



# HODOS Newsletter

**Officers:** Mark van der Woerd, *President*    Carey Brooks, *Vice-President*    Deb Delmas, *Secretary*  
 Ann Ivey, *Treasurer*    Margaret Carlisle, *Historian*    Edna Bryan, *AOS Representative*

**Board:** Judy Davis, Carol Horn, Harold Winn    **Newsletter Editor:** Tish Hall (tish@tishathome.com)

## So You're Ready for a Greenhouse

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It happens to all of us once the orchid bug bites. We run out of room in the house, or we want to grow something that needs more sun or more humidity than we can provide for it. If we've got the money and the space we start wanting to have a greenhouse.

In February, Fred Kaufmann offered hope and advice for growers pining for their own orchid heaven. First he passed out plans for the first greenhouse he and Mary built - and said it could be done for \$200! Then Fred

gave us a lot of tips from his years of experience with greenhouse growing in the South. Fred and Mary grow



and hybridize phalaenopsis orchids. Phals like temperatures in about the same range as people do, so Fred has to heat in the winter and cool in the summer. He talked to us about how to install cooling pads for an evaporative cool-

ing effect. This year he moved his heater down low and uses a box fan to blow warm air under the benches to heat without drying out the plants.

Phalenopsis don't have to have the cloud forest conditions of some orchids, but they like good humidity too.

Fred also talked about one of his favorite new gadgets - a fertilizer injector. He says his plants are growing like mad now that they have the proper fertilizer ratio. He also talked about using a hot water heater to give the orchids lukewarm water - orchids don't like cold showers any more than we do!

### Dates to Remember:

- Monday, March 20th 6:30 PM - HODOS March meeting at the Botanical Garden.
- Friday, March 24th 12:00 noon, deadline for plants for the society exhibit.
- March 24, 25, 26 - HODOS Orchid Show at the Ramada in Madison.
- March 31st - April 2nd, Pensacola Orchid Show.
- Monday, April 20th 6:30 PM - HODOS April meeting at the Botanical Garden.

## It's Show Time Again

The Heart of Dixie Orchid Society will meet on Monday, March 20th, at 6:30 PM in the Visitor Center at the Botanical Garden. This is the last meeting before our 2006 show, so we'll be going over any last-minute business related to the show, and hearing reports from the show committees. We'll also be looking for more volunteers - we always need people to help



with setup, clerks, people to help food and work in hospitality, and people to work at the information table talking to visitors about the society, passing out literature, and answering questions about orchids. We'll also be talking about getting our plants ready for the show, Look inside this newsletter for some information about registering your plants.

with registration, people to bring



## February Minutes

February 20th

The Heart of Dixie Orchid Society met on Monday, February 20th, in the Visitor Center at the Botanical Garden. President Mark van der Woerd called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Secretary Deb Delmas read the minutes from January and they were approved as read. Ann Ivey presented the following treasurer's report.

Beginning Balance:	\$5,033.76
Deposits	
Dues and raffle:	\$432.00
Disbursements	
Ad and ribbons	\$82.61
Ending Balance:	\$5,383.15

The board approved the expense of an ad for the show, because there was not enough time to submit it to a vote, and notified the membership. Mark and Ann presented a HODOS budget for 2006 with expected revenues and projected ex-

penses for programs and the show. We discussed the need for raising more money for such things as lighting for the society exhibit, and more out-of-town speakers. Some suggestions for fund-raising were put forward for consideration by the board.

Carey Brooks talked about Wildflower Day at DeSoto State Park, and asked if anyone was interested in going as a group. The park has *Cypripedium acaule* (pink lady slippers) blooming near the boardwalk in an easily accessible area.

Josie Asquith asked members who might be interested in putting in an exhibit at our show to fill out the paperwork. Exhibitors and vendors are currently down because of a conflict with the Asheville show and Mid-America. Jack Volinski reported on advertising for the show and asked for volunteers to be guests on local TV programs to

talk about the show. Edna asked that our website be updated, and Carey Brooks volunteered to take care of it if someone would provide him the information.

