

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Really BIG Show (No May HOS Meeting at Garden Center)

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President

Some of you, like myself, might be old enough to remember Ed Sullivan and his introduction to his "Really Big Show." Well, that's what we're up against here, folks.

This year's "Houston Flower and Plant Expo" represents the largest and most extravagant endeavor the Houston Orchid Society has undertaken to date. In just three short years, we've gone from shows in the aisles of shopping malls to our own Hall C in the George R. Brown, a 125,000-square-foot facility.

Instead of our regular meeting at the Garden Center this month, we will convene all day on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, to put this show together and make it the success that it's destined to be. Everyone's help is needed -- there's work for everyone. Please come during the day, if you can. Please come in the evening, also. Plan to stay for at least three hours. Jay Balchan will coordinate the volunteer effort, and he needs everyone's help. If it's not possible to come on Thursday, please come during the show on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Without your help, the Show will be impossible to put on. Many members have worked all year for this event, so please don't let us down.

If you need directions to the GRB, please go to the following link: [http://www.houstonconventionctr.com/map\\_&\\_directions/dock.html](http://www.houstonconventionctr.com/map_&_directions/dock.html). Parking details are described on page 6 under "Show News."

We have 18 parking passes which will be made available, on a first-come-first-serve basis, to HOS members volunteering for at least 3-4 hour shifts. It is *very important* that volunteers return their parking passes to Joe Fields, Jay Balchan, or me before leaving the GRB so that others may use them. Those with passes can park in the GRB lot behind Hall C.

Bring food on Thursday. We will have a food center set up for volunteers and vendors on Thursday, only. Please bring a dish with you. There are no kitchen facilities, so warm your food before you bring it.

Bring plants. If you can't do your own exhibit, John Van Domelen will want your blooming plants for the HOS exhibit. Also, Texas Greenhouse has asked for plants to put in their exhibit greenhouse. Water your plants well before bringing them, and be sure to put your name and phone number on the bottom of your pots for identification purposes.

This month's *Happenings* includes a "Show Schedule" insert. The Show Schedule is a list of plant entry categories used in AOS ribbon judging. Instructions on how to fill the tag out is included, so you may want to pre-class your plant before

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Really BIG Show/No May HOS Meeting at Garden Center .....	1
President's Post · Recap · Winners' Tips .....	2
In Memory Of · Lighthouse of Houston Orchid Workshop · AOS Corner · Houston Judging Center .....	3
Culture Q&A .....	4
Mother's Day Orchid Gift Ideas · Orchids Good for Your Health · Spain Orchid Expedition .....	5
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



bringing it. There will be student judges available at the show during plant registration to help you if you are having any problems determining which class is appropriate. Plant registration hours will be Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As many know, I have had the privilege of serving as this year's Show Chair. I am honored to have been given this opportunity, but being "the boss" is the easiest of all jobs. The hard-working people that have diligently worked on putting this show together deserve the praise and thanks of the membership. Those reporting to me include, in alphabetical order, Jay Balchan, Jim and Melba Butler, Joe and Dolores Fields, Terri Palmer, Top Pickens, John Van Domelen, Pam Vinson, Brian White, and Clark Whiteside. I know that they also have had staffs of hard-working people who deserve thanks. I would also like to thank all those who have supported the show in other ways -- by sponsoring trophies, buying sales tables, exhibiting, clerking, selling tickets, or doing any number of the volunteer jobs needed during the show. And I'd like to personally thank Marvin and Renee Gerber and Jerry Stephens for their never-ending encouragement and support. It's taken a lot of people to get to this point, and many more are needed to get us past it.

With your help and support, we will have a Show that we can be proud of. It's going to be a fun weekend and an opportunity to meet other members outside our busy regular meeting schedules. I hope to see everyone there.

## President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

Last week, I watched a PBS program about the Amazon and why the Brazil Nut will not bear fruit in cultivation. I'll never eat another Brazil Nut without thinking of the program. It turns out that the tree is pollinated by a specific bee. The suitor bee finds mates by zeroing in on the fragrance that its potential partner rubbed off from visiting, of all things, an orchid. Without the orchid: no bees, no pollination, no fruit, no nut. The program did not mention the specific orchid, but the photo was clearly a Gongora. Now I have another reason to love these plants.

