



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

August 12, 2012

Our July meeting will be held **Sunday, August 12, at 2:00** at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the cafeteria meeting room. The New Growers meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30 in the smaller meeting room. This month's New Grower's topic will be on a subject which often gets overlooked by growers - "Water Quality".

PROGRAM: Our **August 12** program will be a big plant sale. One of our long-time members has donated quite a few plants to the Society. We will have a short discussion of the qualities of these plants. They will be priced very reasonably for the members to **purchase during break**. First come first served! No one has to wait in line or draw numbers.



One of the many plants offered will be divisions of Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust' HCC/AOS (ensifolium x Enid Haupt) pictured at left; it blooms in the summer repeatedly. This plant sits on the patio by a swimming pool almost year round. During the winter cover it with a cloth for freezes.

REFRESHMENTS: Word and Walter Taylor will provide refreshments for August. Glen and Marilyn Ladnier will provide September's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or if you have to change your date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-388-5054.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Our September meeting will be Sunday, **September 9**. **Ashley Matherne of Orchid Retreat** will speak on Growing Cattleyas and will be selling divisions of his plants. Ashley and Beverly are one of our show vendors and great folks. Plan now to attend the September meeting.

JUNE'S PROGRAM: We want to thank Beryl Davis for a wonderful program on using our orchids. She made doing a corsage easy! Some of you asked about getting a big purple cattleya plant like the one she used. Ashley and Beverly will have plenty for sale in Sept.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover. Here's a list of upcoming meetings. **They will all be at J.D. in the cafeteria meeting room.**
Oct 14, open - we'll take orders for wholesale plant order

and discuss the plants on the list.

Nov. 11, Work Session for our 2013 show. Plant distribution from wholesale plant order.

Dec. 9 Orchid bingo and covered dish luncheon



BATON ROUGE SHOW: The Society did a 50' exhibit at the Baton Rouge Show. The theme was "Exotic Places around the World". Since our exhibit coordinator, Becky Jolly-wood's husband, Woody, was raised in Panama, we used Panama as the society's 'exotic place'. Several souvenirs from Panama were used in the exhibit. The exhibit won Best Society Exhibit and thanks to Becky's guidance, YOUR PLANTS, plus some great educational handouts and a lot of help from her team we won the Orchid Digest Show Trophy. Earl Young's Epi. difforme won best grown Cattleya Alliance Plant and Jo Ann Vaz's Phrag. Richard Lemay won best Cypripedium Alliance Flower. There were quite a few ribbons also. Thanks to everyone that sent plants. We could not have done such a wonderful exhibit without your plants both orchids and

greenery. Special thanks go out to Woody and Becky and Andra Mladinich who worked hard making everything perfect. The three stayed the weekend in Baton Rouge at their own expense! Thanks also to Valerie and Armand Scurria for the exhibit photo above and many more wonderful shots of the Baton Rouge show.

Glen and Marilyn Ladnier and Earl Young also did a group exhibit. The exhibit won Best Group Exhibit and one of Earl's Masdevallias won Best Grown Plant and Best Flower in the Misc. Genera category. His Vandopsis lisochiloides won Best Flower in the Vanda Alliance.



Jo Ann and Tony Vaz did a private exhibit. One of the Vanda types in the exhibit was an unregistered cross of Ascda Fuchs Golden Leopard x V. Crownfox Hearthrob. This was one of the \$5.00 seedlings Jo Ann purchases every summer from R. F. Orchids. Because the plant was unregistered or had no grex name, Jo Ann got to name the plant. To do so she first had to get permission from Robert Fuchs who made the cross and then apply to the Royal Horticultural Society to register the name. Robert Fuchs was very gracious and gave permission for Jo Ann to name the plant after her parents, so from now on any plant with Ascda. Fuchs Golden Leopard and Vanda Crownfox Hearthrob as parents will be called Thompson's Love. The clonal name of Jo Ann's particular plant is 'Charles and Bernice'. So the plant awarded and the photo at left is Ascda. Thompson's Love 'Charles and Bernice' HCC/AOS.

ORCHID DIGEST TROPHY: According to Orchid Digest the guidelines for their show trophy are: "The Orchid Digest Show

Trophy may be awarded by a team consisting of a minimum of five judges, accredited when possible, to one noncommercial orchid exhibit displaying the highest levels of: Artistry, taste and innovation in design and presentation, flower quality, cultural excellence and judges may also consider the exhibit's educational value and the rarity of the plant materials."

KANSAS CITY ORCHID SHOW from Doris H Asher, MAOC: While nursing your orchids through this hot, hot summer, pause to contemplate a cool break October 27-28 for the Haunting Beauty Orchid Show and Mid-America Orchid Congress Fall Meeting in Kansas City.

