



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

March 11, 2018

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, March 11, 2018** at 2:00 in the **cafeteria meeting room** at **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. The cafeteria is on the north side of the school off Runnymede. The **Orchids 101 meeting**, presented by Glen Ladnier will **precede the regular meeting at 1:30 pm**. The topic is "Secrets That No-One Else Will Tell You".



Ctsm. Razzle-Dazzle 'Dorinda Mae' HCC/AOS

PROGRAM: March 11

Our award winning Catasetum grower and good member, Richard Crespin, will tell us how to grow Catasetums and their kin, Catasetinae, so we can grow award winning plants like his. These are very interesting plants, they break a lot of rules when it comes to orchids right down to their sexual structures. Beside the



Ctsm Dagny 'Donna Mae' HCC/AOS

awesome flowers, the best thing about Catasetums is that you don't water them in the winter. How easy is that! Come to the meeting it'll be fun and very worthwhile!

To save making copies, Richard has sent a culture sheet for all of you which will be attached to this newsletter. Please bring it with you to the meeting.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Some of the following programs may change; the dates will remain the same. If you can do a program or have ideas for one, please contact Jo Ann.

April 15, Third Sunday - Special Speaker- Courtney Hackney- Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas. He will bring plants to sell. We hope to have a preorder list ready for you soon.

May 20, Third Sunday Banquet and Auction

June 10, Second Sunday – Glen Ladnier will tell us about raising orchids from seed.

July 15, Third Sunday due to Baton Rouge Show; Robert Stanton Open Show and Tell.

August 12, Second Sunday open

September 9, Second Sunday open

October 14, Second Sunday "How to be a Great Ribbon Judge or Clerk at our 2019 Show"

November 11, Second Sunday Sydney Dyche "How to Keep Track of your Orchids"

December 9, Second Sunday free bingo for plants Christmas pot luck

REFRESHMENTS: Janet Bridges and Becky Jolly-Wood will bring March's refreshments. Joy and Grady Holt will bring April's refreshments. May is a pot luck lunch and auction so everyone will bring May's refreshments. Our Hospitality Coordinator, Andra Mladinich will be passing out a sign-up sheet for our new fiscal year, June through April. Because we are such a big group, it will help if you can find another member to share a month, so please find a friend and sign up. Call Andra at 228-365-0640 if you have questions.



John Bridges Dendrobium anosmum

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 38 members present. Please welcome new members Stephen Derocha and Shannah Wood of Long Beach and returning member Debbie Massey of Gulfport. Thanks to Judy Harris and Sydney Dyche for the awesome refreshments. Who knew Krispy Kreme donuts made such great bread pudding! We discussed the show; hearing from members on the roles they played. Jo Ann reminded members that the 2020 show will be our 40th show and it will be the last show that she will chair. All members that worked the show got a free plant. The remaining plants were then available for everyone to buy. Members planned for the Mobile show. There were 40 plants on the Show and Tell table. John Bridges won best plant with his Dendrobium anosmum. Rob Lorens won the door prize.

DUES ARE DUE: Dues are due. After this month you will be dropped from our membership roster if you haven't sent in your dues. If you have concerns about your dues call our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier at 228-392-0919. You can mail them to Marilyn; 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. Dues are \$10 for single and an additional \$5.00 for each additional member

living at the same address. First time members get only one free plant per address; not one per person. There is no free plant for renewals.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

March 9-11, 2018 Atlanta Orchid Society Show, Atlanta Botanical Garden.

March 10-11, 2018 Terrebonne Orchid Society Show and Sale. Southland Mall, Houma, LA

April 7-8, 2018 Acadian Orchid Society Show and Sale Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, Lafayette, LA

June 1-3, 2018 New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale, Lakeview Mall

July 13-15, 2018 Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show, Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Calcasieu Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale, Good Shephard Episcopal Church, 715 Kirkman, Lake Charles, LA.

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



GCOS Mobile exhibit 2018 Led by Sydney

MOBILE SHOW: The Mobile show is always a beautiful event. The Mobile group is very gracious, and the venue is awesome! This was one of their biggest shows in the last few years, three vendors and their exhibits, three private exhibits and two large society exhibits and one smaller society exhibit! We had a good turnout, with lots of plants and lots of help. Our Exhibit Team Leader, Sydney Dyche, did an

excellent job under very trying conditions. We had over 50 plants signed up to be exhibited by our members. Some of those plants were real monsters. It's hard to get all those plants in a 10 x 5 exhibit

space. We were able to extend out a few inches each way. Some plants were just too big or a little on the faded side to get in the exhibit. We appreciate all of you being so understanding.

We all want to be acknowledged for being able to grow and bloom our orchids. Most of us exhibit our



John's Den aphyllum 'Aunt Alma' CCM/AOS



Gayle's Galeopetalum 'George Green' AM/AOS

orchids because we are competitive, we like winning those ribbons, trophies and AOS awards. Even if we don't do exhibits we like showing off our blooms. Some of you never bring in a plant to show and tell but show off your flowers on face book. Others bring their plants to work for their coworkers to enjoy. What's a hobby if we can't be proud of what we grow?

