

SWROGA News

A Publication of the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association www.SWROGA.org

30 Affiliated Societies

Spring 2007

Volume 39, Issue 1

AN END OR A BEGINNING?

By Ed Wright

Recently, I have learned that Dr. Yin-Tung Wang must virtually eliminate his orchid talks to our societies and meetings. Dr. Wang has not asked for my support or intervention, but I learned during discussions of his work that he has recently been forced to cover expenses for his speaking engagements from his own pocket, using his vacation time to cover travel for this purpose. At a recent meeting, I was shocked to learn that Dr. Wang had to rent a car from his own means to cover a commitment he had made months ago. None of us could continue to serve on this basis and, in fact, he has honored his prior commitments far longer than most of us would be able to do.

Through various contacts in education, USDA, commercial nursery production and other activities, I have pieced together a view of this situation that seems to fit the evidence. As I see the situation now, those who administer policy over the Agriculture Experiment Station in Weslaco, where Dr. Wang and many other scientists do their primary work, have decided that orchid research, as a subject is not an appropriate area for inquiry by the Station. Orchid production, in the sense of crops produced, is a minor industry in Texas. That being the case, organized support for orchid research may appear to be lacking when compared to food crops, for example. In other words, the orchid business is divorced from the great agricultural production industry in Texas, where cotton, rice and maize hold star billing.

If one is satisfied that 'production is king', perhaps there is no more to be said. By the same token, one must acknowledge that orchids represent the #2 cash-generator among flowering plant sales. People like Dr. Wang have made that happen. Work with *Phalaenopsis* alone brought orchid retail sales from the hundreds to the hundreds of thousands nationwide. Texas retailers received and continue to receive their share of this bounty. We speak of Texas here because that is where the immediate battle is found. I don't think any of our regional orchid enthusiasts will have trouble deciding that the Weslaco problem will impact them just as directly as it will impact the Texas orchid industry. I think it is urgent that we, as orchid people, stand up to the academics and demand consideration of economic impact on a par with production impact. It may be a Texas problem today, but it will surely be a regional and then national problem soon.

My suggestion: write every person you know who holds public office or is in any way connected with Texas education, USDA services, the Extension Service or the Agricultural Experiment Station in Weslaco. Let them know that you think the market for orchids is an important one to you, your state and the nation. Explain how horticultural crops tend to generate sales tax return while food crops and exported crops do not. Suggest that a broader view will put money in retail coffers in Texas and every other state where orchids are the reigning year-around money producer.

Every word above is mine. I have developed my opinion based upon years of work with commercial nursery interests. I do not speak for Dr. Wang, nor do I speak for or against any person connected with the Agricultural Experiment Station in Weslaco, Texas. By the same token, if I can help in this matter, please let me know.

[Editor's note: The President suggested that this article be printed in place of his regular letter]

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CONTINUING LIST OF ORCHID SHOWS Manuel Aybar (Manny) (972-972-7570; manuel.aybar@verizon.net; m-aybar1@ti.com)

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"We print all the news that fits"

What Does the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Assn (SWROGA) Do For Me? You might also ask "What Does My Local Society Do For Me?"

A. The answer might well be the same in both cases. Just like in your local society, SWROGA consists of a membership of people who love orchids - YOU. Just like with your local society, SWROGA's main purpose for existence is to promote scientific and educational programs related to the study of orchids, their propagation, culture and development, to coordinate the interests of the members in growing and exhibition of orchids, and to identify and conserve native orchids including the preservation of their native habitats.

