



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

November 11, 2018

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 2:00** at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. in the cafeteria meeting room. The cafeteria is north of the college off Runnymede. The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. Glen's topic will be the second part of "Growing Terrestrial Orchids!" Last month we saw some outstanding terrestrial orchids on our show and tell table. This month you'll learn more about them.

PROGRAM: This month our own recording secretary, Sydney Dyche, will talk on "How to Keep Track of Your Orchids". Most growers have some sort of inventory system. Some have complete databases with purchase data, potting and blooming data along with comments on growing issues. While most don't have that involved a system, everyone does need at the very least a list. Some of our auctions get very involved. It's disappointing to find out you've already got the plant you just bid big bucks for! Even worse if it's a plant you've decided doesn't grow well for you. Come listen to Sydney, she'll tell you a simple easy way to keep track of the orchids you own so you can buy new, different plants, not keep buying the same ones!



One of the terrestrial orchis seen on our Show and Tell table, *Habenaria rhodochelia* grown by Trey Thigpen



Prior year's bingo plants

You Party & Critique of Show. Everyone that works our show gets a free plant

UPCOMING SHOWS:

Dec.1, 2018 Louisiana Short Course, Hilton Garden Inn Lafayette, LA Barbara Alexander; alexanderb4094@gmail.com

Jan 25-27, 2019 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center.

March 1-3 Mobile Area Orchid Society Show and Sale, Bellingrath Gardens

April 12-14, 2019 Acadian Orchid Society Orchid Show, Ira Nelson Ctr. Lafayette, LA

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: We had 24 members and two guests at our October mini show meeting. Welcome guests Sophia and Steve Forstall. Richard Crespin demonstrated the dimmer switch he made for the light system he made for us. Our mini show consisted of two exhibits that

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Some of the following programs may change. We are looking for programs for 2019. If you can do a program or have ideas for one, please contact Jo Ann.

December 9, Second Sunday – Christmas pot luck luncheon and orchid bingo. **Meeting starts at 1:00 sharp!**

January 13, 2019 Second Sunday - Show Prep

February 10, 2019 Second Sunday - Show Thank



One of the mini exhibits

Jo Ann set up and a group of judges and clerks were appointed to ribbon judge the exhibits. We want to thank all of you who participated in this endeavor. Preparing the paperwork and the two exhibits was a lot of work but we need to have members that know how to clerk and how to ribbon judge. If we get one more clerk or ribbon judge to help with our shows, the work will be well worth the trouble. Jo Ann brought plants to sell during the break and Andra and Jo Ann brought in some nice refreshments. One of our special order Vandas bloomed and it was auctioned off making the society a good profit. Armand Scurria's Dendrobium Golden Flair won best plant and Janice Fabo won the door prize

TROPHIES FOR 2019 SHOW: Thanks to everyone who is donating a trophy for our 2019 show. The donated trophies save the society quite a bit of money and gives our members a chance to remember

and honor someone or something. Last month Joy Lorens, our Show Trophy Chair, asked those members who signed up to donate a trophy to **please bring them to the November meeting.** If you prefer that the society provide your trophy; bring \$20.00 to pay for the trophy. Each year we give out two orchids in use trophies (floral arrangements and crafts or artwork), seventeen trophies for the various plant categories or exhibits and eight special trophies along with the AOS trophy and the Orchid Digest trophy for exhibits.



Dendrobium Golden Flair
picture by Armand Scurria

SHOW AND TELL NOTES: This is the last month to make points for our special plant give away at the December meeting. The top three point earners from our Show and Tell scoring will each get their choice of all the bingo plants then we'll draw three names from the list of members who brought in show and tell plants during the year and are present and they will each get their pick from the bingo plants.

Someone brought in a wonderful purple Vanda, (coerulea x Susan Ong Ah Mooi) and didn't put their name. It was the first plant on the October list plant no 1. If this is your plant, please contact Jo Ann so she can give you credit for bringing in this beautiful plant.

OUR 2019 SHOW Jan 25-27, 2019 SHOW CHAIR REPORT: Invitations to all the local societies have been sent out. We will start soliciting AOS judges and ribbon judges soon. We also asked the American Orchid Society for a show package. Sometime soon we must stop by the convention center to make sure we have enough tables and chairs and to reserve our 2020 dates: January 24-26, 2020!

