

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice President



Meir Moses will speak to us in February on the subject of, "Yellow *Phalaenopsis* Breeding." Meir owns and operates "Orchid Konnection" in Dallas, undoubtedly one of the best sources of fine, contemporary *Phalaenopsis*.

Meir was born and raised in Israel on a *Kibutz* (a farming community) where his love and passion for growing plants began. Later, he moved to the United States to work with an older brother in the wholesale diamond business. In 1993, Meir's interests turned to *Phalaenopsis*. He states, "this new revelation and passion to *Phals* took me to the other side of the globe, to the Kingdom of *Phalaenopsis* -- Taiwan. There, I found a new world -- new colors, exciting and new patterns, a whole new line never seen before, the early Harlequins -- new Reds and Yellows not available at the time in North America. This led me to import many new hybrids and mericlones from various Taiwanese nurseries and form a close relationship with some of the best-known growers in Taiwan. This new discovery and passion also led me to start the Orchid Konnection."

Since 1994, Orchid Konnection has received well over 150 AOS awards (HCCs, AMs, CCMs, and a few AQs to crown the list), bearing up Meir's claim of being on the leading edge of new developments in *Phalaenopsis* breeding. Additionally, he is producing some exciting multiflorals and art-shade *Phals* and sells from flask or compot all the way up to blooming size plants. Orchid Konnection's new website will give you insight into some of the plants Meir will be selling at the February meeting ([www.orchidkonnection.com](http://www.orchidkonnection.com)).

Meir is an accredited judge in the American Orchid Society. The opportunity to buy direct from Meir and to hear his speech on "Yellow *Phalaenopsis* Breeding" is a not-to-be-missed evening of learning and rewarding buys.

## Houston Judging Center

Awards – January 21, 2006

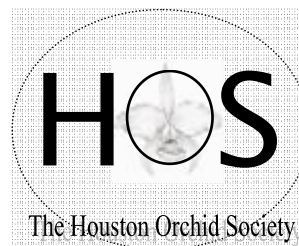
By Marg Putman

There were 27 plants entered with 9 awards:

1. *Tolumnia* Red Hills 'Sundance' (Ursula Hild x Red Bird Reef) AM 80 points, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
2. *Tolumnia* Red Hills 'Sunburst' (Ursula Hild x Red Bird Reef) HCC 77 points, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
3. *Tolumnia* Red Hills 'Sunglow' (Ursula Hild x Red Bird Reef) HCC 75 points, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX

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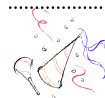
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The Houston Orchid Society was established in 1945 and is a recipient of the AOS Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award.



4. *Tolumnia* Lonesome Reef 'Sunray's (Sundown Reef x Hawaiian Sunset) HCC 77 points, owned by Anita Aldrich, Galveston, TX
5. *Potinara* Remar's Micah 'Remar' (Slc. Jeweler's Art x Pot. Little Toshie) AM 82 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
6. *Yamadara* Remar's Logan 'Remar' (*Yam.* Midnight Magic x *B. nodosa*) AM 80 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
7. *Brassolaeliocattleya* Art Sound 'Ginga' (*Blc.* Love Sound x *C.* Art Galler;y) HCC 77 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
8. *Potinara* \_\_\_ (Odom's Sweetheart x Hawaiian Prominence) provisional HCC 76 points, owned by Sandra Higham, South Houston, TX
9. *Dendrobium philippinense* 'Vera Cruz' (species) provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX



Congratulations to David Hunt on his 100<sup>th</sup> AOS award!

There were 13 Accredited Judges, 1 Probationary Judge, 4 Student Judges and 1 Clerk present with 33 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held on **February 18, 2006** at the Jerebeck Athletic Center, Room 202, St. Thomas University, 4000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston, TX 77006. All plants should be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

## President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

If there is any slow time in the year for tending orchids, we've probably passed it. My babies tell me that spring is around the corner. Spikes on the *Tolumnia* signal that it will not be long before I will be taking the plastic off the greenhouse. Some *Phals* are blooming, and many others are spiking -- time to stake. Bugs and fungi need eradication. Each step of nature's routine offers anticipation and tasks for the orchidarian.

