

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Speaker Spotlight

By Nanette George, Editor



Photo (left): March 2006 Speaker, Renee Gerber

This month's meeting will feature local speaker, AOS judge, and long-time HOS member and volunteer, Renee Gerber. Renee developed her program, "The Fruits of Summer," nine years ago, incorporating into it many of her passions: "orchids, family, friends and food!" She designed the program to

appeal to every level of orchid grower, from newcomer to judge -- so, there is a little something for everyone.

Renee's passion for orchids began when she received her first orchid plant, a *Dendrobium* Jaquelyn Thomas, as a gift in 1972. At that time, she joined the HOS to learn more about her new plant and soon passed the orchid "bug" on to her husband, Marvin. Together, Renee and Marvin began cultivating orchids as a serious hobby and have gone on to win over 100 AOS awards. "Our first award was received in 1981 for BLC Naples Night, a striking purple and white hybrid of *B nodosa*," Renee shared. And from there, as Marvin once said, their hobby "ran amuck!" They now have around 800 orchids in their greenhouse -- mostly *Cattleyas* and *Phalaenopsis*. "In the Catt family, we particularly favor *nodosa* hybrids; in the Phal family, the miniatures are mine, and the standards are Marvin's," Renee said.

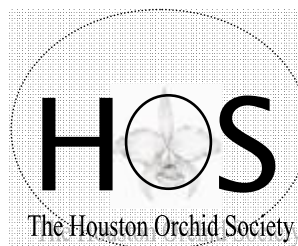
In addition to caring for their 800 orchids (pew!), Renee and Marvin serve as active AOS judges. Renee entered the rigorous seven-year training program in 1983. By 1990, she "graduated" and became an accredited AOS judge. Her training didn't stop there, however -- as Renee explains, "to be a good judge, which I aspire to, training is an ongoing process of staying current."

While continuing her study of orchids, Renee has donated countless volunteer hours to the HOS and AOS. She has served on various AOS committees, including Membership and Judging and in many volunteer capacities for the HOS, including librarian, second vice-president, and Newcomers Group co-chair for the HOS. She and Marvin have hosted numerous Newcomers Group meetings in their home and greenhouse, including this February. Renee currently serves as an HOS mentor and remains active in her work for the AOS judging program.

Be sure to join us this month. Renee's program promises to be lots of fun and is one that she really enjoys bringing to fellow hobbyists.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Speaker Spotlight · Naming the Orchid Show .....	1
President's Post · Recap · Winners' Tips .....	2
Houston Judging Center · AOS Corner.....	3
Culture Q&A .....	4
In Memory Of · Condolences.....	5
Show Website · Show Vendors · Show News.....	6
Committee Bulletins · Officers and Committee Chairs .....	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.



## Naming the Orchid Show

By Melba Butler

Plans for the **Houston Flower and Plant Expo** by the Houston Orchid Society can really move into high gear now! The HOS 2006 Orchid Show has a name! **Orchid Show Downtown Houston**, by the Houston Orchid Society, will take place May 5-7, 2006 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

As announced by show chair, Don Ghiz, at the January meeting, our orchid show needed a name. Many enjoy putting a label on things, and naming something helps define hopes and dreams or set a mood. That is exactly what we wanted to do. Thanks to quite a few of you, some really good names were submitted. After careful consideration, we decided that **Orchid Show Downtown Houston** fits best. It took all the names that were submitted to evolve to this theme, so all who participated really helped. Thank you!

We predict a really spectacular orchid show that depicts "orchids and downtown." Every theme name submitted can be adapted to an exhibit for **Orchid Show Downtown Houston**. For tips on planning your exhibit, see my article under "Show News" on page 6. **HOS, get involved, so we can put on a really BIG downtown Houston orchid show!**

## President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

I want to thank all of our members who volunteered their time to staff the Society's booth during the "Houston Home and Garden Show." Everyone had fun expounding the benefits of membership in our orchid family. I didn't count how many times people came to our booth asking questions about curing their sick plants, but I did estimate that over 600 people per hour saw our booth. Deana Roberts was a pro at getting folks to sign up for membership. Two sister societies, the Plumeria Society and the Succulent Society, were also there -- we courted both societies, asking them to participate in our show this May.

