

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President

To the Members of the Houston Orchid Society:

As most of you know or have heard, the December meeting will be different in many ways from the other 11 meetings of the year.

There will be no guest speaker in December, as it is tradition for the society to do three things during the December meeting:

First, everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish for the food table. We will spend time socializing and getting "festive" for the holiday season.

Second, as my last month as first vice-president, I will conduct an "Orchid Bingo" game that Fr. Ted ingeniously brought to us last year.

Third, and most importantly, Marvin Gerber will act as auctioneer to sell off donated plants. The proceeds will go to the Houston Judging Center to help pay its expenses. We are very fortunate to have an AOS-sanctioned judging center so close to us. There are only about 31 of them scattered throughout the country, and many orchidists have to travel hundreds of miles to have their plants judged. Our judges are dedicated volunteers who pay their own way to judge plants and shows from as far east as New Orleans and Houma, Louisiana, to as far south as Galveston. Orchid judges are never reimbursed for the privilege of judging. So, please come join us for a night of merriment, fun, good will, and generosity.

On a different subject -- as the 2007 president-elect, I would like to solicit feedback from the membership. For the next 12 months, it will be my honor to serve those who have trusted me with this position. However, I'd like some feedback. On what? Well, anything that's on your mind. My email address is DoninHoustonTX@aol.com, and my home phone is 713-661-1885 (I prefer email because it becomes a reminder for me). Tell me what you like most about the meetings. Tell me what you like least. While the meetings must end by 10:00 p.m., we are free to format the meetings so that the audience gets the most out of them. I'm open to any suggestions and would like to hear from you. I hope the coming year will be rewarding for everyone, and one of FUN and ENTERTAINMENT.

Until I hear from you, I wish each of you a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON and a PROPEROUS 2007.

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



A Great Deal - Act Now!!!

January's HOS program will be presented by **Andy's Orchids on a Stick**. Harry (Andy's brother) will be making the presentation and is willing to sell orchids via a pre-order sale. You will need to access Andy's webpage at www.andysorchids.com; from there, you can search all the orchids presently in stock -- over 3000 plants, many of which are species, all with pictures. You may select your plants by genus, species, or country of origin and according to the amount of light, water, and temperature required. Prices are listed on the site.

For anyone who wishes to pre-purchase, Andy's will offer a 5% discount if the society orders \$200 or more and a 10% discount for an order of \$500 or more. We are already almost there as the plant raffle table will order about \$150 worth. In addition, Harry will bring the plants with him to the January meeting, and he will not charge for shipping.

If you want to take advantage of this one-time opportunity, first, go online to www.andysorchids.com, select your plants, total up your order, and send the plant order and total (without discount) to me, Deana Roberts. Once I get the total order in, I will let you know how much to send me (less the discounts); I will place the order, and you will then collect your plants at the January meeting. Email me at robertsdeana@intropa.com or call me at 713-777-7103. It's a good thing!

President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

Some reasons to come to the December Meeting/Party:

"One for the Money" ... The meeting is intended to be a fun time for all. The auction is sure to be fun, but remember that it is also an important fundraiser for the Houston Judging Center. The Judging Center depends on the sponsorship and support of our Society. The auction is a way to acquire some excellent cultivars while also supporting the Judging Center. So bring lots of bread. And speaking of "bread," please bring a favorite holiday food dish to share. In addition, if you have extra plants, please contribute them to the auction.

"Two for the Show" ... Not an orchid show per se, but rather a performance by Marvin the auctioneer! Marvin always makes the auction fun. Remember to get your bids in quickly! There will be other show items, but remember that we will not have a plant table, speaker, silent auction, or raffle. There will be plenty of time for fellowship.

"Three to Get Ready" ... We will be inducting the 2007 officers and new board members. If you have any suggestions for them, or better yet, if you want to offer your services, now would be a good time to be in contact.

"And Four to Go" ... Or, should I say out with the old? My personal thanks goes to all who have made this a great year (I will say more at the meeting). I'm looking forward to 2007 full of new delights with a little more time to admire the blooms.

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Results - October 28, 2006 - Seven plants were entered with no awards. We welcomed the HOS Intermediate Group who came to observe the judging system. There were 17 Accredited Judges and 4 Student Judges present with a total of 34 persons attending.