Taking that description a step further, here are some of the specific benefits of having a regional club in support of your local club. SWROGA provides:

1. An annual Directory that includes a list of all members thus allowing widespread communication availability among the regional orchid growers YOU.
2. Promotion of two Regional orchid shows a year (spring and fall) by providing funding assistance for trophy purchases (currently \$945.00 plus 2 pledges of \$35.00 each for a total minimum of \$1,015.00 per show)
3. Assistance with your local shows by providing access to inexpensive show registration tags and a free updated show schedule to use.
4. The opportunity to meet with other regional members twice a year to discuss conservation and other issues of interest to the orchid growing community YOU.
5. Accessibility to rental of slideshows and a list of speakers in the Region.
6. A quarterly newsletter that contains club and show information.
7. A Website that is kept current and contains information such as Native Species lists, access to a discussion group, show information, and much, much more.
8. Conservation assistance by providing funding (the latest example is the funding for the propagation and restoration of the endangered Kentucky Lady slipper (*Cyp. Kentuckienses*)).
9. Donations to Orchid Research facilities (the latest donation to Dr. Wang of the University of Texas)
10. Donations to the American Orchid Society to assist in assuring the continuance of continuity within the orchid growing community in the United States and abroad.

**All of this and more for only \$2.00 per year membership. Where else can you get a deal like that!!!!
SUPPORT YOUR ORCHID SOCIETIES and ASSOCIATIONS! They are all there for YOU.**

MORE ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This will be the second issue of this newsletter being printed and mailed in Little Rock.
So far, so good.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to find me.

Amanda Saar, Editor

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SWROGA Show Hosts Needed!!!!

The Affiliated Societies Committee is asking for your help! Host Societies are need for the Fall Show and Meetings of 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The process is easy:

Write to President Saar asking to host the Fall show of your choice **after** getting approval of your dates from the Chair of your AOS Judging Center. Get your letter in soon so that it can be acted upon at the Spring meeting of 2007 in Arlington, Texas, May 2-6, 2007.

Include the following information in your letter:

- 1) a statement of the approximate time of the show and the city in which it is to be hosted,
- 2) a statement that your Society understand that it must abide by the rules, regulations, and schedule of the Show Committee currently and as may be amended,
- 3) a statement acknowledging that the Society has no authority to bind SWROGA in any manner pertaining to the show and that the Society assumes full and complete responsibility for all expenses, debts, claims, and liabilities in connection with the show.

Don't forget that SWROGA is your organization and it needs you to be successful!

Treasurer's Corner

A thanks to all the Treasurer's who have sent in the 2006 dues and the 2007 memberships.

Here are the activities since the last report of December 1, 2006:

General Fund:

1. Interest earned receipts: \$125.78
2. Membership dues receipts: \$2,919.00
3. Show tag receipts: \$70.00
4. Newsletter ad receipts: \$740.00
5. Show tag mailing expense: \$9.60
6. Treasurer's expense (stamps): \$3.00
7. Newsletter expense: \$895.29
8. Web expense: \$149.50

Research Fund:

1. Interest earned receipts: \$42.51

Trophy Fund:

1. Interest earned receipts: \$632.73
2. Trophy assistance for DFW Show expense: \$945.00

SWROGA Funds on hand as of February 15, 2007:

General	\$18,886.24
Research	\$ 6,808.70
Trophy	<u>\$64,727.13</u>
Total	\$90,422.07

Your SWROGA treasurer,
Carolyn McCabe

Dr. Larry Magrath, orchid taxonomist, and well known member of the orchid world, died Saturday, February 24, 2007.

More information was not available at the time this newsletter was created.

