

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President



Our speaker this month is Dr. William Mathis (left), of the Wild Orchid Company in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Dr. Mathis will be speaking to us about, "Hardy Terrestrial Orchids: The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World." His presentation is designed to give orchid enthusiasts a general overview of the cultural requirements for successfully growing hardy terrestrial orchids. Several different

species are discussed in detail. The discussion is divided into three categories: upland, wetland, and transition species, and includes soil amendments, soil mixes, fertilizer use, watering requirements, etc., for each of the specific groups.

Biography

Dr. Mathis became interested in native terrestrial orchids, in 1970, as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas. As a part of his masters program, he conducted a series of ecological studies on "Small Yellow Lady's Slipper Orchids in Northwest Arkansas." After completing his MS degree in Botany, he moved to the Agronomy Department and completed his doctorate. At this point, he accepted a job with a major agricultural company and worked as a research scientist and manager for 25 years. He maintained his interest in terrestrial orchids over the years. In 2000, he set up a lab and started growing a number of species from seed, as well as buying seedlings and mature plants in an effort to accumulate large numbers of "showy" upland and wetland terrestrial orchid species.

In 2001, when it became apparent that early retirement was a reality, Dr. Mathis started *The Wild Orchid Company*, focusing on the production and sales of a variety of terrestrial orchids (North American, European, and Asian species) that are hardy in south eastern Pennsylvania. Currently, he is working with hybridization and induced polyploidy of several *Bletilla*, *Cypripedium*, *Calopogon*, *Arethusa*, and *Calanthe* species in an effort to select specific plants for horticultural use.

In 2005, Dr. Mathis wrote and published a book, *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Perennial Orchids*. The book uses a non-technical, practical approach to present the basic requirements for successfully growing hardy perennial orchids.

Dr. Mathis will have books available for sale at the meeting, but he will not be selling plants as they are in a dormant state in October. However, after hearing his presentation, you may be interested in visiting his website, www.WildOrchidCompany.com, and ordering those orchids that will prosper in our climate here in Houston. He will have order forms for us to use.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---|
| Speaker Spotlight | 1 |
| President's Post · Recap · Winners' Tips | 2 |
| Houston Judging Center · Wild Orchids in Texas · AOS Corner | 3 |
| Culture Q&A | 4 |
| Snails and Slugs on Orchids | 5 |
| Cymbidiums · Davy Crockett National Forest | 6 |
| Committee Bulletins | 7 |
| Calendar of Events 2006 | 8 |



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



Spring Orchids Fall Clearance Sale

Fri. October 20 - 10am-5pm
Sat. October 21 - 11am-4pm
Sun. October 22 - 10am-4pm

Cattleyas - \$1, \$5 and up
Phalaenopsis - \$1 and \$5
Paphs, Phrags, Bulbos, and Vandas

22332 Gosling Rd · Spring, Texas
281-353-8410
713-898-6809
832-326-5080

President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

The HOS was certainly well represented at last month's Galveston Show. Three displays were entered by our members, and all three won trophies. The Newcomers ran away with the prestigious AOS Trophy for the most outstanding display of the show. It was indeed outstanding. The HOS display, designed by John Van Domelen, captured the Orchid Digest Trophy. The Intermediate Group won the Educational Trophy. In addition to the overall display trophies, there were many individual plant trophies and ribbons adorning the beautiful flowers. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated and contributed.

The year is beginning to end. I spent a lot of time this month in Chicago, where fall weather has certainly begun. It was a reminder to begin preparations for change -- it's time to adjust the shade cloth with the changing light, cut back on watering, get the greenhouse ready for closing, and check that the heater works. And best of all, it's time to enjoy the fall sprays of your Dendrobiums and Vandas!

Recap: September 2006

Program: Development of White with Colored-Lip Phalaenopsis

Presented by: John Stubbings, Clown Alley Orchids

Oops -- program change! John Stubbings graciously provided a presentation on Phalaenopsis with lovely color slides from the 2006 Taiwan International Orchid Show. John and his wife, Sandy, are proprietors of Clown Alley Orchids in Pasadena, Texas. They have an active hybridizing program with Galeandra and Phalaenopsis, concentrating on warm or intermediate temperature types that flower and grow easily in our warm, Houston climate. For more information, visit their website at www.clownalleyorchids.com.