HJC Results - November 18, 2006 - There were 14 plants entered with 2 awards: Bc. ___(C. Lulu x B. Little Stars) 'Clown Alley Orchids', provisional AM 81 points, owned by Clown Alley Orchids, Pasadena, TX and Onc. nudum 'Vera Cruz' provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX.

There were 18 Accredited Judges, 2 Provisional Judges, 2 Student Judges and 1 Clerk present with a total of 37 persons attending. Fr. Ted Baenziger and Don Ghiz were elevated to Probationary Judges, and Holly Miller was accepted as a Clerk in the judging program. The next regular judging will be held on December 16, 2006 at the Jerebeck Center, Room 202, University of St. Thomas, 2000 Mt. Vernon Street, Houston, TX. Plants must be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

Recap: November 2006

Speaker: James Rose, Cal-Orchids

Topic: Modern Epidendrum Breeding

For our November meeting, James Rose of Cal-Orchids provided a talk on modern Epidendrum breeding. For more information about his offerings, visit his website at <http://www.calorchid.com>.

Plant Table Winners:

Hybrid: Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann "Buckleberry"

FCC/AOS, Owner/Grower: Denny Haase

Species: Sophronitis cernua, Owner/Grower: Denny Haase

As you can see, **Denny Haase** swept the winnings for November's Plant Table favorites! Thanks to Denny and to all who contributed to the November Plant Table for our enjoyment!

Winners' Tips

from November 2006 HOS Plant Table Winner, Denny Haase



Hybrid Winner: Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann "Buckleberry"
FCC/AOS by Denny Haase (photo by Jean Finalle)



I grew this plant for three years from a three-bulb division that I bought from Marilyn LeDoux.

Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann "Buckleberry" FCC/AOS is a primary hybrid bulbo. It grows very quickly, so I recommend placing it in a hanging pot

or basket and either using a porous mix that holds moisture or watering it often. It grows best in Cattleya light. We fertilize at 100 ppm nitrogen with every watering. Bulbos are grown outdoors from April through September under 70% shade. They do not care for temperatures below 50 degrees.

Species Winner: Sophronitis cernua by Denny Haase (photo by Jean Finalle)



Sophronitis cernua is a fun miniature orchid that we have bloomed since it was in flask! It is one of the few *Sophronitis* orchids that will tolerate our high temperatures. They can be grown in pots (which is how we start them), but they prefer a mount. They like Cattleya light and lots of water, so we grow them under the Vandas. This piece was about six years out of flask. With cooler night temperatures in the summer, it would be twice the size in growth.

Fertilizing Various Orchids

By Doug Harris

A recent question involving whether to modify one's watering and feeding prompts a response immediately of "yes, reduce the frequency of watering and watch the amount of fertilizer you add to your water."

To understand the basic concept of why, let us consider several things. First, unless you are growing under lights with a set photoperiod per day, your orchids will not get as much light in late fall, winter, and early spring compared to summer time. Because the sun does not rise to almost straight up during this period, the intensity of the sunlight striking leaves will also be less.

During this time when our greenhouses will experience cooler temperatures, the second factor is introduced -- moisture does not evaporate as quickly if the temperature drops. Many orchids slow down growth and nutrient production as temperatures fall to the mid 50's, measured in degrees Fahrenheit. So, the plants do not grow as fast during cooler times.

Because the plants will not be producing as much sugars through photosynthesis, the demand for the amount of fertilizer used to feed your plants may also be drastically reduced. To continue the previous rates can yield excess build up of salts at the roots. As the amount of water demand is reduced, so, too, is the effect of flushing, unless one lets additional water run through the pot.

Other things become involved since the presence of high pH or too low pH may occur. If the media is allowed to dry out to a greater degree in the winter period, calcium carbonate present in our Gulf Coast water precipitates onto the surfaces in the root area. As long as the precipitated solids are water soluble, that is true. However, precipitated calcium carbonates are not easily dissolved in water. If the white crust is all over the media surfaces, it points out the desirability of repotting. But dissolved fertilizer can also build up as salt deposits.

Considering these conditions, flushing should continue. One would define flushing as running two to four times the volume of the empty pot of water through the media. Some people wet the media, let things sit for an hour, and then proceed with the flushing action. The concept, here, is that wetting the media helps to dissolve the precipitated salts and then flushing the water through the media removes the excess salts.