Amanda Saar, Editor

Continuing List of Orchid Shows Within SWROGA

For more recent information check the SWROGA website at www.swroga.org

2007	Host(s)	Event Location	Contact(s)
March 9-11	Orchid Society of Jefferson Show	Clearview Mall 4436 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA.	Marian Prigmore, 1301 Ocean Dr., Metairie, LA 70005; (504) 834-4300; fsbojimp@aol.com.
March 16-18	Houston Orchid Society Show	George R. Brown Convention Center 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, TX	John Stubbings, 3701 Coral Reef Dr., Seabrook, TX 77586; (281) 326-1314.
March 30- April 1	Northeast Louisiana Orchid Society Show	Pecanland Mall 4700 Millhaven Road Monroe, LA 71203	Sharon Duncan 309 Oaklawn Dr Monroe, LA 70203-4163 sdorchod@bellsouth.net
March 30 April 1	Tulsa Orchid Society Show Judging 8 am Sat. March 31	Tulsa Garden Center 2435 S. Peoria Ave. Tulsa, OK	Jeff Williams 2518 s. 109 E. Ave. Tulsa, OK 74129 918-622-5706 owl2518@aol.com
April 13-15	Terrebonne Orchid Society Show	Southland Mall 5953 W. Park Ave Houma, LA.	Ashley Matherne 118 Retreat Dr. Bourg, LA 70343 (985) 594-4050 abmatherne@hotmail.com
April 21 & 22	Heart O' Texas Orchid Society's 36th Annual Orchid Show & Sale Judging Friday, April 20, 7 pm	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin TX 78746 Show & Plant Sale: 10:00am - 5:00pm Saturday & 10:00am - 4:00pm Sunday.	Bill Ater 3803 Greystone Dr., Austin, TX 78731 (512) 345-3225; E-mail billater@flash.net , or visit our Web-site: http://www.hotos.org/
May 2-6	Fort Worth and Greater North Texas Orchid Societies Show and AOS Members Meeting, <u>also Spring SWROGA meeting.</u> Judging May 3, 9 am	Arlington Convention Center 1200 Ballpark Way Arlington, TX www.aosdfw2007.org	Ronnie & Jerry Brandenburg roneidab@aol.com 11045 Swaffar Dr. Dallas TX 75228 972-279-4075
June 1-3	New Orleans Orchid Society Show Judging Sat June 2, 9 am	Lakeside Mall 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA.	Ann Roth abroth@bellsouth.net 12158 Post Oak Rd. Hammond, LA 70403. 225-294-6652
June 8 10	Acadian Orchid Society Show	Mall of Acadiana 5725 Johnston St. Lafayette, LA	Harvey J. Firestone 105 Delphine St. Lafayette, LA 70506 hjfstone@bellsouth.net 337-981-1978
September 21-23	Central Louisiana and Northeast Louisiana Orchid Societies <u>hosting SWROGA</u>	Best Western Inn & Suites, Alexandria, LA	Byron McGraw 3820 Lafayette Dr. Pineville, LA 71360 bydor@aol.com 318 640 4732

October 5 7 (Pending AOS approval)	San Antonio Orchid Society Show Judging Friday Oct. 5, after 6 pm Judges dinner on site	San Antonio Garden Center 555 Funston San Antonio, TX 78209 (On the grounds of the SA Botanical Gardens)	Dr. Eric Shepard 113 High Vista San Antonio, TX 78232 ecshepphd@aol.com
October 12- 14	Greater North Texas Orchid Society	Pavilion Auditorium Texas A&M Research & Extension Center 17360 Coit Road Dallas, TX	Bobbie Dillard 619 Hammond Lancaster, TX BMD227@aol.com
October 18- 21	AOS Members Meeting	Delray Beach, FL	
November 16-18	Shreveport Orchid Society	Barnwell Garden & Art Center 601 Clyde Fant Pkwy Shreveport, LA 71101	Patsy Boersma 376 Henderson Schoolhouse Marshall, TX 75670
November 17-18	Oklahoma Orchid Society Show	Will Rogers Garden Center 3400 NW 36 th St. Oklahoma City, OK	Vernon & Margaret Reynolds 3225 Prairie Rose Road Oklahoma City, OK 73120 magreyn@aol.com 405-752-2398
2008 Dates	Host(s)	Event Location	Contact(s)
April 4-6	Arkansas Orchid Society, Little Rock, Arkansas	TBD	Karen Gambel 11073 Bainbridge Dr Little Rock, AR 72212 ricknkarn@aristotle.net 501-221-1217
May 2-4	Orchid Society of the Ozarks <u>hosting SWROGA</u>	Rogers, Arkansas	Tom Larkin 9790 Larkin Lane Rogers, AR 72756