After a break for refreshments, provided by Tish Hall and Linda Ogilvie, and to buy raffle tickets, Mark announced that he has taken a position at Colorado State University, and will be leaving us at the end of March.

Fred Kaufmann presented a wonderful program on building a greenhouse and maintaining the proper environment for orchids, with lots of tips for new and experienced growers. Mark presented the show and tell plants, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Delmas, *Secretary*



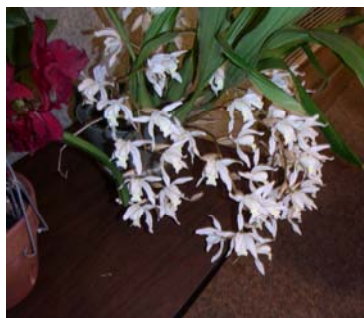
Tish Hall and Linda Ogilvie brought refreshments for February. In honor of Valentine's they decorated with hearts - doilies, candy, and paper.

**Dues are still due, if you haven't gotten yours in! It's \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family. Make your check out to HODOS and send to:**

**Ann Ivey**  
495 Nance Road  
Madison, AL 35757

## February Show and Tell

There were some nice plants for show and tell in February,



although nothing like the ample supply we had for our demonstration exhibits in January! The species above is *Coeloglyne intermedia* - lovely flowers and a nice fragrance.

On the right is *Blc. Golden Sands x Lc. Luminosa* - a sunny sight on a dreary day! We had yellow and orange cattleyas blooming at this meeting.



Fred and Mary Kaufmann brought some nice plants in for sale too. On the left is *Phal. amabilis x Arctic Dawn* - pretty flowers and a very nice arrangement.



This is the alba form of *Paph. venustum*, a small paph species. It's very striking with the veining in the pouch and striping on the petals.

# Putting Up an Orchid Exhibit

With our show coming up in March, we started out the year with a program on orchid exhibits. Newsletter editor Tish Hall, a veteran of many society exhibits, gave everyone a basic how-to on putting up an exhibit.

She started out talking about necessities - props to sit the plants on and materials for making labels and attaching entry tags. Props can be as simple as the crates and boxes in which you carried the plants, covered with black cloth, or as fancy as garden and sunroom furniture. The important thing is to make sure that all the flowers can be seen to their best advantage. Labels can be hand-written on construction paper, on up to computer generated on card stock. What you use depends on what you have and how much room you have to carry things - you must save room for the plants!

After the necessities come the optional things - some decorative, some useful. Lights fall

into the useful category, if you



have room and the show location has power available. Lights

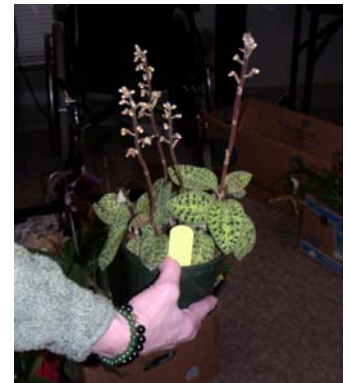


can really help show the plants to their best advantage. A backdrop is a combination of useful

and decorative. A backdrop is great if your exhibit space backs up to someone else's, or if the background in the exhibit space is unattractive or distracting. And a sturdy backdrop can be used to hang plants that just aren't stable in a container.

Greenery is another combination of useful and decorative. It can help fill in empty spaces, mask unattractive containers, and separate unlike colors. Pot covers and baskets help give the exhibit a uniform look, and some type of floor cover makes a good finish.

Tish went on to talk about focal points and color flow when placing the plants. She brought in props for three types of exhibits, and her able assistants Mark, Deb and Stacey demonstrated how to put an exhibit together while she spoke. Is everyone ready to do their own?