Each type of orchid has its own preference as to the pH of the media in its root area. Using a pH meter to read whether the root area is too acidic or too basic can help.

Most Cattleya orchids along with many "common" orchids like Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, and such, prefer a pH near the neutral area, in a range of 5.5 to 6.3 pH, just slightly acid. By comparison, many Phragmipediums demand a pH of a step below that, in the 4.5 to 5.5 pH bracket.

When you buy a plant, ask about its likes and dislikes. Experienced vendors actually know about much of this stuff and are glad to put information in your hands.

My current practice is to lower my fertilizer solutions so that my nitrogen falls in the 50 to 60 ppm level. This level lets me feed and irrigate every time I water. Checking the pH of my solutions, then, monitoring the pH level at the roots in the pot and the run off when I flush results in happier plants that stay alive and grow.

Look for a continuation of this article if enough people want it -- or visit my website to read up on "Feeding Your Orchids" by accessing it through the HOS website.

AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

Culture Sheets Available on the AOS Website

This is a reminder that culture sheets are available on the AOS website at <http://www.aos.org/aos/orchids/page01.aspx>.

In the past, AOS culture sheets had to be ordered, but now the AOS offers them free of charge for your reading pleasure and printing. One of the AOS' most popular resources are those culture sheets for the most popular cultivated orchid genera and miscellaneous other topics.

Visit the link above and you will find a list of what is available and links to secure the applicable document.

These easy-read educational resources are proven winners as handouts. They come in handy in various ways. Some of us like to pass them along with an orchid to a friend, especially to those who are new to orchid culture. The informative pages also feature the beautiful line drawings of the late Marion Sheehan.

These culture sheets are just part of the orchid material available through the AOS. There are even greater benefits from AOS membership. We hope you will check it out. Also, visit with us at the AOS booth at one of the future HOS meetings. We love to talk about orchids and the AOS.

AOS calendars are still available from us at \$10 each. This may be your last chance to get yours before the Christmas Holidays and before the New Year!



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.

Editor's Note: We did not receive any questions this month for Culture Q&A, but I am sure that I speak on behalf of all the HOS membership in recognizing and saying a special thanks to our Q&A panel members for sharing their time and expertise through the Culture Q&A "column" this year -- so, thanks so much to Ted Baenziger, Jay Balchan, Dolores Fields, Joe Fields, Marvin Gerber, Renee Gerber, Doug Harris, Rick Hepler, Julius Klehm, Nina Rach, and Greg Scott for all of your orchid growing assistance! Thanks, also, to all those who have taken the time to email us your questions!

In place of Culture Q&A this month, we offer the following articles from Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor for *Bellaonline* magazine. Each article can be read online (go to <http://orchids.bellaonline.com/Site.asp>), which will be helpful if you would like to "link" to those resources Susan mentions in her articles. A special thanks also needs to go to Susan for not only supplying so many interesting articles for the *Happenings* this year, but also for giving the *Happenings* a helpful "once-over" each month by way of proofreading!

Tying and Supporting Your Orchids

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

One bothersome question that all orchid growers have is how to best support your orchid stems and inflorescences so that the flowers are gracefully presented for viewing. It doesn't matter if you have one or hundreds of plants, this question always comes up when orchid people get together.

Stakes can be made of a variety of products from bamboo barbecue skewers to special metal stakes. In truth, almost anything can be used that is tall enough and stiff enough to control the plant. I've experimented and tried using branches from trees and this works well and looks natural, but you have to be sure to let the branch dry in the sun for about a month to make sure it doesn't try to grow. I had several take over the orchid pot with their roots before I learned this lesson. I do like the natural look and they don't overpower the plant or the flower like some other stakes. Bamboo stakes of various kinds work well, but I personally dislike the bright green ones -- I think they're unnatural looking.

Metal stakes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Here again, I prefer the natural colored ones or thin plain

metal. One grower here in Houston makes his own metal inflorescence stakes from long pieces of wire or hanging basket hangers. Cut the wire about one inch longer than you want the stake to be, bend the one-inch end at a 90 degree angle and then turn it back towards the stake in a "U" shape. The inflorescence is placed in the "U" to hold it in place. This works very well for *Paphiopedilums* and other single or double-flowered orchids such as small or compact *Cattleyas*.

