

SWROGA



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ORCHID GROWERS ASSOCIATION SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome all back to SWROGA! After about a six-year period with no newsletter, we have restarted it to keep our members updated on the latest meetings and happenings in SWROGA.

We would like to congratulate the Houston Orchid Society for hosting a wonderful Spring SWROGA show in Houston in March. *As we move forward, we need a host for the Fall 2024 SWROGA meetings. If any societies are having a fall show and can host our member's meeting, please contact the president, Jana Butcher, at w.butcher@cox.net.*

Do you know how widespread an area this Association covers? We include Orchid Societies from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas with 21 societies represented. Each person is also a member of SWROGA if their society belongs to SWROGA, which at last count we are about 1000 individuals.

What benefits are there in being a SWROGA member?

SWROGA supports societies hosting the semi-annual fall and spring SWROGA meetings and shows. We provide funds for trophies to the hosting society so they can provide great trophies to the winners. SWROGA provides a show entry schedule and classification that is used as published for SWROGA events. Most societies use the schedule as published or modified as they wish for all of their shows. This provides consistency so members can enter their plants easily across the region. SWROGA has a committee responsible for updating the schedule based on number of entries seen in each class and especially based on the official name changes from RHS. We also print and distribute the two-part show entry tags. These tags are ordered via the SWROGA website at a nominal cost.

THE PRESIDENT'S POST

Jana Butcher

Greetings to all SWROGA Affiliated Society members!

We are thrilled to have a new Editor, Eron Borne, who has revived the SWROGA Newsletter!! With the help of our Webmaster, Manny Aybar, the Newsletter will be readily available to all.

We want again to thank the Houston Orchid Society, under the leadership of Jay Balchan and Holly Miller, for being our SWROGA hosting Society for a terrific spring show and meetings.

Check out the newly revised Oncidium Alliance with pictorial guide in the SWROGA Show Schedule (on this website). Thanks to the Show Committee under the leadership of Alison Gallaway for all of their hard work!

Please remember to email us when any of your Society Officers or Directors change so we get important information to the right person. Remember also that each SWROGA Affiliated Society should have 2 Directors appointed as voting representatives for their Society.

The pandemic created many challenges for us – orchid societies and SWROGA included. Through conversations with each member Society that will occur over the next couple of months the SWROGA leadership hopes to design and implement a plan to pull us all back together and moving forward - better meeting the needs of our SWROGA members within the scope of SWROGA.

An IMMEDIATE NEED for SWROGA is to find a person within our membership who has experience with websites and Word Press who would be willing to be a Co-Webmaster with Manny for our SWROGA website. I am asking you all to PLEASE canvass your Society's members to help SWROGA find this person as soon as possible. You may contact Manny or me via the website email if you have any questions or have found a person to help.

More to come.....

Happy Summer to All.....and Stay Cool !!!

Jana Butcher

President, SWROGA

SWROGA PROGRAMS FOR AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PROGRAMS!!

If your society needs a presentation, please contact the new chair of the Education and Programs Committee, Eron Borne. He has all of the old slide presentations on PowerPoint that were submitted prior to 2017. There are about 37 presentations available and all of these were previously sent to all the SWROGA societies. NOTE: Unfortunately, to date, SWROGA has not received any new programs since then and we're looking to change that.

If you have a presentation that you would be willing to share with SWROGA, please send it to him. Eron may be reached at 318-758-0008 or eaborne@yahoo.com.

SWROGA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This is to explain an honor you may or may not be fully familiar with, the SWROGA Achievement Award. This award was created subsequent to the efforts of an ad hoc committee chaired by Lena Parker in 1992. The purpose of the award is to recognize extraordinary members and their efforts in behalf of SWROGA.

Past honorees are: 1993 Fred Strothman; 1998 Ed Wright; 2000 Byron McGraw; 2003 Kathy Wright; 2004 Burrell Gambel; 2006 Carolyn McCabe; 2007 Doris McGraw; 2012 Don Maples; 2013 Julius Klehm; 2014 Lowell McCabe, 2015 Lena Parker, and Lois Dauelsberg 2016.

Conditions and procedures are that any member can nominate a potential recipient (living or deceased). Nominations are made by letter to the SWROGA President, and should list the nominee's accomplishments. The letter must be received by the Continuing Operating Committee at least 60 days prior to the next meeting to be considered. The letter is then circulated to SWROGA officers for their recommendation. If recommended by the officers, the nomination is presented to the Board of Directors for approval, to be presented as soon as possible.