*There were so many wonderful plants at the January meeting and I didn't have time to photograph them because I was doing the presentation! Here's one of Ann's beautiful jewel orchids.*

**If everyone brings as many wonderful plants to the orchid show, we'll have one of the best exhibits we've ever had! Remember to get your plants to the show by noon on the 24th so we'll have plenty of time for setup.**

# New Officers Installed in January

In January we installed new officers for the 2006 year - and all of them arrived to be sworn in. Ann Ivey and Margaret Carlisle are continuing in their current positions as treasurer and historian respectively. Mark van der Woerd is our new president, Carey Brooks is vice-president, and Deb Delmas is our secretary. Board members are Judy Davis,

Carol Horn, and Harold Winn.



*Jackie Volinski administers the oath of office to our new officers and board members in January.*

Unfortunately we're going to lose one of our number soon. President Mark van der Woerd is leaving Huntsville to take a job in Colorado. We were expecting great things from him and we're really going to miss him. I know he hates to leave us too, but when it's a choice between working and not it doesn't leave much choice. Got to buy those orchids!



*Here's Mark speaking from experience about growing orchids in the home. We'll miss his talks, as well as his presiding over our meeting.*

## Clerking: The Best Job at the Show

Every year I urge new and experienced growers to consider clerking at the show, and I'm going to do it again this year!

Not only is clerking an important and necessary job, it's also one of the best learning experiences around. Clerking teams help the judges by managing the lists or folders of orchids that have been registered in each class, and by helping the judges to locate and consider every orchid that has been registered.

Clerking teams usually have three members: the head clerk or administrative clerk keeps the folder or list and records the ribbons and trophies given out. The ribbon clerk fills out the back of the ribbons or rosettes and gets a judge (or all the judges in the case of a rosette) to sign it. A spotter goes ahead of the judging team to find the next orchid in the list for the class.

Some things to remember

about clerking: don't make comments or ask questions during the judging process, unless asked. We don't want to prejudice or distract the judges! Most judging teams will be glad to answer questions after they've made a decision. Always ask questions if you're unsure of where a ribbon goes, and make sure that that it goes to the right place!



Here are some of the judges and clerks hard at work at our show last year. Wouldn't you like to join them this year?

## Registering Your Orchids

One of the most important jobs at the show is registering your orchid so that it is eligible for judging. Every orchid must be properly identified, and assigned to a class, based on its type and color. The Mid-America Orchid Congress maintains a schedule that lists all the classes, and produces entry tags that are used to tell the judges and clerks what an orchid is and to which class it's been assigned. The show chairman customizes the schedule, adding local information and special trophies. It's the responsibility of the owner of an orchid to assign it to a class for judging, and make sure the entry tag is filled out correctly.

The first thing you need to do when registering your orchid, is to list its name properly. The genus must be abbreviated properly, and the species or grex name spelled out. Any clonal name and awards should also be added,

For example: Paph. Vanguard 'Knob Creek' AM/AOS. You

Class #	Tag #
Owner #	Exhibit #
Name	
Cross	
X	
Award	
1	2
3	J.C.
Spec.	

must also list the parents of a hybrid. If you're unsure of parentage, there will be books listing orchid hybrids, and computers with the Wildcatt Orchid Database in the registration area. If a cross is unnamed, just

the parents can be listed. Sometimes it's hard to get everything in the space provided, but do your best to be legible.

Next comes the hard part - choosing a class. For some orchids this is very easy, but for others it can be very difficult. Orchids that are commonly grown have been broken into multiple classifications to distribute ribbons more equitably, and to reduce the number of orchids a judging team must choose from for the ribbons. Lady slippers, phalaenopsis and cattleyas have been broken up into color classes. Dendrobiums and oncidiums have been broken up according to type. There are also separate classes for species and hybrids, and in some groups for primary hybrids (where both parents are species). The general rule is to pick the first class that seems to fit your orchid. If it's wrong, judges can move it down, but not up.