Speaking of which, our May show will require many volunteers, so if you are not already involved, please start thinking about how you can contribute.

Next, this month, our members have an opportunity to bid on a used greenhouse donated to the HOS by the Amand family in memory of late HOS-member, Jean-Louis Amand. The bidding will be open to HOS members only, and the window of opportunity is short (see insert for details). We will show a few more slides of the greenhouse at this month's meeting.

Finally, when you cry about your heating bill, be thankful that you live in Houston. Can't imagine what it would cost to be back growing in Chicago!

## Recap: February 2006

**Speaker:** Meir Moses

**Topic:** Yellow *Phalaenopsis* Breeding

Meir Moses, of Orchid Konnection, Dallas, provided a slide show and discussion on the history and current status of Yellow *Phalaenopsis* Breeding. For more information about Meir and the Orchid Konnection, visit [www.orchidkonnection.com](http://www.orchidkonnection.com). For further study on the subject of yellow *Phalaenopsis* breeding, you might enjoy visiting these websites:

- [www.bedfordorchids.com/yellow\\_phalaenopsis\\_breeding.htm](http://www.bedfordorchids.com/yellow_phalaenopsis_breeding.htm)
- [www.geocities.com/~marylois/arch252.html](http://www.geocities.com/~marylois/arch252.html)
- [www.phoenixorchids.com/article002.htm](http://www.phoenixorchids.com/article002.htm)

### Plant Table Winners:

**Species:** *Cattleya skinneri*, **Owner/Grower:** Joe Fields  
**Hybrid:** *Vanda Sansai Blue "Ackers Pride" FCC/AOS (V. Crimson Glory x V. coerulea)*, **Owner/Grower:** Holly Huston

Joe Fields and Holly Huston are the Plant Table winners for February 2006. Thanks to Joe and Holly and to all who contributed to the February 2006 Plant Table for our enjoyment!

## Winners' Tips

with February 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Joe Fields and Holly Huston



### Species Winner: *Cattleya skinneri*, by Joe Fields

I have been growing this plant for about seven years. Some years ago, I realized that *Cattleya skinneri* 'Casa Luna' AM/AOS had the potential of growing into a large, well-flowered plant. It had an AM award with 18 flowers on one inflorescence. The flowers were larger than usual, and most important, each pseudobulb usually put up two new pseudobulbs. A plant like this will fill a pot quickly. Once it grows into a large plant, it continues to flower prolifically.

I replot every year after it flowers with charcoal-sponge rock mix over a layer of packing peanuts. The 12-inch pot is plastic, and I burn extra holes in the bottom. Large plastic pots dry out uniformly, whereas large clay pots dry out at the edges and keep the middle too wet and stale.

*Skinneri* hangs on tree limbs and poles in bright light in Central America. My plant hangs high in the greenhouse getting bright *Cattleya* light. It is watered with the rest of the plants every four days in the warm months and once a week in the cold months. Before each watering, I pick up several plants to determine if they are dry enough and vary the schedule to fit the conditions.

A balanced "Dyna-Gro" fertilizer is alternated with a high phosphate fertilizer. Plants are rinsed every third watering. Occasionally, I will fertilize with Dyna-Gro's "Mag-Pro" fertilizer with extra magnesium, and several times a year the plants get a dose of chelated iron and calcium.

(Article continued on page 3...)



Left, top: February 2006 Plant Table Species Winner: *Cattleya skinneri*, owned/grown by Joe Fields. Photo by John Van Domelen.



Left, bottom: February 2006 Plant Table Hybrid Winner: *Vanda Sansai Blue "Ackers Pride" FCC/AOS (V. Crimson Glory x V. coerulea)*, owned/grown by Holly Huston. Photo by John Van Domelen.