ATTENTION: SWROGA AFFILIATED ORCHID SOCIETIES WHO HAVE WEB SITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACTS

If your society has its own web site for a public face, please update your information on the SWROGA web site. Many of you have broken links, and/or incorrect contact information for your society.

If your society has decided to use Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media instead of a web site, please provide this information also. We want to help you to put your best foot forward, and that includes the most up-to-date information we can provide them with. Thank you.

NEW TROPHY CLASS IN SWROGA SCHEDULE

Youth Exhibit

A new Class and Trophy was passed by the membership at the Spring 2024 SWROGA meeting. This was passed to encourage youth participation in shows. It entails adding a new definition to the Show Rules and Regulations, Section 8. Classification, number 'h' defining what is a youth exhibit and a youth exhibitor.

This new Class was added to the Non-Commercial Exhibit Classes.

New language added to Full Exhibit Shows and Tabletop Exhibit Shows.

8. Classification. For trophy classes 919-948, the following definitions will apply:

h. Youth Exhibit – Exhibitor must be under the age of 18. The exhibit may consist of plants, cut flowers, and/or collectibles, which must come from the Exhibitor's household.

Exhibits

Non-Commercial

919. Best Youth Exhibit. (Trophy)."

This addition to the show schedule was approved and adopted.



From the Education Committee



Did you know that the American Orchid Society has a Scout Patch that scouts can earn? There are many ways Scouts can earn the AOS patch, from helping run a Kid's Corner at an orchid show, volunteering at an orchid event or conservation project, hosting an orchid art contest at an orchid show, or nearly any other project that gets the scouts involved with orchids! There have been several recent Scout projects published in the AOS's ORCHIDS magazine over the past couple of years. If you are interested in learning more about how to get the patches and discuss Scout project ideas, please contact the Vice-Chair of the AOS Education Committee Eron Borne, at 318-758-0008 or eaborne@yahoo.com.



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ORCHID GROWERS ASSOCIATION
125th Directors and Membership Semi-Annual Meeting
Spring 2024
Memorial City Mall, Houston, Texas
March 9, 2024

Call to Order

- The SWROGA Directors and Membership meeting was held both in person and via Zoom in the Memorial City Mall, Houston, Texas.
- Acting President, Sarah Pratt, called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM(Saturday) and welcomed all officers and directors as they acknowledged attendance. Thanks were given to the Houston Orchid Society for hosting the Spring SWROGA show.
- Sarah Pratt reported the presence of a quorum with 10 societies represented and a total of 12 directors in attendance as well as the officers shown below.

Officers present:

Acting President: Sarah Pratt

Vice President: Vacant on promotion of Sarah to Acting President

Treasurer: Charles Hess via Zoom

Secretary: Larry Baker

Member at Large: Jana Butcher

Officers absent:

Editor: Vacant

Remembrance:

None.

Approval of minutes:

Sarah asked for corrections or additions to the October 7, 2023 meeting minutes previously emailed to all directors and society presidents, officers, and committee chairs. Sarah stated with no opposition, minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Charles Hess

The spring Financial Reports consists of two statements: **Account Balances** and **Cash Flows** for each of our six SWROGA Funds for the period of Oct 1, 2023, to Jan 31, 2024 (Four months into our 2024 fiscal year). These statements are reported separately.

Account Balance Statement highlights:

- Investments in the SWROGA Operating Fund are shown to have increased to \$14,000 with the addition of a **new \$5,000 Duke Energy corporate bond yielding 5.4%**.
- Of the total available cash in the SWROGA Operating Fund (\$7,956), **\$5000 could be invested long term (Finance Committee to review)**.
- The SWROGA Endowed Trophy Fund now has an \$85,000 balance showing in our investment account (Note 3). This is down \$10,000 due to the maturity of our GE bond. Past financial reports had the maturity date erroneously shown as Sept 2025. The actual date was January 2024.
- **The total Available Cash in the Endowed Trophy Fund now indicates \$15,000 could easily be invested (Finance committee Action Item). A \$5000 CD maturing is also part of this amount.**

SWROGA Fund Cash Flow highlights:

- The SWROGA Conservation Fund income shows the success to date for the new annual fundraising project. Individual donations have been strong, and we even have our first donation to the new Magrath Memorial fund. Total raised is \$2,200 as of this statement date.
- For the SWROGA Research Fund made its first \$1000 stipend disbursement to support the Cedar Ridge Preserve’s annual Hexalectris survey.

