

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Speaker Spotlight

By Don Ghiz, First Vice-President

### HOS Q&A

This month's program will focus on HOS members' concerns about orchids in general, orchid culture, pests, and/or the direction of HOS in the future. I have assembled an informal panel of "experts" in most areas to address your questions. However, the meeting is not about us speaking -- it's about listening to you and hearing your questions and concerns. We'll be asking you to tell us your needs and wishes for improving your culture skills and letting us know your thoughts and concerns about the HOS -- the good and the bad!

I have asked several of our long-time and distinguished orchidists to sit on this panel. You'll have to come to the meeting to see my picks!

Please come with questions and suggestions ready. Here are some examples:

- What are the cultural differences, if any, between bi-foliolate and mono-foliolate Cattleyas? Where do bi-foliolates come from?
- Are large shows the direction the HOS should head in?
- My plants suddenly show marks on their leaves that look like small chicken pox scars. What's wrong?
- If we don't make money at the HOS workshops, why do we have them?
- We're voting on a nominating committee tonight. Can you explain the process?
- How can I have a plant judged by the AOS judging center here in Houston?
- What qualities do the AOS judges look for in a plant? How do I know if mine has what it takes?
- I think my plant has a virus. How can I check it? What should I do if it does?

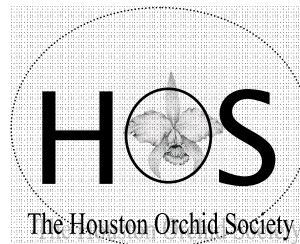
If you do not know the answers to these questions, come to the meeting and learn something new!

### HOS Classifieds

**Wanted:** an enthusiastic and energetic orchid grower who would like to work in an orchid shop that is opening in Sugar Land this coming November. Hours from 10:30 - 4:30, M - F and opportunities to work for extra time during the peak season. Hours are negotiable. Call 832-275-4767 and ask for John.

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



## Summer Workshop 2006

By Nanette George, Editor

Around 75 orchid enthusiasts attended the HOS Summer Workshop held this August 3-4 at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. The event featured three guest speakers, a variety of break-out sessions, an AOS judging, plant sales from mostly local vendors, and a silent auction in support of the AOS Houston Judging Center.

The auction earned over \$600 for the judging center. Orchids and orchid items were donated by Anita Aldrich, Jim and Melba Butler, Carmella Orchids, Renee' and Marvin Gerber, Don Ghiz, and Jerry Stephens (my apologies to anyone not mentioned.).

### Guest Speaker Highlights

Fred Clarke is an award-winning hybridizer and owner of Sunset Valley Orchids. In his presentation, Fred discussed the latest trends in breeding for Cycnoches, Catasetum, and Mormodes. Hybridizers, like Fred, are developing new crosses with a greater variety of color and spotting, improved forms, and easier culture requirements. Some of the new hybrids may even do well in our warm Houston climate.

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## President's Post

By Laurie C. Skov, President

Our hats are off to John Stubbings and Ted Baenziger for putting together such an outstanding workshop. The speakers were excellent, the spectrum of topics offered something for everyone, and the food was great (and as always, I added more plants to my collection).

Thanks to Carmella Orchids for the generous donation of gift certificates for the silent auction. Special thanks also to the University of St. Thomas for hosting the event.

The only negative was the small attendance by our members. Developing such programs is a charter of the Society, and it takes a lot of work. We owe it to the Society, the Workshop Committee, and even to our plants to support such efforts by attending.

Thanks to Nora Richardson and her husband for stepping forward to re-tool the library storage rack. Volunteering and participating is what makes our Society operate. At the September meeting, we will be electing a nominating committee whose task it will be to nominate officers for 2007. Make their task easy by accepting should you be called upon.

Finally, remember that John Van Domelen is looking for plants to include in the HOS display at the Galveston Show this month.

Happy Growing!