Plant Table Winners:

Hybrid: Ascda. Fuchs Sunset 'Orange' AM/AOS;

Owner/Grower: Rick Kelley

Species: C. leopoldii; Owner/Grower: Joe Fields

Rick Kelley and Joe Fields are the Plant Table winners for September 2006. Thanks to Rick and Joe and to all who contributed to the September Plant Table for our enjoyment!

Winners' Tips

from September 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Rick Kelley and Joe Fields



Hybrid Winner: Ascda. Fuchs Sunset 'Orange' AM/AOS;
Owner/Grower: Rick Kelley

I purchased this meristem as a small plant, in 1999, from Siam Orchids in Pasadena. I don't have a greenhouse, so all my plants (Cattleyas and Vandas) grow outside from around

early April to the first week in November. While outside, the Vandas hang under a 50% shade cloth with a fan blowing all the time. I water every morning with a misting nozzle on a garden hose before heading to work. Once or twice a week, I throw the larger plants into my fish pond to soak for about an hour. I don't know if this helps, but it doesn't seem to hurt. I fertilize two to three times a week while outside. I'm not particular about the type of fertilizer. I use no media for the Vandas. Once the original wood basket rots away, I just hang the plant from electrical wire.

During the winter, I bring all my orchids into my house near a large west window. I cut back on the watering and stop fertilizing, but the combination of cool temperatures, low humidity, and poor light nearly kills everything every year. Although all the root tips die back, the Vandas quickly recover after moving back outside. Most of my Vandas bloom at least twice a year, occasionally three times, and the flowers usually last about two months, so they are exceptionally rewarding given the ease of care.

I do not use any pesticides and have not noticed any bugs on the Vandas. Green anole lizards love climbing through them, so maybe they are taking care of pests. Although I've had good luck with Vandas/Ascocendas/Arandas, other members of this group (Renantheras, Rhynchostylis) don't like my growing conditions and have all died within a few months of arrival. The roots tell the whole story. If you have happy root tips, flowers will soon be abundant. If the roots just sit and do nothing, get a coffin ready.

Species Winner: C. leopoldii; Owner/Grower: Joe Fields

I have owned this plant for about seven to eight years. It shows traits of both *Cattleya guttata* and *Cattleya leopoldii*. It usually flowers from a green sheath in August, has three leaves per pseudobulb, and is tall like *leopoldii*. Twice, the plant has flowered like *Cattleya guttata* from a dry sheath in September-October. The flowers do look mostly like *guttata*. This is not uncommon, as the two species live from sea level to 800 meters and from 800 meters upward. They hybridize often at the 800 meter elevation in Brazil.

From now until December, I keep the plant very dry. Repotting is done sometime during September until February. I water only when the pseudobulbs shrivel. Sometime from May through July, a new pseudobulb begins to grow. Get this -- it grows one to one and a half inches each day. The five-foot pseudobulb is finished near August 1st and flowers sometime in August. The most important cultural note is that *C. guttata-leopoldii* must be dry-dormant after it flowers from September into the next year.

Online Resources - Vandas and C. leopoldii

<http://www.rforchids.com/> - Vanda culture and photos
http://www.orchidworks.com/orchids/2005/C_leopoldii_c.html - photo, description, culture
http://www.notsogreenthumb.org/contrib/orchid_photos5/C_leopoldii.jpg - good photo of *C. leopoldii*
www.orchidworks.com/.../C_leopoldii_alba.html - photo of alba form of *C. leopoldii*

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

Houston Judging Center
September 16, 2006

There was one plant entered for judging with no award. There were 21 accredited judges and 6 student judges present with a total of 37 persons attending.

