

# THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

## Holiday Party and Auction

By Holly Miller, First Vice-President

In keeping with tradition, our December meeting is our annual Holiday Party and Auction. Everyone is to bring a favorite dish to share and we will spend some time socializing in the holiday spirit. We will not have a raffle table or a silent auction.

Those who brought in the most plants for the plant table during the year will be announced and an award will be presented to the winner.



Marvin Gerber will conduct a live auction of select plants from one of his favorite growers and also some plants donated by judges. The proceeds from the auction will go to the Houston Judging Center to help pay its expenses. We are fortunate to have an AOS-sanctioned judging center right here in Houston. There are only 31 centers scattered throughout the country, and many people have to travel to get their plants judged. Our judges are volunteers and are not paid, nor are reimbursed for travel expenses to judge at shows in our region.

The new HOS officers and board members for 2009 will also be inducted at this meeting. Finally, I will conduct a free raffle of a number of plants from Kawamoto Orchids at the conclusion of the meeting.

Be sure to get your raffle ticket at the door when you come to join us for a fun and festive night!

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



## Important Reminder:

The January Meeting will be

**MONDAY, January 5**

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## President's Post

By Deana Roberts, President

This is the last President's Post that I will write as I leave office at the end of December. I have enjoyed serving as your President and hope that you too, had fun and enjoyed this past year. It has been a good year for me and I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Please come to the last Houston Orchid Society Meeting of the 2008 year as we are going to have a great Holiday party, don't forget to bring a covered dish, cookies or whatever else you wish to contribute to the groaning board. Marvin Gerber, our own auctioneer will be raising money for the Judges Center once again by auctioning off great plants. See you on December 4th.

Just a reminder it is time to renew your membership for 2009.

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## HOS Picnic

By Deana Roberts, President



*Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale*

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26, HOS hosted its 1st annual picnic at Denny and Renee Haas's home. The weather could not have been better, it was pristine, cool and sunny, no bugs, not a cloud in the sky and the 60 members who attended had a wonderful time. In years past HOS hosted a picnic at a member's home along a river, I do not know who  
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## Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

**HJC Results - November 15, 2008 -**

There were 9 plants entered with no awards. There were 16 Accredited Judges, 3 Probationary Judges and 2 Student Judges present with a total of 29 persons attending. The next regular judging will be held December 13, 2008 in Jerabeck Center, University of St. Thomas, 2000 Mt. Vernon St., Houston, TX. There will be a pot luck lunch with a ham provided by the Judging Center. It is requested that all plants be entered before 11:30 A. M. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

## Susan Dally Awards

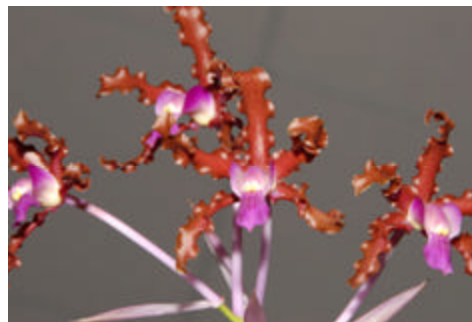
**Hybrid Winner: Brassia Orange Delight 'Hilo Sunrise'**  
(*Ada aurantiaca* x *Brassia Mary Traub Levin*)



*Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale*

This plant was a rescue from my local Target store. When I purchased it several years ago, it was really beat up and had been set up to fail in a pot with no drainage holes. However, I liked the orange flowers and bought it anyway. The plant took a while to recover, but it now blooms every fall quite faithfully. I grow it in cattleya like conditions in a solarium room. It gets fertilized with Dyna-Gro products and does not seem to have any problems with pests.

**Species Winner: Laelia splendida**



*Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale*

When I purchased this plant 3 years ago, it was labeled *Schomburkia splendida*, but the name has recently changed. I grow this plant in a solarium room with south facing windows and a large skylight. It grows among many Cattleyas, though it is positioned to get more light than most as it seems to prefer stronger light to bloom well. It hangs in a coconut fiber basket with charcoal, sponge rock and Pro-Mix media. This plant needs a lot of vertical space to grow as the inflorescences are quite long. I use Dyna-Gro fertilizer products weekly in the warm months.

## New Member Needs Help!

We got an unusual request for an article from a new member, Carol Davis. As with most of us, she started by buying blooming orchids and just couldn't stop. Then, she recently acquired a property with an orchid greenhouse which had been neglected for about a year and a half. As the "adoptive mother" of all these orchids, she needs help to restore the collection as well as determine what she has and how to grow it.