## Recap: August 2006

**Speaker:** Fred Clarke, *Sunset Valley Orchids*

**Topic:** *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes*

Fred's presentations to the HOS, this month, offered a wealth of information on the latest trends in *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, and *Mormodes* breeding. To have another look at some of the hybrids Fred has successfully produced (many of which are AOS awarded), visit his website at <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/catasetumphotos.html> -- in particular, check out the amazingly black, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'Black' (*Mo. Painted Desert* x *Ctism.* Donna Wise)! Fred said that he had difficulty photographing this orchid because the flower is so black that it provides no light to reflect back to the camera lens -- so his camera had difficulty determining a setting! You will notice there is very little, if any, light detail in the photos -- pretty wild!

**Plant Table Winners:**

**Hybrid:** *C. Gene May 'Southern Cross,'* Owner/Grower: Susan Dally

**Species:** *Encyclia radiata*, Owner/Grower: Bill Bartlett

Susan Dally and Bill Bartlett are the Plant Table winners for August 2006. Thanks to Susan and Bill and to all who contributed to the August Plant Table for our enjoyment!

## Winners' Tips

from August 2006 HOS Plant Table Winners, Susan Dally and Bill Bartlett



**Hybrid Winner:** *C. Gene May 'Southern Cross,'* by Susan Dally (photo by John Van Domelen)



It is fun to watch the spots on these flowers. The petals and sepals open pale yellow in color with very dark spots. Slowly, as they age, the petals get darker and the spots get weaker. By the time the flowers are

ready to fall, they are a very dark solid purple with no spots to be seen.

I purchased this orchid perhaps seven to eight years ago, and it has been divided several times. It is a trouble-free bifoliate *Cattleya*, rarely having bug problems even when others around it are infected. It reliably blooms in late April and in August and December.

I grow this orchid in a solarium room which has conditions similar to a greenhouse. The light is diffuse most of the year, but during the winter and early spring, the plant gets some direct sun. I hang most of my *Cattleyas* to get better light, but since this one blooms well without that treatment, it lives under hanging plants on a bench. This plant is currently in a clay pot with charcoal/sponge-rock/Pro-Mix media and usually gets watered and fertilized once a week.

**Species Winner:** *Encyclia radiata*, by Bill Bartlett (photo by John Van Domelen)



I've had this *Encyclia radiata* for more than ten years -- I'm uncertain as to when or where I acquired it. It seems to do best for me when it is a bit root-bound. I move up to a slightly larger container each time it

goes over the edge of its present container. It grows in a charcoal/sponge-rock mix and is watered one to two times per week.

The plant grows in bright light (with *Cattleyas*) most of the time. Three or four months before blooming, I try to find a somewhat brighter spot for it. The foliage gets a bit bleached, but it blooms better. Then, if it is moved into lesser light when the buds are nearing maturity, the foliage will have regained a lot of its color by the time it comes into full bloom. It's an easy grower, and to become a "specimen" plant just requires time.

## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

### Houston Orchid Society Workshop - August 4, 2006

The following plants were awarded:

1. *Cycnoches Jean E. Monier Remar (cooperi x barthiorum)* AM 80 points, owned by Renee and Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
2. *Paphiopedilum Annabellchen Autre Vie (liemianum x delenatii)* HCC 77 points, owned by Nina Rach, Houston, TX

### Houston Judging Center - August 19, 2006

There were 7 plants entered for judging and 6 nominated with no awards. There were 19 accredited judges and 3 student judges present with a total of 31 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held **September 16, 2006** at the Jerebeck Center, Room 202, University of St. Thomas, 2000 Mount Vernon St., Houston, TX. Plants must be entered before 11:30 a.m. for proper research prior to judging.