The next judging will be held on **October 28, 2006** at the Jerebeck Center, Room 202, University of St. Thomas, 2000 Mt Vernon St., Houston, TX. **Please note: this is the fourth Saturday of the month.** The time has been changed due to a scheduling conflict. It is requested that all plants be presented before 11:30 a.m. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

Wild Orchids in Texas

By Nanette George

If you have an interest in wild orchids, you may already be aware that Texas has its share of them. The recently discovered, 'Pike's three-birds orchid,' was added to the list of these wild Texas beauties by Dick Pike, a Lufkin biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Pike discovered the orchid last summer in the depths of the Davy Crockett National Forest* (see page 6 for more information). He had been searching for another rare orchid, the crested coral root, when he came upon the 4-inch-tall "snow-white blossoms with delicate cerise and lime edges."

Pike's discovery was later identified as a *Triphora* by his colleague, Tom Phillips, a U.S. Forest Service botanist in Lufkin. This was exciting news to Pike because it was the first *Triphora* found in Texas. After extensive discussion with botanists from around the country, it was determined by Paul Brown, of the University of Florida Herbarium, that Pike's discovery is a new variety of the wild species. The orchid now bears the official name of *Trophora trianthophora* Var. *texensis* to reflect its native habitat. For more information on this wild discovery, including photos and botanical/historical background on *Trophora*, read Pike's and Brown's collaborative article in the August 15th issue of the *North American Native Orchid Journal*.

Source: <http://www.lufkindailynews.com/news/content/news/stories/2006/09/3/orchid.html>. *Thanks to Susan Taylor for bringing this news to our attention.

Online Resources - Wild Orchids

http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/HOS/Texas_1.html - an article on Texas wild orchids written by HOS member and webmistress, Nina Rach.

<http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/ligwil.html> - website for Joe and Ann Liggio's book on Texas wild orchids.

<http://dir.gardenweb.com/directory/nanoa> - North American Native Orchid Alliance website.

AOS Corner

Submitted by Melba and Jim Butler



Only AOS Members Receive
Orchids Magazine!

AOS members are enjoying their September 2006 issue of *Orchids* magazine. *Orchids* is published monthly by the American Orchid Society.

Following are highlights from this month's issue:

- A "not-to-miss-read" is the first of a new series on "American Orchid Legends," by HOS member, Jeff Bradley. Jeff begins with a story about H. Patterson & Sons and delves into his recollections of the nursery and their well-known *Cattleya* hybrids.
- You'll read about and see colorful *Cattleyas*, discussed in depth by three respected authors: Charles Marden Fitch takes a look at *Cattleya* species and some of their hybrids; A.A. Chadwick focuses on *Cattleya dowiana* -- its history, culture, and hybrids; and Ken Slump presents the variations of *Oncidium*, including the delicious chocolate-scented *Oncidium Shary Baby* and the diminutive *tolumnias* (equitants).
- Do you know how to care for jewel orchids in the month of September? Thomas Miranda spells it out in the "Genus of the Month."
- For the scientific mind, the quarterly "Lindleyana" begins with Ron McHatten's essay of subjects to be covered in the December 2006 and March 2007 issues of *Orchids*. The September issue deals with a new *Sigmatostylis* from Costa Rica, a new *Encyclia* from Cuba, and an in-depth treatment of the fruit type of *Maxillaria nardooides*.
- Also, be informed with an update on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), by Roddy Gabel, and future CITES meetings and predictions of the effects for orchid growers.
- Visit the calendar of orchid events.
- Check out the ads for orchids and products to order.

All this is only a sampling of *Orchids* magazine, a publication that only AOS members receive each month (the magazine is not offered on newsstands). Each month, *Orchids* features wonderful color photographs and informative articles that are fun and enjoyable for the full range of orchid enthusiasts (from novice to expert). The quality and value of the magazine, plus all the other member benefits, makes membership with the AOS a fantastic bargain. For information on how to join the AOS, visit the organization's website at www.aos.org, or see your AOS representative at the next HOS meeting.



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.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Culture Q&A Experts,

On behalf of those of us who have submitted queries and cries for help to your column, and all other avid readers of the HOS Happenings, I'd like to personally thank your panel of devoted experts. Your section of the *Happenings* has become my favorite, every word read avidly, and each varied opinion enjoyed for its perspective. I file my copy of the *Happenings* and refer back to the column whenever I need to remind myself of the answers to the queries I submitted, or those of others, which invariably apply to my own orchid collection as well. Thank you for your expertise, your patience, and your cheerful willingness to share your knowledge and wisdom with us!