Perhaps it is a stretch to use this story as an analogy for the upcoming SHOW, but I can't help thinking that the only way for our show to bear its full potential is to have members contribute to the effort. Without you, the volunteer bees, it wouldn't work. Thanks for planning, organizing, contributing, helping. (SHOW is in full caps because it will be really big, just like the Brazil Nut!)

## Recap: April 2006

**Speaker:** Ernie Gemeinhart

**Topic:** Growing Under Lights

Ernie provided a very entertaining and interesting talk about how to set up an orchid growing environment under lights in spaces available in a normal house. He has growing areas set up in a specially adapted extra bedroom and in his garage. In his presentation, he showed how he used everyday materials to provide the atmosphere necessary for growing under lights.

He briefly explained fluorescent lighting and what he has settled on using. Pictures of his growing areas, both finished and under construction, showed how he has adapted his space to his needs. He gave a number of hints on things which worked for him such as using simple box fans for air circulation, putting a tray of water in front of fans to increase humidity, using plain fluorescent bulbs rather than the expensive plant lights. For more complete information on lighting, see the "Culture" section at his website, <http://www.enlightenedorchids.com/Culture.htm>.  
--Susan Taylor

### Plant Table Winners:

**Hybrid:** Phrag Grande 'Maybrook,' Owner/Grower: Stephen Moffitt

**Species:** Cattleya nobilior, Owners/Growers: Denny and Renee Haase

Stephen Moffitt and Denny and Renee Haase are the Plant Table winners for April 2006. Thanks to Stephen, Denny and Renee and to all who contributed to the April Plant Table for our enjoyment!

## Winners' Tips

with April 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Stephen Moffitt and Denny and Renee Haase



### Hybrid Winner: Phragmipedium Grande 'Maybrook,' by Nanette George with Stephen Moffitt

Steve has been growing his Phragmipedium Grande 'Maybrook,' for four years, outside in his shade house in warm weather and inside his greenhouse in cold weather, in moderate to bright light. He uses a potting mix of 1/3 large sponge rock, 1/3 small charcoal, and 1/3 sphagnum peat and keeps the plant pot in a saucer of water. He fertilizes the plant every other week and repots it every other year.

Black wooly worms love to eat Phrag. leaves, so Steve keeps a close eye out for the critters, checking his plants daily. "The minute you see that the leaves have been munched on or you see their feces, you have to find them," he explained. "They hide during the day and eat at night and can often be found hiding in the pot or in a dark place under the bench... they are about 2-2.5 inches long -- about as big as your thumb and not hard to spot if you are looking for them."

Steve will offer a blooming piece of this Phrag. for sale at his June Orchid Garage Sale...you can contact him for more information.

### Species Winner: Cattleya nobilior, by Denny Haase

A couple of years ago, we purchased a few C. nobilior plants in a shipment from Brasil. When we received them, we decided to put a couple in baskets and the rest in sphagnum mix in pots. A year later, we decided to put them all in baskets because the plants were growing better that way.

Last year, the plant bloomed, but not as well as this year. The only difference was that it had been in a dryer area of the greenhouse, through the winter, and didn't receive much water -- that is why it bloomed so well! We grow outside under 50% shade with fertilizer water. The plant goes inside in October and stays in until March.



Left: April 2006 Hybrid Winner: Phragmipedium Grande 'Maybrook,' Above: April 2006 Species Winner: Cattleya nobilior. Photos by John Van Domelen.

## In Memory Of...

By Dolores Fields

Charles Putman passed from this life on April 3rd, 2006. He will be missed by Marg, his wife of 60 years, family, friends and the orchid community.

Charles and Marg joined the HOS in 1986. They loved to travel around the world and attended many orchid shows here in the States. Their travels took them to the "World Orchid Conference," in Scotland, and the opening of the American Orchid Society's new facilities at Del Ray Beach, Florida.

After Marg began growing orchids, Charles took on the responsibility of fertilizing and keeping the greenhouse running smoothly. He was often seen at an orchid show with Marg, pointing out an orchid he really liked -- the purchase would soon be made, and to the greenhouse the plant would go!

Charles was known for coming to our local shows with toolbox in hand. He would walk around and assist anyone who had a mechanical problem. Every once in awhile, you would hear an exhibitor asking loudly, "Where is Charles? Does anyone know?" He was a fine gentleman and will be missed by all of us.