Once you get to the long inflorescences of orchids such as *Dendrobiums*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Oncidiums*, you need to get more creative with your staking. Standard *Dendrobiums* have presented a special problem for me because the plants are large, they need to be pot-bound and staked to keep them upright. The simplest thing is to grow these plants in a hanging basket with a wire support. The plants can be tied directly to the wire. I like to use hobby raffia for this since it is inexpensive, easy to find, and approximately the same color as the dried sheaths on the plants themselves. If grown in pots, the stakes that attach to the side of the pot are good for *Dendrobiums* since the small pots are very often not deep enough to put in a stake for a tall plant.

Oncidiums are normally staked the whole length of the inflorescence in order to best present their flowers. Long metal ones are generally used; the ones I like are brown or dark green so that they do not detract from the plant itself.

Phalaenopsis inflorescences need staking when they get about six inches or 15 centimeters high. Most growers like to support the inflorescence to just below the first flower and then let it bend naturally for an arching display. The inflorescence can be held to the stake with clips, raffia, or any kind of ties or plant tape. Try to keep the whole effect natural so as not to detract from the plant and flowers.

Prosthechea cochleata

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

For sheer cute appeal *Prosthechea cochleata* has to be one of my favorites. It looks like a little octopus to me, although it is nicknamed the Cockleshell or Clamshell Orchid, referring to the shape of the lip and the lines on it making it resemble a shell. In Mexico, where it is rather common, it is known as *Pulpo*. The plant is found from south Florida, where it is endangered, through the northern portions of South America, and there are several different types, some larger and some smaller. It is a natural

epiphytic (growing in trees) orchid. If you have been studying orchids for a while, you might be more familiar with the former name *Encyclia cochleata* and then *Anacheilium cochleatum*, both of which were recently changed to the new genus noted above. The flowers are called *non-resupinate* due to the fact that the lip is carried at the top of the flower rather than at the bottom. This is the characteristic that required the new genus. There is also an albino or *alba* cultivar of the orchid and these indeed look like little octopuses.

These orchids are generally medium sized in growth habit with fairly large flat oval shaped pseudobulbs; however, there are two distinct sizes with one much smaller than the other. I would recommend the larger one since the flowers are much showier as they are larger. If you are limited in space, the smaller version will still put on a good show.

Two thin leaves are produced at the top of the pseudobulbs, and the inflorescence emerges from scapes at the top of the pseudobulb. The flowers are produced sequentially, and the plant will bloom for several months with two to four flowers open at a time. They grow all year long and require warm temperatures to put on a great display. Medium light is necessary, although I grow them with my hybrid Cattleyas. Many people grow these well in low light conditions, but medium light is better. Be sure to give them enough water during the summer so that the pseudobulbs do not wrinkle.

As mentioned above, the flowers are non-resupinate or with the lip at the top rather than the normal position with the lip positioned at the bottom of the flower. The lip can be anywhere from dark, almost black, to white with golden stripes depending upon the cultivar. The petals and sepals are generally a very pale green and contrast nicely with the lip. They may twist slightly, depending upon the cultivar. There is also an albino or *alba* cultivar of the orchid and these indeed look like little octopuses. The albino varieties tend to produce much smaller flowers than the regular ones.

An exceptional cross between *Prosthechea cochleata* and *Encyclia trulla* is **Prosyelia (formerly Encyclia) Green Hornet**. It has larger flowers than its parents, between two and three inches or five to eight centimeters across, and a vivid green color in the petals and sepals. This hybrid was registered by H&R nurseries and has brought new interest with its larger flowers and good coloration.

Orchid Growing Tips #13

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

Tip for Phrags

Many growers keep Phrags in a saucer filled with water to ensure that they never dry out. These orchids are one of the only ones which naturally come from a very wet environment in nature and will tolerate this kind of

constant moisture. It is recommended that you use rain water for them since they are sensitive to salt in the water.

Labeling plants for shows

Use one of those many address labels you get in the mail to label your plants when you take them to a society meeting or exhibit. Many are pre-gummed so they stick easily, and it keeps you from having to write labels for each of your plants. You can put the label on an extra white plant stake and push it all the way into the medium also.

Dechlorinate your water

Dechlorinate your water by allowing tap water to sit uncovered for at least 24 hours. This is critical if you use sphagnum moss in your culture, as chlorine will cause the moss to break down faster. During the winter, this practice also serves to bring the water to room temperature so it will not harm your orchids.