SWROGA News Deadlines

SWROGA News Ad Rates

Vol./Issue	Date	Deadline			1 Quarter	2 Quarters	3 Quarters	4 Quarters
39, #1	Spring 2007 (before Spring SWROGA show)	February 1, 2007		Full Page * (9-1/2x7 - 1/4)	\$140	\$170	\$200	\$230
39, #2	Summer 2007 (after Spring SWROGA Show)	June 7, 2007		Half Page (9-1/2x3 - 1/2) (6-3/4x4 - 3/4)	\$80	\$100	\$120	\$140
39, #3	Fall 2007 (before Fall SWROGA Show)	July 25, 2007		Quarter Page 4-1/2x4	\$45	\$65	\$85	\$105
39, #4	Winter 2007 (after Fall SWROGA Show)	November 1, 2007		Eighth Page 3-1/2x2 - 1/2	\$25	\$45	\$65	\$85

WRIGHT THINKING
By Ed Wright

Tax time is good for something, at least: it forces us to look at old records. I was tracing a business transaction the other day when I ran across some notes I made during a visit with Bill Barfield thirty or more years ago. Back in them days, as they say, Bill was a lone voice of reason about air pollution problems. A geologist and man of science, Bill was well-qualified to speak. A year would not have been complete without Bill appearing before the Corpus Christ City Council, dumping a box of blighted orchid blooms on their pristine conference table and proclaiming Corpus Christi air to be a leading example of the most polluted in the country.

Somewhere back in the Vietnam era, I joined Bill in taking the same message to a hearing of what I recall as the 'Air Quality Board' in Austin. What I specifically recall is that the committee made us wait until full dark to appear and then gave the impression of no interest in anything but getting home for dinner.

Bill and I are off the scene now, but the lonely fight is carried on by people like Suzie Canales, in Corpus Christi. No cut flower producers besiege city hall with flowers spoiled by ethylene-induced sepal wilt or spots burned into petals by free air acid droplets. We just breathe the stuff and trust 'the gummint' will tend to the problem. What problem? Let me show you.

For 2004, the last year for which figures are available to me, here's what the nation's air pollution data showed (bold type mine):

Environmental Integrity Project* Report for 2004: TOP TEN US AIR POLLUTERS

- 1 BP's Texas City refinery, **Texas City, TX**
- 2 - EXXON-Mobil, **Baytown, TX**
- 3 - Koch Industries Flint Hills plant, **Corpus Christi, TX**
- 4 - Delek US Holdings, La Gloria refinery, **Tyler, TX**
- 5 - Lyondell Chemical Co., Lyondell-CITGO plant, **Houston, TX**
- 6- EXXON-Mobil Baton Rouge refinery, **Baton Rouge, LA**
- 7- Valero refinery, **Corpus Christ, TX**
- 8 - Sunoco plant, Philadelphia, PA
- 9 EXXON-Mobil refinery, **Chalmette, LA**
- 10- CITGO plant, **Lake Charles, LA**

**The Environmental Integrity Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in March of 2002 to advocate for more effective enforcement of environmental laws. The organization was founded with support from the Rockefeller Family Fund and other foundations.*

No, I'm not going to defend the Environmental Integrity Project. Each person must evaluate that issue on his own. What I am going to do is point out that all but one of these leaders pollute air in SWROGA territory. Granted, BP says they made a reporting error on the 2004 data, and besides most of the problem was an accidental emission of 1.9 million pounds of formaldehyde. That certainly should make everything right. Heck, this isn't even the crud that stains your laundry; it's just cancer-causing carcinogens and stuff like that.

Bill Barfield tried to tell us: this pollution is occurring because companies can locate in this area and get away with unbelievable disregard for the environment, for our health and yes, for our flower quality. For one more time, I am supporting Bill's position: we are not talking about flower quality; we are not talking about quality of life; we are talking about life itself.

I am certainly not advocating that SWROGA become a special interest political action committee. That would violate our charter, bylaws and purpose. I am suggesting that a coming generation of little SWROGAns depend upon YOUR demands for reasonable air quality standards for our selves and for our environment.