## Lighthouse of Houston Orchid Workshop

By Robbie Maberry

I just came back from the Lighthouse of Houston. The Orchid Workshop went very well, and I feel very good about it. We had about 25 people show up, and they learned all about orchids. It was great to see everyone sitting in the lobby waiting for the Metro Lift with their colorful and fragrant orchids and big smiles on their faces.

Three lovely women helped me run the Workshop, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I want to thank Sunday Pederson, Sandra Higham and Carolynne White for volunteering and doing such a great job.

I would also like to thank Palmer Orchids for the beautiful orchids and the variety so we didn't have just Sharry Babies. Thanks to the Haases for the non-blooming orchids that we used to practice repotting -- these really were a necessity. Thanks to the Houston Orchid Society for paying for everything. Thanks to the Gerbers for the encouragement. And last, but not least, thanks to the Houston Council of the Blind for letting us do the workshop.

To learn more about *The Lighthouse of Houston* which serves the blind and visually impaired in our community, visit their website at: <http://www.houstonlighthouse.org>.

## AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

One of the items offered on the AOS website should be helpful to people who are new to potting and dividing orchids -- should any HOS members decide to order it, we would appreciate if you will let us know if it is helpful to you.

Here's the link: <http://www.aos.org/aos/HeleoCart/ProductPage/CD931.aspx>

Description: Twenty-five demonstrations showing how to pot and divide orchids step-by-step with clear instructions and photographs. Also presents details on how to mount orchids. Allikas, Greg. 2003. Price: \$22.00

For additional information about the American Orchid Society, visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

**We look forward to seeing HOS members at the Houston Orchid Society Flower & Plant Expo at the George R. Brown Convention Center, May 5-7. Stop by the AOS Table to say "hi" while you're there! Good luck to all exhibitors and growers!**

## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

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

There were 46 plants entered for judging with 35 nominated and 2 awards:

1. Phalaenopsis Chingruey's Crystal 'U-bix' (Princess Kaiulani x amabilis) HCC 76 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
2. Phalaenopsis Donna Craig 'Olympia' (tetraspsis x chibae) HCC 79 points, owned by Bill Tippit, Friendswood, TX

There were 19 Accredited Judges and 5 Student Judges present with 27 persons attending.

Due to graduation ceremonies at St. Thomas University, the next regular judging will be held on **May 20, 2006** at the **River Oaks Baptist Church**, 2300 Willowick (between Westheimer and San Filipe). It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

To learn more about the *Houston Judging Center*, visit the HJC website at <http://hjc.houstonorchid.society.org> and the AOS website at <http://aos.org/aos/judging/default.aspx>.



## Culture Q&A

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

**Q:** I have some Ascendas and a Mkra Kuitana Gold that I grow in wooden baskets. I treat them like my other Vandas -- I keep them outdoors except during temperatures below 50 degrees. I water them every day for at least ten minutes, followed by feeding with a balanced fertilizer (1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water), plus one or two drops of Dyna-gro Liquid Grow. Quite frequently, after a flower spike emerges about 1/4-inches long, it turns black, then dries out. Please help!

**A:** The only question I would ask is -- what time of day do you water? I would hope that it would be early in the morning and not late in the afternoon. It seems that the problem might be related to water staying in the crown of the inflorescence. Otherwise, the culture sounds good. I would keep them a little warmer - say, 55-60 degrees. --Julius Klehm

**A:** This is a tough one, because there are so many outside factors, i.e., sun, wind, rain, etc. However, I would be willing to bet there is either some internal bacterial infection, especially if the emerging inflorescence is watered, or significant live roots are not available to carry the flowers to maturity. Watering ten minutes is not justified -- one or two minutes to thoroughly wet the plant is enough. Keep the water away from the emerging flowers. Apply a systemic fungicide and bactericide one a month. Avoid temperature drops during development. --Greg Scott

**A:** Sounds like you are doing everything right. The only changes I would make are to switch to Peters Professional Cal-mag fertilizer (many orchids need more calcium and magnesium to properly use the nitrogen we feed them), and add a rooting hormone called, "Dip 'n Grow" to encourage more roots. Sounds like your plants want to bloom, but they just can't quite get there. --Marvin Gerber