This is a complex paphiopedilum hybrid. There been some confusion about color classes with paphs. Once upon a time we were told to use the color of the pouch, but now judges say to choose the dominant color of the entire flower. This one falls in Red/Pink.

# Spotlight On ...Intergeneric Names

Since we'll all be working on classifying our plants for the show, it seemed like a good time to talk a little about orchid names. All orchids have at least two names. For species it's the genus and the specific epithet. For hybrids it's the genus and the cross or grex name. But it starts getting complicated with hybrids because humans can make hybrids between more than one genus. So growers had to start coming up with names for these artificial genera. At first names were generated by combining the names of the two parent genera.

For example Brassocattleya is a cross between Brassavola and Cattleya. Doritinopsis is a cross between Doritis and Phalaenopsis. Those aren't too hard, but then hybridizers started working with more than



two genera. At first they also used a combination of the parents, as in Brassolaliocattleya, but that can get pretty long and also confusing. So a new convention of using a name, Latinized by added an -ara, was adopted for orchids composed of three or more genera. The Cattleya, Oncidium, and Vanda alliance have most of these intergeneric names, some of which have become pretty well known. Many orchid growers have a Colmanara, which is a cross of three genera, or a Darwinara, which is a vandaceous cross involving four genera.

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*This is Potinara Memoria Shirley Moore. It's a cross involving Brassavola, Cattleya, Laelia, and Sophronitis.*

# What's Blooming in ...

... Tish's greenhouse? Dendrobiums large and small, for one thing. This large-flowered

and readily available, but interesting species are becoming easier to find, and are now attracting a lot of orchid growers.



The cymbidium on the right is also a miniature, but you have to remember that "mini" in cymbidiums refers to the flower, not



necessarily the plant! This is Cymbidium Tuffet 'Kathy', a cute hybrid with great color. It also has a compact growth habit when compared to the standard cymbidiums, which can take over a greenhouse.

white one is Dendrobium White Maiden. It's very floriferous, and also fragrant. The tiny dendrobium on the right is a species, Dendrobium striolatum. Dendrobium is a large genus (1200 species) with a lot of variety. The large flowered hybrids are commonly grown



**The Wildcatt Database has a listing of both natural and artificial genera, including the composition of artificial genera and the abbreviations for both. If you don't have Wildcatt, the Mid-America website has an intergeneric cross reference that can be downloaded.**



*Some things are blooming in my orchidarium too. This is a leafless orchid, Chiloschista pusilla. It's always interesting to see a flower spike sticking out of a clump of roots.*

# Heart of Dixie Orchid Society

c/o Huntsville-Madison County Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35805

Phone: 256-830-4447  
Fax: 256-830-5314  
Email: orchids@datamangler.com

«AddressBlock»

We're on the web at:

<http://www.h-o-d-o-s.org>

The Heart of Dixie Orchid Society works to promote and educate the general public on different orchid topics ranging from care to conservation.

The group meets at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of the month at the Huntsville/Madison County Botanical Gardens.



*HODOS*

## Upcoming Orchid Shows and Events



*Heart of Dixie Orchid Society Show*  
Madison, AL  
March 24 - 26

*Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show*  
March 31 - April 2  
Pensacola, Fla.

*Central Florida Orchid Society Show and AOS Members Meeting*  
April 5 - 9  
Walt Disney World, FL

*Orchid Society of East Tennessee Show*  
April 21 - 23  
Bristol, VA

*Kentucky Orchid Society Show*  
April 21 - 23  
Louisville, KY

*Memphis Orchid Society Show*  
May 19 - 21  
Memphis, TN

*New Orleans Orchid Society Show*  
June 2 - 4  
Metairie, LA

*Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show*  
July 7 - 9  
Baton Rouge, LA

*Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee Show*  
September 15 - 17  
Nashville, TN

*Alabama Orchid Society Show*  
September 23 - 25  
Birmingham, AL

*Northeast Alabama Orchid Society Show*  
October 21 - 22  
Anniston, AL