If you are like me, your Christmas orchid books and New Year's orchid catalogues are already tattered and have inspired you to try some new plants (just another good excuse, as if we need one). My personal curator and wife, Sheila, gave me the second edition of The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium to feed my addiction. Wow, what a book -- DNA tests included! It is full of illustrations painstakingly and lovingly drawn by artists who share our enthusiasm for the orchid world. Two of our own members are recognized contributors to the edition: Ken Wilson and David Hunt. The book's illustrations of *Cyrtochiloides cardiochila* and *Miltonia phymatohila* were my downfall. After some work on the internet, I found sources for the plants. The next task is to find a place for them in the jungle. Certainly, there is room for just a few more.

As we add to our collections, we remind ourselves that our plants, like people, are each individuals. Individuals have unique needs and bring unique glory. As your collection grows, do not forget to look at each plant to satisfy its unique needs. As our Society grows, we will try to nurture and meet your individual needs as well.

## Recap: January 2006

### HOS Meeting

**Speaker:** Larry Moskovitz, *Orchidanica Orchids*  
**Topic:** *Bizarre Species*

Larry Moskovitz brought an impressive slide show of a variety of what he calls, "bizarre species," to the HOS meeting in January. For more information about Larry's interests and what he has available for sale, you can visit his website at: <http://www.orchidmall.com/orchidanica>.

### Plant Table Winners:

**Species:** *Catasetum callosum*, **Owner:** Jean Finalle  
**Hybrid:** *V. Manuvadee x Bangkok Pink*, **Owner:** John Jamerlan

Jean Finalle and John Jamerlan are the Plant Table winners for January 2006. They share their culture regimens for these plants in the "Winners' Tips" article on page 3. Thanks, Jean and John, and to all who contributed to the January 2006 Plant Table for our enjoyment!

Our Society is blessed with many unique individuals, many willing to share their talents. At our last meeting, several people expressed how much they had enjoyed the Newsletter's Q&A section. Our thanks go to Nanette for a job well done. Can you believe that she does all this work for free? Thanks also to the individuals on the Q&A panel for their time in responding to each question.

Each of our Society's Committee Chairs puts in many hours each month. Support and enjoy their efforts by attending the Newcomers and Intermediate Meetings, buying raffle tickets, signing up to bring refreshments, planning an exhibit for the show -- or just by saying THANKS! Help Deana with the membership directory by early payment of dues and prompt feedback on the correctness of your personal data for print. Add to our collection by bringing guests to our meetings or volunteering to staff our information booth at the Reliant Center Home and Garden Show, February 10-12. Contact me at 281 286-1471 if you are interested. Thanks.

As a final note, several folks have noted that Stewart Orchids may be out of business. Check their status before placing an order with them.



### Volunteers Needed for HOS Booth!

*Texas Home and Garden Show - Reliant Center*

#### Hours

Friday, February 10, 2006	2pm-9pm
Saturday, February 11, 2006	10am-9pm
Sunday, February 12, 2006	11am-6pm

For more information, contact Laurie Skov at 281-286-1471 or [orchidsandtropicals@msn.com](mailto:orchidsandtropicals@msn.com).



Left, top:  
January 2006  
Plant Table  
Species Winner:  
*Catasetum callosum*, owned  
by Jean Finalle.  
Photo by Sarah  
Bentley.



Left, bottom:  
January 2006  
Plant Table  
Hybrid Winner:  
*V. Manuvadee x Bangkok Pink*,  
owned by John  
Jamerlan. Photo  
by Sarah Bentley.



## Winners' Tips

with January 2006 HOS Plant Table  
Winners, Jean Finalle and John  
Jamerlan

**Species Winner:** *Catasetum callosum*, by Jean Finalle

*Catasetum callosum* is a Colombian and Venezuelan epiphytic species that grows hot to warm and requires bright light. In the winter, it needs a short rest after leaf-fall and less water at that time. It blooms twice a year (summer and fall), with 10-15 fragrant flowers on a spike. This is the dark color form, but the species also has a green lip form. Mites are a problem with *Catasetums*, but they can be controlled with a monthly spray of "Merit."

