



A non profit organization established in 1945, HOS is a recipient of the American Orchid Society's Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service award



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The Houston Happenings



Volume 49, Issue 11

November 2019

November Program: Orchids of Western China's Rugged Sichuan Province By Nina Rach

Our speaker in November will be Tom Sampliner, from University Heights, Ohio, presenting "Orchids of Western China's Rugged Sichuan Province, Center of World diversity for the slipper orchid genus *Cypripedium*."

With a small band of orchid enthusiast friends, Tom Sampliner put together a trip in 2015 that was guided by Holger and Wenqing Perner, noted orchid breeders and hybridizers located in Chengdu. The Perners maintained greenhouses up in the mountains, amid World Heritage sites. Besides *Cypripedium*, Tom's group also observed *Habenaria*, *Platanthera*, *Amitostigma*, *Oreorchis*, and other genera in the wild, during their summer bloom time.

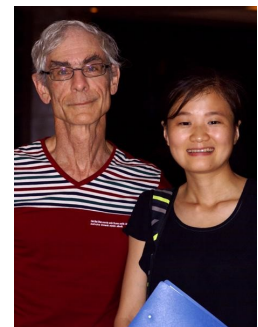
Tom retired at the millennium so that he could devote his

time to exploring the natural world. He was born and raised in Cleveland and has spent only 7 years living outside that area. Tom served as president and journal editor for: The Native Plant Society of Northeast Ohio; the Indoor Gardening Society; and a local nature photography club. He volunteers at his local botanical garden and writes articles for the Native Orchid Conference Journal. He is also an instructor for a local community college, Senior's division.

Tom's Facebook Pages include: The Bee orchids, the genus *Ophrys*, Masters of Sexual Deception, Photogenic and Favorite Orchids of North America and Photogenic Orchids Around the Globe.

Tom does not sell plants, but he recommends Hengduan

Mountains Biotechnology, run by Mrs. Wenqing Perner, as a source for some of the plants he will discuss in this presentation. Mrs. Perner will bring plants to the U.S. in February 2020 and uses Priority Mail. info@hengduanbiotech.com



Please join us for dinner with the speaker at 5:45pm on November 7, at Hungry's, 2356 Rice Blvd.

Presidents Post By Rick Hepler

I hope this finds everyone and their plants well with this break in the weather. I'm not keen on cold weather, but I can tell my plants respond favorably to it. With the shortening of daylight and the drops in temperature begins another cycle in the life of our plants. New growths harden off, roots will go dormant and the plant's chemistries change in that eagerly anticipated flush of flowers come winter and spring!

Our annual fall picnic was

wonderful! You missed a treat if you were not able to make it out to Susan and David's home. We had great weather, great food and great company for a relaxing Sunday afternoon. The auction netted over 500.00 dollars, which I believe covered most, if not all, of HOS' expenses.

One idea that comes to mind to improve the fall picnic experience would be carpooling for those folks who have transportation issues or don't want to make the drive alone. During the prior month's meeting, pass a sign-up sheet around for folks who need a ride and for the

ones who can drive. More members could enjoy this great fall activity.

November is the month we as a membership vote in our 2020 officers. We will hear the selections from the Nominating Committee, ask for any new nominations from the membership, and if there are new nominations to consider, take a silent vote for any and all office positions that need attention. I'm making a personal request that all members try to make this meeting, if at all possible, so we can have a full representation of the society on this important vote.

Robert L. Dressler (June 2, 1927 - October 15, 2019)

By Nina Rach

Dr. Robert Dressler was a prodigious botanical researcher and writer who did extensive field work in tropical America, Australia, Malaysia, New Guinea, and Thailand; his long, productive career has greatly enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the orchid family.

Dressler grew up in Los Angeles, served in the U.S. Army, and attended the University of Southern California under the G.I. Bill, earning his B.A. in 1951. He entered a Ph.D. program in Biology at Harvard University, graduating in 1957.

