

THE HOUSTON HAPPENINGS

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

Speaker: Tom Larkin, Designer Cattleyas

By John Jamerlan, First Vice-President



Whippoorwill Orchids, founded in 1991 by Tom & Barbara Larkin, was a natural extension of a hobby that started in 1950 at a very young age. The business end of Whippoorwill was closed in 2007. Whippoorwill is now resigned to hobby growing, hybridizing and exhibiting. With the amount of hybridizing

Tom does he can always come up with a few seedlings to take to society talks.

An avid passion for hybridizing, that in the '50's' concentrated on red Cattleyas and green Cymbidiums, In the '90's and into the new millennium focused on novelty Phalaenopsis, multifloral Paphiopedilums (of small plant size), white Paphs and Phragmipediums, now focuses on the colorful Cattleya alliance

Retired from their professional careers, Tom and Barbara are both heavily involved in the orchid world and are honored Lifetime members of both the Orchid Society of the Ozarks (OSO) and the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City.

Tom and Barbara have both served as committee members for AOS and MAOC. Tom is a Senior AOS Judge, Some past offices held include Director with ODC, Director with IPA, member of Board of Directors of the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks, Vice-President SOA, and Vice-Chair and Training Director of the Mid-America Judging Center. Barbara has served as secretary and Vice President of the MAOC as well as two 2-year terms as President of the local OSO. Tom and Barbara were instrumental in founding the OSO and are heavily involved as supporters and worker-bees with this local group.

Continued on next column

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Speaker Spotlight ·	1
President's Post · HJC · Winners' Tips	2
AOS Corner	3
Culture Q&A	4
Committee Bulletins	7



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



Larkin (Continued)

After fifteen years breeding and growing of novelty Phals, Paphs and Phrags, Tom has moved on to another group close to our hearts, the Cattleya Alliance, focusing on small and compact plants with larger classic style blooms and fragrance, a group he coins as 'Designer Cattleyas'.

We are basically a small greenhouse (2000 sq. ft), and a small laboratory operation. Our lab is limited to our own.

We are located in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas on the shores of Beaver Lake.

BROWARD ORCHID SUPPLY, INC. Orchid Supplies For All Your Growing Needs

2411 Garfield Street
Hollywood, FL 33020
877-9ORCHID

Sandi Jones Tom Wells

www.browardorchidsupply.com

President's Post

By John Stubbings, President

The spring season is here and maybe even summer now that we had 80 degrees a few days! I was reminded again why we moved to Houston. I called north on April 7 to friends. They had a terrible winter and Chicago was having flurries. Friends in Milwaukee reported 3 inches of snow!!

Our April meeting was great. Holly Miller organized the presentations to give you the information needed to have a fun show. First she explained the ins and outs of parking and unloading. Then Don Ghiz explained how to enter your plants and your exhibit. Nina Rach gave you a good checklist for how to assemble an exhibit. She also showed slides of several excellent and a few poor examples of exhibits.

We had great attendance at our meeting. We also had an overflowing plant table with lots of beauties. We sure hope everybody had more plants for the HOS show. Our Happenings deadline is the day of set up so we can't report on the show. April 17-18 was our spring show at the Houston Museum of Natural Science next door to our monthly meeting location. This is the fifth show this spring I have attended all over the south. Houston usually is one of the best and largest shows we attend. I hope you all were there.

Continued on Page 3

Houston Judging Center

By Margaret Putman

HJC Results - April 17, 2010

There were 2 plants entered for judging with no awards.

There were 11 Accredited Judges, 2 Probationary Judges and 4 Student Judges present with a total of 22 persons attending. The next regular judging will be held at the Houston Garden Center May 15, 2010. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION for this month only. 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.

Houston Annual Show - April 16, 2010

- **Paphiopedalum Ho Chi Minh 'Rick & Friends'** (delenatii x vietnamense) HCC 76 points, owned by Paphanatics, Unltd., Orange, CA (20106416)
- **Enantheleya Banana Split 'Clown Alley'** (Lc. Pixie x Enc. cordigera) HCC 75 points, owned by Clown Alley Orchids, Pasadena, TX (20106417)
- **Paphiopedalum__ (Hsinying Cherry x Macabre) 'Jane Malin'**, provisional AM 80 points, owned by Jane & David Malin, Houston, TX (20106415)

Winners' Tips

Hybrid Winner: Den. Milky Way grown by Don Ghiz



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

Den. Milky Way is a nobile type hybrid Dendrobium whose parents are Oborozuki and Angel Flower. I recently purchased this in pre-flower at Palmer's Nursery in Pasadena, TX. (It is my understanding that there is no holding period before placing a plant on the show table.)

