



Heart O' Texas Orchid Society

Member of the Austin Area Garden Council, Inc.

Winter 2013 Newsletter

www.hotos.org



AOS Advice - Midwinter Orchid Care

Organizing orchid culture and its chores by season is a convenient way to make sure that your orchids get the proper care at the right time. Becoming in tune with your plants' growth cycles creates a connection with the natural world and makes you a better grower.

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient

More inside!

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themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.



In the fall Phalaenopsis should start initiating flower spikes. Inflorescences should be well developed by mid-January.



Our 2013 Fearless Leaders

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Geoff Frost

Alison Gallaway

AOS Representative

Geoff Frost

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Sallie Delahoussaye

Alison Gallaway - student





Life Member & Judge, Dixie Stewart, Passes Away

Our dear HO'TOS member, Dixie Stewart, passed away Monday, December 17, 2012 after a year-long fight with cancer. Dixie was born February 9, 1934, near Hebron, Texas. Her early years were spent on a sharecropper farm with her parents, Cleve & Ezell. At age nine her family moved to Denton. She graduated from North Texas High School as Salutatorian in 1950. She then attended North Texas State College in Denton and earned her B.A. in Journalism in 1954. She worked at The University of Texas at Austin for nearly 40 years in several different departments. Her passions were her family and her Siamese cats. She became a lover and grower of orchids and in 1985 became an American Orchid Society Judge, making many trips to the San Antonio regional center over thirty plus years. Her favorite orchid trip was the World Orchid Conference in New Zealand which she used as a working vacation with her husband Joe.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

The Heart O' Texas Orchid Society thanks AOS for providing newsletter resources for its members. www.aos.org

Please Welcome Our Newest Member

- Christine Thorpe

Quarterly News

In an effort to make our Newsletter more informative about Orchid News and Events, HO'TOS has decided to produce our Newsletter on a Quarterly basis with more substantive articles of interest to our membership. Let us know what you would like to see as we develop our new format.

Quarterly Orchid Event Calendar



HO'TOS Monthly Meetings - First Tuesday of each month @ 6:45 p.m. - Zilker Botanical Gardens

Monthly meetings are held at Zilker Botanical Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78746. Monthly meetings are meant to be fun, not burdened with business details. Our society brings in national and International speakers that are experts in their areas. Visitors are always welcome! Do come join us!

HO'TOS Monthly Meeting - Thursday, January 3, 2013

Our speaker is our own Jessica Robertson, past president of HO'TOS and owner of Backbone Valley Nursery and Landscape in Marble Falls, Texas. She will be talking about growing Paphs and Phrags in Central Texas. Please join us!

HO'TOS Monthly Meeting - Tuesday February 5, 2013

We are pleased to have Francisco Miranda as our speaker in February. Francisco is an Orchid Taxonomist with a main specialty in Brazilian *Laeliinae*. Please join us and check out his website for more information: www.mirandaorchids.com

HO'TOS Monthly Meeting - Tuesday March 5, 2013

Alex Maximiano, owner of Orchid Wiz, is our scheduled speaker at the March Meeting. Plan to attend and hear about the show preparations for our Annual Show and Sale on April 27-28, 2013!

Mark your calendars now!

April 27-28, 2013 - Our 42nd Annual Orchid Show

Get involved to make it the best show to date!

Look for more details in our Spring Newsletter and also at

www.hotos.org

*Catch the "Fever!" Orchid Fever, That Is!
Mark your calendars for the
Heart O' Texas Orchid Society 42nd Annual Show
April 27-28, 2013
Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, Texas*



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c/o Monica Gaylord, Treasurer
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