Ellen R. Gritz, Ph.D.

A: On behalf of our Culture Q&A Panel, thank you for your kind comments! We are all glad to know that "Culture Q&A" is benefiting HOS members. We appreciate members taking the time to send in their questions, as it gives everyone in the HOS an opportunity to learn about solutions to their own similar problems. Thanks again! --Nanette George, Editor

Q: Besides the obvious factors of light, water, fertilization, humidity, and air flow, what governs the growth rates of orchids? I have about 100 plants in my greenhouse, most of which act quite "normally," but one *Dendrobium* has taken off into a wild growth phase for the past 2-3 years (it is a hybrid of some sort, sorry, I don't know any more). The plant itself is about 10 years old. Every new pseudobulb that it now produces is a giant, and one has reached the roof (with the plant standing on the floor of the greenhouse elevated on a little raft so it drains), turned, and is now growing along the ceiling. The next pseudobulb is as thick as a bamboo tree! Is there such a thing as "dysregulated growth," almost like a cancer cell? The plant annually puts out a gorgeous, huge, inflorescence, about 18-24 inches long, with about a hundred lovely green and brown flowers with spirally twisted petals, in the early summer. The plant has outgrown its pot and now has proliferating roots growing out, down, and around, and is very healthy looking! I can't even imagine taking off the newest pseudobulb and repotting it, although it has a multitude of roots, intertwined with others, growing down the pot. Any information or advice?

A: I know that it can happen because I had a Den. Brown Sugar where each pseudobulb kept getting larger. I wanted to take it to judging as one cane had three blooming spikes. I just cut the cane right below the spikes and took in a cut cane. It finally got so unruly that it seemed to burn itself out

and die. I can't offer any solutions, but I can sympathize with you. --Julius Klehm

A: You should be celebrating or patting yourself on the back. Your culture is exactly what this plant wants and needs. You have the ingredients for good growing -- light, water, fertilizer, and air movement. All you need is a taller greenhouse :-). --Marvin Gerber

A: Your choices are rather limited: either let it take over the space you have (some *Dendrobiums* will reach twelve feet tall and grow hundreds of canes; this one seems to be of that sort), or 2, beat it into submission, or 3, toss it outside to take over downtown Houston. I would opt for the latter, since my space is quite limited. On the issue of growth, most orchids will grow as fast as they can with the available materials and then take a "pause" to think (bad word, to reflect?) about reproduction. Your issue is not the rate of growth, but size. My largest orchid plant is 36" across. I need to divide it and give some away -- it will not go back inside for the winter, being too big for the doorway. Sounds like yours may be difficult to evict... --Ted Baenziger

A: Plant growth rate is determined by its genes and indirectly by the water and nutrients provided. We do not see everything that *Dendrobiums* normally do in the Australia-New Guinea-Philippine area. Many, in their native habitat have wet seasons with lots of sun, rain and nutrients then a dry season with more sun than normal. The extra sun occurs because the trees shed their leaves. The dry season and extra sun triggers the flowering response. Our winters are overcast. During our fall, the plants are expecting more sun and dry conditions. We provide them with less light and often damp greenhouses.

Your plant seems very happy and is growing to its potential. From your description, the plant is root bound and growing well. If you repot or disturb the plant, it will slow down, as *Dendrobiums* need to be root bound to flower well. --Joe Fields

Q: I have purchased South American plants at the spring shows the past two years in order to support their attendance at our shows. I am having a hard time getting the plants to stay alive. At the moment it's at about 50% survival rate, and I may lose another one soon. I only purchased warm growing plants -- two bare root and two mounted. Is this because of the complete change of season between the Northern and Southern hemisphere, and what can be done to help the plants survive?

A: I do not know the identity of your plants, so it is hard to be very specific. Many jungle collected plants come from different climates. Elevations and temperatures are different, and the sellers do not explain this because they are

not familiar with Houston and its climate. I remember Dendrobiums from Australia and several *schomburgkias* from Colombian mountains. Some plants will go through an adjustment period. Many do quite well. Buyer be warned. Also, the plants go through a tough time period during storage and transport. Some must be decontaminated at a USDA inspection station when they enter the USA. Others spend an inordinate amount of time in dark boxes. They leave South America, spend three to six days at a California show, then three to four days at a Kansas show, then on to Houston, and finally to Florida. They get heated along the way. This is not a suggestion to stop buying those plants. Note that my favorite plants were purchased from South American vendors, and I will buy more.