***Contact us to request a copy of our
2007 printed color catalog!***

You may also see a current list of our plant and supplies
inventory by visiting our website at www.oakhillgardens.com



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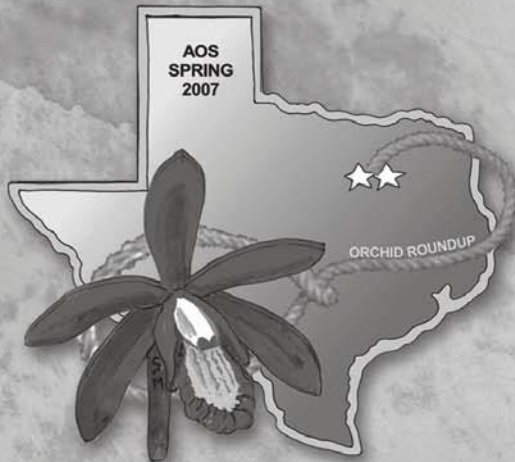
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Sunday: May 6, 9 AM - 4 PM

Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, Texas

Hosting AOS May 2-6, 2007

One-day Registration: \$25/person includes lectures and show.

Headquarters hotel: Wyndham Arlington

Reservations: 817-261-8200 mention "AOS" for our special rate

Registration info and directions: www.AOSDFW2007.org or call 972-279-4075.

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ORCHID ROUNDUP

American Orchid Society

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DALLAS AND FORT WORTH ORCHID SOCIETIES

May 2-6, 2007

Show open to the public

Friday & Saturday: May 4-5, 9AM - 5 PM

Sunday: May 6, 9 AM - 4 PM

General Admission: \$5/person (Armed service personnel, police officers, firemen and their families are free with proper ID).

One-day Registration: \$25/person which includes admission to lectures plus all day admission to show.

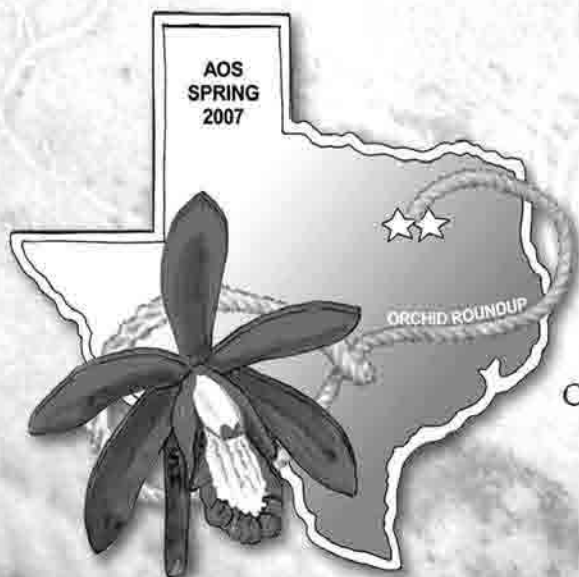
Other organizations also holding meetings in conjunction with AOS:

Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association (SWROGA)

Slipper Orchid Alliance

International Phalaenopsis Association (IPA)

Orchid Digest Corporation (ODC)



For info and directions: www.AOSDFW2007.org or call 972-279-4075.

Headquarters hotel: Wyndham Arlington

Phone for reservations: 817-261-8200 and mention "AOS" for our special rate

Airports: DFW is eight miles away and the Wyndham Arlington has a free pick-up/delivery service for guests
Love Field is about twenty miles away.

There will be orchid lectures by outstanding national and international speakers Friday and Saturday as well as potting demos throughout the show. We are offering tours to Dallas, Fort Worth and Grapevine for our attendees.

Over 16 commercial orchid firms are coming to sell plants, supplies, jewelry and clothing at this show.

There are many things to see and experience in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for the families. There are wonderful restaurants in the area and the City of Arlington provides a free bus service which runs regularly to shops, entertainment centers, hotels and restaurants.

DFW AOS Spring Show - PO Box 470906 - Fort Worth, Texas 76147