

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Speaker: Norito Hasegawa

By Holly Miller, First Vice-President



Norito Hasegawa will speak to us in August on Paphiopedilum species and their influence on various Paphiopedilum hybrids. Norito is a dentist, an overextended hobbyist (considered commercial for tax purposes), and a 3 million miler traveling to many foreign countries talking and/or judging in places such as Japan, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Taiwan, England, France, Switzerland and many many cities in the USA.

Nearly 30 years ago, Norito became a judge in both the Cymbidium Society of America and the American Orchid Society. His interest lies mainly in the hybridization of all Paphiopedilums and also the propagation of the Paphiopedilum species as well. He is a member of the Cymbidium Society of America and the American Orchid Society and numerous local societies in Southern California.

He is the owner of Paphanatics, Unlimited, located in Santa Ana, California. He specializes in Paphiopedilums and has been growing, studying and hybridizing orchids for over 35 years. He is a judge in both the American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America.

Norito is co-author, with Harold Koopowitz, of the book "Novelty Slipper Orchids". He is also a former trustee of The American Orchid Society and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Orchid Digest Corporation. Dr. Hasegawa travels internationally to keep orchid fanatics up to date on Paphiopedilum happening.

He is married to Joyce, with three children Lisa, Todd and Mark with Paphiopedilums named after each of them.

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



## HOS Donates in the name of Teri Fighetti

Dear Friends of the Society,

Thank you for your recent donation. This will acknowledge receipt of your gift in the amount of \$100 in memory of Maria Teresa Fighetti. Your contribution will be designated for use toward *The Heritage Collection* as an expression of your condolences and at the request of Carlos in honor of his wife's memory.

Please know that your sympathies will be shared with Carlos and his family, along with many others offering their thoughts and prayers during this most difficult and arduous time. Your support will provide the solace and comfort much needed and appreciated by Carlos and his loved ones. A very special memorial tribute will be acknowledged in an upcoming issue of Orchids magazine.

Thank you, not only for reaching out, but for your generosity and support of the AOS and its mission in the orchid world.

Sincerely,  
Susan Cupp  
Chief Development Officer

## President's Post

By Deana Roberts, President

AUGUST is here and I do not have to tell you that it is hot, hot, hot outside and when it's hot, it's hard to have any fun outside when the temperature is 95! These are the words to a song my grandson sings in music class. It is true and I am asking you to get out of the heat and come to the August workshop. There is so much great information, orchids to purchase, bid on and most of it is new ideas and things that we have not done previously.

I will look for each and every one of you. There are some truly great speakers and our own member and Galveston Orchid Society's member, Anita Aldrich, who is one of the most informed Tolumnia orchidists in the world today will make a presentation. I have asked her to speak to our group on several occasions and she has always declined, so we are all in for a special treat. Norito is a Paph specialist and I am hoping he can help me grow Paphs, actually, they die in the car on the way home, so I have never had the opportunity to try to grow any. Tom Harper on Phals and Marvin on nutrition and fertilization are speakers that we must hear.

Jill Smith swears by Marvin's Cal-Mag regimen and so I plan to attend. Father Ted is going to de-mystify orchid names and how to get them right and straight which is especially important when entering a show. We will have sales and vendor booths, Friday night and Saturday Silent Auctions and a great luncheon. I look forward to seeing you there. This is lots of fun and I attend every year.

See you Thursday evening August 7 and then on Friday and Saturday too.

## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Results - July 19, 2008-

There were 15 plants presented for judging with 2 awards:

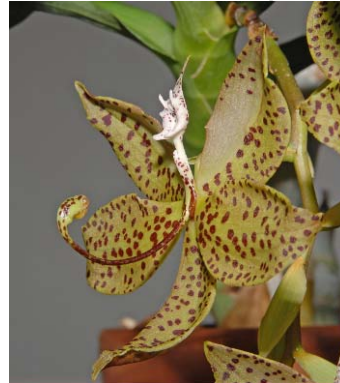
1. Thwaitesera Rosie's Surprise 'Remar' (C. walkeriana x Lc. Irene Finney) HCC 78 points, owned by Renee & Marvin Gerber, Houston, TX
2. Ascda. Crownfox Golden Dawn 'Phaitai' (Fuch's Havest Moon x Guo Chia Long) HCC 75 points, owned by Judith Neufeld, Houston, TX

There were 14 Accredited Judges, 2 Probationary Judges and 3 Student Judges present with a total of 28 persons attending. The next regular judging will be held on August 16, 2008 in the Jerabeck Center, University of St. Thomas, 2000 Mt. Vernon Street, Houston, TX, Room 202. Please bring a sack lunch. It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 A. M. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

## The Holly Awards

After the second month that a Holly has swept the winner's table for both the hybrid and the species plant, we've renamed the column! Last month it was **Holly Huston**; this month it is **Holly Miller** who brought in both these beautiful flowering plants.

