



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society

## April 2020

For the first time probably ever, **we will not have an April meeting.** The COVID-19 crisis has put a halt to all public gatherings. We are concerned about all our member's health. Most likely we will not have a May meeting either, we'll let you know in the May newsletter.

For those who were ready to buy lots of Bulbophyllums this month, don't worry. Larry Hennessey will be speaking about and selling Bulbophyllums at our July 19, 2020 meeting which hopefully we will have. If not, we'll have Larry's visit as soon as possible.

The **New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale for May 29-31 has been canceled.** Almost all shows throughout the orchid world for March thru June have been canceled.

Our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier, asks if you have any bills from the show or whatever; send them to her so she can reimburse you. Our fiscal year ends in May. [Weebill7@aol.com](mailto:Weebill7@aol.com), 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 38532.



Sydney's van loaded with plants for Andra, Judy C., Tina and herself!

At the end of this newsletter is an interesting article about Hummingbirds written by our President Gayle Green-Aguirre last month. She thought you'd like something happy.

We have not heard of any members who have the virus; we have heard of many, many members affected by the effects of the virus. We pray that this is not a new normal and soon we can regain some of our freedoms.

We realize that our meetings will have to change to keep everyone safe at least until a vaccine is available. We would like to hear some input from you as to how to safely meet and where. Who knows when the school will be available to us?

With all the things going on, I can't do a newsletter like nothing has happened, so let's forego the regular format and save it all for when meetings start again and focus on things we can do – Learn about orchids!

Recently, to help our orchid friend, grower and supplier of the society's raffle and Christmas plants. All active members were invited to participate in a group order. We were sent a list of available plants, sizes and prices. Those that felt like they could



This is how to unbox orchids! Yep that's Vandas on a barbed wire fence!



Vanda Island Sun

safely do this placed their orders and we ordered over \$3,000.00 in orchids which arrived on Wed, April 8. Sydney Dyche and Jo Ann Vaz unpacked them Friday morning April 10, starting at 8:30 am and had them finished and ready for pickup by 1:00. Although the weather was cold and windy, it got done with very few problems. Three members were shorted plants: 1 C. Volcano Queen and 2 Rlc Volcano Queen 'Volcano Queen' were missing but we had 4 extra Vanda Island Sun (**Manuvadee x tessellata**) x Rinka, so we substituted the Vandas. Money wise the Vandas cost more, we apologize to those who really wanted a Cattleya.



Pinalia rhodoptera

We hope to do another order when it's a little safer to do so, maybe in 3 or 4 months. This time with a twist, we'll send her a list first. Many of you have orchid wish lists, perhaps she has some of those plants in her greenhouse she'd love to sell. Let's find out! Think about this and send us those lists. You can email me or text; [joannvaz@bellsouth.net](mailto:joannvaz@bellsouth.net) : 601-530-8778 or put them on Facebook. Janet or Chip will get lists to me. Please spell the names correctly. If I don't respond to an email, text or call. The grower says that if it's a plant she doesn't carry, perhaps she can outsource it from growers she knows. Folks, there some really weird, strange, beautiful orchids out there and this is a great chance to get them at a decent price.



Drawing of Pinalia rhodoptera

Let's talk about the weirdest plant in the shipment, Pinalia rhodoptera. Now officially known as Eria rhodoptera. It was available in a 5" pot for \$20.00 no shipping or other fees were added. Three members bought it. Here's what Internet Orchid Species says about it." Found in The Philippines in Rizal province of Luzon, Busuanga and the Palawan Islands at elevations around 600 meters as a small sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with erect, clustered, ovoid-oblong pseudobulbs carrying up to 4, leathery, oblong-lanceolate, nearly acute leaves that blooms in the winter and spring on an erect, sparsely pubescent, to 8" [20 cm] long, to 30 flowered inflorescence with oblong, nearly obtuse, membranous bracts." This tells us it will grow here with winter protection, likes our heat and wants shade. (There's also a dappled light or partial shade icon.) From looking at the large pseudobulb, I would guess to watch the water; perhaps water well while growing and let it dry out some in the winter. Since I couldn't find any photos, Pinalia rhodoptera may be difficult to bloom. The plant is rare. None have been awarded by the American Orchid Society (AOS). Let's hope we see one of these blooming at our 2021 show! All three would be great!