I have grown this plant for four years, and this is the second year it has bloomed. I have it potted in green moss with bark chips to hold moisture. It receives "Jack's" 16-4-20-3-1 Ca/Mg water soluble fertilizer once a week in the spring and summer. Every two weeks, I add seaweed extract and "Everclear" to the fertilizer. It is grown outside, in full sun, until cool weather sets in. When night temperatures drop to around 50 degrees or below, it is stored in the house, for winter, where it goes dormant. During the winter months, it gets misted, but not watered, until new growth shows in the spring.

**Hybrid Winner:** *V. Manuvadee x Bangkok Pink*, by John Jamerlan

The *Vanda* hybrid (*V. Manuvadee x Bangkok Pink*) was purchased as a pre-bloom plant from Home Depot three years ago. This is its first bloom, so it certainly is exciting! Right after my purchase, I took the plant out of its charcoal/bark mix and placed it in its current slat basket without any medium (I have no luck with growing *vandaceous* types in any sort of organic mix as they get root rot quickly). It immediately went through its current watering schedule which is every day during the warm months (spring to fall) and then every two-three days during winter. Feeding is on every other watering day with some pH adjusted (to 6), 20-20-20 formula (any brand seems to work at 1/2 tsp per gallon), with some different enrichment every week of feeding ("Superthrive," then "Stem," then CalMag/Epsom salts). All feed formula always gets a shot of "Everclear" (1 tablespoon per gallon of concentrate that is diluted 1:15 by Hozon).

My *Vandas* are kept in a slat-house without any shade except for the nearby trees, and thus, do not seem to suffer from most of the pests that we associate with plants grown in enclosures (scale, etc); even during winter, when the slat-house is covered in plastic sheeting, the only serious pest might be the occasional insect that nibbles on the tip of the roots. Standard insecticide formulas (Malathion or Isotox) dispensed once every two months, or so, seem to work. Fungus is another problem -- because of the frequent watering schedule, the plants seem to be prone to root rot during the winter months when they don't dry quickly. So, I try to spray once a month with "Cleary's" or some copper-based fungicide.

## AOS Corner

By Melba & Jim Butler

Are you aware of the new **AOS Membership Drive**? Here it is:

Existing AOS members who recruit a new AOS member will receive an orchid for themselves, plus the new member will also receive an orchid! Current members recruiting five, six, seven, or even thirty new members will receive an orchid for each new member, plus the new members will also receive an orchid. Many excellent orchid nurseries have pledged to donate blooming-size or near-blooming size 4-inch *Cattleya*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Oncidium* and *Paphiopedilum* orchids.

AOS membership benefits are:

- *Orchids* magazine - 12 issues per year.
- Free or discounted admission to nearly 200 botanical gardens and arboreta (U.S. and Canada).
- Members-only receive 10% discounts on purchases from the Orchid Emporium (gift shop, catalog, and online store) which offers fine gifts and a great selection of orchid books.
- Access to the Members-only area of the AOS Website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)).
- Contact with the AOS Services Department for advice with your orchids.
- Reduced subscription rates for *Awards Quarterly*.
- Reduced processing fees for AOS-judged plant and flower awards.

New members also receive a free copy of *Your First Orchid* book, a free copy of the *AOS Orchid Source Directory*, free gift and book catalogs and much more.

When you do the math, membership dues of \$60 for one year average to only \$5 per month! At this price, who can afford to miss all these benefits?

Members take pride in knowing that AOS membership dues also play important roles in support of the AOS judging program and outreach to local orchid societies and their endeavors, including conferring grants, scholarships and fellowships tied to research and conservation.

Please contact us with questions or for additional information about the AOS and "Member Get A New Member." Also, visit the AOS Website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for a beautiful and informative adventure into the world of orchids.