He joined the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis as Curator and served as editor of *Annals of the MBG*, 1958-63; he also taught biogeography at Washington University in St. Louis. He then began his long tenure at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, 1963-84, living first on Barro Colorado Island and later on the mainland. He met Kerry Radcliffe in the Canal Zone, they married in 1975, and lived in Curundu, on the outskirts of Panama City.



While in Panama, he published his first two orchid books and numerous papers and articles in the *American Orchid Society Bulletin*, *Orquidea* (Mexico), and *Orchidee* (Germany). In 1976, orchid taxonomist Carlyle A. Luer published the new miniature orchid genus *Dresslerella* in his honor (13 species native to Central and South America, *Selbyana*).

After leaving the Smithsonian, Dressler was a visiting curator at the Florida

Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, and during another decade of research and publications (including *Lindleyana*), he was awarded the 1986 Silver Medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

He returned to Missouri Botanical Garden as Curator in St. Louis from 1993 to 2006, publishing his orchid research in *Novon*, *Orquideologia*, *Orchid Digest*, *Orchids*, *Lankesteriana*, and *J. Orchideenfreund*, among others.



His seminal works on orchid taxonomy, *The Orchids-Natural History and Classification*, 1981, and *Phylogeny and Classification of the Orchid Family*, 1993, were "pivotal books" that "served as the basis of orchid systematics," wrote Alec Pridgeon in 2015.

In 1994, Dressler received the Henry Allan Gleason Award, given annually by the New York Botanical Garden in recognition of an outstanding recent publication in the field of plant taxonomy, plant ecology, or plant geography.

On 2 November 2001, the American Orchid Society award-

Robert L. Dressler Obituary (continued)

ed Dressler its Gold Medal of Achievement, its highest honor recognizing distinguished work in orchid culture, in scientific research on orchids, or outstanding service.

Dressler joined Lankester Botanical Gardens in 2005, serving as a researcher in biology for the University of Costa Rica. He was eventually awarded the Medal de Premio Lankester al Arte y la Ciencia de las Orquideas.

During their time in Costa Rica, the Houston Orchid Society invited the Dresslers to Houston, where Bob was our honored guest and delivered a keynote lecture on Sobralias at the AOS Spring Members Meeting, 25 April 2009. Many of you may remember meeting Bob and Kerry at that event.

On 19 Nov 2015, Dressler was honored at the Fifth Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids in Cali, Colombia, and received a Certificate of Recognition from the Instituto de Biología of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología, and the AMO Herbarium.

In February 2016, a tribute to Dressler was published in Orchids magazine.

He became Professor Emeritus (Emerito) upon his retirement from the University of Costa Rica on 25 May 2016, one week before his 89th birthday. A few months later, Kerry said, "After more than 60 years as a working Botanist, Bob has retired and is taking a break." His goal: "More work on Sobralia will be coming in the future, but at a slower pace."

Then came the recent news: "Robert passed away on Wednesday October 16, 2019, at the age of 92. When he could not write or hunt orchids any longer due to declining health, he took great satisfaction in seeing how many peo-

ple still valued his work and read or downloaded it from the ResearchGate website. Thank you for keeping him relevant and finding value in his life's work."

The family held a private service on October 19th at Jardin Lankester, and plans a larger event for October 26th.

Selected publications by Robert L. Dressler:

1953: The Pre-Columbian Cultivated Plants of Mexico, Botanical Museum Leaflets, Vol. 16, No. 6, pp. 115-173, Harvard University – a summary of the botanical literature of the cultivated plants of ancient Mexico, with special reference to geographic origin and distribution. Includes 88 species; 71 indigenous to Mexico-Central America, 6 Andean, 3 from lowland South America and 8 or unknown origin.

January 1976: The Genus Encyclia in Mexico (with Glenn E. Pollard), Asociación Mexicana De Orquideología.

