

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

Speaker: Manny Aybar, Orchids of Peru

By John Jamerlan, First Vice-President

It is estimated that Peru has around 3000 species, as diverse as *Chlorea pavonii* growing in the Andean valleys up to 3100 meters high to the spectacular *Cattleya rex*, native of Moyobamba in the eastern slopes of the Andes. It is not known that in Cuzco in time of the Incas there was a love story based in a beautiful orchid of red flowers (*Masdevallia veitchiana*). This flower, according to many specialists, is one of the most beautiful orchids in the world. Manny captures the beauty of many of the Peruvian species and gives us a virtual trip into the Orchids of the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the warm jungles of Moyobamba.

Manuel Aybar is the Director for Fastteks On Site Computer Services, a business computer support firm. (www.fastteks.com). He is originally from the Dominican Republic (a grower's paradise, as he describes it). He has been growing orchids for approximately 19 years. The genus that got him started was *Dendrobium* in which he specializes (*Phalaenopsis*-type).

A member of the AOS since 1997 and the Greater North Texas Orchid Society since 2000, Manny is an AOS Accredited Judge. His current research includes the orchids of the Dominican Republic, for which he has gone on numerous orchid collecting trips back to his home country. He has been extensively involved in the judging of many shows around the US, including the



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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 2010

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.

Miami International Orchid Show and most of the southwest region (SWROGA) shows.

He is affiliated with the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association (SWROGA), and within this association he belongs to the publications committee and serves as the Webmaster for the organization's web site. He has given several Orchid Seminars and Potting classes at Smith and Hawkins, North Haven Gardens, and other popular gardening stores. He offered a series of orchid workshops for Range Rover U.S. as a part of the Land Rover Destination Tour. He is a regular lecturer for the local orchid societies and visiting speaker for societies around the country.

President's Post

By John Stubbings, President

Happy holidays to all I didn't see recently. Hope you all had a good time over the end of the year.

I want to thank last year's officers and committee people for a great job done by all. First on the list is Holly Miller for her great leadership in keeping us on track and the meetings on schedule. 2009 was a good year for our society. We had our own sales area at the Bulb Mart last year and made some money thanks to Holly's and Deana Roberts and other's efforts.

We all need to thank again Jim and Melba Butler for organizing a fantastic show including hosting the American Orchid Society meeting. Jim and Melba were the chairs but they had lots of assistance from many of you. Everything ran very smoothly and well and we even made money. Much of the money left over from the show was contributed to the American Orchid Society.

Our regular committee chairs did a bang up job all year. We had another great Summer Workshop in August thanks to Fr. Ted Baenziger's efforts. Attendance was great, everyone seemed to have a good time and we made a little money. Our raffle went smoothly all year and it was great to have those bonus plants. Mary Gunn headed up that with Amy Coleville and Sylvia Dekmezian. The silent auction was handled efficiently by Lee Murdock and Gordon Rowell. Our Happenings Editor Susan Taylor brought you the current news about the orchid world. Our

Continued on Page 4

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Results - December 19, 2009

There were 13 plants entered with 10 pulled for further consideration with two awards:

- Den. aberrans 'Autre Vie's Angel' (species) HCC 76, owned by Nina Rach, Houston, TX
- .Warczewiczella lobata 'Vera Cruz' (species) provisional CBR owned by David Hunt, Houston, TX

There were 18 Accredited Judges, 2 Probationary Judges, 1 Student Judge, and 1 Clerk present with a total of 25 persons attending.

The next regular judging will be held January 16, 2010 at the University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck 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.

December Meeting - HJC Auction and Good Fun!



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

Holly Miller presents gifts to all those who worked so hard the past year on making our society an active one. The gifts were wonderful cards from orchidweb with exquisite orchid photography.

The December meeting was a real winner with great food thanks to all the generous contributions from everyone - there was even food left over! We had a great time mingling and eating all the great food and of course, talking about orchids!