Registered attendees will enjoy lectures by noted orchid authorities including:

Dr. Ed de Vogel, who participated in the New Guinea Orchid Project to catalog the island's nearly 3,000 species. He will give his keynote talk on the Bulbophyllums of New Guinea and another on the Dendrobiums.

Dr. Mary Gerritsen, co-author with Ron Parsons of "Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World" will speak on "Masdevallias: Selected Species and How to Grow Them."

Tom Mirenda, orchid collection specialist for the Smithsonian Institution and regular columnist for Orchids, will be the main attraction for the banquet Saturday evening, speaking on "Orchid Travels in Costa Rica."

In addition to the hundreds of orchids displayed in the show themed for the Halloween season, you will peruse the offerings of seven orchid vendors from across the country. You can also tour the cave full of orchids that is Bird's Botanicals. And if you're planning to attend, consider also entering a display.

Go to the show website, <http://kcorchidshow.org/> for more information, to download registration forms, or to register online.

ORCHIATA BARK by GLEN LADNIER: Pat Dickey of the Mobile Area Orchid Society and I are trying to order a pallet of Orchiata, 100% pure New Zealand Pinus radiata bark, for our societies. **I will be collecting the money ahead of time.** Interested members should contact me, (Glen) as soon as possible, to let me know that they want some of this product, which size bark, and how many bags they would be interested in. I want to make sure that everyone who wants some has a chance to get at least one bag, so the amount you receive may depend on the number of bags ordered.

I have included the web address of the company, so you can read up on this potting mix, and pay attention to their FAQ. I have never used this for orchids, but Earl grows his Phalaenopsis in it with great success. Of the four 4 sizes available, the Classic 9, 3/8" sized chips is the one recommended for Phals. Pat tells me that we can mix the sizes on the pallet. Other sizes are: Power 5 - 1/2" chips, Power 5A - 3/4" chips for mature orchids and Super 7 - 1" chips.

For more information try www.acadianwholesalesupply.net then click on orchiata, Glen Ladnier 228-392-0919

The cost is \$20.00 per 40 liter bag. This includes shipping and delivery. You will pay a lot more on the internet, or at an orchid show. This order can get very complicated, very quickly, so it is important that you try and make things as simple (for someone of my limited capacity) as you can.



PHOTOS FOR NEWSLETTER: Our newsletter editor can't remember to take her camera out and take photos. So if you have any photos that might be used in the newsletter, please send them to Jo Ann, joannvaz@bellsouth.net. The photo at left is another by Valerie and Armand, it is our exhibit crew doing a last touch-up of the exhibit before judging.

CULTURE TIP: since we're offering several cymbidium divisions, perhaps its time for a quick refresher course on basic cymbidium care, taken from The American orchid Society Culture sheet. The photo below left is Armand and Valerie's Cymbidium Kusuda Shining 'Palapala' from our exhibit at Baton Rouge.

Cymbidium orchids are prized for their long-lasting sprays of flowers. There are two main types of cymbidiums - standards and miniatures. Where summer nights are warm (above 70 F), only miniatures can be recommended, because many are more tolerant of heat and able to flower in warmer weather. **Light** is important for growing cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright areas in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many southern climates, high summer temperatures, especially at night, may prevent the plants from blooming. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20 percent shade. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green.



Temperatures are another critical factor in flowering standard and miniature cymbidiums. During the summer, standard cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semi shade, where day temperatures should be 75 to 85 F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to autumn (August to October) must be 50 to 60 F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 F at night and 65 to 75 F during the day. When plants are in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55 and 75 F. Miniatures can stand temperatures five to 10 degrees higher than standards and still flower. Most cymbidiums can tolerate light frosts and survive, but this is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40 F. In mild climates, they can be grown outside year round. A bright and cool location inside is best for winter months.

Water Provide a constant supply of moisture to cymbidiums, which are semi terrestrial plants. They generally produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer and need the most water during that period. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting material evenly moist. Reduce water when the pseudobulbs complete growing in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

Fertilizer: During the growth season (spring through late summer), high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, blossom-booster fertilizer (such as 10- 30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week

to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

Potting is usually done in the spring after flowering, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all of the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Pick a water-retentive potting mix; medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least two to three years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing pseudobulb(s) of the division farthest from the side of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot and fill the container with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly. Single back bulbs need not even be placed in mix until new growth and roots are noted. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above.

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 at the meeting.

GCOS WEBPAGE AND FACEBOOK: At our April meeting our webmaster, Chip Lechner, told he's had a few hardware problems and has not been able to update the website. He has done a great job with the website in the past and he'll update the site when he gets the problem fixed. In the meantime check out our face book page.