## Platystele Mini Orchids

By Susan Taylor, Orchids Editor, *Bellaonline*

*Used with permission.*

This genus, related to the Pleurothallids, has approximately 50 species of small epiphytic species with paddle-shaped leaves. They grow in the cloud forests of Mexico to Peru and are generally in the micro-miniature or mini-mini size range with tiny flowers. Many of these plants only have one-inch or 3 centimeter leaves and their tiny flowers are sometimes 1/16 of an inch or 3 millimeters across. For this size plant, a magnifying glass is helpful to really enjoy these tiny treasures. Some hold their flowers on long inflorescences above the leaves, and some seem to flower down in the leaves. The one thing they have in common is that the flowers are borne sequentially so that they can be enjoyed for the greater part of the year. We will concentrate here on two of the more popular species *Platystele compacta* and *Platystele stenostachya*.

*Platystele compacta* is the type species for the genus. It is found in mostly in Costa Rica as an epiphyte. It is truly tiny -- the leaves are only about .5 inches or 3-4 centimeters long with the flower spikes holding the .25 inch or 3-4 millimeter yellow flowers about 4 inches or 10 centimeters above the top of the leaf mass. The name was given to draw attention to the fact that the flowers are all held on top of the inflorescence and when it is flowering they look like little tufts. It is a creeping plant and will form nice clumps that flower year long under the correct conditions. It is perfect for terrarium use if you can keep the temperatures cool enough. They should be grown in pots or mounted in moderately shaded areas.

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## AOS Corner

Submitted by Melba and Jim Butler

### Message from Lee Cooke at the American Orchid Society:

The AOS is spreading the word in all orchid circles that the AOS receives a small portion of the proceeds from all sales placed through its website. By ordering your books through the link [www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx](http://www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx), members and visitors to the AOS shopping cart are actively supporting our nonprofit organization while at the same time securing outstanding pricing and customer service. If individuals go directly to Amazon.com or OrchidsBooks.com, the AOS receives no benefit whatsoever. Indeed, if one is searching for *anything* (trips, other fiction or nonfiction titles, clothing, jewelry, computers, electronics, tools, fitness equipment – you name it!) from Amazon, if you start your search through the AOS website's shopping cart, our nonprofit organization will receive a small percentage of your ultimate purchase. Simply enter the Amazon portal through [www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx](http://www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx), and then proceed to explore the rest of Amazon's amazing selection of offerings.

Rest assured that we will continue to strive to bring our members and customers access to the largest number of orchid books in order to be your one-stop shop for orchid information. As new titles become available, they will be added to the AOS website. Since the Society is now partnering with Amazon and OrchidsBooks and bringing to our valued members orchid and gardening books at lower prices and with improved delivery service, only a few items will be sold directly through the Society: back issues of *Orchids/AOS Bulletin*, *Lindleyana*, and *Awards Quarterly* and the new e-AOS Awards CD.

The AOS will also continue to offer wholesale specials to affiliates and retailers through our OrchidEmporium (call Kelli Resetar, Director of Retail, or email [kresetar@aos.org](mailto:kresetar@aos.org) to secure the latest wholesale price list). Be sure to check out the wholesale prices for the always-popular AOS calendar – the 2007 version is hot off the presses!

Remember, when looking for an orchid or horticultural book, please go through the Society's website ([www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)) to guarantee that a portion of the proceeds of your purchase will go to the AOS and help our many causes. And if you're a member of the AOS prestigious judging system, be sure to take advantage of your 15% discount as outlined above.

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Editor's note: if you are an AOS member, you can read reviews on orchid (and orchid-related) books at the AOS website. Go to [aos.org](http://aos.org), click on "Shop AOS," then click on "Book Reviews." Have your AOS member identification number handy, as you will need it to access the reviews.



## 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:** We are new members and new to growing orchids. We travel a lot and have always had some concerns about keeping plants alive and healthy during absences of several weeks. We bought a small LC Mini Purple Coerulea in a wood slat container about a month before our last trip away. We kept it hanging under a breezeway, watered it once a week with water and once with dilute Peters fertilizer. Both waterings were done by dunking the basket in the water and fertilizer for a few minutes. We also misted it a couple of times a week. The plant looked very healthy and started to put out two new growths from the bases of two of the pseudobulbs. Then we took a trip for three weeks. We had to find a way to keep it adequately watered. So, the plant was hung on a wire rack in the back of a shrub border in the shade of some Crepe Myrtles. The plants all had plenty of indirect light but very little direct sunlight. There were no shrubs around the wire rack so air flow would not be so impeded. The LC and a dozen or so other orchids were watered by the automatic sprinkler system twice a week and whenever there was a heavy rain -- apparently at least once during the three weeks.