Marvin Gerber was our auctioneer for the HJC Auction which garnered \$1,385 this year. Many thanks to all the HJC members who donated plants, especially Jeff Bradley who donated and even bought divisions of his own plants! We had several items donated by vendors as well, including virus testing strips from Adgia and an OrchidWiz license.

New officers were installed for 2010 and Holly Miller, our past president was presented with a beautiful paperweight in recognition of her hard work this year.

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World's smallest Orchid Discovered in World Land Trust Reserve in Ecuador



The newly discovered orchid is from the Platystele genus and the petals are so thin that they are just one cell thick and transparent
 Photo: LOU JOST

A previously unknown species of orchid, the world's smallest, has been discovered inside the Cerro Candelaria Reserve by our partner Fundación EcoMinga in the Andes Mountains of central Ecuador. The reserve, established by EcoMinga thanks to the support of the World Land Trust, protects 5,221 acres of wet cloud forest and páramo (natural high Andean grasslands) on the Amazonian slope of the Andes.

The Executive Director of Fundación EcoMinga, Dr. Lou Jost discovered the new species among the roots of a larger orchid within the boundaries of the reserve. This tiny orchid's flower is just 2.1 millimeters or 5/64 inch across, and its petals are only one cell thick! It is a member of the genus *Platystele*, which is made up mainly of miniature plants.

The Cerro Candelaria Reserve encompasses a large tract of virgin forest - stretching from the Sangay National Park towards the Amazon River Basin. It shelters a number of rare orchids, including an orchid genus found nowhere else on earth.

Dr Jost, one of the world's leading orchid hunters, noted "It's a very exciting feeling to find a new species. People think everything has been discovered but there's much more to be discovered."

To date, 16 new species of orchid have been discovered in this reserve, as well as a new species of frog and a new species of tree that will be named in honor of Sir David Attenborough. Cerro Candelaria is also home to many threatened animal and bird species including the Mountain Tapir, Spectacled Bear, Ocelot and the White-rimmed Brush-Finch.

We thank our donors for their support in protecting this and many other threatened and biologically rich habitats like it. Without your help, none of this would be possible.

AOS Corner

By Carol Holdren

Happy Holidays from the American Orchid Society!

We really appreciate the support we have been receiving from our AOS Affiliated Societies! Thank you so much. We appreciate our orchid friends all year, but especially at these tough times - both societies and individuals continue to be generous in their support of the American Orchid Society - if you would like to make a donation, either as a gift or in honor of someone, you can mail it to American Orchid Society %Susan Wayman 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446 or call 561-404-2031. You'll receive a thank you letter for your tax records and your donation will be listed, however you please, in the magazine.

AND, please consider an AOS gift membership for an orchid lover - they will love getting the wonderful Orchids magazine each month. To give a membership contact Terri Rivera, Dir. of Membership trivera@aos.org If you ask, Terri will put a gift postcard into the new member packet that is sent out with the new membership. Membership starts at \$65 for one year mailed in the US. Check out the AOS web site www.aos.org for details on other memberships or an application.

I support the American Orchid Society with my donations and there are a few other orchid related non-profits that I am personally interested in supporting:

The Orchid Conservation Coalition - they raise money and awareness for orchid conservation:
<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/>

Orchid Mania - they support HIV/AIDS related education and care giving efforts: <http://www.orchids.org/>

Orchid Mania Florida - they raise money for pediatric patients with HIV/AIDS: <http://www.orchidmania.org/>

And AOS is on Facebook now - check it out. We would love to have you join our Facebook page - it's free! Sign on and let us know you joined.

Have a great holiday season!

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: None submitted.

President's Post Continued

Our Web maintenance chair, Calvin Starr kept our web current and really expanded the content. Check it out. Our newcomers again had a great year with lots of attendance led by Jean Schwenke. Not to be out done the intermediate group learned a lot more about orchids thanks to Debbie Peterson. Finally we all need to give a great big thank you to our refreshments team of Noreen Tolman, Ken Gardner, Eddie Mitchell and Will Litchfield. They did the heavy lifting each month but without many of you bringing items each month we wouldn't have had as much fun.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see the new committee chairs as well as the new slate of officers and directors. Please thank every one of them for volunteering to help the society. Also please volunteer to assist all of us make a better society.