Nobiles are easy to grow, but have a couple of unique cultural requirements. With new Spring growth emerging, increase water and fertilizer. In the Fall, increased light, cooler temperatures, and no fertilizer will help initiate budding. Keep the plants root-bound in sphagnum moss. Any keikis can be broken off after roots develop and repotted. Too many keikis is an indication of nights being too warm or over-fertilizing.

This tips were extracted from the Carter and Holmes web site. I've followed them in the past and had good success.

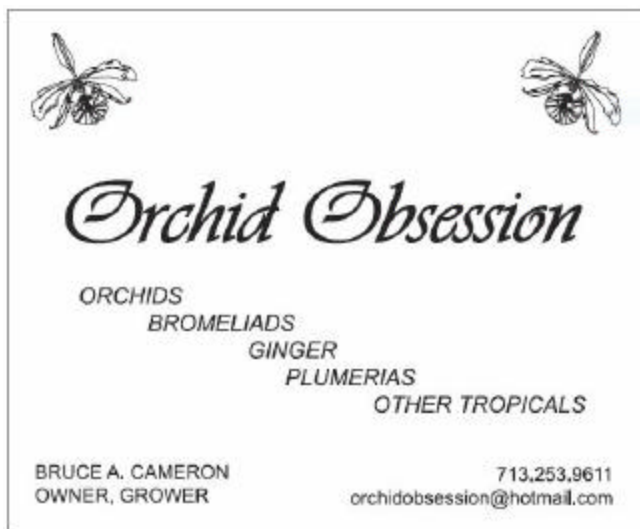
Continued on Page 5

Check the HOS Website for a Special Newsletter About the Show

By Susan Taylor

We're going to publish a web based recap from the show like we did last year. If you have digital pictures from the show, please send them in to me so I can get a good selection to choose from. It takes me at least a week to get it all together after the show and we'll send out a notification when it is available.

The review of the show last year was lots of fun for everyone and gave us a way to review and remember how much work, fun and enjoyment we all received for doing it.



Our HOS Volunteers Can Get 2010 Cyp Seedlings

By Doug Harris, Cyp Restoration Chair

At the May regular meeting, those people who notify me beforehand can again pick up this year's *Cypripedium kentuckiense* seedlings along with new instructions. Thanks.

Just let me know at to douglas-harris@att.net and I'll add you to the list.

AOS Corner

By Carol Holdren

The American Orchid Society is getting ready for its Spring meeting where it will be electing a new President. Carlos Fighetti, the present AOS President, has worked terribly hard for all orchid growers whether they were members of AOS or not, and we all appreciate his efforts. Carlos was president for 2 and a half years but it probably felt like 15 to him! Thanks for all your hard work Carlos!

All orchid society boards are made up of volunteers who are working hard trying to do what is right for the society. It is not easy and we hope that the AOS Affiliated Society Committee can help by bringing together societies to exchange ideas and then sharing these ideas. Working together does lighten the load and makes for some great friendships as well as teaches us about orchids. So watch for AOS Rep info, check out the AOS web site, both the forum and the Affiliated Society page, and our Facebook page for ideas on making your society the best it can be. And thanks to all of the volunteers who make the orchid community the special place it is.

President's Post (Continued)

At the end of April and into May many of us will be at the Oklahoma Orchid Society show in Oklahoma City. They are hosting the same type meeting as Houston did last spring with the AOS meeting, SWROGA, Orchid Digest, IPA, etc. We will report some of the happenings in next month's Houston Happenings.

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

Regular meeting third Tuesday
of month at 7:30 PM

Houston Garden Center

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

BSHI Annual Show and Sale

May 14, 15 and 15

Mercer Arboretum



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: Can you provide some techniques of evicting ants from my potted orchids? How can I discourage them from returning?

A: Flush the pots with very diluted vinegar. - Nina

A: Orthene works well on ants. It might require 2-3 applications a week apart. You can also mix some sugar and boric acid powder. Put 1/2 tspn in an old water bottle top and place several around the plants. Don't forget to pick them up before you water. - Marvin

A: If the ants have set up shop in the pot, then a good soak of orthene ought to do the trick. If the ants are just on the plants to capture the "honeydew" from the inflorescence, then once that it cut off, they should go away. - Jay

A: Powered Orthene (Fire Ant Stuff) a round and some in the pots. - Rick

Rare Ghost Orchid Blooms Early at Audubon's Corkscrew Sanctuary, Florida

By
Naples, FL--(ENEWSPF)--March 30, 2010 - It's rare, it's beautiful and its blossoms appear to be floating in mid-air. But the so-called "ghost orchid" is real, and it is putting on an unusual spring show at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Florida. The elusive endangered plant is blooming three months earlier than usual.