*Photograph courtesy of Skeeter Hagler*

She would like someone who would be willing to come help on weekends while she can work with them on the orchids

The property is located in Cat Spring, Texas, and is part of Carol's Bed and Breakfast, Blisswood. It is located on the 650-acre Lehmann Legacy Ranch and includes five greenhouses and cottages and houses for guests. For more information visit the website at <http://www.blisswood.net/>.

If you have time to help, contact Carol at [Carol@BlissWood.net](mailto:Carol@BlissWood.net)

See the Houston Orchid Society Web site: [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org) and click on 2009 Show Information. Link from there to the hotel Web site or call 281-875-2222 and mention the code: AOS09 (AOS and figures 09) to reserve rooms that have been blocked for the event at a special rate.

The hotel is beautiful, comfortable and convenient to Bush International Airport, with free parking and complimentary shuttle to and from the hotel. If you are flying or driving and arriving from north of Houston, the hotel is located to the north of downtown Houston. See for yourself! Go to: <http://www.hiltonhoustonhotel.com/> and click on the "Virtual Tour" on the right side of the front page.

## AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler

### HOS to Host AOS Spring Show

If you never attend and/or don't intended to attend orchid shows, workshops, meetings and events that are held in hotels or conference centers, you won't be interested in this piece.

Almost always, the hosting orchid society for an orchid show or meeting has contracted with a hotel or facility by blocking hotel rooms at a reduced room rate (hopefully, a bargain) for attendees. Blocking rooms by predicting the number of attendees is a gamble. Well, not a gamble like playing Blackjack or playing the slots, because in return for the reasonable room rates for attendees, the hotel agrees to "comp" the meeting room fees for the event - if the room commitment is fulfilled. To do so is taking a chance. The chair of the event tries to "estimate" the correct number of rooms to block -- not too many (you can't win if you go over) but "just enough" so everyone who wants to stay in the host hotel can have a room.

Oh, it can work out great for the hosting society but only if the room commitment is reached. If it is not reached, i.e., if not enough attendees stay at the host hotel to meet the commitment, the hosting society will be billed for the meeting rooms. Hotels are in business to make money and they don't make exceptions even if the commitment is short by one or two rooms. When this happens, the hosting society may be left in debt...maybe owing money that they don't have in the bank.

If the rooms have all been reserved by the time you get around to making your reservation and there are "no rooms at the inn", perhaps the chair will block more rooms or make a recommendation for a neighboring hotel to accommodate the attendees to try to make it easier and convenient for their guests. If there is ever any question, contact the chair of the event.

Room commitments have been made at the Hilton Houston North (formerly the Wyndham Greenspoint) for the upcoming spring AOS Members meeting, to take place April 22-26, 2009 - show and sales will be open to the public on April 24, 25 and 26. HOS is pleased that in addition to hosting the AOS, the SouthWest Regional Orchid Growers Association, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Orchid Digest Corporation, Slipper Orchid Alliance and Odontoglossum Alliance will also be holding meetings. An orchid show and all events will take place at the Hilton at 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060.



## 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.*

**Question:** What is the best potting medium for a Grammatophyllum? I'm just not sure I want to use the other medium I plant my Cattleya orchids in. Please advise.

A: I presume you mean *G. scriptum*, since that is what grows best here. It accepts the heat and cold to 60 degrees. High light, short of burning. In nature it grows in trees and is one of the most massive of all orchids when mature, weighing in at several TONS. The pseudobulbs are huge. One drawback in cultivation (aside from the size) is that they are very sensitive to rotting if the medium becomes 'sour'. I would suggest underpotting in very coarse bark, gravel and perlite (packed very tightly), and be ready to repot in two years max. Another peculiarity of this plant is that it produces two kinds of roots: those that go into the medium and others that grow straight up and form a sort of crown around the pseudobulbs. The latter seem to be growing in order to catch detritus, anything that falls, and trap it for nourishment. While growing actively, *G. scriptum* should be watered voluminously, with 1/2 to 1/4 fertilizer; as days grow shorter, the growth slacks off and watering should be spaced out, with less fertilizer, especially just after blooming. - Ted Baenziger

A: I think the grammatophyllum roots compare to the roots on a cattleya, so I would use my regular cattleya mix. - Marvin

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## IT IS TIME TO STEP UP AND BE CONSERVATIVE

By: Doug Harris, email: [DouglasHarris@wt.net](mailto:DouglasHarris@wt.net)

Okay, so we're talking about orchid conservation, not POLITICS. But if you really want to become recognized as a person who wants one of our native orchids to be seen growing in our Texas forests by our descendants, you seriously need to consider volunteering to help. We are restoring and re-introducing one into Texas National Forests! Helping us will earn you the title of a Texas and HOS CONSERVATIONIST.