Melba and Jim Butler  
281-492-1437  
[melbajim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melbajim@sbcglobal.net)



## Culture Q&A

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

**Q:** I have a number of mature *Dendrobium* plants that put out keikis on the stalks that flower as if they were inflorescences. The keikis grow roots, but after the flowering, I cut back the spikes. Then they never do anything again. On the other hand, when I have removed the keikis and planted them, they die. So, can you explain whether these are true keikis and what I should be doing differently?

**A:** You should remove the larger keiki's (ones with good roots and large canes), and grow them as adult plants. One culture item that may be affecting the life of these keiki's is that *Dendrobiums* like to be very pot-bound. It could be that your adult plant is pot-bound, but when you pot up the keiki's, you over pot them, and they don't survive. If this is the case, try shrinking the pot size, or potting several keiki's in the same size pot as you used to pot individual ones. The nice thing about the adult *Dendrobiums* is that they generally produce a lot of keiki's, and you can experiment with their culture and potting. --*Jay Balchan*

**A:** These are true keikis of the original plant and are full replicas of that plant (much better than a mericlone as you are guaranteed that it is an exact replica). They should be allowed to grow until they have produced a nice set of roots and perhaps a second cane. They grow quickly since they are receiving nourishment from both the mother plant and the roots. Once they have a nice root system, they can be removed from the mother plant and planted as usual. Some people will remove them when they are just an inch long, or so, but I prefer to let them get to 3-5 inches, if possible. Sometimes a fungus/disease may get into the plant via the removal plant and cause it to die. I would protect the wound on both the mother plant and the keiki. This can be done with "Flowers of Sulfur" or other such products. Further, I would hold off watering the plants for a few days so that the plants can heal. After that, the plants should be treated with normal care. --*Julius Klehm*

**A:** I like to leave *Dendrobium* keikis on the mother plant until they have a second growth (stalk). I do this because the keiki can use some of the energy from the mother plant to help make the new growth. --*Marvin Gerber*

**A:** This will sometimes happen, especially with *Dendrobiums*. These plantlets should be left on the mother plant's inflorescence until they are well matured or the stem dies back first. They are prone to rot easily and should only be watered very sparingly until active root growth commences when they can be cut and potted separately. --*Greg Scott*

**A:** Many *Dendrobiums* put on keikis at flowering time if they are getting too much water. Try drying them slightly next year. Just remember that if you want keikis, water; if not, grow dryer to get flowers.

Your problem may be genetic, and you may always have this difficulty. I have a great plant that does this every year.

Cut off the old inflorescence just above the root area. A new small plant will eventually grow above the roots. When the keiki is large enough, remove and pot it.

Let's list a number of facts about keikis:

- First, they grow roots that are exposed to the sun and air. Orchids put thick layers of white velamen on roots that are exposed and thin layers on roots that grow in humid wet places like pots. The wetness and dryness of your medium will determine the layers of velamen. The layer of velamen prevents water loss which allows the plant to avoid dehydration and live. When a plant has lots of velamen, the water loss is very low, but water absorption is also low.
- Spraying the keiki roots with water does not help much. A small tad of damp sphagnum moss attached to the keiki roots will help the little plant get more water. Also, the next roots that grow will have less velamen. The sphagnum also encourages root growth.
- When the little keiki is potted, the air roots will often die and new roots must grow. This is why we see a keiki just sit in the pot and take a long time to start growing. Either let the keiki get large on the mother plant, or use sphagnum to grow better roots.
- Timely repotting of plants with roots that are growing in the air outside a pot can be explained above.

**Q:** I have had ant infestations in my greenhouse, mostly in the summer. I have sprayed "Raid" ant and roach killer around the plants but don't know what to use on the plants or in the potting medium. When plants bloom, I bring them into the house to display. Ants now come out of the plants in my kitchen, especially after watering (when I kill them). What can be done to get rid of ants in potted orchids and in general? I don't know what kind they are and have not let them bite me to find out.