## Winners' Tips Continued

**Hybrid Winner: *Vanda Sansai Blue "Ackers Pride"***  
FCC/AOS (*V. Crimson Glory* x *V. coerulea*), by Holly Huston

I bought this plant from RF Orchids about two years ago. I only fertilize twice a month and alternate feeding with "Peters" professional Cal/Mag, "Stem," and "DynaGrow." Once a month, I mix 1/2 teaspoon of 96%-proof clear drinking alcohol to a five-gallon fertilizer mix with the "DynaGrow."

I hang my *Vandas* outside under an oak tree unless the temperatures are under 40 degrees, in which case I put them inside the greenhouse for protection. I water every day when the *Vandas* are outside and only once every three days when the temperatures are below 40 degrees. The *coerulea* cross allows the plant to withstand lower temperatures year round.

I use wine corks, large chunks of charcoal, and large aliflor clay pellets inside the wood baskets for a medium to help retain moisture. The plant blooms two to three times a year, sometimes with double spikes! The plant is almost pest resistant (although ants love the sap from the buds). *Vandas* are my favorite orchid, and I am working on a great collection of this hardy plant.

## Websites

[www.chadwickorchids.com/Cattleya/skinneri.htm](http://www.chadwickorchids.com/Cattleya/skinneri.htm) - extensive AOS article on *Cattleya skinneri*  
[www.orchidsasia.com/vanda.htm](http://www.orchidsasia.com/vanda.htm) - primer on *Vanda* hybrids and growing techniques

## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

**HJC Judging Results**  
**February 18, 2006**

There were 21 plants entered with 3 awards:

1. *Doritaenopsis* I-Hsin Black Jack 'Klingle' (*Phal.* Golden Peoker x *Dtps.* Leopard Prince) HCC 75 points, owned by Hung Huu Nguyen, Friendswood, TX
2. *Campylocentrum ulaei* 'Vera Cruz' provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX
3. *Prescottia villenaorum* 'Vera Cruz' (species) provisional CBR, owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX

There were 18 Accredited Judges, 1 Probationary Judge, and 5 Student Judges present with a total of 36 persons attending.

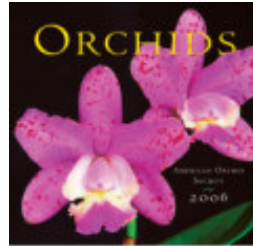
The next regular judging will be held **March 18, 2006** at the Jerebeck Athletic Center, Room 202, St. Thomas University, 4000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston, TX 77006. It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

## AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

Did you get your 2006 AOS Calendar? If not, you're missing an opportunity to pick up some great culture tips. But, it's not too late -- you can still get a calendar at half price by visiting the "Shop AOS" page at the AOS website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org))!

## 2006 AOS Calendar



Item # CL919H

24 pages. 12 color photographs. Shrink-wrapped with heavy card stiffener. 11x22 inches when open.

May not be combined with other discounts. 10% membership discount does not apply.

Price: \$5.97

*Excerpt: Why do so many people feel that among the flowering plants, orchids are the most difficult to grow? In fact, they are not, and the urge to live is so strong in many orchids that they can often adapt to the conditions in which they find themselves. The best growers have a faculty for refinements that make orchids do their best and bloom their finest. In this calendar, author Downs Matthews reveals the secrets of some of the best growers, while their winning flowers grace the pages of this yearlong tribute to orchid cultivation at its best.*

Did you know you could have an orchid named for someone? Following is an excerpt from the AOS website at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org):

## The Ultimate Gift

Now you can give someone an orchid named in his or her honor via the American Orchid Society's Name-An-Orchid program. For a \$250.00 donation to the AOS, an orchid vendor will provide two seedlings of an orchid hybrid named for you or the recipient you choose. A digital image or slide (if available) of an adult plant of that orchid in bloom will also be delivered. Along with the named plants come the rights to reproduce that image for private use.

You can indicate your first and second choices for the desired orchid alliance and vendor. Most alliances are available. The vendor will pick the cross. The following vendors are participating in this exciting program:

- Milton Carpenter
- H.P. Norton
- Hoosier Orchids
- Krull-Smith
- Norman's Orchids
- R.F. Orchids
- Whippoorwill Orchids
- Windy Hill Gardens

You don't have to be a member of the AOS to participate in the above offers. But, AOS members receive this kind of information, plus so very much more, on a regular basis. Find out how to become a member by visiting [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org), or see Jim or Melba Butler at the next HOS meeting!