Couple finds extinct plant

Jessica Benton
10th December 2009 01:14:36 PM

An orchid has returned from presumed extinction to blossom in Geelong's backyard.

Authorities have confirmed that two orchid enthusiasts rediscovered the dwarf spider-orchid, known as *caladenia pumila*, in the region about three months ago.

Hans Korth, who stumbled across the orchid with wife Christa, said he did not realise at first their great discovery.

The couple had been looking for special native plants in the Brisbane Ranges since fires ravaged the area in 2006, he said.

"We stumbled across this white orchid and weren't too surprised by it at first but then we realised it was a special one when we had some experts look

at it."

The couple found the native species in a Parks Victoria reserve.

The Korths' two plants were the only known examples of the species.

Mr Korth described the area where they discovered the orchid as "reasonably flat and grassy".

However, they would not reveal the exact location of their find.

Department of Sustainability and Environment's Andrew Pritchard said the dwarf spider orchid was thought extinct for "the best part of a century".

"Until its rediscovery, the dwarf spider orchid had not been seen since 1926. The rediscovery of this species is a wonderful surprise," Mr Pritchard said.

"To put it in perspective, when the orchid was last seen Stanley Bruce was Prime Minister, George the fifth was King and Don Bradman was a teenager vying for state selection."

Mr Pritchard said the department and Royal Botanic Gardens were now attempting to propagate the plant through an orchid conservation program so it could be reintroduced to the wild.

<http://www.senews.com.au/story/83528>



Den. aberrans 'Autre Vie's Angel'
Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

You, Too, Can Grow Orchids or The Expert Is Always Wrong

By F. M. Floyd, HOS Orchid Lore, Spring 1947

The first point to decide is what varieties of orchids you want to grow. Don't consult any experts. They will all tell you different things, so ignore them. Look up the ads in the orchid magazines and select several varieties with names you can pronounce. This will be helpful later on in bragging about them. Try to get varieties no one else has. Then no one can criticize the way you treat them. Get several types of orchids - some that like low temperatures, some that like high temperatures. Get some that like lots of light, some that don't. This provides more variety. The experts will tell you not to do this, but don't pay any attention to them. They are prejudiced and jealous. They don't want anyone else to raise orchids. Order the plants right away.

Now you will need a greenhouse. Don't be too conservative. Start in a big way. Even if you don't have any plants, a big greenhouse is impressive. People will think you are an expert. Don't consult any experienced growers - they will only confuse and mislead you. Remember, they don't want anybody else to grow orchids.

Before your greenhouse is completed, your plants will arrive. Put them out in the yard and turn the hose on them frequently. Keep them wet. When the greenhouse is done, you can order some more to replace them.

At last you have the greenhouse completed and the plants are in it. Don't ask anybody how to take care of them, and don't read any articles. If the writers knew how to raise orchids, they wouldn't be writing about it. They would be raising orchids. That is obvious.

All you need to raise orchids is common sense. Just use your own judgment. Orchids are only plants, after all, and you have raised lots of plants, haven't you? Don't be afraid of them, just because they have long names and cost a lot. Have courage. One must be aggressive with orchids. Let them know that you are boss. Above all, don't read anything or talk to any experts.

Water the plants frequently. Don't listen to people who tell you this is dangerous. Plants need water, don't they? Orchids are plants. See how simple it is. About this time, it would probably be wise to order a few more plants. They often die in spite of the best of care. Don't let this worry you. Just don't let the orchids get the upper hand.

Orchids need humidity. No, not stupidity, HUMIDITY. This means there is water in the air. Some people think orchids need lots of it. Ignore this. It's just communistic propaganda. You put water on them, don't you? Well, they should not expect to get it in the air too. Oh yes, I would suggest you order a few more plants about now. These firms that sell plants only send out weak plants, and kept the strong ones. That's probably why they all died.