For not so rare plants, five of our members ordered Cattleya Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' HCC/AOS, at right. These were advertised as blooming size in 4" pots for \$12.00. The parents are Angel Bells and Claesiana. I have several of these plants; they are great for corsage and bouquet work. If there is a problem, it's that the plant has so many flowers on a spike that they have to be staked carefully. It grows fast and can make a wonderful specimen plant.



We've already got a request for a wish list plant;



**Pda. Mimi Palmer 'Tea Boon Hian'**

Papilionanda (Pda.) Mimi Palmer. Okay! Okay, it used to be named Vanda Mimi Palmer. They changed one of its great grandparents, Vanda teres, to Papilionante (Ple.) teres. Mimi is an old lady, first registered in 1963!

There are several named varieties of Mimi Palmer, but the wisher didn't name a specific clone. This is a fragrant plant, getting its fragrance and good looks from one of its parents, Vanda tessellata. The other parent, Papilionanda Tan Chay Yan sports a big yellow flower and is used in breeding yellow Vandas. Pda Tan Chan Yan's ancestor is Papilionante teres crossed with Vanda insignis which is where the Papilionanda comes from. That enough taxonomy for one newsletter! Mimi Palmer is a great plant, blooms often and bred a lot of award-winning hybrids. One in particular Pda. Mimi Palmer crossed back to V. tessellata made Pda. Arjuna whose offspring has won 6 different awards! Send your wish list plants in maybe you'll see one featured in the next newsletter.



**Vanda tessellata courtesy of Internet Orchid Species**

Credit for these photos goes to the AOS for their wonderful photos of awarded plants and to the website, International Orchid Species, for the information and pictures of species. This is a free website although you can send a donation every once and again to help out. Thanks also to Sydney Dyche for her photos.



**Pda. Arjuna 'Nirvana' from Motes Orchids**

Watch for the May newsletter, we will try to contact all the vendors from our 200 show and

see if they have any specials, they can extend to us. You can order these plants yourself and receive them safely. In the meantime, please stay safe, stay home, wear your masks and gloves and love each other. Hang on for Gayle's lovely story.

## **Not only Orchid, but Hummingbird Happiness, too**

Gayle Greene-Aguirre



While I usually discuss orchids or our membership, I would like to divert this month because we all enjoy plants and the nature that surrounds them or our greenhouses. Now especially is the time to take in all the beauty that we can.

By my reckoning their arrival was now two days late, but Sunday as I glanced out my kitchen window at my hanging feeder, I beheld the first scout, a single male Ruby Throated Hummingbird. This lone fellow is the harbinger for the rest of his kind. Yes, folks they have arrived in Stone County. Get ready as they will be ravenous from their long journey up from Central America.

These delightful little creatures have been coming to our home in McHenry for over fifteen years. In fact, for the past eight years they have arrived exactly on March 26<sup>th</sup> regardless of the temperature or weather conditions. When I didn't see any of the little guys, I began to worry but told my husband that I fully expected their eminent arrival. I was not disappointed.

We have seven feeders strategically placed in our yard for these energetic birds. They are set out so that we can view their aerial acrobatics from every room in the house. We never tire of watching them flit from feeder to feeder and perform combat maneuvers as they fight to control their favorite spot.

Sometimes the constant flying back and forth and frenzied actions can result in injury for one of these little warriors. Two years ago, one little female ended up with a broken wing after some serious encounters. We managed to care for it outside for quite some time before it succumbed to its injuries. During this time the little bird would come sit on our hand and feed.

If you are patient and persistent you will find that sometimes the birds at your feeder will also sit on your hand and drink from miniature feeders. In addition to these hummers we have a wide variety of birds who call our place home along with the rest of the local wildlife. All these gentle creatures give us enormous daily pleasure. In these uncertain times we know that our flighty little friends have made it back to their summer home and will help distract us from the daily dose of bad news.

If you want to add some beauty and instant happiness to your landscape, get yourself a feeder and be ready to be amazed. If you have flowers already in bloom, perhaps orchids these guys will set themselves up in your yard and will remain until the cold snap in October.