Multifloral Paphs and Phrags

Watch your multiflorals as they grow to make sure that you put the stake in front of the stalk as it elongates to produce another flower. If you don't do so, you run the risk of having one of the bloom branches behind the stalk, and the flower will not present itself well.

Crumble up sphagnum moss for extra moisture

For those plants that just seem to dry out between waterings, take some dried sphagnum moss, crumble it up on top of the regular potting mix. When you water, the dust will be carried down into the mix and absorb water there, providing an extra source for the plant. This fact should allow you to water these plants on a regular schedule with all your other plants.

Refrigerate Neem Oil

Neem oil will become rancid when kept at warm temperatures, such as in a greenhouse, so refrigerate the bottle and just take out and use what you need. The oil will gel at refrigerator temperatures, so take it out a couple of hours before you want to use it. Only make what you are going to use within about four to eight hours as the oil will biodegrade after that time.

Use an orchid journal to keep track of your plants

Growing orchids is a fascinating hobby and most people who get serious need to keep a journal of how their plants are growing, when they flower, etc. This is important so that you can determine when the next flowering period is coming up, check to see when you last repotted, and keep track of how the individual plants are growing.

Art and Jewelry Orchid Gifts

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

There were several new vendors this year in the categories of jewelry and a large number of new items in the art category. I've added some higher-end products at the request of some of your fellow readers and hope you will enjoy and buy some of them.

Art Gifts with an Orchid Theme

One of last year's vendors, [The Golden Orchid](#), has come up with a great new item -- gold and silver sculptures of orchids on wooden bases. They are absolutely spectacular (from the home page, choose "Our Products" then "Sculptures"). The line of individually crafted jewelry pieces from real flowers is top of the line.

[Nature's Playground](#), in conjunction with Café Press, has a nice selection of art tile products available with an orchid theme. Sheila added a special section for Orchids to make it easy for you to find the products you're interested in. I received a sample of the coaster and it's plenty heavy duty and the photography is beautiful.

[Janice Stevens](#) has a whole selection of original art paintings of orchids in various media. They are without doubt some of the nicest I've found on the web in a long time.

Eleanora Roberta Freeman is a botanical artist specializing in orchids at [Orchid Arts](#). Her watercolors are lovely and would be a wonderful gift for any serious orchid lover.

Two new vendors this year produce life-size orchid sculptures in various metals. [Metal Orchids](#) in Covington, Louisiana, produces fine art sculptures of orchids. [David Caccia's Art Studio](#) in Hawaii builds orchid sculptures on commission.

[Dancing Flowers](#), a website by floral preservationist, Judith Seeger, has lovely framed pictures created with dried flowers, many of which are orchid themed. I was very impressed with the quality and detail shown in the pictures on the website. These would make lovely gifts for the holiday season. [RISIS](#), a Singapore based company, has dried and framed orchids of many varieties as well as jewelry and other items with orchid themes in its collection online.

Orchid Jewelry

Jewelry is always a good choice for the holidays and what better way to celebrate than with orchid jewelry? Several of the art vendors above also have jewelry available on their sites. Two Hawaiian companies that I found for the first time this year are carrying jewelry made from orchids. [Real Flower Jewelry](#) has some lovely items; what I really liked about their products is that the process they use creates soft flowers that look natural. They have a special section of orchid jewelry, but also have rose and miniature pressed-flower pieces. I received a sample of their magnetic pins and really love them because you won't ruin blouses by putting a pin through it. The magnets are strong enough to hold well. If you want to wear flowers in your hair they have a clip pin that is really lovely.

[Royal Hawaiian Orchid](#) has the more normally seen Dendrobium orchids lined with gold. I particularly liked the orchid pendant with chain which can be worn either as a necklace or as a pin.

Decorative Items, Supplies and Stationery Orchid Gifts

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

Decorative Gifts with an Orchid Theme

My favorite decorative gift this year is [The White Orchid Candle](#) from a site called, "Love Your Wedding." This great item has white Phalaenopsis orchids on the sides that are so realistic, it's amazing. The candle burns in the middle leaving the outside intact for use with a votive later. A new site that I found, [The Elusive Orchid](#), has exquisite dinnerware with a very subtle embossed design of various orchids. They have a whole series of items available from plates to platters to napkins with their orchid theme. Another source for plates with an orchid theme is [Maui Hands](#). Go through their slide show until you see the orchid plates with Phalaenopsis. They are lovely. [Romance Her](#) has gold plated Cymbidiums and Dendrobium sprays. These are not jewelry items, but useful decorative flowers and sprays.