When we returned, we found that the new LC growths had extended to about three inches long, BUT they had turned brown and soft. One of the leaves soon turned black starting from the junction with the pseudobulb and fell off (see photo 1). Some of the aerial roots either dried up or appeared to start to rot. After a while of watching the older growth decline, I took the plant out of the container and vigorously cut away everything that did not look healthy. I removed all of the old medium and soaked the whole plant for half an hour in Daconil fungicide suspension. I also dusted the places which had been cut with cinnamon per the "trick" recommended by the Gerbers at their Newcomers meeting. We replanted in an equal mix of fine bark, small charcoal, perlite, and a little moss to stabilize things. The mix drains well.

At this point, the plant is back under the breezeway, and we are watering and fertilizing in the manner that we did originally. There is one fairly vigorous new growth on the healthiest looking pseudo bulb, but the remaining older growth is still in decline (see photo 2



Photo 1: deteriorating leaf



Photo 2: declining growth compared to healthy growth

showing declining growth near to the camera and healthy growth in the background).

The obvious questions are -- can I save the remaining healthy looking growth and how and what was the most probable cause of the onset of the problem which I assume is fungal? By the way, all the other orchids seem to like the environment we used while on vacation.

**A:** There is a point in the development of a new growth when it is dangerous to get water into the top of the developing pseudobulb. As you experienced, the new growth can rot. In my opinion, when you are not around to take care of your orchids, the way to protect them is to water minimally. You might dry up a bud or miss a blooming, but you will not have a rot problem. Can you reduce watering to once a week when you are gone? --Marvin Gerber

**A:** It definitely looks like a rot situation, and I would almost bet that it started before you left on vacation, but you did not know it. The rot will continue through the pseudobulbs and get to the new growth if not checked. I would probably sever the plant at the point where the rot begins and treat the cut. Hopefully, that will allow you to save the plant. Let the plant dry so that the wound will heal before giving more water. How the rot began would be hard to determine at this point, but it probably began somewhere in the root system if the plant stayed too wet for too long of a period. The strange thing is that each plant picks up different traits from their parents, grandparents, and so on. Sometimes certain plants have traits that just do not suit them for our growing area even though the parents may grow good in them. Growers cannot guarantee that plants will pick up all the good traits of parents -- yes, maybe 50-75% will, but we can never be sure. --Julius Klehm

**A:** Fungal or bacterial rot is the culprit in this crime. At some point -- perhaps during the rain shower you mentioned -- water got into the new growth and started the rot process. You did the correct thing in your actions. We all experience this black rot problem from time to time. I use a combination of a systemic called, "Halt" mixed with a rooting hormone called, "Rootone." This solution will most often prevent the progression of the disease, though not 100%. Err on the dry side until this event subsides. --Greg Scott

**A:** You are not the only one to have the dreaded black rot that can hit any time there are humid nights in Houston (only about 75% of the summer). The only solution is to a) isolate the plant, b) treat it like you did, c) give it lots of air and light, and d) pray. The disease seems to be air-borne and endemic (locally grown). --Ted Baenziger

**Q:** I have a mounted "Lady of the Night" orchid on my back patio that recently bloomed. One of the blooms didn't fall off, but I'm guessing it was pollinated and is swelling where the flower and stem meet (see photo opposite). My questions are -- is this consistent with a pollinated *nodosa*, and if so, what do I do with it, if anything? Thanks so much for any assistance you may be able to offer!