There is another factor that must be considered. Plants in our greenhouses have undergone selection pressure. American plants, now living raised in our climate, and propagated in our labs, have survived our conditions, where as other plants died. So, we have selected the ones that like our conditions. An example is the large fluffy Cattleyas that have been in cultivation for many years. They were collected and sent to England and grown and hybridized in a cold, wet climate. Later generations were moved to New England, also a cold, sometimes wet climate. We find that many do not grow well in Houston as they are intermediate growers. True, some were intermediate in their native habitat, but they have been through the same cold, wet conditions before arriving here.

Consider a pesticide program. At least once a year, spray with a bacteriacide-fungicide mix. I spray before taking plants into the greenhouse, then every two or three months. I do not recommend these products, but I will share with you the information:

In one gallon of water, put:
 1 teaspoon Consan or Physan - a bacteriacide and fungicide
 1 teaspoon Banrot - a root fungicide
 6 drops of Subdue - a fungicide
 1 teaspoon of Truban - another fungicide
 Physan or Consan is an excellent wetting agent, no need for soap. Two weekends of spraying will stop most everything. I continue this coverage until all of the spotted, jungle tissue has been cut away and discarded.

Good Luck with your plants. --Joe Fields

A: I, too, bought plants at the show, and two of the five have died. On the other hand, two bloomed, and one is about to bloom again (a *Gongora atropurpureum*), so I am relatively happy. No, I do not think it is the change of seasons. It is most likely the huge temperature shifts and unrelenting heat of Houston which can do anybody in: look at how our human visitors wilt when they come out of the airport...

Remember, it is not the temperature, itself, that orchids dislike (as long as the air is moving and the sunlight is not direct); it is most particularly the lack of change from day to night temperatures so that they can "breathe" -- that is, to get rid of toxic buildup of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Many orchids cannot do this during the day and demand lower temperatures at night to open their stomata to expel bad things. Check out plant respiration on the web.

Meanwhile, you do not say if it is the mounted plants or the newly potted ones that expired... --Ted Baenziger

A: One would need to know the plants involved. Given that one can purchase masd, ctsm, cattleya, epis, plueros, etc., there are very specific cultural procedures which can vary a great deal. It would help to know under what conditions our friend grows, i. e., under lights, in a greenhouse, or such. Then one can answer a bit more clearly. --Doug Harris

A: It is hard to say what the problem is without knowing more about the plants. It could be the season change, but probably not. I like to unpot a plant in trouble and give it as much air movement as possible. Water the plant two to three times a week, depending on the temperature and humidity. Keep the plant in an area which is not real bright. This is sort of a "vacation" or resting period for the plant. With luck, it will recover. --Marvin Gerber

A: It is hard to help without knowing anything about what you bought, for example, type plants, growing media, condition of media, size of plant, were there any new roots on plants when purchased it, and current growing conditions. --Julius Klehm

Thanks to all those who sent in their questions and comments this month and to our Culture Q&A Panel for their helpful and interesting advice. HOS members may email culture questions to hos.happenings@sbcglobal.net. Questions are then forwarded to panel members, and responses are printed in the next month's Happenings. Space is limited, so if we are unable to print your question one month, we will include it in the next month's issue.

Snails and Slugs on Orchids

By Susan Taylor, *Bellaonline* Orchids Editor

Snails and slugs are a constant problem for outdoor and greenhouse growers of orchids. They love the open medium of bark used for orchids and can cause great damage to new growths of both roots and plant tops. Most of the time, the first sign that there is trouble will be an almost ruined plant - they will invade that fast. It is important to get rid of these pests before bringing in plants for the winter.