### Hybrid Winner: Cyc. Jean E. Monnier (Cyc. barthiorum x cooperi)



Photograph by Malcolm McCorquodale

I've only recently started growing Catasetinae orchids. They are easy to grow and very rewarding once you understand their growth phases. They have a growth period and a dormancy period. In the spring and summer, during the growth period, they

like to stay moist and fertilized regularly. After flowering, in the fall, they begin to go into a dormant period and drop their leaves. Begin to reduce water at this time. When most of the leaves have dropped, stop watering. Put them in an area that will stay dry through the winter. This is the good part - with no leaves, they take up very little space in the winter, when you will need space to bring your outside orchids in. Do not start watering again until the new spring growth has well developed roots.

### Species Winner: Rhynchostylis coelestis



Photograph by Malcolm McCorquodale

I've had this plant about two years and I got it from RF Orchids. It blooms once a year. I grow it in a wooden basket in bright indirect light in my Vanda area, which has a covered top but open sides. In the winter, I cover the sides and use a small

heater when the temperature drops low. It gets watered every day for eight minutes from a simple spray system rigged with a timer. Once a week I fertilize with Peters Excel Cal-Mag plus a different additive each week.

## Ghost Orchid Blooms at Corkscrew Swamp

A rare ghost orchid growing on an ancient bald cypress tree at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples is in bloom for the second consecutive summer, this time with seven buds that will likely produce blooms visible from the Audubon sanctuary's boardwalk for the next three weeks.

The plant bloomed three times in the summer of 2007, the first time with 12 blossoms, the second time with 10 and the third time with three. Area biologists have nicknamed this specimen the super ghost, since typically ghost orchids might have between one and three blossoms per year, if they bloom at all.

"We've been watching the plant closely to see if it would produce another round of multiple blossoms this year, and we are excited to see that it is ready to perform again," said Ed Carlson, executive director of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. "We have one blossom visible now with two more buds that should open within the week, then four more buds that still need to mature."

The ghost orchid (*Polyrrhiza lindenii*) is an extremely rare, epiphytic orchid that grows without leaves on the trunks of trees in a small concentrated area of Southwest Florida. The plants are usually only visible to intrepid adventurers who must hike through hip deep water in the area's bald cypress, pop ash and pond apple sloughs to reach them.

The ghost orchid, preyed upon by poachers, was the subject of bestselling author Susan Orlean's book *The Orchid Thief* and the subsequent movie *Adaptation*.

Orchid lovers have a window of up to three weeks to catch this ghost orchid bloom. Visitation to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, the last remaining virgin old growth bald cypress forest in the United States, spiked during the bloom events in the summer of 2007, with orchid lovers coming from across the country. Visitors to the sanctuary will find spotting scopes for easy close-up views set up along the sanctuary's boardwalk. Serious photographers should bring long lenses, as the plant is growing at a height of about 45 feet on the trunk of a bald cypress tree located 150 feet from the boardwalk.

For those interested in coming to see the ghost orchid, the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau has compiled a list of the many Naples area hotels that are offering special rates and packages especially for ghost orchid enthusiasts. To view the list of hotel deals visit [www.paradisecoast.com/ghostorchid](http://www.paradisecoast.com/ghostorchid) or call 1-800-688-3600 for more information.

Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is located just northeast of Naples, 15 miles from I-75 on Immokalee Road. Hours are 7 am to 7:30 pm until September 30 with the last guests admitted by 6:30 pm each day. Cost: Adults, \$10; full-time college student with photo ID, \$6; National Audubon Society member with ID card, \$5; student (6-18 years old), \$4; children younger than 6, free. Visitors are advised to call the sanctuary at 239-348-9151 for daily updates on the flower's status.

## AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

We go to press with the AOS Corner, even though we are all in mourning for the loss of Maria Teresa "Tere" Fighetti a few days ago. Our deepest regrets and condolences are herein expressed to AOS President Carlos Fighetti and his family.

Orchid Trivia : "In a time of rapidly diminishing wild areas, of escalating population and pressure on what wild lands remain, it is necessary for thinking people to do all they can to reduce their adverse effect on our world. Above all, be aware of your actions and their potential effects. Who cares? You should."

(Last paragraph of the Introduction in *The World's Most Beautiful Orchids* by Greg Allikas & Ned Nash, p 49; Thunder Bay Press, San Diego, CA and PRC Publishing, London, United Kingdom; 2005).