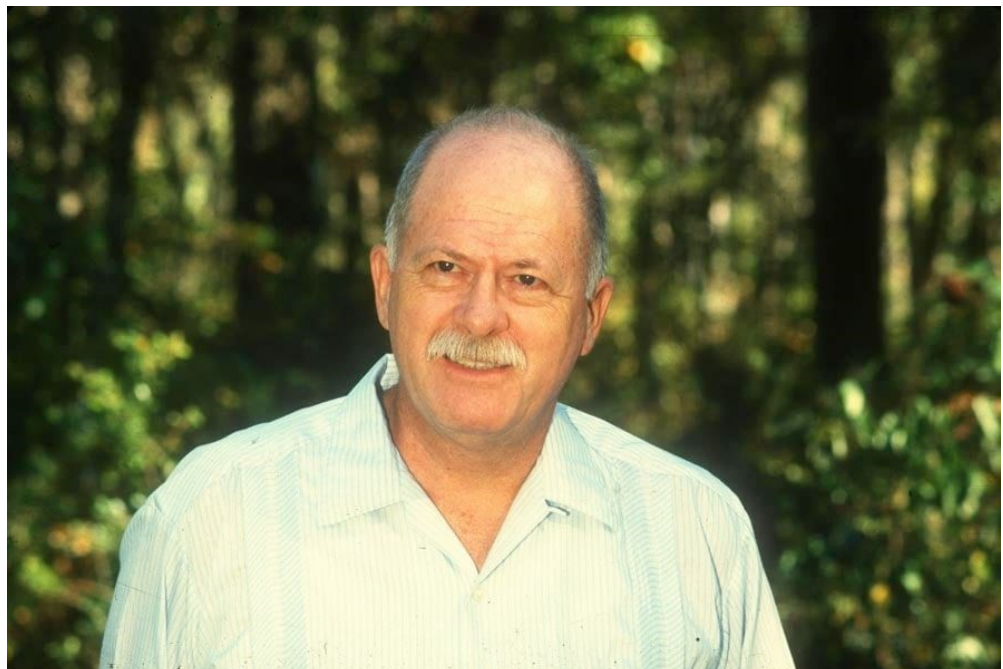
April 1981: The Orchids-Natural History and Classification, Harvard University Press. This was translated into German

by Dr. Guido Braem; and published in Germany in 1987 by Ulmer as Die Orchideen.

April 1993: Phylogeny and Classification of the Orchid Family, Dioscorides Press, an imprint of Timber Press. – Dressler said that that much more study and analysis is needed before a fully natural classification of the orchid family can be achieved, but this book provides a reference point in the ongoing discussions. It begins with discussion of structure and other evidence of relationship before proceeding to more specific coverage. Includes drawings and color photos.

November 1993: Field Guide to the Orchids of Costa Rica & Panama, NCROL, Comstock, Cornell University Press.

This was the first field guide to the orchids of Costa Rica and Panama, illustrated with 240 color photographs and 229 line drawings. It contains keys to all the orchid genera in the region and most of the orchid species. Dressler begins with descriptions of the geography, climate, and vegetation, then discusses orchid structure and ecology.



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 <small>HOS Meeting</small>	8	9
10	11 <small>Content Due Date</small>	12	13	14	15	16 <small>HJC Judging</small>
17 <small>Newcomer's Meeting</small>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28 <small>Thanksgiving</small>	29	30

USPS Announces New Wild Orchids for 2020 By Nina Rach

On Oct 22, the U.S. Postal Service announced that it will issue a new set of orchid stamps in 2020: "Wild Orchids." There be 10 new Forever stamps in booklets (aka "double-sided panes") of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000.

Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grow wild in the United States: *Cypripedium californicum*, *Hexalectris spicata*, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Spiranthes odorata*, *Triphora trianthophoros*, *Platanthera grandiflora*, *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, *Calopogon tuberosus* and *Platanthera leucophaea*.

Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps using photographs by Jim Fowler. Jim is based in Greenville, South Carolina, "an area at the edge of the Southern Appalachian Mountains that is rich with all sorts of wildflowers - including many dozens of orchid species." He has a very interesting native orchid blog. You can read it and see more of his really beautiful wild orchid photography at <https://www.jfowlerphotography.com/>.