**A:** We had some ants last summer and used the little plastic "house" baits which were very effective. Place them in the area where you see the little critters, and

don't forget to pick them up before you water. --*Marvin Gerber*

**A:** I have used "Orthene" wettable powder in the amount of about ½ teaspoon per gallon, with a surfactant, to help keep the leaves and media wet longer. Soap does the trick as a surfactant. It works well if you have a sprayer (in lieu of hose-on) where you do not have to mix up a lot of the solution and it can be in a more concentrated form. I would water the plants first and return in about an hour with the "Orthene." It is also good for almost all insects. Do not use the liquid, as it is an oil-based solution and can burn the plants. It smells bad, and I would recommend using a mask, turning off the fans and putting on goggles while spraying. This should reduce the population; it may take a couple of applications a couple of weeks apart. I would leave the fans off as long as possible and close up the ventilation system for a couple of hours. "Orthene" used to be available as an ant killer by "Ortho." I'm not sure if it is still available or not, as mine is a couple of years old. --*Julius Klehm*

**A:** I would suspect that a thorough dipping of the pot in an "Orthene"/"Malathion" bath prior to bringing it into the house would eliminate any ants in the pot itself. After you get done with the bath, you can dispose of the remaining "Orthene" water by spreading it on the ground in the greenhouse. Over time, this should eliminate the ants inside the greenhouse; although, if you don't do this for awhile, they may come back. --*Jay Balchan*

**A:** It's too bad that we have lost ready access to diazinon, an effective ant killer, but most house and garden uses of diazinon were disallowed in Texas as of January 2004. Both diazinon and dursban are nasty organophosphates, though, and Texas was using an awful lot of them.

In the greenhouse, hot, scalding water works well to kill pests that are NOT in the plant pots -- great for use under benches or along the pathways.

"Raid" house and garden spray (green can) appears to be safe on most orchids that I have tried it on. Be careful around the New Guinea *Dendrobiums*, however. Those also do not respond well to the 409-alcohol mixture.

One way to rid potted orchids of insects and bugs is to soak them in a bucket of water, with the water at, or above, the level of the potting media. Ants, roaches, et al. will scramble to the top of the water to escape drowning. Do this outside before you bring them into the house. If the plant is not well-established, you might want to consider whether it is worth upsetting the media to do this. If you decide to use the bucket soak method, you might also add an insecticide and turn it into a liquid drench session. --*Nina Rach*

**A:** The best riddance for ants and scale is powdered "Orthene," either sprinkled as powder, or mixed 1-2 tablespoons per gallon of water, and used as a drench or spray. It smells for a short time but kills and/or drives all of them away--and fast. This is sometimes sold as fire ant killer at most stores. --*Greg Scott*

**A:** Usually ants are living under the benches or outside the house and are coming in to scavenge or build new nests. Cut off their entry.

**First treatment:** Go to the nearest nursery, and buy a bag of fire ant granules -- the type that worker ants pickup and carry into the mound to kill the queen. Spread a thin line around the outside of the greenhouse and a line inside the greenhouse. Also put some on the pots that are infected. Finally, spread the granules thinly across all of the plants. Search the ground under the benches for ant hills and treat.

**Second treatment:** If you can find them, buy a bag of diazinon granules and treat as above.

**Third treatment:** Find a commercial pesticide like, "Knocks Out," which is a slow-release diazinon, and spray the outside edge and ground of the greenhouse. Spray the inside edge of the greenhouse. The pesticide will release for three or four days, getting ants going in and out of the greenhouse. Individually spray pots in the greenhouse that are infected. Treating the outside edge of your house will also stop them from coming into your homes.