Our signage Chair, Judy Harris, has acquired some well needed new signs. Judy is a very special worker she puts those signs out each year and does an awesome job!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES: Dues will be due at our January 2019 meeting. Dues are \$10.00 per single membership, 15 for double membership and then \$5.00 for each extra person living at the same location. New memberships get a free plant one plant per membership only. Dues cannot be paid



Trey's Epidendrum as seen in our 2018 show exhibit

at our shows; if you cannot attend the meeting send your check to Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532.

DECEMBER MEETING: Our Christmas covered dish luncheon and Orchid bingo will be Sunday, December 9. Get your recipes ready this is always a fun event. We will play bingo for some nice orchid plants. Every member present will win a plant! We will move the **meeting time up to 1:00. P.M.** There will be no show and tell or Orchids 101 for the December meeting. Guests are welcome. All non-members who play bingo must pay \$10.00 for a bingo card. You must be a member by our November meeting to qualify for member status for the Christmas bingo.



Dockrillia teretifolia

RAFFLE PLANTS: At every regular meeting we raffle 5 plants and give away a door prize. Most month's members contribute divisions or extra items they have to our raffle. We generally make between \$65.00 to \$85.00 a raffle. We want to thank everyone who donates a plant or gift and also thank those who buy those our raffle tickets. Last month Trey and Courtney Thigpen donated divisions of their award winning epidendrum radicans. Cheryl Bradley donated some nice Phaius (Nun's Orchid) divisions.

This month we are adding a different orchid to the mix, a small division of **Dockrillia teretifolia**. Dockrillia is a fairly new, (1981) genus of Australian orchids they were once in the Dendrobium family. We'll offer a small, newly potted division in a slotted clay pot. These are pendant orchids and like to hang high with the Vandas in the summer. Keep it in bright conditions in the winter and hold off on watering a little. It will reward you with small, white licorice scented flowers in early Spring. The Internet Orchid Species website says these plants are found growing naturally in Queensland and New South Wales at low altitudes growing near rivers streams and swamps or in rainforests.

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A hint to new orchidists, most orchids that have terete leaves, (round, thin, pencil shaped), like very bright light. If you have a plant with terete leaves and it's not doing well introduce it to brighter light gradually.



One of Jodie's greenhouses. Notice the small plants sitting as if nothing happened

HURRICANES: Most of us have endured a hurricane or two. Some only had a few loose shingles; some lost everything. Greenhouses are particularly susceptible to hurricane damage. Some of the greenhouses members lost in Katrina were built to withstand strong winds and didn't. What do you do? After Katrina a Florida Highway Patrol officer told me I should go 35 miles inland to be safe;

so that's what we did. With Hurricane Michael, our friend Jodie Shumaker, from Secret Garden

Rare Plants, was more than fifty miles inland from Mexico Beach and his greenhouses were destroyed! Prior to Michael, some of you visited Jodie in Marianna, Florida and came back awed at



Another damaged greenhouse. The shade cloth is protecting plants from sunburn.

all the things he had, the trees, the huge Koi pond, the greenhouses full of all things tropical; all the things acquired over a lifetime by a man who loves all types of plants. Jodie lost the greenhouses, most of the trees and the koi pond. Over 50 Koi died! Jodie, his son and a lot of friends have been sawing trees almost non-stop, just today, Nov. 5, they were able to finally clear a tractor path from his home through his property to his greenhouses. Jodie is optimistic, he's already ordered a big new greenhouse that should be up by the second week in December.

Old timers used to say to set your orchids on the ground and they'll be safe. Jodie says that is correct. He says, "It's amazing to see all the 2" and 3" pots of plants still up on benches that never blew off. The 130+ mile an hour winds were up about 6' from the ground"! The strongest winds did not go low. Jodie also says that the sun has been his worst enemy. With all the trees down the sun is cooking the plants left unprotected. The few remaining trees provide little shade after the storm blew away most of their leaves and branches. Removing broken and uprooted trees is hard, dangerous work and Jodie had a lot of trees. He says that those bent and twisted greenhouse frames can be fixed! As



Newly cleared tractor path

for trees lost to storms. Those wonderful longleaf pines and oaks will have to be burned or sent to the dump!

Jodie has already got a list of plants that were not damaged and is back in business. He plans to sell at our show in January. If you get a moment, please check out the pictures and his blog on his website: Secretgardenrareplants.com.

VANDAS: A few months ago, some of our members purchased a large quantity of the great Vandas that the society got. They have a few left which they are selling for cost - \$10.00 each. If you'd like to get one contact Janet Olier ddolier@att.net.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. If you want a GCOS shirt see Chip Lechner. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. You supply a clean shirt.