

NOOS Newsletter



President's Message

Prez Sez,

WILL THE REAL C. PICASSO PLEASE STAND UP!

I have a lovely orchid that blooms each year with many medium sized pink blooms. It looks a lot like a bowringiana.

The name on the tag is C. Picasso. Well, I looked up C. Picasso on Orchid Whiz to see the parents and if it has any awards.

Much to my surprise, C. Picasso does not look ANYTHING like my plant. It is big and white!

I am not sure what I have, but it is not C. Picasso. Orchid Whiz saved me some embarrassment with pictures of the real C. Picasso.

Buy a raffle ticket at the next meeting, win Orchid Whiz and identify those orchids.

The nominating committee has met. We have candidates for:

Vice President - Marian Prigmore

Secretary - Larry Hennessey

Treasurer - Alice Barrios

We are still looking for a volunteer for President.

Marian has graciously agreed to be Show Chair.

Also:

We will be breaking up the NOOS library.

Russel has housed this rather large collection of books and magazines for a long time. He has moved and would like the books and a bookcase out as soon as possible.

I will have a list at the next meeting. If you would like a book or magazine please contact Russel. Any items that are not spoken for will be donated to the City Park library.

Molly



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Molly Prokop

VICE-PRESIDENT Donna Stange

Secretary Larry Hennessey

Treasurer Alice Barrios

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Vienna Mackey

Website Editor

Debbie Dinwiddie

Board of Trustees

Margaret Bossier

Debbie Dinwiddie

Carol Molero

Past President

Carol Stauder

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Oct 18, 2011

City Park Garden Study Center

7:30pm

GUEST SPEAKER

"Orchid Diseases Power Point"

by Donna Stange

NEWCOMER'S PROGRAM

"Caring for Orchids as the

Seasons Change"

by Donna Stange



Minutes of the Sept. 2011 Meeting

by Larry Hennessey

President Molly called the meeting to order on September 20, 2011. Members from the Baton Rouge and Gulf Coast societies were in attendance. Minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

VP Donna announced the nominating committee for the 2012 slate of officers. The nominating committee is comprised of Molly, Donna, Marion and Ian.

Secretary Larry presented the following information:

- Metairie resident Mark Hertz who sells Bromeliads on ebay had listed orchid pots for sale on ebay. Jeanne Garman knows the individual and will get his contact info for Larry to contact about possibly selling directly to members of the society.
- Larry was also contacted by documentary filmmaker Rich Walton about hosting a screening of his film "The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief and the Black Orchid".
- Someone contacted Vienna looking for information about their grandmother, Floris Kathleen Harris maiden name Bryant, who had an orchid business in New Orleans many years ago. She knows she was active in the orchid community because there were articles in the newspaper about her. She was also involved in a lawsuit around the late 70s that was decided by the success of her business. Please contact Larry if you have an information and he'll get you the email address to forward the info.

Alice Barrios had her surgery today. All went well. She should be back at rehab Saturday. Eddie continues chemo next week.

Molly mentioned some garden societies are still seeking speakers.

Upcoming shows include the Alamo Orchid Society/AOS fall show, Northeast Louisiana (Nov 4-6).

We will not be participating in the City Park Fall Garden Show (Oct 15-16). Richard Bergeron is now in charge of the City Park orchid collection and will accept donations of plants and is always looking for help with the collection behind the Pelican greenhouse.

After a brief refreshment break (cake provided by Max), guest speaker Glen Ladnier presented a program on Growing Orchids Hydroponically. Geaux Hydro in Baton Rouge sells supplies if anyone interested.

26 members were present at the meeting. Next meeting October 18.

Monthly Winners

Date by Day Tuesday, September 20,



<i>Award</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Plant</i>
BG-1	Carol & Arne Stauder	Ascda John DeBaise 'Manoliporn'
BG-2	Ethel & Ed Suberville	Blc Toshie Aoki x C Little Dipper 'Soto'
BH-1	Ann Roth	Blc Brassy Gold 'Camano Autumn' HCC/AOS
BH-2	Ethel & Ed Suberville	Bc Roman Holiday
BH-2	Ethel & Ed Suberville	Blc Toshie Aoki x C Little Dipper 'Soto'
BH-2	Ethel & Ed Suberville	Blc Cherry Saisse
BS-1	Patricia Sander	Phy coelestis
BS-2	Carol & Arne Stauder	Phal violacea
BS-2	Ann Roth	B cucullata





Mineral Nutrition for Slipper Orchid Growers

[AnTec Laboratory](#) - Bob & Lynn Wellenstein

Everyone's conditions are very different, and you must balance the various factors of your growing with each other. What is stated here are the factors we take in to consideration regarding mineral nutrition: it is hoped that there may be aspects discussed that may be useful to you. We suggest that careful experimentation on small numbers of plants be carried out before anyone makes any major change in their growing conditions.