**A:** I would do two things. First, treat the plant with a systemic fungicide each week for three weeks. Be sure to run the liquid down in between the leaves and the main stem. Spray the pesticide into the axil (area between the leaf and stem) with some force to clean the area. Second, you might have a genetically defective plant. Some of the complex Vanda hybrids are sterile. They grow great but never hold an open inflorescence. The same thing happens with some of the complex Oncidiums. Bottom line is that after treatment with the pesticide and one more failed flowering, you might want to find a trash can for this one. --Joe Fields

**Q:** What blooms well during the HOT Houston summers?

**A:** Editor's note: Renee Gerber provides the answer for this question based on some of what she and Marvin have

successfully bloomed together in the heat of Houston summers (of course with chillers and fans and appropriate shading inside their ample greenhouse)! Renee shared this information with members during her presentation at the March meeting -- but in case you missed it (or, like me, you can't read the notes you wrote in the dark while looking at slides!) -- we thought it would be helpful to provide a list here.

Renee notes that many of the flowers shown at the March meeting were hybrids of *Brassovola nodosa* (also known as "the lady of the night"), *Cattleya aclandiae*, or *Cattleya guttata*. Here are some of Renee's recommended "summer bloomers," categorized by color group:

### **Peaches**

Blc Golden Tang  
Oncidium pappilio (now psychopsis pappilio)  
Lc Merry  
Blc Rustic Spots

### **Strawberries**

Slc Bright Angel  
Ctna Mem Henry Goldberg  
Ascda Yip Sum Wah  
Dtps Kyoto  
Bl Morning Glory  
Lc Secret Love

### **Bride/cream/white**

Angraecum Lemforde White Beauty  
B nodosa  
Rhy coelestis  
Ph Be Tris  
Blc Fatari

### **Kiwi/green**

Blc Mem Helen Wood  
Cyn loddegesii  
Epc Siam Park  
Lc Roy Finley

### **Cherries**

C Chocolate Drop  
Bc Roman Holiday  
Ctna Why Not  
Onc Maureen  
Blc Remar's Joy

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



## Mother's Day Orchid Gift Ideas

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor,  
*BellaOnline*

I've gotten some requests for ideas for Mother's Day for those of you out there with addicts, like me, for mothers or mates. If you have a serious orchid lover to buy for, I would suggest a gift certificate from her favorite vendor. Every hobbyist has a "wish list" of plants she wants, and this way, she can get one of these. Most vendors selling on line have a gift certificate available that can be purchased and easily sent, printed or otherwise given to your mother.

### New Products Available for Orchid Growers

Carter and Holmes, one of the premier orchid vendors in the U.S., has a new humidity tray which is not only useful but extremely good looking. This tray is one of the nicer ones I've seen and would be a great gift for indoor growers.

Enlightened Orchids has a GE Weather Station which reads temperature and humidity for an incredible price of \$12. All orchid growers should have one of these. This vendor also has a nice selection of orchids grown under lights that is perfect for the indoor enthusiast.

Quarter Acre Orchids has a new plastic humidity tray for indoor growing that will keep your plants from sitting in water. It's inexpensive, so you can get a bunch of them! They also have a good selection of plants for growing indoors.

### Orchid Conservation Donations

If your mother is into conservation, there are a number of different ways to donate. For the orchid grower who has everything, how about an acre of land in Ecuador through the World Land Trust? Your gift will be saving habitat for endangered orchid species.

Ecuagenera is an orchid nursery with an attached school supported by the nursery. It is one of the most interesting orchid stories around. Parkside Orchids has a special checkout item for this very worthy cause.

### Cards, Jewelry, Books, Magazines, Miscellaneous

The NY Botanical Garden has an exceptionally nice selection of note cards, journals, engagement calendars and other desktop accessories with orchids. Cynthia Padilla, Angela Mirro and Elenora Freeman have beautiful hand-made cards and prints.

You might want to start out an Orchid of the Month Club membership for someone fairly new to orchids. I did this and really liked it because, after a year, you end up with blooming orchids year round.

For the novice, intermediate or experienced grower The Potting Workshop™ CD has something for everyone!! I personally recommend this CD.

### Orchid Jewelry

A really interesting jewelry site, fonseca Accessories Inc., produces jewelry from specially-preserved Dendrobium flowers which are then trimmed in gold. I recommend this vendor.

