

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

It's Time for the Holiday Party and HJC Auction!



Don't miss the upcoming meeting! We will have lots and lots of incredible food and the annual Houston Judging Center auction. This is a great opportunity to mix and talk to all those people you've met during

the year but haven't had time to really talk to during our meeting. Stop by and say "hi" and talk orchids!

Marvin Gerber will conduct a live auction. Some plants are donated by the judges and others from our favorite vendors. This is one of the major fund raising events for the judging center. OrchidWiz donated one license for OrchidWiz software for the December Auction. The value of the software is \$259.

OrchidWiz Software in Auction!

OrchidWiz has donated a brand new, fully updateable license of the latest version of OrchidWiz Encyclopedia on DVD, valued at US \$259 which will be offered in the HJC Auction which benefits the Houston Judging Center.

OrchidWiz is an easy-to-use software application for orchid research, discovery and to help growers keep track of their orchids. The program contains extensive information on approximately 138,000 hybrids and 29,000 species, and it has nearly 40,000 color pictures. There are currently thousands of OrchidWiz users in six continents and 45 countries; more than 200 orchid nurseries and 330 American Orchid Society judges have licensed OrchidWiz. A great new feature added this past year allows users to inventory and track your own orchids in the OrchidWiz Journal and you can even add your own photographs.

This item may only be purchased by a person for individual use, allowing perpetual use by one individual only, on a maximum of two computers; it is not transferable to another person. For complete information about the software and features, please go to the OrchidWiz website: www.orchidwiz.com Thanks to Alex Maximiano, President and Founder of OrchidWiz, for donating this great item!

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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 Membership Renewals for 2009

It's that time of year. Memberships to the HOS run from January through December.

Please fill out the enclosed membership form and bring it to the next meeting along with your check to renew.

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President's Post

By Holly Miller, President

It's the end of the year and my position as your President will be finished when we induct the new officers at the December meeting. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be your President and tell you that I REALLY enjoyed it. We've had a very successful year financially and that is due to all of you jumping in and volunteering your time to make things happen. I've had great fun, I've learned a lot and have gotten to know most of you much better and I hope you all can say the same - that's what our society is all about.

The December meeting is our Holiday Party and Auction befitting the Houston Judging Center. Please bring a favorite dish to share. There will be a lot of great food, and time to mingle and visit. The new officers will be inducted and the plant table winners will be announced. Marvin Gerber will conduct the auction and there will be some great plants to add to your collections. This is a fun night - don't miss it.

The new committees are being formed now and if there is something you would like to help with, please let me or John Stubbings know. As one of the 2010 Show Chairs, I'm looking for help to make the April show one of our best. Having it in the Museum of Natural Science is a new concept and it should be very busy and fun.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season and I wish you all a wonderful New Year!

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Judging - November 21, 2009

There were 21 plants entered for judging with 16 nominated for further evaluation and 2 awarded:

- **Kefersteinia candida 'Vera Cruz'** (species) CHM 83 points owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX (20097382)
- **Catasetum fimbriatum 'Memoria Ignacio Bagsican'** (species) provisional JC, owned by Judith Neufeld, Houston, TX (20097381)

There were 18 Accredited Judges, 2 Probationary Judges, 1 Student Judge and 1 Clerk present with a total of 35 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held December 19 in Room 202 of the Jerabeck Center, University of St. Thomas, corner of W. Main and Mt. Vernon, Houston, TX. Please bring a dish to go along with turkey for the holiday celebration. Please email Julius Klehm (klehm@swbell.net) with your choice if you plan to attend, so that the meal may be coordinated.

All plants should be entered before 11:30 A. M. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

Winners' Tips

Hybrid Winner: Lc. Lucky Charms grown by Judith Neufeld



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I got this Lc. Lucky Charms in a small 3-inch pot a year ago with two small buds. It bloomed back this year with two bigger buds and opened with bigger, very fragrant flowers. This is now in a 4-inch clay pot. I repotted it just after the first bloom. In repotting it, I removed all the old mediums and used clean clay pot and mediums. Cut the dry and old roots. At the bottom of the pot I used "peanuts" (Styrofoam), add my own mix of SpongeRoc, Aliflor, Charcoal, and topped it with River rocks. Before I put my topping of rocks, I'd put 1/2 tsp. of Nutricote Slow Release Fertilizer (Gray-colored beads). I use this to all my repotting. Then water it down with rain water.