Our personal comments: The pages of this beautifully written and illustrated book are primarily of orchid photographs and captions by Greg Allikas and very useful, interesting, helpful and thought-provoking information on many orchids, orchid topics and subjects by Ned Nash. The two made a fine team for this work and in their Acknowledgments to several, they credit Greg's wife, Kathy Figiel, as the proofreader and editor of the manuscripts.

AOS Web site - [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org):

The front page of the AOS Web site will keep you busy for as long as you have time to spend. A click on the blue print "Communication; Cultivating a Passion" by Carlos Fighetti, AOS President, will take you to interesting information about the AOS with photos of some beautiful spots at the Visitors Center, pointed out as if by tour .

Noted here, more information and colorful illustrations to be accessed on the AOS front page:

- We hope you have your copy of the latest AOS Orchids Source Directory, just distributed. Some information can be searched online, by location.
- See Information and photos of AOS visitors at the Chelsea Flower Show
- The RHS Advisory Panel on Orchid Hybrid Registration (APOHR meeting took place in London, England on May 20, 2008. Read the results online.
- Find out more about the AOS Heritage Orchid Collection.

All of the above, plus a review of the August AOS Orchids magazine are on the front page of the AOS Web site! Go there [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) to see!



## 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:** My phals produce a lot of roots outside their pots. I know this is common, but is it healthy? Should I be trying some improved growing technique to make the roots stay inside the pot? Am I perhaps keeping the medium too wet or dry? When I repot, should I try to force the roots back into the pot and bury them in the medium? Sometimes the aerial roots will start turning brown and dry towards the tips. Would it be beneficial to cut them back to the fleshy, white part?

**A:** You should know the difference between healthy, growing roots and bad, old dead roots. When you repot, the bad roots should be eliminated, with a sterile cutting tool. Insofar as roots growing out of the pot, it can mean that the roots in the pot are not doing well, most likely from overwatering. It should be easy to tell, just unpot a phsl or two and see what the roots in the pot look like. -- Marvin Gerber

**A:** Phalaenopsis are epiphytes, accustomed to having their roots out in the open air. I would consider this behavior healthy and fairly common. Some clones even send their roots out vertically, similar to catasetums, but that's more rare. If you prefer a groomed look, then make sure the media is fresh. Make sure the roots are moist and pliable when you try to force them back into a pot at repotting time. It will require a larger pot than if you grow them with aerial roots.

I would not cut the roots unnecessarily, even tips that are browning. Every cut you make increases the risk of infection to the plant, whether it be from insufficiently sterilized cutting tools, or airborne pathogens. I would cut, though, if it looks like there is a pathogen involved or if they are rotting. -- Nina Rach

**A:** This is an age old problem and the answer is not always right. The best answer is that the plant is having problems in the root zone area and they are thereby sending out roots that are above the medium. Usually this means that the roots in the pot are too wet or the medium has broken down to a point where the plants are dying in it. Another possibility is that salts has built up in the medium and the roots cannot penetrate the medium and

they turn brown on the tips when trying to enter the medium and they thereby put out the so called aerial roots. If the medium is in good shape then I would suggest watering the plants heavily every couple of weeks so that the salts can be washed out—this takes a lot of water. If the medium is old, I would repot the plants immediately in whatever medium you grow them best in. Some people like to curl up the roots while others cut them off when repotting. Which ever you do remember that some roots will be broken or cut and I would give them 3-4 days rest to heal before I started my regular watering schedule. Remember fresh medium does not hold as much water as older medium and the freshly repotted plants may need to be watered more frequently until the medium can hold water better. - Julius Klehm

**A:** I'm not a big phal grower, but here is my 2 cents: The aerial roots are not an big issue as long as the roots in the pot are in good shape. So unpot the plant enough to see the roots in the mix and see how they are doing. If they are not doing well, that generally means that the mix was kept too wet. Repot and keep it a bit dryer. If the roots in the pot are fine, then don't do anything! For the aerial roots, if they are easy to put in the pot when you are repotting, then go ahead and do that. But my experience has been that phal roots get really long and it is tough to force them all in without breaking them. Soaking them in water will help make them more pliable. As for cutting them back, if you cut into the fleshy part, then be sure to let them dry out or put a fungicide on the cut part. If the root tips are dry, I would recommend cutting them back to just before the fleshy part to avoid any potential rot issues. - Jay Balchan

