

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

Speaker: HOS Exhibitors

By John Jamerlan, First Vice-President

With the HOS Orchid show just around the corner, our guest speakers for April are all HOS members who are experienced plant exhibitors and members of the AOS Judging Center in Houston.

They will show us what the exhibits are all about, how to prepare your plants and exhibit displays and how to register them correctly so that they can be judged in the correct category. Thank you in advance to Holly Miller, Don Ghiz and Nina Rach!

A Sad Note: Gail Freeman

As most of you know, Gail has been very sick for a very long time. Most of the time when she was able, she would make one believe that she was not nearly as sick as she really was.

Since September Gail has spent a total of 38 days at EJGH. She went in again on Wed of this week. It was found that her liver and kidneys were failing. Early Thursday she lost consciousness. Shortly afterward, one of her doctors suggested that we put her on DNR (do not resuscitate) status which we agreed to. He told us then that she would not last very long.

At about 5:30pm today, as I was looking directly at her face, I saw her take a large breath and it then just flowed out. That was her last one.

Although it is very painful for the family and me, there is also a lot of relief knowing that she is no longer suffering the never-ending pain that she has endured for many months with no relief.

I know that she would have wanted me to contact you. She has been upset because she has had to miss several meetings because of her illness. Her absolute enjoyment was to be with a group of orchid lovers and look at, and talk about them. - Bob Freeman

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



Don't Miss Participating in Your Show!!



Houston Museum of Natural Science

April 17 - 18, 2010

Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

Judging is Friday, April 16 at 6:30 PM

Set up for Exhibits is 5 PM – 9 PM Thursday and 9 AM – 4 PM Friday

Contact people are:

Sign up to exhibit:

John Jamerlan txjamer@hotmail.com

Sponsor a trophy: \$35.00

Jim Butler melbajim@sbcglobal.net

Work Security:

Jay Balchan j.w.balchan@exxonmobil.com

Work Hospitality:

Karin Luhnau kluhnau@sbcglobal.net

Clerk at Judging:

Calvin Starr calvin@kr5e.com

Questions:

Holly Miller hollymil@earthlink.net

President's Post

By John Stubbings, President

The spring season is here! With temperatures up and sunshine now and then things are looking up. Of course that's for our Houston Orchid Society members. I called to Chicago on March 9 to friends. They had a terrible winter and still had snow on the ground!

Our March get together was great. Marvin Gerber showed us pictures of the AOS award winners from the Houston Judging Center in 2009. Photography was courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale, our HOS and HJC photographer. Most of them were to plants shown by HOS members. A few from our 2009 show were from others. Marvin also gave a great explanation of the difference between show ribbon judging and AOS quality judging. Hope you all enjoyed as much as I did.

Again we had great attendance at our meeting. We also had an overflowing plant table with lots of beauties. We sure hope everybody has more plants for next month for the HOS show. There were plenty of plants on the plant table to fill many exhibits at a show. At shows we arrange the plants and add greenery to make a beautiful display. For last months plant table there were almost no gaps between the plants filling seven large tables. At a show these would easily fill at least twice as much space.

Show time! April 17-18 is our spring show. We will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science next door to our monthly meeting location. Parking and entrance to the orchid show will be free. Set up is Friday with judging Friday night. We still have available display space for those with blooming orchids. Or the spaces can be used to do an Educational Exhibit, Art exhibit or Collectibles exhibit. See our HOS website or contact Holly Miller, Show Chair for more info.

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman
HJC Results - March 20, 2010.

There were 16 plants presented for judging with 11 considered for further evaluation and 3 awarded:

1. **Paph. urbanianum 'Rick's Choice'** (species) HCC 76 points, owned by Rick Hepler, Pasadena, TX (20106414)
2. **Paph. sukhakulii 'Leah Marie'** (species) HCC 75 points, owned by Doug George, Magnolia, TX ((20106412)
3. **Dtps. _([Sinica Sunday x Phal. Taisuco Rose) x Dtps. Taida Rose) 'Klehm's Beauty'** provisional AM 80 points, owned by Julius Klehm, Houston, TX (20106413)

There were 12 Accredited Judges and 2 Probationary Judges present with a total of 20 persons attending. The next regular judging will be held April 17, 2010 at the University of St. Thomas, Jerabek Center, Room 202. Please bring a sack lunch. All plants should be entered before 11:30 A. M. so that they may be properly researched prior to judging.