**Fourth treatment:** Weed-eat the grass and vegetation around the outside of your greenhouse. Keeping foundations clean discourages ground termites and ants. --*Joe Fields*

**Q: What is the recommended mix to repot paphs and phrags in?**

**A:** Teas Nursery has a good *Phrag* and *Paph* potting mix. Keep the pot watered well and often. These orchids have tiny hairs on the roots which are destroyed by dryness. When too dry, the roots will die slowly, and eventually, you will discover a rootless plant that is dying and cannot be saved. --*Joe Fields*

**A:** Standard *Cattleya* mix but something that will hold water for a period of time, e.g., moss (20% by volume). --*Rick Hepler*

**A:** Both *Paphs* and *Phrags* never want to be completely dry, so use a mix that holds some moisture. *Phrags* have finer roots, so they should have a finer mix. --*Marvin Gerber*

**A:** Use a well-drained mix of perlite, small and medium bark, and small charcoal. Oftentimes, adding chopped sphagnum moss, no more than 20%, can be beneficial depending upon your growing conditions. --*Greg Scott*

**A:** I use a basic bark mix...2 parts bark, 1 part charcoal, 1 part perlite. The size of the bark and charcoal (either medium or fine) depends on the size of the plants. It is easy to create this mix, and it is effective. You need to repot this mix about every two years. --*Jay Balchan*

*Editor's Note Re: Culture Q&A -- Thanks to everyone who sent in questions this month, and thanks to our panel for your helpful and interesting answers. If you are an HOS member and have an orchid culture question, please email it to [hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net). Your question with our panel's answers will be printed in the next issue (or subsequent issue depending on available space).*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Year Open House  
Palmer Orchids  
1308 E. Broadway  
Pasadena, Texas 77506**

\*\*\*\*

**Friday, February 24 and  
Saturday, February 25, 2006  
9am to 5pm each day  
10% Off Everything in our shop  
Email: [palmerorchids@hotmail.com](mailto:palmerorchids@hotmail.com)  
713-472-1364**

**Don't forget your Valentine  
Sale February 7 through 14  
Free chocolate with each plant.**

**Clown Alley Orchids  
3119 Lily Street, Pasadena, TX 77505  
Five blocks west of Beltway 8,  
½ block south of Spencer Highway  
Phone (281)-991-6841 Mobile (832)-693-8140**

**Overgrown Orchid Sale**

**Sat Feb 18 and Sun Feb 19th  
10 to 4 each day.**

**Large discounts on NOIDs.**

**Spring Orchids**

**22332 Gosling Rd  
Spring Tx 77389  
832-326-5080**

**Maps available at February Meeting**



## Committee Bulletins

### Intermediate Group

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

The January meeting was held at Gary and Deborah Beck's home. Discussions revolved around the group's entry for the HOS Spring Show to be held in May. We have elected show officers -- Coordinator: Mary Bahn, Designer: Gary Beck, and Builder: Gary Beck. These officers will be assisted by everyone wishing to contribute to our group's efforts for the show. I will be contacting those who I know will want to actively participate. If I miss you, don't be discouraged, as I'm sure there are plenty of important tasks to go around.

Several Intermediate members have already contributed or loaned materials for the show effort. Thanks to everyone for stepping up and participating. It's wonderful to see people giving back to a hobby that offers so much for the devotee. I also encourage everyone in the Intermediate Group to clerk for the Judges of the Spring Show. Clerking will not interfere with participation in building or dismantling our display.

### Membership

*Officer: Deana Roberts ([robertsdeana@aol.com](mailto:robertsdeana@aol.com))*

Please note, if you would like to be included in the 2006 HOS Membership Directory, please be sure to get your membership information and payment to me by **February 18th, 2006** (not the 28<sup>th</sup> -- this is a correction). Also, if anyone would like to take out an ad in the 2006 HOS Membership Directory, camera-ready artwork is required. Ads are \$60; \$100 for an inside full page.

### Newcomers Group

*Chair: Holly Huston ([hollyhuston@wt.net](mailto:hollyhuston@wt.net))*



We had a great turnout for the January Newcomers meeting with approximately 30 people participating! John and Sandy Stubbings, owners of Clown Alley Orchids, were great hosts. John talked about orchid culture, showed us how to re-pot orchids and generously donated *Cattleya* seedlings, potting mix and pots for all the Newcomers to pot their seedling of choice. It was a great day, and Clown Alley Orchids has a beautiful greenhouse with very clean and healthy orchids for sale. If you haven't been there, you are missing out! We thank Sandra Higham for the soft drinks and Mary Bahn and Claudia Ludwig, our mentors, for their assistance. (Continued on page 7...)