Check out The Golden Orchid which has fantastic solid gold or sterling silver earrings, pendants, pins and sculptures. Each creation is an exact reproduction of an actual flower. I recommend this vendor.

Links to all the vendors mentioned can be found in the original article at <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art42092.asp>.

## Orchids: Good for Your Health?

The Society of American Florists (SAF) recently teamed up with Rutgers University in New Jersey on two research studies that link flowers and health. Both studies, administered by Jeannette M. Haviland-Jones, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Rutgers, show that flowers are a natural way to improve a person's emotional health and well-being.

The Emotional Impact of Flowers Study, conducted in 2000, found that receiving a gift of flowers had an immediate impact on happiness, had a long-term effect on moods and increased intimate connections with family and friends. The Flowers and Seniors Study, conducted in 2001, demonstrated that, for senior citizens, flowers ease depression, inspire social networking and refresh memory with age.

Source: excerpt from <http://www.aos.org/aos/uploadedfiles/docs/pkitnationalorchidmonth.pdf>.

## Spain Orchid Expedition



We ([hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net)) recently received an email from a group that is organizing an **Orchid Volunteering Expedition in Spain**, in the Marina Region (South-East Spain), during May 2006. You can find the full information at

[www.identiacentre.net](http://www.identiacentre.net) or at [www.identiacentre.net/orchid/index.htm](http://www.identiacentre.net/orchid/index.htm) (it's well worth the time to visit the website just for its orchid photos and information).

The group will be monitoring orchid populations in several places, including counting and measuring, taking photographs, and looking for pollinators. In some places, they will mark specimens to be "rescued" and transplanted in the summer -- specimens that are endangered by imminent massive urban developments in their habitats. Also on the agenda is a visit to several typically Mediterranean mountains and valleys in the countryside, from the coastline towards the inland.

Toni Barber & Nico Moity are the leaders for the expedition -- you may email them at [identia@identiacentre.net](mailto:identia@identiacentre.net).

## Show News



Houston  
Flower and Plant Expo  
May 5-7, 2006

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

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

### Parking Information

George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB)  
1001 Avenida de las Americas  
Downtown Houston

The GRB offers parking for \$7 in the parking garage located at the corner of Polk Street and Avenida de las Americas which is connected to the GRBCC and the Hilton by Level 2 skywalks. There are also several privately-owned lots surrounding the GRB with parking from \$4-\$7. Here are some options:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>North</b> | Parking is available in lots one block from the GRBCC on Rusk Street.  |
| <b>South</b> | Parking is available in the 1600-space Hilton Americas-Houston parking garage, as well as in lots near the Holiday Inn Express on Chenevert Street.  |
| <b>East</b>  | Chinatown is located just east of the GRB and Highway 59. There are several parking lots open to the public, in addition to street parking.  |
| <b>West</b>  | Over 600 parking spaces are available directly across from the GRBCC. Several lots are located between the GRBCC and the Four Seasons Hotel/Houston Center. Houston Center has multiple parking garages available for GRB parking. |

### HOS Show Exhibit -- We Need Your Plants!

The success of our show exhibit depends on the donation of plants by our membership for use in the display. Please bring any orchids you wish to provide for the HOS Show exhibit to the GRB by Friday afternoon (5/5/06). Please have your plants cleaned and tagged using masking tape with your name on the underside of the pot and labeled with the species, hybrid name, or parents if the cross is unnamed. (Note: this year, I will be counting the orchids brought in toward your total for the Plant Table contest.)

Green filler plants are also needed to flesh out the display. Any plant that is in good condition can be used. While we may not use all the plants brought in, it would be nice to have too many rather than not enough. **NOTE: AOS rules do not allow any flowers/seed pods/inflorescences in judged displays except that of orchids. Greenery is fine, but not if it has flowers. The most frequent violations are bromeliads and fruit trees.**

Let's make it a great one! --John Van Domelen

### Show Tickets

Please bring the money due for ticket sales and any unsold tickets to the show. Those turning their money in by 2pm on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, are eligible for the contest. Prizes will be awarded for the most sold (1st, 2nd and 3rd). I will be at the show Thursday through Sunday and will accept money and returned tickets any time. --John Van Domelen

### Show Exhibits

Have questions about your show exhibit? Contact Joe Fields, Show Logistics Chair, at [jfields1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jfields1@sbcglobal.net) or 409-948-3393.