Winners' Tips

Hybrid Winner: Angraecum Veitchii (eburneum x sesquipedale) grown by Holly Miller

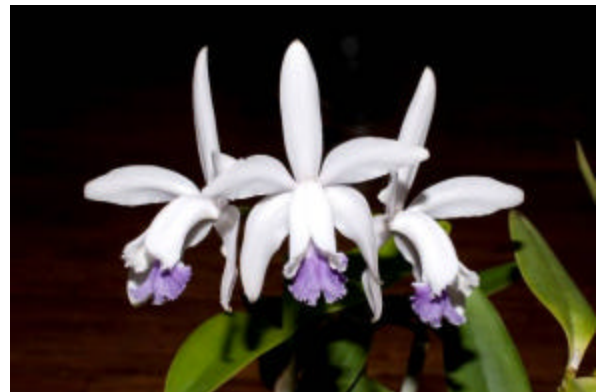


Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I bought this plant from Cornelius three years ago. It has added two large growths since then and the number of flowers has tripled. The flowers have always faced down rather than straight out and you can see that in many of the award photos also. It may have something to do with the fact that one parent, Angcm. eburneum, is non-resupinate and the other parent, Angcm. sesquipedale, is resupinate - I don't really know. In any case, the flowers are lovely, very fragrant and feel like wax.

It is growing in a charcoal and spongerok mix in a clay pot and it likes high light. I hang it on my partially fence during the warm part of the year and it hangs high in the greenhouse during the winter. I water twice a week and fertilize once a week.

Species Winner: Cattleya intermedia var. coerulea 'Gran Blue' AM/AOS grown by Holly Miller



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I got this division of the original plant from Third Coast Orchids about 3 years ago. It blooms on every new growth, two or three times a year and is very easy to grow. It is potted in a mix of Aliflor, diatomite, charcoal and spongerok in a clay pot. I water twice a week and fertilize once a week. It likes high light.

Winners Tips (Continued)

Species Winner: Paph. hirsutissimum esquirolei grower unknown



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

We did not get the name of the grower of this plant. If it's yours, please contact the editor with a short paragraph on how the orchid is grown and we will publish the information next month.

Species Winner: Trichoglottis rosea grown by Judith Neufeld



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I bought this plant from the 20th WOC in Florida in 2008 bare root and tied it in a wooden basket. I hung it in the pergola all that summer watered with an automatic sprinkler. In winter we took it inside in the greenhouse with floor heater and evaporative cooler. It bloomed the following year in Feb. 2009 and I took it to HOS Judging and got awarded a CBR! But the plant had to be sent for identification.

While waiting for the paperwork, I continued to take care of the plant like I do with the rest of my hanging epiphytes. It is kept with Vandas and Dens. It gets a lot air movement and light in the pergola with 60% shade cloth. I fertilize with Peters and Schultz once a week.

And at this same time of year, this baby bloomed with twice as many flowers as last year with more new growths on the plant!

AOS Corner: Why Do You Grow Orchids?

By Carol Holdren

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a new orchid grower who is blind. The caller was looking for audio information on growing orchids and so they contacted the American Orchid Society. I had a couple of CDs handy so I sent them to her. Guess what - there was no audio on them -oops! So then I found a VHS tape on EBay about growing orchids under lights. That worked better but there is still a lot of information that is shown and not described. So I am looking for someone who will tape (micro cassette) orchid education programs given at their society and send them to her. If you would consider helping please let me know at affiliated_societies@aos.org She, her name is LaVonne, lives in Bismarck, ND and she grows hibiscus as well as succulents. LaVonne also has a few orchids, a phalaenopsis and a dendrobium.

As I was looking for audio material people kept asking me, "why would a blind person want to grow orchids?" So I asked LaVonne - can you guess the answer? For the challenge! She enjoys the plants she currently grows but now wants something more challenging. LaVonne and I have had some great telephone conversations about orchids, she described how she feels a plant to determine if something is a keki or a new growth. I told her about fragrant orchids, miniature orchids and orchids with fuzzy stems she might want to consider. LaVonne had no idea there were so many types of orchids out there. Now she really wants a Brassavola nodosa and a Paphiopedilum Pinocchio but she has to wait for warmer weather. To me this is what orchid societies are all about - orchid people helping other orchid people become better orchid growers. I am constantly amazed at the pleasure our orchids give us in one way or another.

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.
Spring Sale – April 20, 2010

Gethsemane United Methodist Church
6856 Bellaire Blvd. (east of the SW Fwy)

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: My dendrobiums got hit hard by spider mites over the summer, and many of their leaves have turned silvery. I have treated them with pesticides, and think I have the mites eradicated now. Should I cut off the leaves that have been affected, or can they still have some benefit to the plant, even though the foilage is quite silvery? With some of them, the plant will be virtually bare if I cut all their damaged leaves.