*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.*

## Culture Q&A

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**Q: How does salt build-up from watering affect our orchids, and how do you deal with it?**

**A:** In a salted medium, there is lots of salt outside of the root and not very much water. Inside the root, there are small amounts of salt and large amounts of water. Water inside the root will leave the root and go into the medium until the water concentration inside and outside the root is equal. Since water is leaving the root, dehydration is the result.

Growers need to flush orchid media often or repot. Flushing will dissolve some of the salt, and the plant will stop losing water. Add a small amount of Safers soap to your flush water for quicker results. Any surfactant added to the flush water will help dissolve the salts faster. Most growers would do better if they fertilized with one watering and flushed the next. Safers is a soap sold at nurseries used to kill plant insects. Use the suggestions on the label. A few drops helps lower the surface tension; a few extra will lower even more. --Joe Fields

**A:** Salt buildup occurs when water containing minerals and fertilizers evaporates and leaves the dried, remaining solids behind. This is not the same salt as regular table salt that we put on food, but it does behave the same chemically, so it is considered salt. In our orchid world, the salt is essentially dried fertilizer. Too much fertilizer causes the plant to burn, usually resulting in leaf tip die-back and poor root growth.

There are basically two ways to get rid of the salt buildup. One is to flush the plant repeatedly over time with pure water. Be careful that your tap water doesn't have a lot of minerals in it, or you may not be doing a lot of flushing. Another way is to repot the plant into fresh mix. --Jay Balchan

**A:** Basically, the salts burn the growing tips of the roots and stop the plant from any growth, therefore, no flowers, but even death is possible. Terra cotta will show the salts on the surface of the crockery as a whitish deposit, but plastic pots can also show the same at the drainage holes. There are two solutions: leaching, or heavy rinsing with unfertilized water "flow, baby, flow", or repot, which is necessary when the medium has broken down and thus, retains too much water and fertilizer. The former should be done regularly, depending on the size of the pot and the medium used. I flush twice a month for my Paphs, which are extremely sensitive to salt build-up, less often for *Oncidiums*. --Ted Baenziger

**A:** Salt buildup can be very harmful if left unattended, and salts from the fertilizers can even build up. The easiest way to combat this is to flush with fresh water on some regular basis. By that, I mean letting the water run through the post long

enough to allow any salt buildup to wash out. I lived in Midland, Texas many years ago, and their water is very bad -- you have a huge buildup of salts. One solution was to use RO water, but if you can't do that, then, what I did out there was set my overhead watering system to rain on a section of the plants for about two hours every two weeks. That not only washed the salts out of my plants, but it watered my grapevines that provided shade on one side of the greenhouse. In Houston, I would recommend flushing plants about once a month. --Julius Klehm

**A:** Salt build-ups are the residue of fertilizers used to feed the orchids. Excessive salt burns and kills the tender growing root tips. This can be prevented by using fertilizer sparingly and by flushing the plants (watering thoroughly with only water) regularly; about once every 4-6 weeks. --Marvin Gerber

**A:** Salt build-up can occur in media as portions of water and dissolved fertilizer, not absorbed by plant roots, is deposited on media surfaces as the water dries. Two methods are used to remove the deposited solid salts:

1) Flush with clear water by first thoroughly wetting the media then pouring enough additional water to carry the re-dissolved salts out of the bottom of the pot or basket after an hour or so. Tap water or filtered rain water is okay for flushing. Resolve any pH issues with rain water; tap water is good providing dissolved solids are less than 150 ppm. I test rainwater for pH and adjust if needed. 7.0 pH rainwater is used for flushing my Phrags.