Species Winner: Cattleya maxima, grown by Calvin Starr



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I got this Cattleya maxima from Denny at Spring Orchids about three years ago. It grows in fairly high light hanging in the greenhouse. It gets watered once a week with RO water and MSU fertilizer. In the past it has only had one new lead a year, but this year it was sprayed with Keiki Pro and it developed 4 new leads.

Three new books reviewed

From MBG The Cutting Edge, July 2009

Hågsater, E. 2007. *The genus Epidendrum. Part 6. Species new & old in Epidendrum*. Icon. Orchid. 9: pl. 901-1000. --. 2008. *The genus Epidendrum. Part 7. Species new & old in Epidendrum*. Icon. Orchid. 11: pl. 1101-1200.

These two works, which we will consider as a unit (since the earlier one had eluded us), continue the "new & old" theme inaugurated in Part 5 of the author's Epidendrum marathon (Fascicle 8 of the series) and adhere to the same format, as summarized in our review of the last-mentioned title [see *The Cutting Edge* 13(3): 6-7, Jul. 2006]. Altogether, 42 new spp. are described in these most recent contributions...

Oakeley, H. F. 2008. *Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa: the essential guide*. H. F. Oakeley, Kent, U. K. 445 pp.

The three genera mentioned in the title fall into that exasperating category of ostentatious orchids that seem to exist, like ginkgos or peafowl, almost exclusively in domestication. Decent herbarium collections prepared in the field by reputable botanists are few and far between, perhaps because these plants are seldom encountered in flower, or their populations have been decimated by predatory horticultural collectors, or because even botanists often cannot resist the temptation to bring them back alive. As a result, reliable floristic information on such taxa is in extremely short supply. This opulent, meticulously detailed vanity publication contributes very little in this regard, but instead panders to hobbyist growers, many of whom are lionized in color photos (and after all, these are the people who will be buying the book). Only *Lycaste*, among the featured genera, occurs in Costa Rica and need concern us...

...The introductory part of this work features an extensive historical account (and history is emphasized throughout the text), as well as discussions of morphological features, distinguishing features at generic rank (including molecular phylogeny!), and dichotomous (though non-indented) keys to the spp. of each genus. There is no key to genera, and no formal generic descriptions. A new infrageneric classification of *Lycaste* is presented, featuring three sections (two described as new). Formal descriptions are provided for each of the 31 accepted spp. of *Lycaste*. The text is richly illustrated throughout with technically excellent color photos, mostly of live plants (sometimes in the field).

Continued on Page 5

AOS Corner

By Carol Holdren

The American Orchid Society has Members Meetings twice a year, once in the spring and then in the fall. These events are open to any orchid lover to attend. Think about going to the next one which is in Oklahoma City from April 28 - May 2, 2010. You can obtain information under "Events" at the AOS web site or at <http://www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org/> At each of these meetings the AOS has been hosting Town Hall meetings where they have been answering questions from membership in a public setting. Let me share a couple of the questions and answers from the recent California town hall meeting.

Q. How is the AOS doing financially?

Answer: The organization is struggling and has cut its expenses in every instance that it can. The staff has been dramatically cut back. Also several fundraising campaigns have been initiated including the Garden Committee's "Save the Garden" campaign and the Development Committee has asked for donations from Trustees, Committee Chairs and Committee Members. Also the Development Committee, along with the Affiliated Society Committee, has asked for financial assistance from Affiliated Orchid Societies. If we all pull together we can make it through this difficult financial time.

Q. Have we absolutely concluded we can't unload the headquarters?

Answer: If AOS can attract enough people to the facility we are better off having it open. It provides positive cash flow. It also provides the means for AOS members to have reciprocal membership to over 200 other gardens around the world. The headquarters was paid for by donations from several generous AOS supporters.

If you have a burning question for the AOS leadership, come to a Town Hall meeting—you're sure to get your answers there! Or you can email me and I will get an answer to you: affiliated_societies@aos.org

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

Regular meeting third Tuesday
of month at 7:30 PM

Houston Garden Center

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org



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: No questions submitted.

HOS Business

The Nominating Committee presented the second reading of the following names for consideration for the 2010 Officers of the Houston Orchid Society:

President	John Stubbings
1 st Vice President	John Jamerlan
2 nd Vice President	Brian White
Recording Secretary	Eddie Mitchell
Treasurer	Debbie Peterson
Membership	Calvin Starr

Board of Trustees (2 year term), in alphabetical order

Ted Baenziger
Jay Balchan
Bill Bartlett
Jim Butler
Marvin Gerber
Malcolm McCorquodale III
Lee Rowell

As SWROGA representative

2 year term Julius Klehm
1 year term Marilyn Holloway

All were approved by acclimation at the November meeting.