Now temperature: Orchids are tropical plants. Tropical plants must be kept hot. Everyone knows that (except the experts), why claim that they grow best at 60 degrees or even 50 degrees. Obviously that is silly, they are just trying to mislead you. Besides, chemical reactions go on faster at high temperatures, and what is an orchid but a complex chemical reaction? Therefore, pour on the heat. Oh, by the way, you had probably better order a few more plants. Those look a little shriveled. Probably some mysterious disease.

Now another point. Orchids should always be repotted as soon as you get them. The investment in the pot is so great that invariably they are shipped in pots that are

You, too, Can Grow Orchids Continuea

too small. Always get a pot at least twice as large as you think you need. Orchids are used to lots of room, aren't they? What could be roomier than a tree limb? Maybe it would be a good idea to order a few more plants. There must have been something wrong with that bale of osmunda.

Now you see how easy it is to raise orchids. Just use common sense and treat them like any other plant. What's that? You want to know when you will get some blossoms? Well, that's hard to say. These places that sell orchids keep the ones that will bloom. If you get one that blooms, the shipping clerk probably made a mistake. Anyhow you can be BLOOMS from the florist. The fun in raising orchids is in figuring things out for yourself, pioneering, experimenting. The big thrill comes when you do the opposite to what the experts tell you, and show them up.

By the way, those plants look a little sickly. If you had painted the glass or put up slats to reduce the light like the experts told you, they would probably be dead by now. That proves that the experts don't know everything. Uh-h, just to be on the safe side, maybe you had better order a few more plants.

Just one other point, I think that you have been making a mistake trying to keep conditions uniform. Don't pamper orchids. Get them hot one day and put cracked ice on them the next. Treat 'em rough—weed out the weaklings. Of course, you may lose a few, but boy, what's left will be SUPER orchids.

Well, so long. If you need any more help, just let me know. Be sure to stay away from the orchid magazines and the experts - and, oh yes, better order some more plants.

Welcome New Members

None

Welcome Guests

Amy Permé

Thanks for Refreshments

Thanks to all HOS members for bringing the delicious food for the buffet!

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.

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Committee Bulletins

Newcomers Group

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

I have big shoes to fill, coming in behind Debbie and Jean, but will do my best to make this new year a fun and educational one. We will be visiting some awesome greenhouses, gleaned growing tips from the "oldtimers", and have some fun in the process. This is a great opportunity to begin building your own orchid collection or grooming the one you already have. I hope to get in some tips on how to improve our own growing areas, be it with or without a greenhouse. At the moment, I do not have the January meeting set but am working on it. As in the past, we meet the third Sunday afternoon (2:00 pm) of each month. I will be contacting you as to the location of the January meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you guys, Midge Gorman

Intermediate Group

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

There wasn't a meeting in December for the Intermediate group. No meeting scheduled for January yet. We'll talk about the group meeting in 2010 at the January meeting to see if there's any interest.

Raffle Table

Chair: Mary Gunn, marygunn@pobox.com, 713 627-1083
 Co-Chair: Amy Colville, jcolville@comcast.net, 713 880-2605

Amy and I are delighted to be back again this year as Chairs for the Raffle Table. We intend to build on what we learned last year to continue bringing you good finds on lovely orchids in a variety of genera. Let us know if there's something you would like to see (or see more of) in the raffle selections. Your generous support last year allowed us to increase the number of plants we offered, and we're hoping for a strong kick-off in January so we can build up the number of plants we have again this year. We have some new ideas so watch for a few surprises throughout the year.

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 children's 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>	Doug Harris
<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
<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
Jay Balchan	Joe Fields
Jim Butler	Donna Williams
Marvin Gerber	Loren Neufeld
Malcolm McCorquodale III	

Representatives

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

Houston Orchid Society
January 2010 Meeting

Program: Orchids of Peru
Manny Aybar

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

Place: Houston Garden Center

2010 Speakers

February -
March -
April -
May -
June -
July -
August -
September -
October -
November -
December -

HOS Website

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