Photo of the *Brassavola nodosa* in question

**A:** This is quite normal as it is the way it should look. What you do is up to you. It is probably crossed back on itself, but if you have other flowers blooming at the same time (*Cattleya* types), who knows what you might have? If you have never seen a seed pod grow before, I would suggest that you just let it grow for your own education if your plant is healthy. When the pod dries and breaks open, you could examine the seeds and see how small they actually are. If you do not want to see this happen, just cut it off. --Julius Klehm

**A:** Yes, congratulations, your baby is pregnant! If you don't plan on doing anything with the seed, cut the pod off. It takes a lot of energy for the plant to produce a pod which could be used for other plant growth. You certainly can send the pod off to a lab for flasking (ads for them are in *Orchids* magazine), but the cost is likely high, and there are millions of *nodosas* out there...but, feel free to do it if you want to raise *nodosas* (send the pod off after it has split open). --Jay Balchan

**A:** Orchids hung outside or in an open greenhouse are frequently pollinated by our local insects and birds. Left to its own devices, the seed will mature and be scattered, but will not likely germinate or continue sprouting once winter sets in, unless protected. Otherwise, just remove the green pod and save the plant's strength. Or, when close to maturity, have it sown through an orchid lab, and raise many, many more. --Greg Scott

**A:** If you know for sure that the seed pod is a selfing (the plant's own pollen was used to pollinate it), then you can wait until harvest time and send it off for flasking. I believe Joe Fields does flasking for a small fee. Otherwise, cut the pod off to give the plant more energy to grow this year and bloom next. --Rick Hepler

**A:** Chances are very good that your flower has been pollinated. If you are interested, you can keep the seed pod on the plant for about 150 days, then have the seed planted in flasks under surgically sterile conditions, then moved from the mother flask to replate flasks. From there, you can go to community pots once the plants in the flasks get to be 2-2.5 inches tall. When the plants reach 4-5 inches in height, they can be moved to individual pots where they should bloom in two to three years. The whole process should take about five years from the time you remove the ripe seed pod. Or, you can just cut the seed pod off. --Marvin Gerber

**A:** Your plant was pollinated, and fertilization occurred shortly after. Do you know who the other parent might be? Was there another *Cattleya* alliance plant near your plant and in flower at the same time? Wasps and bees, looking for food, pollinate many of our outside orchids. Mashing or bumping a flower can cause pollination. Usually a seed capsule like this is the result of a selfing. Odds are that your plant pollinated itself with the help of an insect. You can throw it away. Or, let it develop, and send it to a lab for sowing. Or, let it develop, and give it to someone.

Different orchid capsules mature at different time periods. *Nodosa* capsules mature and open in about 70-75 days from the pollination date. Seed in a closed capsule are usually sterile unless a fungus or bacteria has grown into the cavity. If the capsule opens, the seed will be contaminated with fungi and bacteria in our atmosphere. Labs use a disinfectant like Clorox to kill the fungi and bacteria *hoping* not to kill the seed. Open capsule or dry seed work is not very successful as it is difficult to kill the bacteria and fungi and not the seed. Best results are to harvest the capsule near 60-68 days and send it, green, to a lab. Seal the capsule in a paper envelope and then in a small paper box. If you send it in a paper envelope, USPS will send it through a stamping machine, crushing the capsule. A harvested capsule will continue to transpire water. If sealed in plastic it will remain wet and grow fungus and bacteria in a matter of hours. Paper containers wick away moisture. USPS Priority Mail is quick and the post office will furnish a free Priority Mail box. --Joe Fields

**Q:** I'm having such a time getting *Oncidium*s to rebloom. I'm now picking up the watering and realize that I need more space between the orchids for more air flow -- space is a difficult factor. Can you please help?