New Zealand Grower Dumps Orchids

"An orchid grower driven to desperation after losing his entire crop and income to a new spray dumped thousands of his flowers in a public protest at the devastation the insecticide has caused.

Tauranga grower Paul Hulshof poured a truckload of affected cymbidium orchids on the doorstep of Bayer Crop Science's Glenfield headquarters...

.... Hulshof said the insecticide Oberon, distributed in New Zealand by Horticulture, had totally destroyed his crop and severely affected at least 30 other orchid growers.

Twenty-one months since he applied the insecticide he was still seeing deformities in his plants.

He said he was appealing to the company to compensate

him so he could return to his livelihood. "I have become desperate. All I want to do is hide in a greenhouse and produce some beautiful flowers."

Oberon, manufactured by German crop science and pharmaceutical conglomerate Bayer AG, was withdrawn from the market by its New Zealand subsidiary in May last year.

It went on sale again the next month, but as a treatment for tomatoes and capsicums, not for ornamental flowers.

.... Hulshof was also concerned that the insecticide interfered with the reproductive system of insects, and was being used in crops grown for human consumption.

New Zealand Export Growers Association chairman John van der Linden said orchid exports were worth \$20 million a year. Forty per cent of New Zealand orchids had been sprayed with Oberon, and 20 per cent had been lost. "It has not destroyed the industry, but I don't think it will recover because the key members are leaving, and growers are pretty dispirited." He said Bayer had been quick to compensate growers for lost cashflow.

Bayer Crop Science country manager John Neal said the company had not admitted liability, but had settled 14 of 45 cases with growers, and would have half the claims settled by next month.

.... Hulshof said it took him 14 years to develop mature and unique flowers, which enabled him to make a profit. "It takes so long to build up the plants, we don't have the years to do this again. I am 55. To grow my plants again to their 2007 standard I will be in my 70s." ... Neal said long-term losses were factored into growers' claims by Bayer's loss adjusters.

Growers did not blame crop destruction on the insecticide itself, but on poor labelling and instructions. It is understood they were not told the spray should only be used in cool months and should be sprayed only lightly. Those who used the product in summer months suffered the worst damage.

Densely sprayed crops were destroyed, and others produced deformed flower heads and other abnormalities.

.... Hulshof said local growers' reputations were undermined in their major export regions - United States, Japan, and the Middle East - when they were forced to export substandard flowers to mitigate their losses."

URL : http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10598772

Jardin Botanico Lankester

The herbarium at the Jardín Botánico Lankester, outside of Cartago, has now been registered with an acronym (JBL) in Index herbariorum, becoming the sixth Costa Rican herbarium so dignified (not counting CATIE, now defunct).

Meanwhile, the seventh may be on the rise, with the recent establishment of the so-called Luis Diego Gómez Herbarium (unofficially HLDG) at the Estación Biológica Las Cruces, near San Vito. With more than 1100 specimens and several thousand more awaiting processing, the minimum of 5000 required for official recognition by Index herbariorum should be right around the corner.

From MBG, the Missouri Botanical Garden, published in The Cutting Edge, July 2009:

<http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/Edge/jul09/jul09not.shtml>

Books (Continued from Page 3)

Ossenbach, C., F. Pupulin & R. L. Dressler. 2007. *Orquídeas del istmo centroamericano: catálogo y estado de conservación/Checklist and conservation status: Orchids of the Central American isthmus*. Edit. 25 de Mayo, Sabanilla de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica. 243 pp.

All the spp. are listed alphabetically in the main section of the book, according to the most cutting-edge, molecular-based taxonomy (but with cross-referencing), with presence or absence noted (in unvouchered fashion) for each country from Mexico (the southeastern portion) to Panama. Endemicity is also codified, as is occurrence in adjacent regions (North America, South America, the Antilles) and protected areas (this not on a per-country basis). These last two aspects are elaborated upon, where necessary, in a separate alphabetical listing toward the end of the book, which provides explicit information on geographic ranges outside Mesoamerica and the protected areas (by country) where these spp. have been found. Some interesting statistics are marshaled in the totally bilingual (English/Spanish) introductory section. Costa Rica edges out Panama in having the highest sp. total of Orchidaceae (1461—i.e., 143 more than treated in the Manual) for any of the countries in the region, and easily wins in the spp./km² department. Costa Rica also has the most endemic orchid spp. (330), and the highest percentage of endemism (35.37%). A total of 933 orchid spp. are endemic to one country or another, while just 60 occur throughout the region (in all countries). Thirty-five pages of color photos in the middle of the book satisfy the incomprehensible requirement for this sort of frill in all publications dealing with orchids, regardless of their nature.