The bloom was discovered Friday, March 26; normally ghost orchids bloom between June and August, with the peak blooming season in July. "We have had an exceptionally cold and wet winter this year, which may be reasons for the early bloom," said Ed Carlson, director of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. "But we are still investigating the mystery."

The ghost orchid (*Polyplocyris lindenii*) is an extremely rare, epiphytic orchid that grows on the trunks of trees in a small concentrated area of

Southwest Florida. The ghost orchid was originally discovered in Cuba. The plants are usually visible only to intrepid adventurers who hike through hip deep water in the area's cypress swamps to reach them. The ghost orchid, preyed upon by poachers, was the subject of Susan Orlean's bestseller *The Orchid Thief* and the subsequent movie *Adaptation*.

Ghost orchids are so-called because the bloom appears to float in mid-air. Area biologists nicknamed this Corkscrew specimen the "Super Ghost," since this particular orchid has had as many as twelve blossoms; typically ghost orchids might have between one and three blossoms per year, each bloom occurring one after the other. The Corkscrew orchid now has one bloom. Thought to be decades old, Corkscrew's ghost orchid was discovered in July of 2007, when two visitors looking for barred owls spied it through a new opening in the trees. The orchid is listed on the Appendix II of CITES and is fully protected by Florida state and federal laws.

Only a thousand or so of these orchids remain in the world, mostly in remote parts Florida. Habitat loss - including logging in Fakahatchee Strand, and the digging of the canal system throughout South Florida, reduced the orchid numbers dramatically. Poachers tempted by high sale prices did more damage, only to discover that ghost orchids rarely survive being transplanted. Too, pollination depends on only one species of insect, the giant sphinx moth, the only local insect with a long enough proboscis. The Sphinx moth itself is becoming rare.

The ghost orchid is one of a number of extraordinary species of plant and wildlife that make Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary their home. The 13,000 acres also protect the largest stand of old growth bald cypress in North America. Because of its unique and rich biodiversity, Corkscrew was officially designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2009, underscoring the need to protect this vital resource from a host of threats, including invasive species and development in sensitive watersheds for which Corkscrew serves as an essential link. Nearly 200 species of birds thrive in the sanctuary, renowned as home to America's largest nesting colonies of Wood Stork, a federally endangered species. The storks nest in majestic 600-year-old bald cypress, reaching heights of 40 meters.

Ghost Orchid (Continued)

Orchid lovers have a window of about two weeks to spot the ghost orchid bloom. Visitors to the sanctuary will find spotting scopes for easy close-up views set up along the sanctuary's boardwalk. Serious

photographers should bring long lenses, as the plant is growing at a height of about 50 feet on the trunk of a bald cypress tree located 150 feet from the boardwalk.

Background on the ghost orchid, including video clip www.corkscrew.audubon.org/Wildlife/GhostOrchid.html

Story with photos about this same orchid blooming last year in web exclusive for Audubon magazine <http://audubonmagazine.org/fieldnotes/fieldnotes0711-orchids-webExclusives.html>

Original article: http://www.enevspf.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15225:rare-ghost-orchid-blooms-early-at-audubons-corkscrew-sanctuary-&catid=88888928&Itemid=88890163

Winners Tips (Continued)

Species Winner: Den. secundum grown by Judith Neufeld



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

I've had the plant for 3 years. I grow it under a pergola during the summer, and in winter I keep it in the greenhouse. We have an automatic watering system during the summer for light sprinkling; I also water thoroughly once a week and fertilize with Schultz Orchid Food. When in bloom I water very carefully to avoid knocking off the tiny flowers. I keep it in the greenhouse and out of the wind for the same reason.

Species Winner from March: Paph. hirsutissimum grown by Holly Miller



Photograph courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

This plant is a division from Piping Rock Orchids and I've only had it about a year. It had only been open a few days when this photo was taken. Over time, the margins of the dorsal sepal and the petals become undulate and this gives it more character. All of the segments are fringed with hair, which is what 'hirsute' means, hence the name.

I grow my Paphs in a complex mix of medium and small diatomite, medium coconut husk, charcoal, sponge rock, tree fern fiber, oyster shell and sand. Some might say it's a strange mix but I like it - it drains well, hold enough water and does not break down quickly. My Paphs are on the shady side of my greenhouse.

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Regular meeting third Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM.

