



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

September 13, 2020

Our next meeting will **Sunday, September 13, 2020** at 2:00 at **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 on the north side of the school off Runnymede. This will be our first meeting back at the college since March. We don't know what to expect as far as meeting room set up so if you're able, please come a little early in case we have to move tables and chairs. For those who have lots of orchids to show off; we will resume our show and tell total to 5 plants per member. **Face Coverings are required!**



Some happiness to start a dreary newsletter! Robert Stanton 55 pounds lighter on the beach and about to catch some waves. This shows you what determination and will power can do!

REFRESHMENTS: Gayle will bring our meeting refreshments as usual, Andra will bring drinks, ice, and other supplies. **Wear your mask in the refreshment line. Hand sanitizer will be available please use it before you touch anything, plates, napkins anything on the refreshment or drink table.** Please do your part to keep us all safe.

SPECIAL PLANT AUCTION: We will offer a special plant for auction at our September meeting. *Dendrobium usitae* 'Red Coral'. This is a meristem of a natural hybrid of *Dendrobium bullenianum* and *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*. It is found growing near sea level in the Philippines. This plant and several others were donated to the society by Betty Burnsed. She originally purchased the plants from Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms. Since her generous donation in the spring it has been repotted and is thriving in the

The **Orchids 101** class led by Glen Ladnier will **precede the regular meeting at 1:30**. This will be our first Orchids 101 class since March also, so we will have a simple question and answer period. Glen is facing knee surgery and if he can't chair the class, one of our other knowledgeable members will. Orchids 101 is a free class in all things orchid. It is open to everyone.

PROGRAM: We're going to have two short programs. One is a mini quiz with prizes. It will be a multiple-choice test on some of the terms used when describing orchids. The other program will be a quick demo on potting hard cane *Dendrobiums*, be advised Jo Ann will be giving this short demo so expect a few cuss words and some potting media to slip out from time to time. She is also bringing many *Dendrobium keikis* to sell both potted plants and bareroot. These will be very cheap. Check or cash only please.



From Marble Branch's website.
Dendrobium usitae 'Red Coral'



Den usitae actual plant for auction

shade house under the Vandas. It gets lots of water in the summer and some sun but not near as much as the Vandas. It blooms several times a year on the old leafless canes. Unless old canes are dead and dry with no pith to them at all leave them be.

PLANT SALE: Mobile Orchid Society members, Harry and Beverly Stephens are having an orchid sale. Many of you attended one of their sales a few years back and got some wonderful deals. Bev's been ill lately; a double hernia, now they really need to lighten their load of orchids. She says they have about 200 plants to sale. Here's what she says about the plants: *"I'm selling out at yard sale prices, \$3-25 with most being in the 10-20 range, I guess. Our best plants, nice clean, mostly divided and repotted. Harry isn't interested in working them and I'm just not able to do it any longer, so I plan to keep only a few favorites."*

If any of you are hesitant about buying out of someone's greenhouse let me assure you, they have a clean greenhouse and topnotch plants. The sale is Saturday, October 3 from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The address is 2700-B Wilmer RD Wilmer, AL 36587. (That's Co Rd 5) go 2 miles north from Tanner-Williams Rd. The phone # is 251-645-9039. Bev say call, text or email for info. Also, if you "make it worth her while" she won't mind meeting someone within reason.

NEW MEMBERS: We have a few new members. We will have your new member plants available at the meeting so if you want your plant please attend. Dues are \$15.00 per person. Members residing at the same address or families only get one free plant. Since all members present get a free plant worth well over \$10.00 every Christmas, we do not prorate our dues.

OUR 2020 SHOW: We are still planning our January 2020 show. The dates are January 28 thru 31. Set up is the afternoon of the 28 and the show opens for exhibitors the next day. COVID will make things difficult this year. We also have some non-COVID related changes to get used to so we will need your help, patience, and kindness more than ever. We do expect to have an awesome show. Our show will be the first in the region, many people will be ready to see and buy orchids. While it may be our most difficult it may be the best show yet!



Close up of Stanhopea Ronsard a cross of wardii and oculata

UPCOMING ORCHID EVENTS: Some of you have attended the annual orchid short course given on the first Saturday in December in Lafayette. This year it is scheduled in Baton Rouge on Dec. 12 at the conference room at the LSU Botanic Garden on Burden Lane. We have been told that since the hurricane and with the virus this may be a virtual event. We do know that Tom Mirenda, former curator of the orchid collection at the Smithsonian and has agreed to give at least one talk. If the event is a virtual short course, members of the society can sign up free as the society will pay a fee on your behalf. Stay tuned for further information.

Stanhopeas Anyone? Baton Rouge is hosting Nina Rach on Wed, Oct 21. Not sure of the time yet. She is a Houston Judge and is very knowledgeable on Stanhopea having won several AOS awards for her plants. This will be a ZOOM presentation and

the members of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society are invited to attend. The society will pay a small fee to the Baton Rouge Society on your behalf so if you want to participate in the lecture email jwmorrisoniii@msn.com.



Stanhopea Ronsard view of plant with flowers

STANHOPEA? Stanhopeas are fun, aggravating, awesome plants. This is the plant that blooms out of the bottom of its pot. So, it should be grown mounted or in a basket. Old timers used to pot them in clay pots with the bottoms of the pots knocked out. Stanhopeas are native to Mexico south to Brazil and love our hot, rainy summers. An established well grown plant will bloom profusely this time of year. The fragrance is awesome, the large flowers are bizarre, if you can get down low enough to see them. The aggravating thing is the flowers don't last much longer than three or four days, making them very hard to get to shows to be judged.

MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS and friends: After last month's newsletter several people asked about some other longtime members. I am sorry I left these people out. If there's someone you want to check on, please call me 601-530-8778 and I'll pass on their contact info.

Beryl Davis called to ask about one of our members and she and I had a great talk. Beryl is a lifetime member; an honor awarded to her years ago for all the work she's done for our society. In recent years she chaired the show raffle, worked with Marilyn Ladnier on our show advertisements and was always on hand to give us a class on corsage making. Beryl hasn't attended meetings in the last several years as she's been caring for her husband, Duke. They have three sons who are taking care of them making sure that Beryl and Duke are safe from COVID.



Beryl Davis



Janet Olier

Janet Olier: Many of you know Janet, she works with our Face Book page a lot, she is also a long-time board member. She used to do our home exhibits and they were awesome! Janet has been trying to get to our meetings, but she's had her hands full with work and many other things. Just recently she's had to drive to Tennessee twice to tend to her daughter who has been ill. Janet's husband Dave lost his father to COVID recently. We wish her well and hope to see her at a meeting very soon.

Becky Jolly-Wood: Becky was President of the society forever, Vice Pres before that and helped chair many of our shows. She did our home and away exhibits for years winning our first silver certificate followed by several more. She deserves a right to miss a few meetings



Becky Jolly-Wood leading a meeting

but I'm sure she would attend if she could. Becky has had trouble with that ankle she broke years ago. She's having some other health issues also. Her Mom is now in a retirement facility out of the area and has been ill. Woody, Becky's husband, has been very ill with severe pneumonia and serious kidney complications. We wish Becky the best.

September 2020 Spotlight on Membership by Gayle



Richard at our July meeting

To be successful and to remain vibrant every organization needs that devoted member who quietly works behind the scenes to make sure that whatever needs to be done gets done. These selfless individuals do not seek recognition, but nevertheless work tirelessly for the greater good. Our society is blessed to have numerous energetic workers who help maintain our standing in the orchid world. However, one individual stands out above the rest as the quiet backbone of our society. Let's meet this month's member: **Richard Crespin** of Pascagoula.



Gayle Greene-Aguirre

Richard grew up in Orange County California where he later joined the Navy. While in the military Richard traveled to and lived in several states before settling and retiring in Miss.

He started his orchid love when he first bought a few plants while he lived in Hawaii, and then also had a few when he moved back to California. However, he really didn't get serious about his orchids until he retired. Richard is a Master Electrician and is a very talented man when it comes to building and design. It was Richard who designed and built our new light system for our Show displays. His talent in this area is very apparent when you see what a difference his system made in showing off our plants to the public.



Catasetum Razzle-Dazzle 'Dorinda Mae'
HCC/AOS named after Richard's wife



Richard on right and Bill Elliot, Richard is promoting the Fred Clarke program from last October

His aptitude for building and creativity have led to his 14 x 20' greenhouse and shade house for his plants. Richard joined our group about nine years ago and he has been concentrating on his Cattleyas and Catasetinae. He has become very proficient at growing these genera as evidenced by his 3 HCC/AOS certificates as well as many 1st and 2nd place ribbons.

Richard has been to many orchid shows such as the Mobile, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge along with the Westminster Show in San Diego, California. It is there that he gleans a lot of information regarding his plants as he visits with exhibitors and vendors alike. One of his observations is that overwatering is as harmful as under watering, if not more. This author can definitely attest to that fact. Richard says that you

also need to constantly watch for the beginnings of infestations of pests which can quickly get out of control in our hot, humid Mississippi climate.



Richard's pitcher plant bog, plants purchased from Marble Branch Farms

To ensure that his plants reach their full potential Richard spends at least 8 hours each week in his greenhouses where he also grows staghorn ferns and Sarracenia (pitcher plants).

Most of his plants come from Sunset Valley Orchids and Richard has struck up a friendship with owner and orchid expert, Fred Clarke. Because of their relationship Richard was able to get Fred as our speaker for last October's very well attended meeting. He purchases many of his outstanding Catasetums from Fred and he has also been able to make bulk purchases of Fred's bark and fertilizer for society members.

Richard is our quiet member who is always working behind the scenes whether it is helping move plants, chauffeur guests, set up displays, haul bark and equipment or man our kitchen with Andra at our yearly show. He is truly dedicated and knowledgeable and most willing to share his love of orchids with anyone who asks for his advice. So next time you see Richard diligently working to improve our society, be sure to thank him for his efforts to let him know that we all appreciate his hard work.

REMEMBER OUR COMMERCIAL VENDERS: We try to have 6 vendors at our shows, last year we only had 5 vendors. Four plant vendors and one supply vendor, Hicks Orchids and Supplies 11410 Judge Ave., Orlando FL 32817 Hickksj0430@bellsouth.net. One of our vendors, Sheila's Orchids, Kent and Sheila Daniel, 2508 Jeanne St., Marrero, LA 70072 504-348-8152 sell orchids at shows more like a hobby but they may have plants to sell too. They sell hibiscus also. Our other three vendors main source of income is selling orchids and other tropical plants. Please try to give them a call and see what their specials are. Here is their contact info:

Spring Orchids, Denny Haase
22330 Gosling Rd.
Spring TX 77389 713-898-4411
Springorchids4@yahoo.com

Florida Star Nursery & Supplies
Jodie Shumaker
850-693-1331
jodishu@gmail.com
5005 Old Spanish Trail
Marianna FL 32448

Marble Branch Farms
Mark Reinke
155 Marble Branch Trail
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(864)718-0152
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