AOS is on Facebook!

If you're an avid user of Facebook or a newbie, just getting started, be sure to join the American Orchid Society's Facebook Membership Page. It was set up to create a forum for discussion, questions and news all about the national headquarters and affiliate organizations of AOS. People from New Hampshire to Florida are already members, sharing their orchid-related news.

Just log-on to your Facebook account (or create one at www.facebook.com; it's free and easy!), then in the Search box, type in "American Orchid Society.." Click on the icon with two, blue people on it, indicating a Membership page. Once you're in, become a Member and join the conversation.

If you have any questions about how to join Facebook or the AOS Membership page, please contact the Page Administrators Carol Holdren of AOS.

The HOS now has an online forum

By Calvin Starr

I have set up a message board for use by HOS members. I need some of you to register and make some post to make sure everything is working correctly.

This board is very basic since it is a free board with free hosting. If it becomes popular with the members, and we want to invest a little money, I can customize it and add features. I can add other topics if you have any requests.

A medium such as this can be a quick way for us to exchange info and ask questions. It is also a good way for the out of town members to stay in touch and become more involved.

Please give me your feedback. The address is in the link below: <http://hosforum.freeforums.org/index.php>

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Meets the Third Sunday of each month at the Houston Garden Center at 2:00 PM. Come join us and learn more about growing ferns in the Houston environment. Visit the website at <http://www.tgcfensoc.org/> for more information.

Smarter storage to save orchids

A new technique for storing Australian orchid seeds and their fungal mates could save more than 60 endangered orchid species from extinction in NSW alone.

The orchid species and the fungus that each requires to germinate will now be stored in a seaweed-based gel that will keep them alive for longer. The conservation breakthrough was made possible by the partnership of the New South Wales Seedbank with the Millennium Seed Bank founded by the UK's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

.....

"Identifying the particular fungus that each Australian orchid species requires for its seeds to germinate, and storing the seeds and their fungal partners in a seaweed-based gel developed by the Millennium Seed Bank has transformed our capacity to conserve endangered orchid species," said Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust, Dr Tim Entwisle.

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20091610-20014-2.html>

Last Orchid Survey In 2009

By Doug Harris

An intrepid group of four HOS members met in Cleveland at 8 AM on November 14th to seek those native orchids blooming before freezing weather halts blooming for some months. In mid-November, the Ladies Tresses orchids offer the last hooray for the year. *Spiranthes oderata*, *longilabris* and *cernua* were found and a number of pictures taken. *S. longilabris* is rare and finding the flowering plants is a very satisfying task.

February of 2010 will provide the first flowering of that year and possible trips into the hinterlands of Texas will start anew. In addition to known locations, there are a number of areas that potentially have orchids unknown to exist in Texas. Documenting such finds is part of the excitement of our woody forays. We will be searching the high plains in the Texas Panhandle for a second species of *Cypripedium* not seen in Texas since 1945 when a single plant was discovered.

Use your imagination and decide if you would like to join the parties next spring.

Welcome New Members

Alex Maximiano

Welcome Guests

None

Thanks for Refreshments

Ted Baenziger

Richard Bauman

Jeff Bradley

Teresa Dolney

Elizabeth Fisher

David Hunt

John Jamerlan

Roberta Maberry

Jane Patton

Tom Pickens

Miriam Sicilia

Sandy Stubbings

Diane Taylor

Get your newsletter notification by email

Get your newsletter by email and save the society printing and mailing costs as well as helping reduce the use of paper in the environment. Instead of a paper copy, you will be notified via email when the newsletter is posted at the society website. You will be able to read it almost a week before those who are getting the hardcopy. Best of all, you will see all the pictures in full color -- and you know that orchid are *much* prettier in color!

Just let me know at sataylor@eastex.net and I'll add you to the list.