Houston Garden Center
Next meeting June 20, 2010

www.tgcfersoc.org

1% for Orchid Conservation

From the AOS Site

The Orchid Conservation Coalition has just released their summary of activities for 2009 and it appears that despite the poor economy, it was a good year for conservation. The donation total for the year was \$40,206.32 US. Congratulations to all who have joined and support this effort!

The purpose of 1% for Orchid Conservation (1% FOC) is to commit orchid societies and businesses to budgeting 1 % or more of their net revenues to in situ orchid conservation and activities that support in situ orchid conservation. The goal is to raise awareness and money for orchid conservation. Orchid societies and businesses worldwide can participate. Each orchid society and business that makes this commitment decides where their money will be donated as long as the donation(s) fits within the criteria part of the 1% for Orchid Conservation Agreement. A participating orchid society's board determines what amount is 1% of net revenue of its society and whether a society has fulfilled its commitment. Part of the net revenue can be a non monetary donation(s) including volunteering. An important part of the 1% FOC program is networking between societies, businesses and orchid conservation organizations. Through networking we can identify orchid conservation organizations and projects that are effective and worth funding.

The Orchid Conservation Coalition is a grassroots organization structured in an intentionally lean manner to insure that there is minimal overhead allowing all monies to go directly to verified conservation efforts. In fact, the only expenses are the website which is financed and maintained pro bono by administrator, Mark Sullivan. All other work is done by volunteers. So your donation goes directly to the conservation project and the only overhead is theirs. Says Sullivan, "At the end of a society's or business fiscal year they tell me how much they donate and to whom. I add up the donations that result from the OCC for a year and that is the total. I can't say where a society or business send their donation because privacy is part of the OCC agreement and the decision is up to the society or business or even person."

The 1% for Orchid Conservation program provides the impetus for organizations and businesses to actually get involved with global conservation efforts. Their website lists conservation programs in need of funding. So instead of wondering what YOU can do about habitat conservation to ensure that there will be orchids in the wild for your grandchildren's generation, get your local society or orchid nursery to pledge

1% for Orchid Conservation. Visit the OCC website to read about one of the recent successes they were involved in, or become part of their program.

Welcome New Members

Charles Johnson

Welcome Guests

Charles Johnson

Polly Kiang

Pamela Leung

Amy Perme

Rikki Ruflo

Thanks for Refreshments – March

Sarah Bentley

Clare Dia

John Jamerlan

Tran Le

Jack Pine

Cathy Strey

Carolynne White

Thanks for Refreshments – April

Sarah Bentley

John Jamerlan

Claudia Ludwig

Loren Neufeld

Jack Pine

Miriam Sicilia

Sandy Stubbings

Diane Taylor

Brian White

Carolynne White



Committee Bulletins

Newcomers Group

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

Our March meet up at Bill Barlett's was well attended and very informative for the Newcomers. Bill was very generous with supplying plants. Hats off to you Bill, we do appreciate your hosting us. The April meeting consists of our designing and setting up the HOS exhibit, which is in full swing as I write this. There was a practice mock-up exhibit at my house on Sunday the 13th with a great attendance. The plan for the exhibit was finalized, much to everyone's "relief", particularly mine. We are hoping the magical Smoke and Mirrors theme will please the judges greatly.

Newcomers are the lucky recipients of a very nice, large collection of Orchids from Margaret Putman. What a wonderful person to do something like this for us. Thanks so very much, Marg. You will see some of these plants at the May meeting which will be held at Don Ghiz's home on May 16 at 2pm. His address and contact info is: 3217 Amherst St., Houston, TX 77005. Phone: hm 713-661-1885, cl 713-305-0505. I have seen Don bring in some beautiful Orchids so I thought we might get a peek at what he does that brings such success to his growing.

Looking forward to May.

Intermediate Group

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

The Intermediate Group met at Jay Balchan's home for the March meeting. Jay has a flasking hood and demonstrated how to flask orchid seed from a green pod and a dry pod. One of the important steps is sterilizing all of the tools and even the seed.

Thanks to Jay for the use of his lab and now we will wait to see if we were successful. We will not be having an April meeting due to the show. The May meeting will be at Susan Dally's home and we will be moving seedlings from flask to compots.

Raffle Table

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

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

Raffle tickets are 30 tickets for \$5.00 or 5 for \$1.00. Don't miss the fun! We will have a variety of genera from multiple vendors. 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.

Remember to bring your 'Boxtops for Education' and we'll give you one ticket for each boxtop 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
May 2010 Meeting

Program: Designer Cattleyas
Tom Larkin

Date: May 6, 2010
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Houston Garden Center

2010 Speakers

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