Sarah asked for any opposition to the Treasurer’s report and with none the report was approved.

AOS report:

No report.

Old Business:

New Officers

The nominating committee offered the following slate of officers for the next term:

President:	Jana Butcher
Vice President:	Sarah Pratt
Secretary:	Larry Baker
Treasurer:	Charles Hess
Member at Large:	Emily Quinn
Editor:	Eron Borne

With no objections, this slate was approved.

Youth Exhibit on SWROGA schedule

The following was distributed in advance for review:

“A new Class, and Trophy, have been proposed. This is proposed to encourage youth participation in shows. It entails adding a new definition to the Show Rules and Regulations, Section 8. Classification, number ‘h’ defining what is a youth exhibit and a youth exhibitor.

This new Class would be added to the Non-Commercial Exhibit Classes.

Proposed new language to be added to Full Exhibit Shows and Tabletop Exhibit Shows.

8. Classification. For trophy classes 919-948, the following definitions will apply:

h. Youth Exhibit – Exhibitor must be under the age of 18. The exhibit may consist of plants, cut flowers, and/or collectibles, which must come from the Exhibitor’s household.

Exhibits

Non-Commercial

919. Best Youth Exhibit. (Trophy).”

This addition to the show schedule was approved and adopted.

Dr. Lawrence McGrath Memorial Fund

The following procedure was previously issued for review:

“SECTION K – MEMORIALS

THE DR. LAWRENCE MAGRATH MEMORIAL /CONSERVATION FUND

Societies or society members may elect to have the name of a deceased member listed for remembrance in the annual SWROGA Directory in the index section IX immediately following Dr. Magrath’s poem of remembrance “In Memoriam”.

Remembrances will be listed in descending order by calendar year of death with the most recent year immediately following the poem and under the fund title above. The member’s name and then society will accompany the year.

Requests will be honored with a donation of any amount made out to SWROGA with the name of the person being memorialized, society, and calendar year of death in the check’s memo field which will indicate a donation to this fund. Multiple donations for a specific person will be recognized in the treasurer’s report.

The SWROGA treasurer will notify the Directory Manager of the new names to be listed as described above. The most recent 2 years will be listed in the Directory and a complete list will be archived by the Historian and listed on the SWROGA website.

Donations will go to the SWROGA conservation programs in recognition of Dr. Magrath and his conservation efforts for SWROGA. “

With no corrections or opposition, this addition to SWROGA procedures was approved and adopted.

Newsletter

Eron Borne has volunteered to revive the SWROGA Newsletter. Once resumed, the Newsletter will be available on the SWROGA website.

New Business:

Procedure Revisions

The following procedure was previously issued for review:

“SECTION A – CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION REPRESENTATIVE

Each affiliated society should appoint a local Conservation Representative to exchange information between SWROGA and their society. The name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the local Conservation Representative should be included in the SWROGA Directory in the list of Officers.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The SWROGA Conservation Committee shall consist of all affiliated society Conservation Representatives and any other society member wishing to participate.

ORCHID HABITAT SUPPORT

SWROGA conservation financial support is to be solely voluntary through society donations and individual member donations.

SWROGA societies may select a local orchid area or preserve to receive SWROGA support and specify that their society’s SWROGA Conservation Committee donations go to these preserves.

The orchid preserves currently receiving annual SWROGA support are:

- (1) **Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve- a 10 acre preserve near the Big Thicket in East Texas most noted for its large population of *Platanthera chapmanii* .**
- (2) **Cedar Ridge Preserve- Located 30 miles south of Dallas and known for its large population of *Hexalectris warnockii* (The official SWROGA logo orchid).**

TYPES OF SUPPORT

Support for native orchid habitats within the SWROGA region may be in three forms: direct financial support, research stipends (indirect), or volunteer work. “

With no corrections or opposition, this addition to SWROGA procedures was approved and adopted.

Procedure change on Section C – Membership

The subject procedure was previously circulated for review. Alison Gallaway moved to include an increase in member dues to \$30 per annum for each affiliated society. Due to its length the revised procedure is appended as Attachment A. The procedure as amended was approved by majority vote (10 to 2).

Update on SWROGA Show Schedule for Oncidium Alliance

The proposed revisions to the Oncidium Alliance classes 402-434 and including a color photo attachment were previously circulated for review. Sarah Pratt thanked the team, Alison Gallaway and Karl Varian, for the work on this update. With no opposition this change was approved. Due to the photo inserts, this revision cannot be included in this document and will be transmitted concurrently.