He might be an excellent speaker for a future HOS meeting!



**Newcomer's Group
By Stephen Gallagher**

On Sunday afternoon, October 20th, the Newcomer's Group met at Stephen Moffitt's house. Despite going head-to-head with a critical Texans game against the Colts, we had 11 attendees. Stephen provided a hands-on demonstration of how the male catasetum flower spreads its pollen and gave tours of both his shade house and greenhouse.

The tour focused on Stephen's many catasetum alliance and phragmipedium plants, plenty of which were in bloom, including his AM-awarded Catasetum Jose Abalo 'Claire'. In the shade house, he provided introductory detail on growing phrags semi-hydro, and in the greenhouse, he discussed proper care to prevent spreading viruses, treatments for pests and rot as well as catasetum culture.

Thanks to generous donations from Stephen Moffitt and Holly Miller, each newcomer received 2 plants in a raffle drawing, easily our best plant offering of the year. Yes, this last comment was specifically added to make those who chose to watch the Texans loss instead of attending, jealous.

Stephen and Tim Gallagher are looking for someone to host the November Newcomer's Group, our last of the year! They are also seeking generous plant donations for the newcomer raffle. Please find them at the HOS meeting if you can help with either.

Refreshments

By Lily Chang

Members who brought refreshments to the October HOS meeting are Marsha Fox, Scott Goedde, Cherie Lee, Betsy Robinson, Cristi Coles, Winnie Yap, and Lily Chang.

If you enjoy having refreshments at the meetings, please consider bringing something to the next meeting. We'd love to see some different names on the list next month!

**Membership
By Stacey Pauley**

Greetings HOS Membership! I know you all aren't used to hearing from me so that should tell you how important this message is. The old saying goes that time marches on. Seems I remember a Tracy Lawrence song with the same title. Anyway, time has now found itself to that point in the year where we start talking about membership renewals. I know you want to continue to support this fine organization and I'm sure you don't want to miss out on any of the fabulous benefits you have already become accustomed to - picnics, great food, fabulous speakers, raffles and auctions, the annual show, awesome camaraderie and, oh yeah, ORCHIDS!

The good news is that dues have remained the same. \$30 for individuals and \$45 for a family. Cash is still king, but a check made out to the Houston Orchid Society will work just as well. Should you need to make payment with a card, I will refer you to our Treasurer, Winnie Yap. She is a pro at using that doohickey attachment on her phone.

So, stop off and see me before or after the meetings during the next four months. If your contact information has changed please fill out a new form so we can get the database updated. Blank forms will be available as always or you can also print one out at home from the website, fill it out and bring it with you. Having exact change will also help the line move quicker.

With over 160 members as of this writing I hope you can understand how busy the membership table gets at this time of year. For newbies, it's like a Texas tornado went through, so please pack your patience. I usually arrive at least 30 minutes early and sometimes sooner in order to process as many people as possible before the guest speaker gets started.

If you have a good alibi for not being able to attend the next four meetings, don't hesitate to email me at Staceymarie219@yahoo.com so we can work something out.

