 to 1800; 4000 is high Cattleya light and works for some but is too bright for others. You will just have to observe and watch your plants. Different Catts have different light requirements. Look for burned spots and excessive yellowing. Grab a leaf and determine if it is too hot. --Joe Fields

A: 4,000 FC for Cattleyas and 2,000 for Phals sound good to me. Cattleyas with a yellow leaning green (as opposed to blue) are getting the light they need. Phals are naturally a darker (bluer) green and less likely to change to a more yellow green. --Marvin Gerber

**Q: Many of my Cattleya hybrids have sheaths emerging from their new growth, now but it appears that there's nothing inside them. Am I just being impatient, and will they eventually fill out with buds, or are they just not going to bloom this time around?**

A: If the sheaths are just now appearing, they may still fill with buds. Sometimes the sheaths appear with the new growth, and the buds don't develop until it is the right blooming season for that species or hybrid. Try not to touch them too much! Or they may remain budless for eternity -- something we call "blind" sheaths. Susan Fordyce referred to these in one of the stanzas of her lengthy poem, "Mr. Grinch's Christmas:"

*For that Jewel Box he saw, he's give his eye teeth  
(His had never ever thrown a "blind sheath"),  
Oh, that Laelia he saw was just pure perfection---  
His hadn't bloomed since Carter's election!*

Why do plants, Cattleyas in particular, throw blind sheaths? I've read that it might be due to poor light. Perhaps insufficient nutrition, but that would also be evident in the leaves and general plant vigor. Another interesting phenomenon is that some plants will throw double sheaths. --Nina Rach

*(The entirety of Susan Fordyce's poem is posted at <http://www.fordyceorchids.com/poems/grinch.htm>.)*

A: The various species of Cattleya types respond in different ways. Some bloom directly from the green sheath, and others

bloom from the dried sheath produced earlier in the year. It is a species-specific event. --Greg Scott

A: I'm sure you will hear from folks more expert on Catts than I am, but certain types of Catts produce sheaths with buds right away, and certain ones produce sheaths first and the buds some time later. I'm not sure if unifoliate (single-leaf) do it one way and bi-foliate (two-leaf) do it another or what the exact split is. Just wait it out. I'm sure your plant will produce buds on this growth. --Jay Balchan

A: Some of the Catts put up a sheath and never flower. Others put up a sheath and will flower later. *Cattleya guttata* is an example of putting up a sheath and later putting up a bud in the dry sheath. It depends upon the species of *Cattleya* involved. A double sheath occurs in some hybrids. I have had best luck when I cut off the end of the outer sheath. When the sheath dies you might cut it away carefully so as not to damage a small bud inside. A strong light behind the sheath will reveal a small bud. Sometimes a dead sheath will cause the bud to rot and die. --Joe Fields

A: Be patient, and they should do so. If for some reason, the sheaths start dying (turning yellow), you would want to tear them open a bit so that they will dry out and not rot any buds that will develop. I've seen buds develop in completely dry sheaths. However, you should be forewarned that there are occasions when buds will not develop. --Julius Klehm

A: Some Cattleyas get sheaths a long time before the buds show up. Others get sheaths which dry up, and then they bloom through the dried sheath -- if you haven't pulled it off! Be patient, and be happy the sheath has appeared. --Marvin Gerber

**Q: Please advise about repotting Paphs.**

A: Don't know what the specific question is... *When?* I usually do it in the spring, but any time other than winter is okay. *With what?* Any bark-based mix is fine...a little chopped sphagnum in the mix is probably a plus as the plants don't like to really dry out. *Pot type?* Any pot will work, but a plastic pot is generally better (see previous comment) and as small a pot as the plant will reasonably fit in (they don't like to be overpotted). I usually repot using a dry mix, and then I don't water the plants for a couple of days. I have found that if I water right away, I end up with a couple of plants getting rot as I have usually trimmed roots or old leads which allow the water to bring bad things, like rot, into the plants. --Jay Balchan

A: For more information on Paph. repotting, see *The Houston Happenings*, January 2006 issue, and visit Antec Labs' online "Paph Reading Room" at <http://ladyslipper.com>. --Editor

\*\*\*\*Thanks to all who sent questions in this month and to our Panel members for your helpful answers. HOS members may email orchid culture questions to [hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net).