All exhibitors want a shot at winning; we all want our plants up front and center. Yet all these plants must be arranged artistically.

Colors must flow: whites to yellows to oranges to reds and browns on one side of the exhibit

and whites to pinks to purples and blues and then browns on the other side of the exhibit. We never know what's going to show up, yet we must work with what we have. Our exhibit teams have learned to be very creative.

Plants should not stick out over the top of our backdrop and they should

not appear mounded up, rather each plant should be clearly visible, not bunched together. The whole thing needs to be framed by the backdrop with greenery and some type of front edging forming the perimeters. The exhibit is graded by the variety of plants, the quality of plants, the artistic effects and even the labeling Andra does for the individual plants. It's a big job and all of you should be congratulated for working so well together. Andra will give the details at the meeting but Sydney won an AOS Silver Certificate trophy for the exhibit and two members, John Bridges and Gayle Green-Aguirre, won AOS awards on their plants.



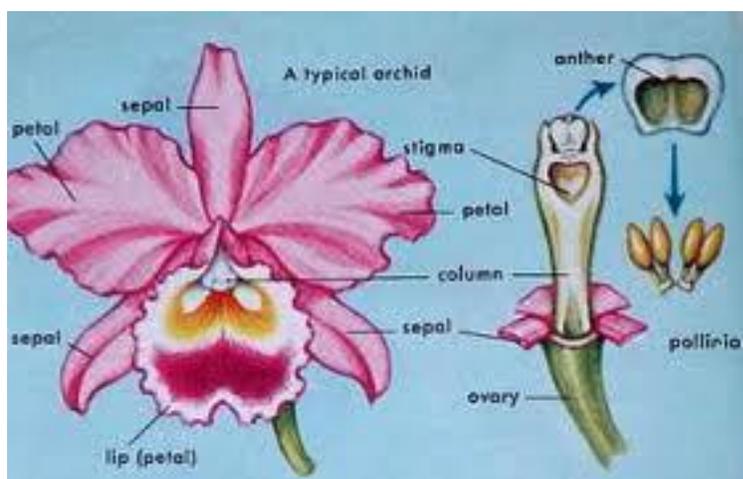
Sara's double award-winning Cymbidium

For those who don't want their plants manhandled in our exhibit or whose plants just don't fit in an exhibit, each show has an 'open' table for this type plants. You can enter the plant for ribbon judging or strictly AOS judging. This way your plant will be on a table that the judges are required to consider.

We must mention that Sara Holloway's big yellow Cymbidium that was in our January show was just too big and although it had some outstanding newly opened flowers some of the other flowers were a little tired, so we decided not to put it in our exhibit but rather put it

on the open table. Sara was very gracious, and she was rewarded with a trophy for her Cymbidium! Congratulations to Sara and to all those who participated in the Mobile show.

MORE ABOUT CASETUMS; or ORCHID SEX: In the opening article about our program the sexual qualities of members of the Catasetum, Catasetinae, family was mentioned. To explain: Most flowers have stamens and pistils. The male part, **stamens**, carries the pollen, which fertilizes the female, **pistil**. Seeds are then produced in the **ovary** which is at the base of the pistil.



Parts of an orchid flower courtesy of rv-orchidworks.com

Orchids don't have stamens and pistils. This is the most significant difference between orchids and other flowers. Like most flowers, **most orchids are bisexual**, the male and female parts are on one flower, but they are fused together to form what we call the **column**. It is that fingerlike structure in the center directly above the lip.

The male part which would be the stamens on another flower is usually at the front end of the column. The pollen grains are called **pollinia** and are protected by an **anther cap**, which is the little circular thing at the very tip of the column. The female receptive area is the

stigma. It is located on the underside of the column behind and away from the anther cap and contains a sticky fluid. When pollinia come in contact with the stigma's sticky fluid, the orchid can be pollinated. This is not true with Catasetinae. They have distinct male and female flowers. Sometimes a plant will have all male flowers or all female flowers or a combination of both.



Ctsm. planiceps male flower courtesy of Orchids Plus

Watch out those desperate male flowers are known to throw their pollinia out several feet. If they stick to your clothing they can stick right through their trip

through the washer and dryer!

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn Ladnier 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.

Please know that name tags and shirts with your name on it are not required. It just makes it easier on everyone if you have some type of easy to read identification. You can make your own!

A NOTE OF THANKS: We received a thank you note from Barney Garrison, Treasurer of the Atlanta Judging Center thanking us for our \$50.00 donation to the center that we gave them to show our appreciation for their coming down to judge our January show. In the note Barney says "Your society is special, full of gracious, caring individuals who consistently go out of their way to show appreciation for the judges. We are proud of this long, pleasant relationship that has existed between members of your society and our judges and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve you in the future."



Ctsm. planiceps female flowers