A hundred years ago, *Cypripedium kentuckiense* was growing in eastern Texas forests above Beaumont all the way up into Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Clear cutting of timberlands decimated populations in much of the

territory. In Texas, the groups of this native lady slipper are now primarily limited to some 13 to 15 known locations with fewer than 300 plants.

In Louisiana, the total plant count has been dropped to fewer than 10. Fortunately, members of the Central Louisiana Orchid Society stepped up and raised 200 seedlings to go back into the Kisatchie National Forest in their first year and are growing an additional 700 seedlings in 2008.

Last year, some of our HOS folks visited one Texas NF and saw the cypripedium in bloom. It was awe inspiring. Then we found out about the CLOS project. Their efforts prompted us to consider a similar effort for Texas. Since then we have developed the idea into a real living and breathing strategy through emailing, numerous phone calls, trips into the forests and helping to collect seeds from which the seedlings are being grown.

Somewhere around March of 2009, HOS volunteers should receive seedlings which have been deflasked and vernalized before they are shipped to us. We will have the privilege and opportunity to grow the seedlings to a larger size until they go dormant in late fall or early winter. After receiving a three month period where the seedlings will be kept at 36°F to 40°F, the first restoration of the plants into the forests may begin.

To execute our task, each volunteer will be given the containers, media and about 50 plants. After seeing a demonstration of the potting technique, we will place the seedlings in the community containers, then put the trays of seedlings in a shady location. By having groups of three volunteers working together, we can cover for each other should any one not be available due to business and away on vacation. Explicit instructions will be provided.

Do ya wanna be part of the volunteers? We will need between 18 to 21 people. Contact me if you have questions or wish to join the fun.

Doug Harris  
HOS Cyp Restoration Committee chair  
Phone (281)-376-9354  
email: [DouglasHarris@wt.net](mailto:DouglasHarris@wt.net)

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## 2008 Houston O. S. Plant Table Final Standings

Great job by all the members bring in plants for us to enjoy each month!! A total of 47 members participated. The top five winners will receive awards at the December meeting. Congratulations to Rick Hepler on being the champion this year. We had several first time surprises with co-winners in May; and Holly Miller and Holly Huston winning both hybrid and species in two consecutive months; and then Susan Dally doing the same in November.

No plant table in December. The contest starts again in January under John Jamerlan's leadership.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Plants</u>
1	Hepler	67
2	Neufeld	32
3	Dally	30
3	Higham	30
5	Kitchens	26
6	Jamerlan	23
7	Baenziger	21
8	McCorquodale	19
9	Bahn	17
9	Rach	17
11	Smith	16
12	Balchan	13
13	Chang	12
13	Fields	12
13	Kelly	12
16	Huston	10
16	Kraker	10
	Unknown	20
	All members	488

Winners by month:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>
January	Haase	Kitchens
February	Haase	Baenziger
March	Ghiz	Pickens
April	Bauman	McCorquodale
May co winners	Bauman	Huston
	Hepler	McCorquodale
June	Huston	Huston
July	Miller	Miller
August	Fields	Kitchens
September	Rowell	Dally
October	Rach	Haase
November	Dally	Dally

## 2009 Slate of Officers

The slate of officers proposed by the election committee was approved by acclimation by the members at the November meeting. The investiture will take place at the December meeting. Please join us in congratulating them and making their year as easy as possible!

## Update on Dolores Fields

As many of you are aware, Dolores was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the top of her head on the midline called calcified meningioma. It is a non-cancerous type, but about the size of a golf ball and will be removed by surgery. She is scheduled for surgery on November 26.

Please include Dolores in your prayers!

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### *Continued HOS Picnic*

I truly hope that we can do this again next year, we had ample place to park, everybody brought their own chairs so we had lots of places to sit and chat and get to know one another. I bought and Denny smoked briskets (he did a great job), HOS supplied all the soft drinks and everyone brought a covered dish. If you did not come, you missed a really nice, pleasant outing.

Marvin Gerber did his usual great job of auctioning off orchids and we raised over \$300.00 towards the AOS show next year. I think Denny sold some of his orchids too and wherever or whenever this picnic happens next fall, Do Not Miss It. It was really nice. For those of you who attended I thank you again for your contribution and your presence.

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## Special Thanks From Your Editor

*By: Susan Taylor*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed throughout the year to the Happenings. **Malcolm McCorquodale** has done a wonderful job of providing us pictures from the plant tables and events throughout the year. **Doug Harris** has kept us all up to date on the Cypridium conservation project. **Nina Rach** has provided us with interesting articles she has spotted on the web. And of course, our 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**. All these people have made your Happenings possible and my job easier. Thank you all!

## Current Literature

By Nina Rach

"Apical Meristems," in: Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (2008) by Dennis Francis, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd. Posted online September 15, 2008.