## 2006 HOS SUMMER WORKSHOP

August 4-5, 2006

Jerabeck Athletic Center, Room 202  
University of St. Thomas  
4000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston (Montrose area)

Workshop registration forms are available online at [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org). For more information, contact Fr. Ted Baenziger at 713-525-3146 (or [ejb@stthom.edu](mailto:ejb@stthom.edu)) or John Stubbings at 832-693-8140 (or [jstubbings@houston.rr.com](mailto:jstubbings@houston.rr.com)).



### Houston Flower Show 2006 Photo Gallery

The 2006 Houston Flower Show website "Photo Gallery" is now online! To view the photos, go to the show website at <http://houstonflowershow.com> and click on the "Show Gallery" link located underneath the "Houston Flower and Plant Expo" photo. The gallery was designed by HOS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, John Van Domelen. Photos were taken by Don Ghiz and Phil Free. Enjoy!

## HOS Member, Nina Rach, Lectures in Guatemala

HOS member and AOS judge, Nina Rach, recently lectured on, "Sobralias" at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin, located in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The lecture was part of AOS judging activities for the Guatemalan Orchid Association's National Orchid Exposition. AOS judges, Bob Fuchs and Patricia Harding, also lectured. "We had a fabulous tour of the UFM campus on Friday morning. The entire campus is designed to be an arboretum, a very interesting project, with lovely results," Nina said.

The University website posted an article about the visit -- you can access the article from Nina's website at <http://autrevie.com/AutreVie.html>; once there, scroll down to Nina's "2006 Speaking Engagements," and click on the "Universidad Francisco Marroquin" link. From there, you can access the University's arboretum web pages as well.

## Hexalectris *grandiflora* in Dallas County

Check out an online slideshow of *Hexalectris grandiflora*, recently identified in Dallas County, at <http://www.fstop.com/index.php?module=PostWrap&page=fstop\photogallery.php> and an interesting personal blog about a recent viewing at <http://curtis.hawthorne.name/category/3/blogid/1>.

## Orchids in Biology Studies

The American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists will present their "Plant Biology 2006" conference to be held August 5-9, 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference website provides abstracts on studies with orchids, including, "A functional genomics approach to characterization of the vanillin biosynthetic pathway" (located in the "Secondary Metabolism" poster section at <http://abstracts.aspb.org/pb2006/public/P25/P25046.html>) and "Improved photosynthetic capacity and stress tolerance in transgenic crops overexpressing genes encoding C4 photosynthesis enzymes and bicarbonate transporters" which looks at rice and orchids for increased photosynthetic capacity and growth (located in the "Plant Biotechnology" poster section at <http://abstracts.aspb.org/pb2006/public/P46/P46037.html>).

Slightly off topic -- for a look at what may be a promising practical outcome of plant biotechnology research, visit the ASPB's website (<http://www.aspb.org/index.cfm>) and click on the article, "Breaking the Biological Barriers to Cellulosic Ethanol: A Joint Research Agenda" to see what plant biologists are doing in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy to develop alternative fuel sources.

Source: <http://www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2006/>

## Pesticides: Health, Safety, and the Environment

A new book may provide some enlightening information for those of us who are concerned with the effects of pesticides on the environment and the health of humans and wildlife. In his book, *Pesticides; Health, Safety and the Environment*, Professor Graham Matthews discusses the developmental history of pesticides, how crop protection was achieved before pesticides were in use, how pesticides are registered for use, and what happens to pesticides in food and the environment. Matthews also discusses pesticide application and operator safety and explores the future of pesticides in light of the development of genetically modified crops.