### Online Help

<http://www.homes2sell.com/ozone/exhibits/> - great site with lots of advice on exhibiting orchids, including AOS Point Scale for Judging with description of each category (general arrangement, quality of flowers, variety and labeling); Master Class with Woody Robbins - instructions for installing an orchid exhibit (with photos); "How Much Do I Need?" - advice on various exhibit elements including orchids, foliage plants, ground cover and staging; exhibit materials checklist; how to determine color flow for your exhibit.

<http://www.homes2sell.com/ozone/grooming/groomed.htm> - tips on grooming your plants for a successful exhibit.

<http://www.homes2sell.com/ozone/ideabook/ideabook.html> - advises, "Use this Idea Book as inspiration for your next exhibit or as examples of do's and don'ts." Provides lots of photos on all kinds of exhibits from table top to floor.

[www.datamangler.com/HODOS/OrchidExhibit.ppt](http://www.datamangler.com/HODOS/OrchidExhibit.ppt) - "course" on creating orchid exhibits; also can be viewed in html.

<http://www.cnyos.org/CNYOS.Sept.2004.pdf> - great article titled, "Appreciating the Complexities of an Orchid Show" - author's perspective on the many facets of an orchid show including the judging/awards process.

<http://www.orchidworks.com/ozone/fototips/index.html> - photos tips - now that your exhibit is all set, you'll want to take some great photos; this site provides lots of tips.

<http://www.orchids.com/EventImages/2005Houston/index.htm> - view photos from the 2005 HOS Show, courtesy of Norman's Orchids.



## Committee Bulletins

### Intermediate Group

Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)

Our Sunday meeting was held at Susan Dally's lovely home. Susan gave us a tour of her built-in greenhouse and explained how she ran her greenhouse, which she likened to "sailing a ship."

We made a lot of progress on our show exhibit. Thank you very much, Susan, for the unexpected orchids you shared with the group and for opening your home to us.

There will be no meeting in May due to Mother's day falling on the second Sunday of the month and the Orchid Show. The June meeting will be held at Clown Alley Orchids on 6/11/06 at 2 p.m.

### Newcomers Group

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

The next (HOS members only) Newcomers meeting will be held Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2 p.m. at Ron Bayer's house (1410 Isabella Street; Houston; 713-524-5402). Ron is very excited about his new greenhouse, and we all look forward to seeing it!

Please note: lots of folks, who are not members of the HOS, have been reading about the Newcomers Group on the HOS website and showing up at our meetings. While we appreciate the great interest in our Group, we must emphasize that the HOS Newcomers Group meetings are **for current HOS members only** -- the group is a benefit of HOS membership and is not open to the general public. Names will be checked at the door for all future meetings -- those who are not current HOS members will not be admitted. However, the remedy for this dilemma is simple -- just join the HOS! Deana Roberts will be glad to send you a membership application if you would like to join -- just contact her at [robertsdeana@aol.com](mailto:robertsdeana@aol.com), or visit her at the next regular HOS meeting in June.

The April meeting was held at my house. Thanks to Shelia and Laurie Skov and Dolores and Joe Fields for showing the Newcomers how to best prepare exhibit flowers for the upcoming show.

#### HOS Newcomers Group Website

Guess what?! The HOS Newcomers Group now has its own website at [www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html](http://www.kr5e.com/newcomers.html) (you can also go to the HOS website at [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org) and click on the "HOS Newcomers Group" link)! The site provides photos from previous meetings, notes from fellow HOS Newcomers, links to websites with culture tips and photos, the HOS Newcomers Handbook, an orchid name pronunciation guide, tips for determining fertilizer concentrations, and information on local orchid greenhouses where you can purchase plants and supplies.

### Happenings Deadline for June 2006 Issue: May 15, 2006

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

## Houston Orchid Society 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

### Officers

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

### Chairs

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

### Directors

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

### Representatives

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



Houston  
Flower and Plant Expo

May 5-7, 2006

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

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

*HOS Members -- Come  
volunteer at the GRB  
Convention Center on  
Thursday, May 4th. Contact Jay  
Balchan for more information.*

For more information about the show,  
visit [www.houstonflowershow.com](http://www.houstonflowershow.com)



## Calendar of Events 2006

(Updated April 23, 2006)

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