2) Replace the media because salt build-up and deterioration of media components, such as bark, causes root desiccation or decline. Excess salts tend to draw water from roots and plant leaves causing shriveled roots. Deteriorated media, such as bark particles, can become highly saturated with salts and material decay resulting from bacterial action requiring nitrogen. As a result, the bacteria and fungi that grow in the mushy bark pieces begin to digest roots of the plant. Mushy particles fail to dry out. Hence, one must periodically repot with fresh media, removing old bad roots before placing new media. --Doug Harris

**Q: How does one manage to combine a hobby growing orchids with the desire to travel fairly frequently, i.e., is there a way to set up a greenhouse or an area outside to automate the watering & temperatures? Are there certain orchids that do better than others in needing less care?**

**A:** Purchase a watering control. Install it so that it turns on the water at a certain hour. After watering or spraying several seconds or minutes, have the control turn off the water. Install the equipment, and work it for several months before the trip. When all of the bugs are eliminated, you are ready to travel. When you leave on your trip, you will know that your orchids will be okay.

Another possibility is to hire an orchid plant sitter -- someone who will come to your growing area, check your plants, water and close everything up. Orchid sitters are quite common in the orchid world. A third possibility is to move your orchids into a commercial greenhouse that will sit your plants. --Joe Fields

**A:** Travel and orchids can exist together -- with some planning. I recommend two potential solutions. First, you could teach a child (teenage or older) the basics of watering in your growing area. To make things easier, don't bother feeding or fertilizing while you are gone. Another possible solution is to make a deal with an orchid friend to swap watering duties while you or they are away. --Marvin Gerber

**A:** I think there are three ways to handle this: 1) Set up a sprinkler system. I've set up an area outside which has a sprinkler system and a timer. This works great, and with a little time-release fertilizer in the plant mix, I don't have to worry about these plants all summer. 2) Get low-maintenance plants. *Vandas* need water every day...*Cattleyas* can easily go a week without water. But, if you've got a sprinkler system, then, even *Vandas* can be low-maintenance. 3) Find an orchid friend. There are times when you want to go away for a week or two, and you may need someone to visit. Even though they may not need to water, having someone come over just to take a look at things helps with your piece of mind. You can always return the favor for them. --Jay Balchan

**A:** Most orchids do better with less care than too much care -- and what I mean is, too much watering. Traveling is not bad unless one is going to be gone for more than a week at a time, and then, the orchids can become stressed if not watered or if they get too hot or too cold. Greenhouses, or other areas, can easily be set up to heat and potentially cool (via fans) with thermostats. Watering cycles can also be set up to water on a specific cycle. I use to be able to leave my greenhouse for up to ten days and not worry about it. However, it is always good to have a friend who will come in and see if everything is working while you are gone. It helps if that person also grows orchids. --Julius Klehm

*Thanks to everyone who sent in questions and to our Panel members for their thorough and thoughtful answers. If you have a question you would like to submit for next month, please email it to [hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net). Please note, if we are unable to fit your question in one month, we will work it in the next month.*

**Bonus:** An interesting and informative website on orchid pests and treatments from the Alberta Orchid Society -- includes illustrations of common orchid pests and discusses various cures: [www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/orchidcongress/pests.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/orchidcongress/pests.html).

## In Memory Of...

HOS members were saddened by the recent death of long-time fellow member and orchid hobbyist, Jean-Louis Amand. Jean-Louis died in his home on January 23, 2006. A memorial service was held by his students and colleagues at Sam Rayburn High School. He is buried in his native home in Provence, France.

Jean-Louis taught French at Sam Rayburn High School, in Pasadena, up to the time of his death. According to his family, "he loved his job and his students and enjoyed the interaction with his colleagues." His students and colleagues planned and performed a very personal and moving memorial service in his honor, according to HOS member, Nina Rach.

As a serious orchid-hobbyist, Jean-Louis enjoyed growing *Paphiopedilums* and other hardy orchids. He had several good friends in the HOS who shared his interest, and many orchid hobbyists will dearly miss his friendship. Jean-Louis' family has kindly donated his greenhouse to the HOS (see photo below) -- Laurie Skov has prepared an insert with further details.

Donations may be given in Jean-Louis' memory to the Sam Rayburn Texan Scholarship Fund. For more information, please contact the Sam Rayburn High School administrative offices.