Committee Bulletins

Newcomers Group

Chair: Jean Schwenke, jean.schwenke@hotmail.com 832-746-1003

Our last Newcomers' meeting of the year was graciously hosted by Lee and Gordon Rowell at their shop in the Heights, Orchid Express and Leasing. The rain held off long enough for us to enjoy a fun orchid quiz contest, and we had boatloads of plants for everyone, thanks to the very generous donations of many of our members, including Allan Davies, Katherine Brown, Sandra Higham, Jack Pine, and Susan Taylor. Denny Haase of Spring Orchids gave us dozens of excellent cattleyas and oncidiums, and Miller's Tropicals of Austin gave us some beautiful blooming dendrobiums they had brought to the Galveston show. It has been remarkable to see the kindness so many of you have bestowed on us throughout this year, and we are grateful beyond words. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Newcomers meetings possible, and thanks to the whole HOS for your support and encouragement.

Intermediate Group

Chair: Debbie Peterson, dpeterson@avalonadvisors.com 281-890-0811

Co-chair: Calvin Starr, calvin@kr5e.com 281-482-5589

Thank you Calvin for hosting our last Intermediate Group meeting in November. We discussed how to deal with the cold weather for our orchids for greenhouse and nongreenhouse growers, Calvin tested our water samples, the new HOS message forum (<http://hosforum.freeforums.org/index.php>) that Calvin set up and other various orchid topics were discussed. There will not be a meeting in December.

I want to thank everyone that participated in our group this year. I hope you had fun, made new friends and received a little more orchid information. I know I did!

If anyone wants to join our group for next year please let us know at the December meeting. For anyone in the Newcomer's group that has been a member for two years and are now going on their third year this is the group to join to continue meeting with your fellow growers so to learn all you can on growing orchids.

We're still looking for someone to run these meetings for 2010, Debbie & Calvin have already volunteered for other duties. Let us know at the December meeting if you're interested in taking this on for 2010.

Raffle Table

Chair: Mary Gunn

Co-Chairs: Amy Colville, Sylvia Dekmezian

There will be no raffle table for the December meeting as we will be having the Houston Judging Center Auction. It was a good year for the raffle and we were able to increase the number of plants we offered in the raffles, thanks in part to the donations from the Brizendine collection and some good buys from our suppliers, along with consistent participation in ticket sales from HOS members. We had over 40 plants in the November raffle including the 'second chance' items for people who had not yet won a plant in the raffle. We have had a great time handling the monthly raffle - buying orchids, giving them away, and chatting with other HOS members about what else - 'orchids'. "It doesn't get much better than that"! Thank you to everyone who supported it by purchasing tickets throughout the year.

Houston Orchid Society 2009 Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

<i>President</i>	Holly Miller
<i>1st Vice President</i>	John Stubbings
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	John Jamerlan
<i>Membership</i>	Katherine Brown
<i>Recording Sec.</i>	Claudia Hanson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Debbie Peterson

Chairs

<i>Conservation</i>	Nina Rach
<i>Guest Hospitality</i>	Allan Davies
<i>Happenings Editor</i>	Susan Taylor
<i>Librarian</i>	Sarah Bentley
<i>Newcomers Group</i>	Jean Schwenke, Judith & Loren Neufeld
<i>Intermediate Group</i>	Debbie Peterson, Calvin Starr
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Marvin Gerber
<i>Photography</i>	Malcolm McCorquodale III
<i>Plant Raffle</i>	Mary Gunn, Sylvia Dekmezian, Amy Colville
<i>Refreshments</i>	Noreen Tolman, Ken Gardner, Eddie Mitchell, Will Litchfield
<i>Silent Auction</i>	Lee and Gordon Rowell
<i>2009 Spring Show</i>	Melba and Jim Butler
<i>HOS Web</i>	Calvin Starr
<i>2009 Workshop Chair</i>	Ted Baenziger and John Stubbings

Directors

<i>Two-Year Term</i>	<i>One-Year Term</i>
Donna Williams	Jeff Bradley
Joe Fields	Greg Scott
Ted Baenziger	Dave Hunt
Don Ghiz	Johnny Williams
Calvin Starr	Sandra Higham
Doug Harris	Dolores Fields
Loren Neufeld	Marvin Gerber

Representatives

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

Houston Orchid Society
Month 2009 Meeting

2009 Speakers

December – Christmas Party and HJC Auction

Program: Christmas Party and
HJC Auction

Date: December 3, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Houston Garden Center

HOS Website

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

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