<http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/emrw/9780470015902/els/article/a0002050/current/abstract>

**Apical meristems** are regarded, generically, as the growing tips of the higher plant. However, neither the shoot apical meristem (SAM) nor the root apical meristem (RAM) is apical, the former is protected by young unexpanded leaves and the RAM by the root cap.

**The SAM** is an exponentially growing morphogenetic center; it initiates leaves, flowers, nodes and internodes, and in culture can regenerate a whole plant. Leaf initiation is an event characterized by an early change in the plane of cell division on the flanks of the SAM.

**The RAM** shows steady-state growth kinetics, and roots in culture form more roots.

To learn more, read:

1. "Micropropagation of Orchids,"  
<http://www.hos.ufl.edu/mooreweb/TissueCulture/Febbruary%208/Microprop%202007.doc>

2. American Orchid Society Bulletin articles dealing with apical propagation:

Intuwong, O. (1974) Clonal propagation of Phalaenopsis by shoot tip culture. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 43, 893-895.

Lindemann, E. G. P. (1970) Meristem culture of Cattleya. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 39, 1002-1004.

Morel, G. (1964) A new means of clonal propagation of orchids. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 33, 473-478.

Sagawa, Y. (1966) Clonal propagation of Cymbidiums through shoot meristem culture. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 35, 188-192.

Sagawa, Y. (1967) Clonal propagation of Dendrobiums through shoot meristem culture. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 36, 856-859.

Scully, R. (1967) Aspects of meristem culture in the Cattleya alliance. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 36, 103-108.

Wimber, D. (1963) Clonal multiplication of Cymbidiums through tissue culture of the shoot meristem. Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 32, 105-107.

### Welcome New Members

Miriam Sicilia  
Stephen Stelmak

### Welcome Guests

Sarita Cannon  
Vicki Hansen  
Debbie Hayes  
Alma Johnson  
Jim Moore  
Sarah Ramcharion  
Karla and Julian Ross

### Thanks for Refreshments

Richard Bauman  
Richard Champagne  
Viola Charo  
Alan Davies  
Sylvia Dekimezian  
Midge Gorman  
Cherie Lee  
Tom Pickens  
Donna Williams  
John Williams

### Orchid Trivia:

"A plant having only a few roots cannot utilize all the water in a large pot and the mix will quickly become anaerobic and soggy, producing a variety of attendant problems. A well-grown mature plant with several growths can be maintained and flowered in a 7.5 centimetre (3 inch) pot or even less. When in doubt underpot rather than overpot." Ref.: "Novelty Slipper Orchids: Breeding and Cultivating Paphiopedilum Hybrids", p 22, by Dr. Harold Koopowitz and Dr. Norito Hasegawa; Angus and Robertson Publishers, New Zealand in 1989.



## 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](mailto:Edwina.Mitchell@shell.com) 281-479-6539

Thank you so much John Stubbings-Clown Alley for hosting our November and the last Newcomer's meeting for 2008. We learned some very valuable repotting skills for several different types of orchids. And then we had a blast going crazy repotting all the plants that were donated to us.

What a great time we had! We then enjoyed a nice Italian feast to round off the meeting.

Eddie and I would like to thank everyone that donated items to the Newcomer's group this year. If it wasn't for your very generous donations the Newcomer's group would not of been this fun! Thank you so much!

Next year's new Newcomer's leaders will be announced at the December meeting. Eddie & I would like to thank you for the opportunity in running the group this year and we hope everyone learned a lot.

Happy Orchid growing!!

### **Raffle Table**

Chair: Lee and Gordon Rowell

There will be no raffle table for the December meeting as we will be having the HJC Auction.

### **Membership**

Chair: Donna Williams ([dfwilliam@mdanderson.org](mailto:dfwilliam@mdanderson.org))

The last day to renew your membership for 2009 will be the February HOS meeting on 2/5. That is the very last day to get your name and address included in the 2008 Directory. Please get your memberships to me before then if you can. The cost for a single membership is \$30 and for a family is \$45. Checks should be made payable to the Houston Orchid Society and can be mailed to me at: Donna Williams, 8619 Blossom Bell Lane, Missouri City, Texas 77489. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions at 713-792-8628 or 281-438-1483.

After the December meeting, please contact Katherine Brown as the new membership secretary.

## 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**  
*December 2008 Meeting*

Program: HJC Auction and Party  
Date: December 4, 2008  
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Place: Houston Garden Center

**2008 Speakers**

December: HJC Auction and HOS Party

**Reminder: the January Meeting will  
be MONDAY, January 5 due to a  
conflict with New Years!**

HOS Website

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

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**Houston Orchid Society**  
*The Houston Happenings*  
P. O. Box 648  
Ace, TX 77326