Orchid Supplies

[Carter & Holmes](#) has a very nice humidity tray for indoor growing at a reasonable price. They are available in either plastic or maple and would be a welcome addition to any indoor grower or greenhouse grower who displays their plants in a house while blooming. [Enlightened Orchids](#) has a great digital thermometer/hydrometer for the best price I've found. As always, [Quarter Acre Orchids](#) has a number of gift items as well as a gift basket for the beginning grower -- good prices, great service. I received a sample of [Impress-O-Tag](#) from Lone Star Orchids and was very impressed with the product. This is a soft metal tag which is written on with a hard pencil. The impression will never fade and the tag will never break down like the plastic ones. A [Digital Light Meter](#), from Carston Orchids, is the perfect gift for the indoor grower. Once you're past the initial purchases of about three orchids, this is a must! Interested in hydroponics? [Creative Hydroponics](#) has everything that the orchid grower needs including great starter kits with all the necessary information to start growing. [Celadon Pots](#), from R.F. Orchids, are the ultimate cachepots for displaying your orchids.

If you are looking for a specific orchid and simply can't find it, [Orchid Finders](#) at Olympic Orchids will locate any plant from a description, photograph, or whatever you can provide. Once they locate the orchid, they will determine the best source and price for you. I have not heard of any other company that will provide this particular service.

Orchid Stationery

[Cynthia Padilla](#) and [Angela Mirro](#) have lovely paintings and note cards for orchid lovers. Do check out the sites. Be sure to look over the orchid gifts at [New York Botanical Garden](#). They have many fine quality items from note cubes to note cards to address books. [Cottage Antiques](#) has the prettiest embossed stationery I've seen in a long time with an orchid theme.



Committee Bulletins

Intermediate Group

Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)

The November Intermediate Group held its meeting at Lee Rowell's Orchid Express. The meeting focused on plant maintenance and diagnosis. Lee graciously donated plants to the group.

The December meeting will be held on Sunday 12/10/06 at 2:00 p.m. Our host will be Roha Brown (Phone #: 713-572-1037), 21 South Briar Hollow Ln., Houston, 77027 (8 story mid-rise building). Parking is on the street. Sign in with the concierge, and go to the party room. Everyone should bring something to eat (pot-luck style). Attendees should r.s.v.p. to me at 713-729-9307.

Newcomers Group

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

The November Newcomers meeting was held at Teas Nursery where Jill Smith, Calvin Starr, Katherine Brown, Sandra Higham, and Holly Huston all gave presentations on growing orchids for beginners. We had a huge group of Newcomers attending, and everyone brought something special to eat as we listened to the talks. After the presentations, everyone participated in repotting hundreds of orchids donated by Marvin and Renee Gerber, Bill Bartlett, Doug Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Davis, and Lee Gundlach. Holly Huston also donated plants, the potting mix, and small pots. WOW! What a great way to end the year for the 2006 Newcomers!

Our January Newcomers meeting will be held at Clown Alley Orchids <http://clownalleyorchids.com> on January 21, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. They are located at 3119 Lily St., Pasadena, Texas, 5 blocks west of Beltway 8 and 1/2 block south of Spencer Hwy (Phone #: 281-991-6841). Please bring a small folding chair. **Please note: you must be an HOS member to attend any of the Newcomer meetings.**

Also, note that Katherine Brown will be the 2007 Chair (Phone #: 318-243-3416), and Jill Smith will be the 2007 Co-Chair (Phone #: 281-545-2023) for the Newcomers Group.

Raffle Table

Chair: Holly Miller (hollymil@earthlink.net)

We will not have a raffle table for December due to the annual holiday party and HJC auction.

Membership Notice

For 2007, we will place advertisements in the Membership Directory for any member's orchid or non-orchid-related business. For more information on sizes and rates, please contact Holly Miller at hollymil@earthlink.net or 281-597-8792. Ads should be submitted to Holly by early January.

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

December 2006 Meeting

Program: Annual Holiday Party & HJC
Plant Auction

Date: Thursday, December 7, 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

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