A: Treating spider mites with an insecticide does very little to eliminate the problem. You must use a miticide such as Kelthane or Avid. Don't worry about the old leaves, they will fall off and the plant will make a new growth with new leaves. The plant much be treated several times to eliminate the spider mites. - Marvin

A: I would leave the leaves on. If the mites are gone, the leaves will provide some chlorophyll production for the plant if you can stand to look at the bad leaves. When new ones are developed and in time the old ones will fall off (assuming that these are the evergreen types). They just would not look good for showing but the flowers are mostly for one's on enjoyment. - Julius

A: The leaves are damaged, but they still contribute to producing food for the plant. I would not cut them off until there are enough clean leaves on new growths to support the plant. Dendrobiums grow new canes and leaves fast and often shed their leaves on older canes. So perhaps the plant will just shed the bad leaves itself over time. - Jay

OCA Orchids in the Wild Trip to Brazil

By: Peter Tobias

The trip will start in Rio de Janeiro on October 16 and finish there on October 30. During the first week we will visit two reserves near Rio. At both we will hike around looking at the native orchids. At one of these, David and Bel Miller's house in Macae de Cima, we will also do some GPS mapping of trails and orchids for their conservation plan. During the second week we will fly to Espirito Santo, the state just north of Rio de Janeiro. There we will visit several reserves as well as the AWZ nursery <http://www.orkideas.com.br/inicio/produtos/>

[awz.html](#) . AWZ Nursery has a CITES export permit from the Brazilian Government, so it will be possible to buy plants at the nursery and get them back to the US. There is a link to more information about them in the attachment and on our web site. At the end of the trip we will return to Rio for a sampling of the food and music that the city has to offer. Many more details can be found in the attached itinerary as well as on our website at www.orchidconservationalliance.org.

The cost of the trip will be \$3000 per person, which includes all essential travel expenses in Brazil - lodging, transportation, food, entrance fees, etc. Liquor and orchids are at your expense. Yes, I know they are pretty much essential, but no, they are not covered. You are responsible for getting to and from Rio. There will not be more than 14 total people on the trip, including me and Rosario Almeida Braga, our OCA director for Brazil. As on all OCA trips, directors pay their own expenses. This trip is designed to be a fund raiser for OCA and your fee includes a \$500 donation to the OCA. This donation should be tax deductible since OCA is a 501(c)3 organization.

Travel note: US citizens need a visa to enter Brazil. OCA cannot help you with that. See a travel agent or google "Brazil visa".

At this time I need you to respond so that I can draw up a list of potential travelers.

Important dates:

Now - Get your name on the list for priority but remember that payment of a deposit is the only guarantee of a reservation.

No later than June 15 - Deposit your \$500 per person to reserve a spot on the trip.

No later than August 15 - All deposits of \$3000 per person are due.

NOTE: Cancellations after August 15 are non-refundable if we cannot fill your space on the trip.

If the Orchid Conservation Alliance must cancel the trip because the trip does not fill or for any other reason, the Orchid Conservation Alliance reserves the right to refund all monies deposited as reservation for the trip. You are strongly advised to purchase trip insurance to guard against unforeseen eventualities. In no case is the Orchid Conservation Alliance liable for more than what has been deposited.

How to make your deposit: We prefer that you send a check made out to Orchid Conservation Alliance to 564 Arden Drive, Encinitas, California, 92024.

Icones Orchidacearum Now Available Online

Icones Orchidacearum volumes 1-12 are now searchable and downloadable all on the Internet at www.herbarioamo.org

This includes both series, on Orchids of Mexico and The Genus Epidendrum. Volume 12, the 8th on Epidendrum was published last December and is also available in hard copy.

Orchids Magazine Looking for Articles

The editors Orchids are looking for short articles, 500-800 words, for the "Parting Shots" section of the magazine. This is an area where individual members can provide input to the magazine.

According to Greg Allikas, Chairman of the Publication Committee for the AOS, pretty much anything that is not "too cute" is acceptable. "Photos of weird blooms, unusual blooms, interesting orchid trips or sightings, thought-provoking essays (why breed orchids?), success stories (How I finally bloomed Den. kingianum in South Florida), personal anecdotes (How my Orchid Addiction Really Began), or even AffSoc type essays (How to Get New Members to Feel Like They Belong to your Club), artwork such as a line drawing or watercolor, poetry or fictional essays,...pretty much anything. This is the MEMBERS' page. The only requirements be that the essay is short: 500-800 words (shorter = better to allow for photo) and if it is a photo, that a high resolution copy be available."