The first suggestion, as always, is that prevention is the best solution to the problem. There are as many ideas on preventing the critters as there are people who battle them. One ex-military expert suggests a "perimeter defense, local defense and all out war" approach. Others advocate diatomaceous earth (DE), others use various slug and snail pellets. My personal prevention regimen involves a monthly application of approximately a tablespoon DE to each pot; scattering a snail and insecticide inside on the floor of the greenhouse and outside the perimeter; and using the "beer in a container" catch approach. I personally can't stand having to mess with the dead pests in the beer approach, but periodically I will do so just to get those that have escaped the other ways. Please note, never put slug or snail bait in your orchid pots, always put it around them on the ground. Other recommended approaches are to use a .5 to 1 inch (3

centimeter) strip of copper around the bottom of all benches or approaches to the orchid location. This can also be used around the bottom of pots. The theory is that the snails and slugs will not cross the copper because it gives them a very slight shock which they dislike.

A recent test confirmed that spraying with a 1% caffeine solution (strong brewed coffee has about .5% caffeine) will kill 65-90% of snails present in potting medium without harming orchids. This can be done by spraying or by pour-through. Caffeine can also be purchased in purified form for agricultural use and mixed with water for this purpose.

In almost all instances a combined approach always works better than relying on just one preventative or poison. There will be some of the pests that will get past your defenses, but few will make it past two or three.

Snail and slug poisons vary by state, so you should consult with your local nursery to determine what is available in your area. As noted above, never put any of these products in your pots -- many of the products can be toxic to orchids. Most of the products are granular and will attract the pests from the medium where they hide during the day. Be sure that you read all directions in relation to children and pets. If you chose to use the DE method, be sure to use a mask when applying so that you do not inhale any of the product. Beware of dogs and children who might inhale also.

Source: <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art45847.asp/zzz>. Used with author's permission.

Cymbidiums

By Susan Taylor, *Bellaonline* Orchids Editor

Cymbidiums are one of the oldest of domesticated orchids. They have been grown in Southeast Asia and Japan for hundreds of years where the breeding and display of orchids is an art in its own. After the Phalaenopsis, they are the most commonly sold orchids for decorative display in the home. Blooming plants will do well inside and flower for up to six weeks and are used extensively for this purpose.

There are more than 44 species of Cymbidiums originating in Asia, India, and the Pacific Islands including Australia. There are three groups of the genus: the large flowered plants which need a cool spell to initiate blooming; miniature warm-growing varieties; and pendulous varieties. The most popular and most hybridized are the large flowered varieties which are very common on the West Coast of the U.S. and will grow outside in most of northern California. These orchids grow about three feet, or 90 centimeters, and have roots about half the height of the vegetative plant. [Beautiful Orchids](#) has some lovely photographs of standard Cymbidiums on their website. The miniatures are only miniature in comparison with the standard size -- the one I have is about two feet or 60 centimeters tall and about three feet or 90 centimeters across. The advantage of the smaller plants is that they will reliably flower in warmer temperatures where the large varieties will not survive well. The pendant types, mostly

from Australia, are generally grown in hanging baskets to best display their blossoms.

In nature, the species mostly grow as epiphytes (in trees) or as terrestrials (in the ground), but are cultivated primarily in pots as a semi-terrestrial with a medium size or mixed media (half bark and half terrestrial orchid mix). They require more watering than many other orchids except during the winter months. The most important factor for Cymbidiums is the night temperature, especially during the summer months. They prefer temperatures in the 60s, or 15 degrees C, to grow well. The miniatures will tolerate warmer night temperatures better.

According to the American Orchid Society, Cymbidiums are not to be considered for either indoor or under light growing. They require lots of space and very high light levels in order to produce flowers. They will survive lower temperatures than most orchids and supposedly can take temperatures of 25 degrees F, or -3 C, for short periods of time. I have not been happy with what the foliage looks like on my Cymbidium Golden Elf 'Sundust' after being in temperatures this cool. The foliage survived, but shows dark brown spotting as a result. I would recommend putting them in a sheltered area if freezing temperatures are expected.

Good air circulation and relatively high humidity are necessary for these plants. They generally start putting out their spikes from mature pseudobulbs in the fall as the temperatures start to get cooler. I have found that staking is necessary to keep the inflorescences straight. Dark varieties should be left in high light; lighter colors should be moved as soon as the flowers open so that they do not fade.