Also, everyone does not have the same goals in growing, and may not be interested in trying to tease every last bit of potential out of their plants. As a result, we'll also discuss some options to consider if you want to grow these plants without going into the details of matching your fertilizer with a water quality analysis.

Let's discuss mineral nutrition first in a general sense, without the detailed facts and figures, then we'll go over the details for those who are interested. You need to have some idea of your water quality with regard to the type and levels of dissolved minerals (see [Water Quality for Slipper Orchid Growers](#)). If you do not have this information, but you suspect that your water is quite hard, there are some steps you might take until you obtain an analysis. You should use fertilizer sparingly, fertilizing only every second or third watering and utilize fertilizers with highly available nitrogen sources and little or no urea, so that the smaller amounts of fertilizer you can use will be utilized efficiently. You should also flush the pots extensively with your irrigation mix with every watering. Not allowing the media to dry completely will aid in salt elimination, but can also lead to rotted roots, so using a more open mix than you normally would and watering more frequently may also be of help, letting you water without the mix completely drying out but still keeping some air supply at the roots. If you are seeing what appears to be symptoms of a mineral deficiency, or dehydration of the plants, remember that to check the most obvious and most common cause first, loss of roots due to rots.

If you have a water analysis in hand, you can then match your fertilizer better to your needs. If you have 30 – 50 ppm or more calcium available in the water, then you should choose a balanced fertilizer without calcium. If you have 20 – 30 ppm magnesium or more in your water then you can also utilize a fertilizer that does not provide magnesium. If you do not have sufficient levels of one or the other, you can either use a fertilizer containing them, or do a supplemental feeding every 2 – 3 weeks with calcium nitrate for the calcium and/or Epsom salts for the magnesium needs of your plants. Otherwise, use a balanced fertilizer for the rest of the macronutrients sparingly (try to keep TDS of irrigation mix [water plus fertilizer] at 350 ppm or lower, and the chances that you will encounter nutrient deficiencies is small. The only further caution is to check the pH of your water fertilizer mix and make sure that it is in range for the types of plants you are growing (see [Use of Calcium Based Supplements for Paphs](#) for more details). However, if your goal is to supplements have similar dose response curves as the microelements, so again use care to follow label instructions, more is not better, at best you are wasting your money at at worst you may be damaging your plants. While the dose response curve for macronutrients is somewhat more forgiving, we still want to stay fairly close to the optimal area in choosing our fertilizer levels.

Element	Minimum ppm	Maximum ppm
Nitrogen (NO ₃ & NH ₄)	60	100
Potassium	60	100
Calcium	30	50
Magnesium	15	30
Phosphorus	30	50
Sulfur	15	25
Boron	trace	< 0.8
Iron	> 0.5	2
Manganese	> 0.2	2
Zinc	1	2
Copper	trace	< 0.2
Molybdenum	trace	< 0.05

At a very practical level, if you are using a balanced low urea commercial fertilizer at a reasonable rate (say 50 –100 ppm nitrogen), your likely only serious mineral nutrition concerns are calcium and magnesium levels (which are related to also to your water analysis), and the pH of your irrigation mix. If you are using a pure water source then to a certain extent your resolution of the calcium and magnesium levels is somewhat easier, you simply have to supply them at the level you want. Several commercial fertilizers are available that provide one or both of them, but many have neither. Your choices are to select one of the fertilizers that contain sufficient levels, or to feed calcium nitrate once every 2-3 weeks and Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate) at another feeding every 2 – 3 weeks. Even some of the fertilizers that have these two elements in them contain them at sub optimal levels for use in pure water, so a periodic feed of calcium nitrate and Epsom Salts may still be indicated even with them. If you are working with water with higher concentrations of these elements you may need to choose a fertilizer that does not contain them to maintain as much balance as possible in your program. As discussed earlier, if you have extremely high water salinity, you may have to fertilize at well below the sub optimal levels to avoid salt build up problems for your plants roots.