So sharpen up those pencils, or rev up that computer, if you have a good story to tell and send it on in for publication!

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.tgcfersoc.org/> for more information.

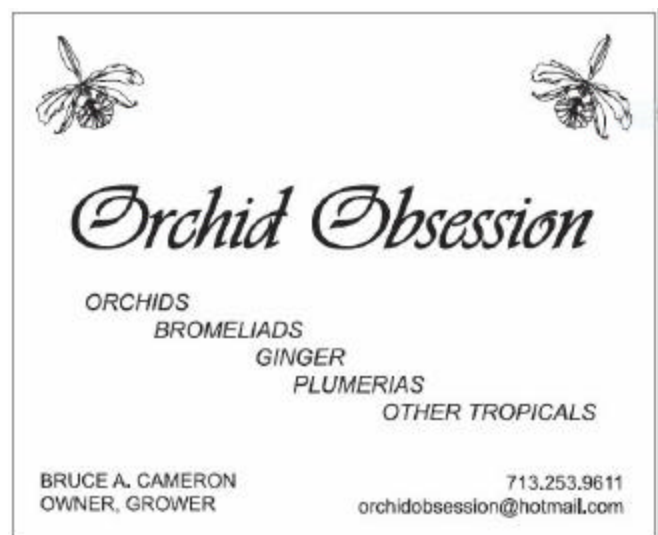
Timber Press Print-on-Demand

By: Nina Rach

Timber Press's new print-on-demand (POD) service makes many of their out-of-print books accessible. Here is an excerpt of now-available out-of-print orchid titles:

Phalaenopsis: A Monograph by Christenson, Eric A.
African Orchids in the Wild and in Cultivation by la Croix, Isobyl
Vandas and Ascocendas and Their Combinations with Other Genera by Grove, David L.
The Journals of Hipolito Ruiz by Schultes, Richard Evans (plant explorer)
Orchid Species Culture: Dendrobium by Baker, Margaret L.
An Illustrated Survey of Orchid Genera by Sheehan, Tom
A History of the Orchid by Reinikka, Merle A.
Orchid Species Culture: Pescatorea, Phaius, Phalaenopsis, Pholidota, Phragmipedium, Pleione by Baker, Margaret L.
Bulbophyllums and Their Allies by Siegerist, Emly A.
The Orchid in Lore and Legend by Berliocchi, Luigi

The books may be ordered from Barnes & Noble, Amazon or from many bookstores. More information from Timber Press at: http://www.gardenrant.com/my_weblog/2010/03/printondemand-is-a-manysplendored-thing.html#comments.



May Speaker Advance Listing of Plants

By Tom Larkin, Whipporwill Orchids

I promised to send an advance listing of the plants I would have available during the speaking engagements on the Texas Circuit in May. I was requested to send the listing so those members who wanted to pre-order could do so. I am attaching a copy of the listing in pdf format as well as some pictures which depict the various crosses involved. The pictures are jpegs. (*Editor:* Posted on our website at <http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/meetings/meetings.html>. Page down until you see the entry for Tom Larkin and then you can access the files.)

Now, a bit about the listing and plant sizes. As most of you know we are no longer in business and I am currently just doing hybridizing on a hobby basis. I am doing lots of hybridizing though so seem to always have an abundance of cattleya seedlings. In addition I still buy flasks from others to develop my hybridizing stock so I have extras of those thrown in occasionally (you may recognize some from Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley and Alan Koch of Gold Country).

In the interest of space I have limited the plants to 2" pot sizes. The plants will range from 3" tall (recent new crosses from compots) to 8" or better (ready for repotting into 4-5" pots). It was impossible to identify all the plant sizes on the listings but if a member needs such information on specific crosses, a quick email to me and I will provide. In addition any questions regarding the listing can be addressed by emailing me. tslarkinjr@yahoo.com

Volunteers Needed to Document Wild Orchids

HOS members who wish to help define the presence and location of native orchid species to be found in previously unsearched areas of the Big Thicket National Preserves, Texas State parks, National Forests, together with several conservation easements on private lands have an opportunity to sign on.

Wendy Ledbetter of the Texas branch of the Nature Conservancy, together with several State botanists and naturalists, is organizing volunteers to assist in the efforts. No dues required to join. So if you are interested or wish more information, please contact me at douglas-harris@att.net

Welcome New Members

Micah and Aubrey Bishop
Angela Escobar and Fabian Duque
Jessica Jamanca

Welcome Guests

Jimmy McMullan

Thanks for Refreshments

I failed to get
names this
month.
They will be
included
next month.