**A:** Are you asking for help in getting the *Oncidium* to rebloom or for help in getting more space??!! Ha ha. I can only provide some advice on one of those! I have found that larger *Oncidium*s are much more likely to rebloom than small ones (which is probably true of most orchids). I would make sure you don't divide it when you repot. Also, *Oncidium*s can take pretty bright light (*Cattleya* light), so I would keep them on the bright end of the greenhouse. This may encourage reblooming. --Jay Balchan

**A:** Sorry -- I do not generally have that problem. They are treated just like my Phals. and tend to bloom on schedule -- but I do give them brighter light. --Greg Scott

**A:** You might want to check out some online web pages that offer *Oncidium* culture tips, such as:

[http://www.angelfire.com/or3/orchidsnz/ncid/nc\\_gen\\_culture.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/or3/orchidsnz/ncid/nc_gen_culture.htm)

[http://www.sdorchids.com/aos\\_ancidium.htm](http://www.sdorchids.com/aos_ancidium.htm)

[http://www.orchidseos.com/orchidculture\\_eos\\_ancidium.htm](http://www.orchidseos.com/orchidculture_eos_ancidium.htm)

--Editor

**Q:** I am having trouble growing my orchids. I applied a layer of clear, cool green polycarbonate to the top of my

patio. Orchids that have grown well in the past have stopped everything. No new growths and no flowers this year. The clear covering lets in more light and should grow better. What has happened?"

A: By putting a colored covering, you are essentially blocking all the other wavelengths of light from coming through. Only combinations of light that make green are getting through (hence the color). Plants need the entire light spectrum in order to grow. You can cut the amount of light with shade cloth, but you shouldn't cut it by cutting out colors. --Jay Balchan

A: I would only suspect that the green color may be eliminating some of the sunlight that the plants need for photosynthesis. I would have thought that uncolored clear would be best or at least a translucent non-colored clear. --Julius Klehm

A: I am not an expert on light/color/spectrum but it looks to me like the green tint is blocking some important parts of the light spectrum. Can you take the polycarbonate off and put up some shade cloth? --Marvin Gerber

A: I would be willing to bet that vital light spectrums were filtered out by the green color. I would have suggested clear -- without color -- with shade cloth so that more of the total light spectrums are transmitted but without the heat, though I am not a light specialist. --Greg Scott

A: Your new polycarbonate greenhouse covering is trapping out all light except the green. Plants do not use green to any great extent. Blue covering would have been a good grower as plants use blue light to grow. Red light is used primarily for flowering. You might not get good flowering under the blue. Natural, transparent polycarbonate with some type of shade is still the best combination. --Joe Fields

A: Green anything used to cover living plants to protect them is fine, BUT don't expect healthy plants if their sole source of light is also coming from this green covering. The reason "green" plants are green is because that is the only wavelength of light that plants don't use, and the green wavelength is reflected back to you. That's why a plant looks green to you and me. Bottom line, don't use green coverings. --Rick Hepler

\*\*\*\*Thanks to all who submitted 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).

## HOS Summer Workshop

(Continued from Page 1)

For example, local hobbyists might want to check out the exotic Fred Clarke 'After Dark' which Fred produced using three genera -- *Mormodes* x *Catasetum* x *Clowesia*. According to Fred, this cross produces perfect, triangular-shaped flowers of long-lasting, heavy substance -- one of which (Fdk. 'After Dark' 'Juliana Marie') stayed in bloom in the Florida heat for seven weeks!

*Kathy Creger* is a professional goldsmith/diamond setter, botanical illustrator, and probationary AOS judge at the



Left to right:  
HOS Summer Workshop  
Guest  
Speakers:  
Kathy Creger,  
Fred Clarke,  
Manuel Aybar.  
Photos by  
Phillip Free.

Chicago Judging Center. Kathy's slideshow of her travels through Jamaica provided a glimpse of what it is like to hunt and collect wild orchids. Kathy described her, sometimes harrowing, experiences of climbing up (and slipping down) some very tall trees positioned on the edges of some very steep cliffs -- all in search of orchids!

While Kathy has successfully relocated many wild orchids to her home growing environment, she admitted that the process may not be worth the trouble for most -- the legal paperwork for importing wild orchids is increasingly expensive, shipping can take a long time to get through U.S. Customs, and plants do not always survive the trip. Kathy recommends that hobbyists stick with seed-grown orchids -- seed-grown are healthier (no imported diseases) and much easier and safer to obtain (no need for tree-climbing)!