**A:** don't grow Phals but Bill Tippitt, a once commercial grower of Phals told me "That if a Phal has more roots outside then inside the pot, it didn't like what it was potted in" He used a "mostly" inorganic mix for his plants. Sponge rock, charcoal and a good grade of peat. I'm not sure but the peat may have been called Metro Mix. A friend of my wife's gave me a Phal a week ago. Huge plant with two old spikes in a 4" pot, all the roots were in the pot. It was in sphagnum. You can cut Phal roots to manage them back into a pot but not recommended. Soak the roots until they turn green and soft, twist them into the pot and add mix. I hope this helps, Rick

# Orchid News from the Tokyo Dome Show 2008

*By Carol Holdren, AOS Trustee*

Michael Sinn, Canaima Orchids of Florida, returned from the 2008 Tokyo Orchid Show and has the following photos to share with us. The first is the grand prize winner *Eulopiella roempleriana*. The grand prize is \$20,000 US plus a Mercedes Benz! I am told this is very rare orchid and this particular plant was an immaculate specimen.



A large plant like the *Eulopiella* is difficult to appreciate in a photograph but it must have been spectacular to beat the Reserve Grand Champion *C. trianae* 'Okada' with 233 flowers. You can see from the photo showing the back of the *Cattleya* that it is growing in a basket, in sphagnum moss and the basket is tipped forward to display the blooms to their best advantage. Reserve Grand Champion receives about \$5,000 US and no car.



Third place was this beautiful white *Phalaenopsis* whose name we do not have. These flowers are so heavy the inflorescence had to be heavily staked to support the flowers. It is great to be able to see this from the back. This plant did not receive a gold medal because the 3 inflorescences are not identical. They hold, respectively, 32 flowers, 32 flowers and 30 flowers. Perfection is difficult to come by.



Thanks Michael for sharing these wonderful photos.

## The HOS Monthly Silent Auction

By: Jill B. Smith

One of the very best components of the monthly HOS meeting is the Silent Auction! Every member is eligible to both buy and sell plants and it's a win/win/win/win situation for all! The seller makes some money, the buyer goes home with a great plant (s), the city gets a cut and the HOS also receives part of the proceeds!

It seems that in the past few months several newer members of the HOS are bringing plants to sell and there have been a number of questions about the procedures and just how much money is set aside for the city and the HOS. The seller pays one dollar to the HOS as an entry fee for each plant brought to the auction table. Then, if a plant is sold, the city receives 10% of the selling price and the HOS receives 10% and the seller gets a check for the balance! The only other "rule" is that the HOS asks that a contributor to the Silent Auction not bring more than 6 plants to the table for sale. In that way, there is plenty of room for all the sellers to display their plants attractively.

The Silent Auction provides an opportunity for all to acquire beautifully grown orchids from some of the best growers in the area and many experienced orchid aficionados try to buy orchids from the table too. And another twist is that recently, one seasoned member of the HOS told me that she always tries to bring a plant to sell because it frees up space in her greenhouse for something new!

So---bring some plants to sell and bring either cash or a check to buy at the next HOS Silent Auction!

Note: There will not be a Silent Auction at the August meeting. Instead, the monthly Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, August 9th at the HOS 29th Annual Workshop. So bring your plants to the Workshop in August. The regular Silent Auction will resume at the September HOS meeting.

And special thanks to Judith and Loren Neufeld, the Chairmen of the Silent Auction for 2009!

### Plant Table Update

July was another good month. There were 39 plants shown bringing the year to date total to 339. The contestants with 10 or more plants are:

1. Rick Hepler	66
2. Sandra Higham	18
3. John Jamerlan	17
4. Gerald Kitchens	15
5. Susan Dally	14
5. Jill Smith	14
7. Jay Balchan	13
7. Malcomb McCorquodale	13
9. Fr. Ted Baenziger	12
9. Judith Neufeld	12
10. Lily Chang	11
12. Maureen Kraker	10

### Welcome New Members

Mary Elijah  
Raquel Hanson  
Dawn Morris  
Anita Nichols  
Tracey Peterson and Family  
Bailiang Wang

### Welcome Guests

Mary Elijah  
Paige Ganza  
Anita Nichols  
Ted Sutphin

### Thanks for Refreshments

Mary Card  
Ada Ganze  
Ken Gardner  
Jane Patton  
Debbie Peterson  
Nina Rach  
Deana Roberts  
Noreen Tolman

### Two notes of interest:

#### Calvin Star/Malcolm McCorquodale

Calvin Starr's Vanda, Vanda Viboon :Allstarr' JC/AOS, photographed by Malcolm McCorquodale, was recognized in the July AOS magazine, under Awards page 560, great Vanda and a great photo.

#### The Doctor is In

THE DOCTOR WILL BE IN AT THE August Meeting, it will be a roving Dr and this month it will be Dr. John Stubbings. So bring in your sick, ailing plant to have it diagnosed and to see what the Dr or other attending physicians prescribe as treatment.