Thanks to all of you who brought food!

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: Midge Gorman, Amermaid2@yahoo.com, 281 484-8388

We want to thank Eddie Litchfield for the BEAUTIFUL plants she generously donated for our February meeting. Additionally, some Newcomers brought plants of their own to donate. What a neat group of people to associate with!!!!!!

The HOS annual Spring Show is our April meeting. The Newcomer's responsibility is to plan and set up the exhibit. HOS general members will supply the plants to us. We need more participation in doing this so the bulk of the work does not always fall on the shoulders of just a few. Please get with me on when you can be there to help. HOS general members will supply the plants to us. Here is our time table:

Thurs, April 15, 2010 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Vendor & Exhibit Setup

Fri, April 16, 2010 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Vendor & Exhibit Setup

Sun, April 18, 2010 4:00 pm

Dismantle and Clean up

This is a fun, as well as educational, event. It is a perfect time to personally view Orchids of all kinds, some that you may not have seen before. See ya there.

Intermediate Group

Chair (temporary): Calvin Starr, calvin@kr5e.com, 281-482-5589

The intermediate group had a good turnout for the February meeting at Clown Alley Orchids in Pasadena with 20 members attending. While on vacation in Hawaii Allan Davies visited an orchid grower with a large lab. Allen had a nice assortment of pictures and explained the process of flasking and replating orchid seed. We also applied Keiki Paste to the nodes of a Phal to try to encourage it to form Keikis. The next meeting will be March 28 at Jay Balchans for a live demo of flasking orchid seed.

Raffle Table

Chair: Mary Gunn, marygunn@pobox.com, 713 627-1083

Co-Chair: Amy Colville, jcolville@comcast.net, 713 880-2605

Thanks to our members and guests for another successful raffle! In March we had 15 orchids (3 more than the standard) on the Raffle Table plus two 'second chance' plants - and made a profit. Our goal is to have at least this number every month and to increase it to around 18 orchids plus the '2nd chance' items. This month we will have a variety of genera again including several mounted plants.

Be sure to wear your HOS name tag and stop by the Raffle Table for 2 free tickets for the Door Prize drawing - one ticket if you don't have your name tag. Raffle tickets are priced at 5 for \$1.00 or 30 tickets for \$5.00. Remember to bring your 'Boxtops for Education' and we'll give you one ticket for each one to use in the special drawing for the 'Boxtops' raffle plant. We pass the boxtops along to HOS members for their childrens' school.

Houston Orchid Society 2010 Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

<i>President</i>	John Stubbings
<i>1st Vice President</i>	John Jamerlan
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Brian White
<i>Membership</i>	Calvin Starr
<i>Recording Sec.</i>	Eddie Litchfield
<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>	Midge Gorman
<i>Intermediate Group</i>	Calvin Starr
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Marvin Gerber
<i>Photography</i>	Malcolm McCorquodale III
<i>Plant Raffle</i>	Mary Gunn, Amy Colville
<i>Refreshments</i>	Sarah Bentley, Carolynne White, Trung Le
<i>Silent Auction</i>	Lee Murdock, Gordon Rowell
<i>2010 Spring Show</i>	Holly Miller
<i>HOS Web</i>	Calvin Starr
<i>2010 Workshop Chair</i>	Ted Baenziger and John Stubbings

Directors

<i>Two-Year Term</i>	<i>One-Year Term</i>
Ted Baenziger	Don Ghiz
Bill Bartlett	Doug Harris
Jay Balchan	Joe Fields
Jim Butler	Donna Williams
Marvin Gerber	Loren Neufeld
Malcolm McCorquodale III	
Lee Murdock	

Representatives

AOS Representative	Susan Taylor
IPA Representative	Ted Baenziger
ODC Representative	Joe Fields
SWROGA Representative	Julius Klehm and Marilyn Holloway

Houston Orchid Society
April 2010 Meeting

Program: Preparing Plants for the Show

Date: April 1, 2010
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Houston Garden Center

2010 Speakers

April – Holly Miller et al – Preparing plants for the show

May – Tom Larkin – Designer Cattleyas

June – Tom Miranda – TBA

July – Todd Miller – TBA

August – Graham Wood – TBA

September – Carol Allen – Orchid Pests and Diseases

October – Francisco Miranda – TBA

November – TBA

December – HJC Auction

HOS Website

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

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