**Committee Bulletin's Continued**

Our February Newcomers meeting will be held at Marvin and Renee Gerber's home on the 19th at 2pm. They are located at 5003 South Braeswood, Houston, TX, 77096; 713-729-9586. They have a very large, beautiful greenhouse attached to their home and have perfected the cooling and heating system. More information will be provided via email. If you are a Newcomer and have not been receiving emails from me, please let me know.

**Plant Raffle Table**

Chair: Holly Miller ([hollymil@earthlink.net](mailto:hollymil@earthlink.net))

For February, we will have a nice variety of *Paphiopedilums* from "Lehua Orchids" in Hawaii. They have been in business for 16 years as a wholesale grower of *Paphs*, *Masdevallias* (including temperature-tolerant hybrids), *Nobile Dendrobiums*, *Miltoniopsis* and *Miltonia* (yes, they will grow side-by-side and do very well, it is just that the *Miltoniopsis* will stop blooming if the temperature gets over 85 degrees F). They are located at 1400' elevation, so they are a little cooler than most other Hawaiian growers. By growing a little cooler, it is easier to re-bloom their plants in the home because their temperatures are typical of where most people keep their houses. Most of their plants are seed crosses. They do most of their own hybridizing, so many of their *Paphs* are unique. The *lehua* is the flower of the *ohia* tree, the first tree to grow on lava after an eruption.

You may purchase 5 raffle tickets for \$1.00 or 30 tickets for \$5.00. These tickets may be used to win any of ten plants. In addition, another plant will be raffled as a door prize. Everyone who walks in the door gets a free raffle ticket for the door prize, and if you wear your nametag, you get two free tickets.

There is also one plant raffled for the General Mills Box Tops promotion. Bring in General Mills Box Tops and receive one raffle ticket for each box top. The Box Tops will be donated to schools for purchasing needed equipment. Last month's box tops were donated to Valley Oaks Elementary School.



Do you have a favorite orchid supplier? Is there a particular genera you'd like to see on the Raffle Table? Let us know some websites to check out. Please email me at [hollymil@earthlink.net](mailto:hollymil@earthlink.net).

**Happenings Deadline for March 2006 Issue: 2/13/06.**

Please email articles and Culture Q&A questions to [hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net). The *Happenings* may be viewed in color online at [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org). Editor's Note: The *Happenings* is a real team effort, and I would like to recognize and thank all those who help make the *Happenings* happen: to all of you who contribute by writing articles, to those who send in "Culture Q&A" questions and to our "Culture Q&A" panel members who are always so prompt to answer with great tips and information, to Doug George who helps to ensure technical accuracy, to Susan Taylor who proofreads, corrects, and generously shares her editing knowledge, again to Susan Taylor and to Nina Rach who have provided many great ideas for the supplement and have contributed articles, and to our daughter, Leah, who helps us with stamps and labels! My sincere THANKS goes to all of you -- you truly help make the editing job fun and the *Happenings* an interesting and educational publication for our HOS members.

**Houston Orchid Society  
2006 Officers and Committee Chairs**

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**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 *February 2006 Meeting*

**Speaker: Meir Moses**

**Program: Yellow *Phalaenopsis* Breeding**

**Date: Thursday, February 2, 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](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)



## Calendar of Events 2006

Date	Event
2/2/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Yellow <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Breeding," by Meir Moses, Orchid Konnection
2/10/06 to 2/12/06	Texas Home and Garden Show, Reliant Center, Houston, TX
3/2/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA
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 Gerneinhart, Illinois Orchid Society
5/4/06 to 5/7/06	HOS Spring Show, George R. Brown Convention Center
6/1/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Temperature Effects on <i>Phal</i> 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: " <i>Neofenitia</i> ," by Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited
8/3/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA
9/7/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA
9/15/06 to 9/17/06	Galveston Orchid Society Fall Show, Nessler Center
10/5/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA
10/20/06 to 10/22/06	SWROGA Show, Heart O' Texas Orchid Society, Austin, TX
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