**Species Winner
By Malcolm McCorquodale**



Collection of Aerides Species
Presented by Father Ted Baenziger

**Hybrid Winner
By Malcolm McCorquodale**



Monnierara Millennium Magic
Presented by Stephen Gallagher

Stay-At-Home Orchids By Stephen Fox



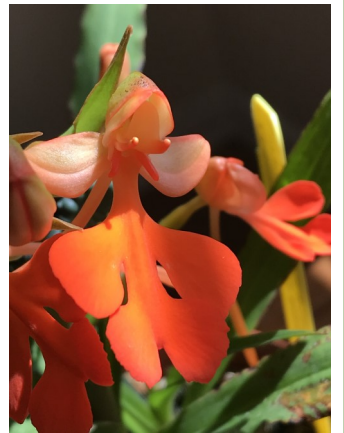
Dendrobium Emma White
x Burana White



Habeneria Erich's Pink Thing



Habeneria Angel Bone



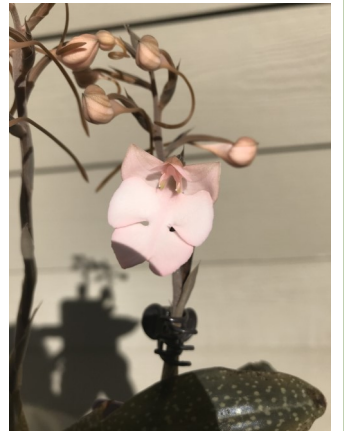
Habeneria Oriole



Catasetum Dark Odyssey



Habeneria Mayfly



Habeneria carnea
'Byron' AM/AOS

NOID - Possibly
Bc Kosh Wallis



November Tips

By Father Ted Baenziger

This month I want to share some thoughts on leaves, those factories of sugar that we see most of the year while we await the flowers. All orchids are monocots, belonging to the Liliaceae or Lily tribe, and the leaves all have parallel veins, like on this *Phaius tankervilleae*, the Nun's Orchid.



But not all orchids have them, leaves, that is. *Chilochista* is one example, where the roots do the photosynthesis. Some leaves are deciduous, that is, they yellow and fall off in the normal round of growth and dormancy. Fred Clarke tells us that *Catasetum* hybrids, and most species should be forced into dormancy if the leaves persist after Halloween. Just withhold water and keep them dry until the new roots start and grow at least two (!) inches long. Nobile-type *Dendrobium*, which bloom on last year's canes, should also lose part if not all of their leaves and be kept very dry as well. Many *Habenaria* species and hybrids,



like my *rhodochela*, also go dormant and need a dry rest. Most *Phalaenopsis* leaves are fleshy and rounded, but they have a flaw: at the growing center of the plant

(called the meristem because it is from that point that new leaves grow), there is a tendency to rot because water cannot escape. In 90% of the cases that rot begins, the plant will die, unless we can get

the plant to produce plantlets on the side. I have a number of these that I have saved, but the best cure is prevention. Tip the pot so water is not retained, and if rot appears, treat immediately with ground cinnamon, which is a bacteriological and fungal disinfectant, and very cheap; watering should be on the sides and not in the crown. These plants have no pseudobulbs, so they must never dry out completely or the leaves just collapse.

In a more general way, the leaves are the food source for the plant and should receive enough light for the best photosynthesis. We talk about Cattleya light, Dendrobium light and Phalaenopsis exposure. In nature, light may be very strong : some *Schomburgkia*, (now called *Myrmecophyllum* because they love ants), can take direct sunlight for the whole day; or the light can be filtered (50-60% strength) and this can be very helpful for stiff leaves like *Cattleya* or *Laelia*. *Dendrobium* takes a bit less and will burn if placed in too much light without acclimatizing; mine take direct sun in the morning but are shaded after 10 am. They bloom well with this treatment, although less light will also work, but for fewer blooms.

Fleshy leaves, like Phals and *Paphiopedilum*, cannot take any direct sunlight, and even in the early morning may burn. In all cases, if you take any orchid leaf between thumb and forefinger and it is hot, it's too much for that leaf and you can lose it. These guys want 35% light, but for a minimum of nine hours a day. Both of them seem to be temperature sensitive for blooming. Phals need a cooling period to initiate the spikes, and multifloral and northern (Chinese) species of Paphs also respond well. By the way, the deciduous plants need very bright light during the winter because they are storing energy for the next growths and flowers.

Certain *Oncidium* hybrids produce wavy, accordion-like leaves, which will never straighten out; it is a sign of uneven watering and is not fatal, but with these 'chids the idea is to get those pseudobulbs as plump as possible to get two spikes and many, many flowers. So watch the watering all year long and repot if the

new growth looks smaller than the last. Another problem with these Oncidiinae, with their bizarre names like *Oncostele*, is ugly, dark spots or streaks on the leaves. Unfortunately, this is genetic and nothing can be done about it; we can only enjoy the flowers. Sharry Baby is prone to this problem. I was told recently that high light and perfect aeration can reduce the problem to zero, but up to you to try.