## Condolences...

Condolences to 2005 HOS President, Pam Vinson, on the death of her mother, this February. Many hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with you, Pam, during this difficult time.



*Greenhouse donated to the HOS by the family of Jean-Louis Amand. See insert for auction details.*



## Houston Flower and Plant Expo

May 5-7, 2006

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

George R. Brown Convention Center  
Downtown Houston

## Show Website is Online

[www.houstonflowershow.com](http://www.houstonflowershow.com)

By Nanette George

The Show website is up and running, and it looks **great!** Check it out at [www.houstonflowershow.com](http://www.houstonflowershow.com)!

The website includes all kinds of useful information about the HOS Show, including the "Vendors" link which takes you to a list of *participating* orchid vendors with links to vendor websites. The "Downloads" link takes you to a page that provides .pdf downloads for driving directions to the venue, dock directions for the George R. Brown Convention Center, a downtown Map, and a venue layout.

More information will be added to the website in the near future. In the meantime, enjoy visiting the site, and be sure to congratulate John VanDomelen (webmaster), Nina Rach, and the Show Chairs for doing a great job in getting the site up and running with a great look and layout!

## HOS Show Vendors 2006

Congratulations to all who had a part in bringing the following vendors on board for the HOS *Orchid Show Downtown Houston*:

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

*\*Please be aware that this list may change.*

## Show News

By Melba and Jim Butler

### *Sponsor a Trophy for the HOS Orchid Show*

Please consider sponsoring a trophy or making a donation to the Trophy Fund for the Orchid Show, May 4-7, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Contact Jim or Melba Butler at [melbajim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melbajim@sbcglobal.net), or mail your check to:

Jim and Melba Butler  
1907 Windy Ridge Drive  
Katy, Texas 77450-5226

Feel free to call 281-492-1437 with any questions or for more information. Please take care of this right now so your name will appear in the program book!

Jim and Melba Butler  
The Orchid Show Judging Committee

### *Planning Your Exhibit*

Here are a couple of hints for planning your exhibit for the upcoming HOS Show:

- When judging exhibits, AOS judges scrutinize orchid exhibits that display the orchids well, making the orchids the main focus. Most are interested in seeing only a few accessories.
- **This year, we hope to get the public's vote on their favorite orchid exhibit, so use your own intuition and exhibiting skills.**

We need many exhibits and workers, so please plan your calendars now so you can do your part.

Since we will have exhibits and sales booths by other flower and plant organizations, we are in competition BIG TIME, folks! Don't forget that the larger event is named, "Houston Flower and Plant Expo," and we hope to make this an annual event.

Make contact with Don Ghiz at [doninhoustonx@aol.com](mailto:doninhoustonx@aol.com) or 713-661-1885, and offer your services. If you don't have a preference as to how you will help, Don will refer you to one of the committee chairs. **WE NEED ALL OF YOU!**

### *Design Tips for Orchid Exhibits*

Check out "the O zone's" *Annual Online Guide to Exhibiting Orchids* at <http://www.homes2sell.com/ozone/index.html>. Includes "Groomed for Success," "Master Class with Woody Robbins," and "IdeaBook." \*Thanks to Susan Taylor for bringing this resource to our attention!



## Committee Bulletins

### Intermediate Group

Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)

The February Intermediate Group meeting was held at the home of Lynda & Paul Brandenberger. Refreshments were provided by Lily Chang and Claudia Ludwig. The greenhouse was full of blooming orchids, and the Brandenberger's had lots of valuable advice for the upcoming show. The plans for the Intermediate Group display are solid. Now, we just need to charge ahead. If anyone has exhibit lighting that we may borrow for the Show, please call Gary Beck @ (713) 729-9307. *\*Interested in joining the Intermediate Group? Call Gary Beck @ (713) 729-9307.*

### Newcomers Group

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

The March Newcomers Group will meet at 2pm on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> at Bill Bartlett's home (1631 Marshall, Houston, TX 77006; ph# 713-523-5031). Bill has a beautiful, extra long greenhouse attached to his home. Don't miss this one! I will have maps at the monthly meeting.