You need to consider mineral nutrition of your plants as a combination of your water and the fertilizer you add. What we currently feel is a reasonable range of nutrients for a steady feed program (combined level provided by both the water and the fertilizer) for Paphs is provided in the following chart, but please remember that the absolute values that you should use will be affected by light levels, day length, temperature, potting mix, air flow, size of plants and irrigation frequency. At a very practical level, if you are using a balanced low urea commercial fertilizer at a reasonable rate (say 50 –100 ppm nitrogen), your likely only serious mineral nutrition concerns are calcium and magnesium levels (which are related to also to your water analysis), and the pH of your irrigation mix.

Nitrogen Source	Residual pH Effect
Urea	acid
Ammonium nitrate	acid
Ammonium chloride	neutral
Ammonium sulfate	acid
Diammonium phosphate	acid
Calcium nitrate	basic
Potassium nitrate	basic
Dried blood	acid
Dried fish meal	acid
Raw bone meal	acid

Element	Symbol	Form Available to Plants	Trans locatable	Deficiency Induced by Excess of (Antagonism)	Most readily available pH	Unavail-able pH range	Relative No. Atoms in Plant Tissue
Hydrogen	H	H ₂ O					60,000,000
Carbon	C	CO ₂					35,000,000
Oxygen	O	O ₂ , H ₂ O					30,000,000
Nitrogen	N	NO ₃ ⁻ , NH ₄ ⁺	yes	Potassium Phosphorus	6.0 – 8.0	<4.5, >9.5	1,000,000
Potassium	K	K ⁺	yes	Nitrogen Sodium	6.0 – 10.0	<4.5	250,000
Calcium	Ca	Ca ⁺⁺	slightly	Potassium Sodium Magnesium	6.5 – 9.0	<4.5, >10.5	125,000
Magnesium	Mg	Mg ⁺⁺	yes	Potassium Sodium Calcium Zinc	6.5 – 9.0	<4.5, >10.5	80,000
Phosphorus	P	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻ , HPO ₄ ⁼⁼	yes		6.5 – 7.8	<4.8	60,000
Sulfur	S	SO ₄ ⁼⁼	no		5.8 – 10.0	<4.5	30,000

Boron	B	BO ₃ ⁼⁼ , BO ₇ ⁼⁼	no	Calcium	5.0 – 7.5	<4.0, >8.0	2,000
Iron	Fe	Fe ⁺⁺⁺ , Fe ⁺⁺	no	Potassium Phosphorus Zinc Copper	4.0 – 7.5	>10.5	2,000
Manganese	Mn	Mn ⁺⁺	no	Potassium	5.0 – 7.5	>9.5	1,000
Zinc	Zn	Zn ⁺⁺	no	Potassium Phosphorus	5.0 – 7.5	<4.0	300
Copper	Cu	Cu ⁺⁺ , Cu ⁺	no	Potassium	5.0 – 7.5	<4.0	100
Molybdenum	Mo	MoO ₄ ⁼⁼	slightly		6.2 – 10.0	<4.5	1

Water/ fertilizer pH is another commonly overlooked area, and an area where I think many folks could drastically improve their plants health. Various elements are available at different levels depending on the pH of the solution they are dissolved in, with some becoming virtually unavailable if the pH goes too far out of range. We use a base line pH in the 6.6 range for our irrigation mix, and use calcium supplements on the mix of strongly calcicolous plants and those associated with ultrabasic rock. This is explained in more detail in Use of Calcium Based Supplements for Paphs. Be aware that most municipal water supplies have artificially raised pH's to reduce leaching of toxic substances into the water. Also, purified water is extremely susceptible to wide pH swings when fertilizer is added, having little buffering capacity (our RO with Peter's Cal-Mag at 100 ppm N drops to about pH 4.3, with Jerry's Grow Foliage formula at 1 teaspoon per gallon it gives us pH 6.4). Rain water has both the lack of buffering and the possibility of very acid pH to start with. Fertilizers differ in their alkalinity or acidity depending on composition. You may be able to match a fertilizer to your condition to arrive at an acceptable pH, for example an acidic fertilizer used with pH 8.0 municipal water may end up at a range in the high 6's.