Website Update

The SWROGA website now has links available to access the AOS, SWROGA Judging Centers, and SWROGA Affiliated Societies. In June the SWROGA Officers and Committee Chairs will be listed with methods to contact them by email. The Newsletter when available will be on the website. Work is ongoing for adding the Directory of Affiliated Societies' officers and members to the website. There are security issues with this that must be resolved.

A Co-Administrator is needed for the website. Affiliated Societies are requested to poll their members for a volunteer who has experience in website management and WordPress.

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Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Fall and Spring Shows:

Host societies are needed for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 shows.

Committee Reports:

ByLaws and Judiciary Committee -

Chair: Jana Butcher

No further report from Procedures revisions approved.

Finance Committee:

Chair: Charles Hess

The Financial Reports -Cash Flow and Account Balances are sent separately.

Conservation Committee

Chair: Charles Hess

Individuals and societies have donated to buildup the Conservation and Research Funds.

Affiliated Societies:

No report.

Chair: Vacant**Programs and Education Committee****Chair: Eron Borne**

No new programs have been submitted to SWROGA in a number of years. Eron asked the SWROGA reps to reach out to their respective societies and ask if any members have any programs they would share to our SWROGA Program Library. He will also mention this in the upcoming newsletter.

Publications Committee:

No report.

Chair: Vacant prior to this meeting**Show Committee:****Chair: Alison Gallaway**

Continuing to work through the show schedule including reference pictorial guides of orchids to delineate the types in a class.

Closing:

Father Ted Baenziger moved to adjourn. Acting President Sarah Pratt again expressed SWROGA's thanks to the Houston Orchid Society for hosting the Directors Meeting.

Meeting concluded at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully signed and submitted with substantial assistance by Charles Hess, Treasurer,

Larry Baker, Secretary

Electronically approved by the Officers and Directors, after edits, 4/8/2024**NEWSLETTER INPUT WELCOME!**

If you would like to contribute an article, photos, society events, culture tips, etc., please send to eaborne@yahoo.com. All SWROGA members are encouraged to participate. This is a great opportunity for all of SWROGA to know what is going on with you and your society. We will plan to publish the newsletter twice a year as was done in the past. Please let us hear from you!

The SWROGA Show Trophy



Two SWROGA Show Trophies are available to be purchased by any Affiliated Society wishing to award one or both trophies at their local show: Best Flower in Show and Best Grown Plant in Show. The cost for each trophy is \$60.00 (mailing included).

The trophies can be purchased by going to the SWROGA website (<https://swroga.org/>) and click on the "Shows and Events" tab at the top. Then click on "SWROGA Trophy Order Form" which will take you to an on-line form to fill out. Request for one or both trophies is made by completing the form, designating which trophy(s) are wanted, and mailing a copy of the form and check payment for \$60 (for one trophy) or \$120 (for both) to the SWROGA Treasurer at the address below. Your check should be made payable to SWROGA and mailed to Charles Hess at 16351 Banner Road, Lexington, OK 73051. The trophy will be mailed to you via USPS priority.

**HOSTING THE SOUTH WEST REGION
ORCHID GROWERS ASSOCIATION
FALL MEETINGS, SHOW, AND SALE**

2024 FALL SHOW HOST SOCIETY NEEDED!!

**If your society can host the Fall 2024 member's meeting, please contact
Jana Butcher at w.butcher@cox.net
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



SWROGA 2024 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Affiliated Societies

Vacant

Bylaws and Judiciary

Jana Butcher, Chair; Jim
Diffily, Bill Parker,
Barbara McNamee

Conservation

Charles Hess, Chair;
Linda Horton, Mike
Friday

Programs and Education

Eron Borne, Chair; Ted
Baenziger

Publication & Communication

Eron Borne, Chair;
Manuel Aybar,
Webmaster;

Show Schedule

Alison Gallaway, Chair;
Karl Varian, Holly Miller,
Frank Zachariah

Finance

Charles Hess, Chair;
Mark Schacher, Doug
Butcher

Continuing Operations

Jana Butcher, Chair;
Sarah Pratt, Charles
Hess, Emily Quinn

Historian

Charles Hess

Registered Agent

Charles Hess

AOS Representative

Jim Diffily

Auditor

Vacant