The Newcomers Group wishes to thank Renee and Marvin Gerber for hosting the February meeting, Sandra Higham for the soft drinks, and Mary Bahn & Claudia Ludwig for advice as mentors. 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)

At the March meeting, we will have a nice variety of blooming *Phalaenopsis* orchids from Carmela Orchids in Hawaii ([www.carmelaorchids.net](http://www.carmelaorchids.net)). Established in 1960, Carmela's hybridizes and clones all varieties of orchids and are known for their high standards of quality. They specialize in *Phalaenopsis* breeding and in cloning.

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 free 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 tickets.

We also raffle one plant for the Box Tops promotion. Bring in General Mills Box Tops for Education and receive one raffle ticket for each box top. The box tops are donated to schools for purchasing needed equipment. Last month's box tops were donated to Highlands Elementary School.



Do you have a favorite orchid supplier? Is there a particular genera you'd like to see on the Raffle Table? We would love to hear your suggestions. Please email me at [hollymil@earthlink.net](mailto:hollymil@earthlink.net).

**Happenings Deadline for April 2006 Issue: 3/20/06.**

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>	Deanna Roberts

### Chairs

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

### Directors

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

### Representatives

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

## Houston Orchid Society *March 2006 Meeting*

**Speaker:** Renee Gerber

**Program:** "The Fruits of Summer"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 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

(Updated February 21, 2006)

Date	Event
3/2/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Fruits of Summer," by Renee Gerber, Houston Orchid Society
3/31/06 to 4/2/06	SWROGA Show, Red River Orchid Society, Wichita Falls, TX
4/6/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: "Growing Under Lights," by Ernie Gemeinhart, Illinois Orchid Society
5/4/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, Speaker: TBA, *note location change: meeting to be held at George R. Brown Convention Center
5/4/06 to 5/7/06	HOS Spring Show, George R. Brown Convention Center, Downtown Houston
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>Orchids of Japan</i> ," by Jason Fischer, 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, Texas City
10/5/06	HOS Monthly Meeting, "Wild Orchids," by Dr. William Mathis, The Wild Orchid Company
10/20/06 to 10/22/06	SWROGA Show, Heart O' Texas Orchid Society, Austin, TX
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



## Greenhouse for Sale

### **HOS Members Only**

Last month, we were sad to announce the passing of HOS member, Jean-Louis Amand. Robert Amand, Jean's brother, has donated Jean-Louis' greenhouse to the Society. In turn, the greenhouse is now offered to our membership through a bid process. The following conditions apply:

- Bidding open to HOS members only.
- Interested bidders can view the Greenhouse on Saturday, March 4, from 12 P.M. to 3 P.M. **(This will be the only time for viewing.)** It is located at 1435 Chippendale Rd, Houston 77018.
- Greenhouse sold as is to highest bidder with the buyer responsible for removing it from the property, at buyer's expense, by March 31, 2006.
- Bids must be received no later than March 10, 2006.

***Send bids to:***

Jay Balchan  
jay.w.balchan@exxonmobil.com  
1925 Banks Street  
Houston, Texas 77027

- Full payment from highest bidder is due by March 17. Check payable to: 'Houston Orchid Society' sent to Jay Balchan.
- HOS assumes no liability for the greenhouse, its condition, or its removal and the purchaser will need to sign a liability waiver.

The greenhouse is a 18'x9'x8 ½' (l,w,h) aluminum frame, glass paneled, "Lord and Burnham" structure. (They are a quality firm, and prospective bidders can visit their website to see comparables.) It is in marginal condition with many glass frames broken, but the frame is sound. Two full rows of roof panels on one side are replaced with wood framed plastic panels. A few other glass panels are broken, missing or have been replaced with Plexiglass. The bottom frame is set on an unsalvageable wood foundation. The existing foundation cannot be reused. I estimate that it would take a full day's work, perhaps two, to dismantle and remove the structure. This is a great opportunity for someone who has construction skills.



*Left: Greenhouse donated to the HOS by the family of Jean-Louis Amand. Auction available to HOS members only. View in color online at the HOS website ([www.houstonorchid.society.org](http://www.houstonorchid.society.org)).*