Professor Matthews is Scientist-In-Charge at the International Pesticide Application Research Centre, Imperial College, University of London, U.K. His book, published by Blackwell Publishing, can be purchased through online distributors such as amazon.com™. For more information on Professor Matthews and his work, visit his department website at <http://www.bio.ic.ac.uk/research/gamat/matthews.htm>.

Source: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/book.asp?ref=1405130911&site=1>

\*\*\*\*Thanks to Nina Rach for bringing the subjects of the preceding articles to our attention.



## Committee Bulletins

### Intermediate Group

*Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)*

We held our July meeting at Malcolm McCorquodale's house. Malcolm explained how he built his 10x15' greenhouse for about \$250.00. He used 1-1/2 cyclone fence top tubing and fabricated connectors (from a Traders Village vendor at Ave. A & 1<sup>st</sup> St. ) for the structure. He covered the frame with 4-millimeter plastic and shade cloth in the summer; heating is supplied by a 1500-watt space heater.

We were also treated to a lecture by Joe Fields who gave some dos and don'ts on de-flasking orchids to a community pot. Joe explained that the biggest problem is dehydration, but with proper technique and the use of Consan, seedlings will thrive. To address this challenge, Joe uses a plastic shoebox drilled with aeration holes. He layers the bottom with peanuts and New Zealand Sphagnum moss over that. The seedlings will outgrow the container in a year. The adjustable top allows for humidity control.

Thank you, Malcolm and Joe, for an information-packed Sunday afternoon!

### Newcomers Group

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

The Newcomers had their July meeting at Sheila and Laurie Skov's home. It was a great meeting, and we all learned a lot about growing orchids outside. Shelia also made tacos for everyone! Thanks a million Laurie, Shelia, and Russell! Thanks also to Sandra Higham for the soft drinks and to Eddie Mitchell for the brownies!

The Newcomers will not have an official meeting during the month of August. Instead, all Newcomers are encouraged to attend the HOS Summer Workshop on August 4-5. There will be an informal Newcomers meeting on August 20 from 1-3pm, at either Jill Smith's or my home, to work on the Newcomers floor exhibit for the upcoming Galveston Orchid Show (Sept. 15-17). If you are interested in helping with the show, please call me at 281-265-6787 or 281-221-2876, and I will give you more details about where we will be meeting. If you have not exhibited in a show, this is a great time to learn, make friends, and have a blast!

### Raffle Table

*Chair: Holly Miller (hollymil@earthlink.net)*

Just a reminder -- through September, we can look forward to plants from Kawamoto Orchids, Oahu, Hawaii; Klong Orchids, Bangkok, Thailand, specializing in Vandaceous orchids; Hawaiian Orchid Source, Oahu, Hawaii, specializing in Cattleyas; Andy's Orchids, Encinitas, California, specializing in species; and a few from H&R Nurseries, Hawaii. We are thankful to these growers who provided generous discounts and some very nice plants! **\*\*Don't forget your boxtops for Boxtops for Education!!**

### Happenings Deadline for September 2006 Issue: August 21, 2006

Please email your articles to [hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net). The *Happenings* may be viewed in color online at the HOS website: [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://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>	Deana 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 *August 2006 Meeting*

**Speaker:** Fred Clarke,  
Sunset Valley Orchids

**Program:** "Catasetum, Cycnoches, and  
Mormodes"

**Date:** Thursday, August 3, 2006

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Place:** Houston Garden Center

**Reminder:** *Bring Cash for the HOS Meeting Raffle Table!*

Purchase 5 raffle tickets for \$1.00 or 30 tickets for \$5.00 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. Bring in General Mills Box Tops for Education, and receive one raffle ticket for each box top. Box tops are donated to schools for purchasing needed equipment.



## Calendar of Events 2006

(Updated July 24, 2006)

Date	Event
8/3/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Catasetum, Cycnoches, and Mormodes," by Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
8/4/06 to 8/5/06	HOS Summer Workshop -- Jerebeck Athletic Center, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX
9/7/06	HOS Monthly Meeting; Speaker: TBA
9/15/06 to 9/17/06	Galveston Orchid Society Fall Show, Nessler Center, Texas City, TX
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