Certain leaves are produced in the form of a thin pencil, like *Brassavola cucullata*, and in others like the "rat-tail" *Trichocentrum* (AKA *Oncidium*), the terete leaves are quite thick. The form of the leaves means a) they resist drying out and b) they can take really high light and thrive.

Other leaves on orchids can have fabulous colors and patterns. The only *Ludisia* species, *discolor*, is one of the jewel orchids and, although it has spikes of white flowers that are quite attractive, it is grown mostly for its brilliant, almost iridescent veining on a velvety purple leaf. Why these succulent terrestrials have the pattern is a mystery. There are many kinds of Jewel orchids that you can find on the internet. Not really in the group are some *Lepanthes*, like the species *volador*, which have handsome leaves and miniscule flowers; these must be grown in terrariums for the higher humidity.

Besides the leaves that provide nourishment, orchids sometimes have modified leaves that add to the bloom's power to wow you, and these are called bracts. *Laelia splendida* has deep colored flowers and paler bracts that form a pleasing, if somewhat untidy configuration. At the recent plant raffle at our Fall picnic, a division of Susan Daly's plant earned the HOS a hefty profit...

There is a final tip for you who love your plants and want to show them off: clean the leaves with milk or diluted citrus juice to remove the spotting that comes from calcium carbonate in the water. Better yet, never water the leaves but only the medium in the pot. As I leave you, remember, these orchids of ours are friends and companions, so have fun with them and with those with whom you share that love!

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Meets the Third Sunday of each month
2:00pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community
Center, 2020 Hermann Drive

Visitors Welcome
www.tgcfersoc.org

Bromeliad Society Houston

Meets Monthly on the
Third Tuesday of the month,
7:00 pm

West Gray Multi-Service Center

Visitors Welcome

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

AOS WEBINARS



Greenhouse Chat
Ron McHatton
Thursday, November 7, 2019
7:30-8:30pm CT

[Register](#)

How to Buy and Grow Bulbophyllums



with Charles Wilson

How to Buy and Grow Bulbophyllums
Charles Wilson
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
7:30-8:30pm CT

[Register](#)

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2019

59th Acadian Orchid Society Short Course

Hilton Garden Inn
2350 W. Congress St.
Lafayette, LA

March 14-15, 2020

Calcasieu Orchid Society Show

1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center
1001 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA

March 28-29, 2020

Terrebonne Orchid Society Show

Southland Mall
5953 West Park Ave
Houma, LA

April 4-5, 2020

Houston Orchid Society Show

Memorial City Mall
Houston, TX

April 25-26, 2020

Acadian Orchid Society Show

Ira Nelson Horticultural Center
Lafayette, LA

HOS Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President	Rick Hepler
VP - Speakers	Nina Rach
VP - Shows	Sarah Bentley
VP - Membership	Stacey Pauley
Treasurer	Winnie Yap
Recording Secretary	Sheila Skov
Past President	Don Ghiz

Chairs

Conservation	Nina Rach
Display Table	Sarah Bentley
Exhibits	Loren Neufeld
Guest Hospitality	Father Ted Baenziger
Happenings Editor	Marianne Canevaro
Intermediate Group	Jay Balchan
Newcomers Group	Stephen and Tim Gallagher
Parliamentarian	Don Ghiz
Photography	Malcolm McCorquodale
Plant Raffle	Brad Miller
Refreshments	Lily Chang
Silent Auction	Frank & Cherie Lee
Spring Show	Jay Balchan
Summer Workshop	Derek Lowenstein
Webmaster	Tom Durrett

Directors - One Year Term

Holly Miller	Steve Fox
Calvin Starr	Marianne Canevaro
Susan Dally	Stephen Moffitt
Ft. Ted Baenziger	Jay Balchan

Directors - Two Year Term

Representatives

AOS Representative	Jay Balchan
IPA Representative	Father Ted Baenziger
ODC Representative	Father Ted Baenziger
SWROGA Directors	Laurie Skov Don Maples