End of Part 1

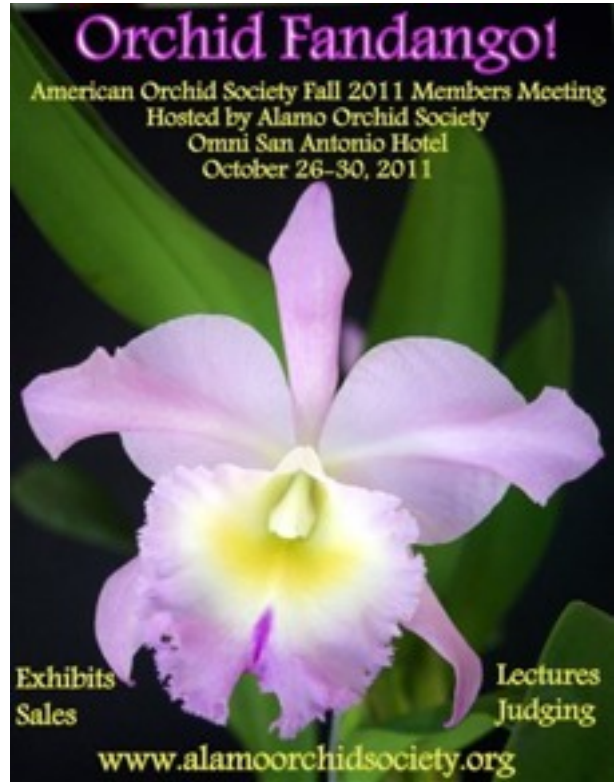
NORTHEAST LOUISIANA ORCHID SOCIETY

PRESENTS



A GARDEN PARTY
FALL 2011 SHOW AND SALE
 November 4 through November 6
Pecanland Mall*** Monroe, LA**
 Set up Friday***Noon until 8:00 p.m.
 Judging Saturday***8:00 a.m. until
 Noon

Co-chairmen: Jack Battaglia	Keith Joiner
136 Vinwood Road	407 Rochelle Ave.
Monroe, LA 71203	Monroe, LA 71201
318-801-3828	318-388-2016
email contacts battj@bellsouth.net	kjoiner2000@yahoo.com



Orchid Fandango!
 American Orchid Society Fall 2011 Members Meeting
 Hosted by Alamo Orchid Society
 Omni San Antonio Hotel
 October 26-30, 2011

Exhibits Sales Lectures Judging

www.alamoorchidsociety.org

**11TH ANNUAL
 NEW GROWERS SEMINAR**

Heart O' Texas Orchid Society
Invites you to attend

October 22nd, 2011
 Zilker Botanical Gardens Center
 2220 Barton Springs Road
 Austin, Texas
 Seminar: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Lectures and demonstrations on the culture of orchids. Practical information, questions answered, refreshments available. No charge for the seminar, just come and learn!

Information: web-site: www.hotos.org



**HEART O' TEXAS
 ORCHID SOCIETY'S
 ANNUAL
 PLANT AUCTION**

Heart O' Texas Orchid Society
Invites you to attend

TUESDAY October 4th, 2011
 Zilker Botanical Gardens Center
 2220 Barton Springs Rd.
 Austin, Texas
 6:45 PM - 9:00 PM

**PREVIEW BEGINS AT 6:45
 AUCTION BEGINS AT 7:15**

www.hotos.org



The Alamo Orchid Society presents
Orchid Fandango!
 American Orchid Society Fall 2011 Members Meeting
 October 26 – 30, 2011
 San Antonio, TX

Exhibit Space Application (please print)

Exhibitor's Name & Affiliation _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please circle desired Exhibit Size:

- Tabletop (table size - 6 ft. x 30 in.) Number of tables _____
- Floor Exhibit (10 ft. x 10 ft.)
- Other _____

Note: All exhibits will be set up in the La Hoya Ballroom of the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade. The Alamo Orchid Society will supply a table(s), covered and skirted in black, with a black backdrop for the tabletop exhibits. Plant supports and props, side curtains, lights, and extension cords are the responsibility of the exhibitor. All exhibits must be finished on all sides (no raw or exposed unfinished props or materials allowed on backside or sides). **The freestanding floor exhibits will provide their own staging materials.** Special Needs, please explain: _____

Betty Kurka will welcome exhibitors to their assigned areas. Ask for Betty at the Orchid Fandango! Registration Desk.

- Exhibit set-up begins at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26. Exhibits must be in place by 9:00 p.m. Plant entries for judging must be completed by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Tear down will begin on Sunday, October 30, at 4:00 p.m.

Please return this form by September 1 to the Alamo Orchid Society in care of:

Betty Kurka
 2611 Country Square St.
 San Antonio, TX 78209
 Phone 210-930-2269 or email ckurka@satx.rr.com

Signature required on this release:

"The exhibitor assumes the entire responsibility and liability for losses, damages, and claims arising out of the exhibitor's activities on the Omni San Antonio Hotel premises and will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Omni San Antonio Hotel, its agents, servants, employees, and the Alamo Orchid Society, its officers and members from any and all losses, damages, and claims."

Signature _____ Date _____

Orchid Fandango! - www.alamoorchidsociety.org