Source: <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art46050.asp/zzz>. Used with author's permission.

Online Resources - Cymbidiums Culture and Photos

<http://www.sborchid.com/GrowingGuides/culture-cym.htm>
<http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/cymspecies/>
<http://home.earthlink.net/~lnk711/id9.html>

Davy Crockett National Forest

*Mentioned in the "Wild Orchids in Texas" article on page 3, "The Davy Crockett National Forest, named for the legendary pioneer, contains more than 160,000 acres of East Texas woodlands, streams, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat. Located in Houston and Trinity Counties, the forest is centrally located within the Neches and Trinity River basins. The Davy Crockett National Forest was proclaimed a National Forest by President Franklin Roosevelt on October 15, 1936."

Source: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas/recreation/davy_crockett/davycrockett_gen_info.shtml



Committee Bulletins

Intermediate Group

Chair: Gary Beck (713-729-9307)

The September meeting was hosted by Mary Bahn. We assigned tasks for the Galveston show, brainstormed solutions for challenges presented by the exhibit, and planned our calendar for next year. The direction of the Intermediate Group is evolving to more than just an extension of the Newcomer's program. Next year's calendar will be an exciting one with more activity and less spectatorship.

The Intermediate Group exhibit was, again, a success at the Galveston show and very popular with the children who attended. Our efforts resulted in six ribbons and four trophies. We look forward to exhibiting again at the next Galveston show.

October's Intermediate Group meeting will be held at the Houston Judging Center on October 28th when we'll see the innerworkings of the HOS Judging Center. Join us at 10:00am in Room 202, Jerabeck Athletic Center, University of St. Thomas, 4000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston TX. 70006. Please call me with any questions (713) 914-4325 (7:30am-4:30pm).

Newcomers Group

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

The October Newcomers will meet Sunday, October 15th, between 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Denny Haase's "Spring Orchids" greenhouse. The address is 22332 Gosling Rd., Spring TX, 77389, ph# 713-898-6809. A map will be sent out to all Newcomers a week before the meeting. Denny will showing us how to divide Cattleyas. **NOTE: You must be an HOS member to attend.**

The Newcomers participated in the Galveston Orchid Show with a large floor display. About eight members contributed to the display, and several won ribbons for their plants. All of our hard work paid off as we won the AOS trophy for the most outstanding display! The Newcomers this year have an outstanding group of very motivated and talented people. Great job and thanks!

Raffle Table

Chair: Holly Miller (hollymil@earthlink.net)

October's raffle plants are from Carter and Holmes, located in South Carolina. Bill Carter and Owen Holmes began selling orchids as cut flowers in the years following World War II when corsage flowers were in great demand for Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day. As lifestyles became less formal in the 1960's, and the demand for cut flowers decreased, they began producing orchids for home growing. They started hybridizing orchids in the 1950's and developed their own modern laboratory for seed and tissue culture in the 1970's. Their hybridizing program has resulted in their worldwide recognition as a source for outstanding orchids -- in particular, art-shade Cattleyas. (*See raffle table details on back page).

Happenings Deadline for November 2006 Issue: October 16, 2006

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

Houston Orchid Society 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

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

Chairs

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

Directors

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

Representatives

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

Houston Orchid Society *October 2006 Meeting*

Program: "Hardy Terrestrial Orchids:
The Best Kept Secret in the
Gardening World," by Dr.
William Mathis

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2006

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

Place: Houston Garden Center

Meeting Raffle Table Details: Purchase 5 tickets for \$1.00 or 30 tickets for \$5.00. Tickets may be used to win any of ten plants. Another plant will be raffled as a door prize; everyone who walks in the door gets a free raffle ticket for the door prize; if you wear your nametag, you get two free door prize raffle tickets. One plant is also 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 are donated to schools for purchasing needed equipment.



Calendar of Events 2006

(Updated September 25, 2006)

| Date | Event |
|----------------------------|---|
| 10/5/06 | HOS Monthly Meeting: "Hardy Terrestrial Orchids: The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World," 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 |

For additional information on upcoming orchid shows in our region, visit www.swroga.org, and click on "Shows" to see the SWROGA calendar.

Houston Orchid Society
The Houston Happenings