*Manuel Aybar* is a professional engineer and probationary AOS judge at the Dallas Judging Center. Manny talked about *Cattleya* standards, explaining that breeding has developed to such high levels of excellence in form and color that AOS judges cannot consider anything less than the highest standards. Manny's slide-show provided colorful evidence of what award hopefuls are up against!

On the practical side of *Cattleya* breeding, Manny stated that there are now so many varieties of each *Cattleya* species, that what you see "out there," is not necessarily what you are going to get -- there can be many surprises. So, hobbyists beware as you shop!

## Platystele Orchids

(continued from page 3)

*Platystele stenostachya* is an unusual member of its genus in that there are two forms of the species known -- one from Mexico and Central American and the other from Venezuela, Columbia, and Bolivia. Both produce thin inflorescences which begin to flower between the leaves but lengthen and continue to flower above the leaves. The leaves are .5 inches or 4-5 centimeters long with the inflorescences moving above the leaves as the flowers are produced sequentially. The tiny 1/16 inch or 3 millimeter bright yellow, crystalline flowers are produced all year, but most heavily in the late summer and fall. The growing habit of this species, as the one above, is to form dense mounds with the flowers held slightly above the plant. The northern or larger form of the species is a more vigorous grower, but both types flower nicely in cultivation. I've read that this is a hot to cool grower, but most experts seem to do better with intermediate to cool temperatures. These plants should be grown in pots or mounted and would also be good candidates for terrarium use.



## Committee Bulletins

### Intermediate Group

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

The August Intermediate meeting was hosted by Mary Bahn. Mary showed her collection of orchids and shared the details of growing orchids within limited space. The group voted to participate in the Galveston Orchid Show next month. Mary offered the use of her place as a staging area for preparations for the show. We will meet at Mary's on the second Sunday of September to make sure we have everything ready for the show. We are looking for a really large van or truck to transport our exhibit. If anyone would like to participate with us, please call me at 713-729-9307.

### Newcomers Group

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

The Newcomers Group will meet on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., at the Galveston Orchid Society Show (located at the Nessler Community Center, 21st St. and 5th Ave North, Texas City, TX). We will meet at the Newcomers' floor display and then drive to Galveston for lunch at Gaidos seafood restaurant. All Newcomers are strongly encouraged to enter a flowering orchid into the Newcomers display. If you think you may have a plant for the exhibit, please call me at 281-221-2876 by September 10th so we can get the plant registered and arrange to have it delivered to the show. All plants must be in the display by Friday at noon.

The Newcomers wish to thank Jill and Gerry Smith for hosting the August meeting and for providing great food and ice-cold drinks!

### Raffle Table

*Chair: Holly Miller (hollymil@earthlink.net)*

In September, we can look forward to plants from Spring Orchids (Denny and Renee Haase), Spring TX; Kawamoto Orchids, Oahu, Hawaii; Klong Orchids, Bangkok, Thailand, specializing in Vandaceous orchids; Hawaiian Orchid Source, Oahu, Hawaii, specializing in Cattleyas; Andy's Orchids, Encinitas, California, specializing in species; and a few from H&R Nurseries, Hawaii. We are thankful to these growers who provided generous discounts and some very nice plants! **\*\*Don't forget your boxtops for Boxtops for Education!!**

### Happenings Deadline for October 2006 Issue: September 18, 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 Orchid Society *September 2006 Meeting*

Program: HOS Member Q&A

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2006

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

Place: Houston Garden Center

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)



## Calendar of Events 2006

(Updated August 23, 2006)

Date	Event
9/7/06	HOS Monthly Meeting: HOS Member Q&A
9/15/06 to 9/17/06	Galveston Orchid Society Fall Show, Nessler Center, Texas City, TX
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

*For additional information on upcoming orchid shows in our region, visit [www.swroea.org](http://www.swroea.org). and click on "Shows" to see the SWROGA*

Houston Orchid Society  
*The Houston Happenings*  
12710 Eagle Ledge Lane  
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