## Committee Bulletins

### *Newcomers Group*

*Chair: Debbie Peterson-Chair [dpeterson@avalonadvisors.com](mailto:dpeterson@avalonadvisors.com)  
281-890-0811*

*Co-chair: Edwina Mitchell, Co-chair  
Edwina.Mitchell@shell.com 281-479-6539*

Many thanks to Marvin and Renee Gerber for hosting our Newcomers Group meeting on July 20th. We really enjoyed seeing their gorgeous greenhouse, which has been featured in Orchids magazine, and viewing their beautiful orchids.

Our next meeting will be August 17th from 2-4PM at Fr. Ted Baenziger's, 4019 Yoakum Blvd Houston, TX 77006. His telephone number is 713-444-9116. Fr. Ted has a wonderful collection of orchids and we are looking forward to seeing his growing area. More detailed directions will be emailed out to the newcomer's a week before the meeting. If you don't think you're on the email list or you need to be called instead, please contact Debbie or Eddie.

Please make sure to bring your nametag for a plant raffle. See Debbie for the purple and green Newcomer ribbons to attach to your nametag. And see Eddie if you need to purchase one.

See y'all there!

### *Raffle Table*

*Chair: Lee and Gordon Rowell*

Our orchids this month are coming from J and E Orchids! Owned by John and Elizabeth Jamerlan. J and E Orchids is an orchid wholesale supplier and retailer in Sugar Land that specializes in orchid hybrids and species that can thrive and bloom in the hot and humid southeast Texas. In particular, it supplies Oncidium intergeneric, Cattleya, Paphiopedilum, Vandaceous and Phragmipediums hybrids and species. Owned by John, J and E Orchids started late in the summer of 2004 from John's orchid hobby that has ballooned from a single Phalaenopsis (given to him by Elizabeth 5 years before) into a couple hundred plants.

J and E Orchids have graciously offered to donate the entire raffle table of orchids to the Houston Orchid Society! Please, everyone, when you pass by John, thank him for the generously donated orchids, as it very well may be you that wins one of J and E's beauties!

Now, J and E is a supplier to certain flower shops and participates as a vendor in a number of plant festivals in Southeast Texas. The Jamerlans' both work as teachers in Strake Jesuit Preparatory and operate J and E (a "self-sustaining hobby" as John would refer to it) on their and their kids' free time. They maintain 3 small shade houses in their backyard where they keep their orchid collection.

Please remember to bring in your box tops! Many children thank you for their support of their school!

## Houston Orchid Society 2008 Officers and Committee Chairs

### Officers

<i>President</i>	Deana Roberts
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Holly Miller
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	John Stubbings
<i>Recording Sec.</i>	Katherine Brown
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jill Smith
<i>Membership</i>	Donna Williams

### Chairs

<i>Guest Hospitality</i>	Jean Schwenke
<i>Happenings Editor</i>	Susan Taylor
<i>Librarian</i>	Sarah Bentley
<i>Newcomers Group</i>	Debbie Peterson, Eddie Mitchell
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Richard Champagne
<i>Plant Raffle</i>	Lee and Gordon Rowell
<i>Refreshments</i>	Cherie Lee
<i>Silent Auction</i>	Judith and Loren Neufeld
<i>2008 Spring Show</i>	Don Ghiz
<i>2009 Spring Show</i>	Melba Butler
<i>HOS Web</i>	Calvin Starr
<i>2008 Workshop Chair</i>	Ted Baenziger and John Stubbings

### Directors

<i>Two-Year Term</i>	<i>One-Year Term</i>
Joe Fields	Fr. Ted Baenziger
Greg Scott	Calvin Starr
Melba Butler	John Jamerlain
Jim Butler	Phillip Free
Dave Hunt	Richard Lund
Johnny Williams	
Sandra Higham	
Dolores Fields	
Marvin Gerber	
Jerry Stephens	

### Representatives

AOS Representative	Melba and Jim Butler
IPA Representative	John Stubbings
ODC Representative	Joe Fields
SWROGA Representative	Julius Klehm and Marilyn Holloway

**Houston Orchid Society**  
*August 2008 Meeting*

Program: Paphiopedilum species  
Date: August 7, 2008  
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Place: Houston Garden Center

**2008 Speakers**

August: Norito Hasagawa , Paphanatics Orchids  
September: Ron McHatton  
October: Jane Paton  
November: Greg Butler, Oak Hill Gardens  
December: HJC Auction and HOS Party

HOS Website

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

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*The Houston Happenings*  
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