



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

May 15, 2011

Because Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday of May, our next meeting will be **Sunday, May 15, 2011**, at 1:00 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**. There will be **NO** New Growers meeting or Show and Tell.

**PROGRAM:** This will be a covered dish luncheon and orchid auction. The Society will provide the meat, drinks, and paper products. Members are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. Guests are welcome. We will offer for auction many beautiful plants (many will be in bloom or bud) some donated by members others purchased from commercial growers. In the past years members have gotten some good bargains. Call Glen Ladnier at 228-392-0919 if you have plants to donate. Please bring a box to carry your purchases home.



The board decided to put ½ of the profits from our auction in the Speaker's fund. Jo Ann Vaz has decided to donate several of her "special extras" for the auction. On the next page you'll see a description of some of these plants and others with culture notes.

Since Glen won best flower in the ENTIRE Baton Rouge show with a reed stem Epidendrum, (photo above) many of you have asked for plants like his; so he ordered a few reed stems for the auction.

**UPCOMING SHOWS:** Here's a list of local shows. We will exhibit in the Terrebonne and New Orleans shows. We have reserved a 50' space for New Orleans. We will be needing plants. If you would like to help, please call Becky Jolly-Wood 228-474-2500 or Andra Mladinich 228-388-5054.

**May 20-22 - Memphis Orchid Society Show**, Holiday Inn Select, I-240 & Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN. Contact: Charles G. Wilson, 1775 Keenlan Dr., Hernando, MS 38632; (901) 268-1445; [memphisorchids@gmail.com](mailto:memphisorchids@gmail.com).

**June 3-5 - New Orleans Orchid Society Show**, Lakeside Shopping Center Mall, Metairie, LA. Contact: Molly Prokop, 9117 Rosedawn Pl., River Ridge, LA 70123; (504) 738-5835; [mhprokop@cox.net](mailto:mhprokop@cox.net)

**June 10-12 - Acadian Orchid Society Show**, Ira Nelson Ag Center, 2206 Johnson St., Lafayette, LA. Contact: Pat Huval, 1211-A Grand Anse Hwy, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517-7051; (337) 667-6821; [orchidsplus@centurytel.net](mailto:orchidsplus@centurytel.net)

**July 8-10 - Terrebonne Orchid Society Show**, Southland Mall, Houma, LA. Contact: Sandy Trahan, 208 Rhona St., Chauvin, LA 70344; (985) 637-4479; [sbtpepe@yahoo.com](mailto:sbtpepe@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in putting up an exhibit for any of these other shows please let us know; we will help you as much as we can. Doing exhibits is a lot of work but it is fun; you'll love it!



**Encyclia cochleata**

**JUNE PROGRAM:** Our June 12 program is still tentative. With the economy it's hard to plan special speakers very far in advance. We hope to have Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids speak on Phalaenopsis. He will bring plants to sell.

**FUTURE PROGRAMS:** Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover.

**July 17,** Geri from Orchid Gallery in Tennessee will talk about growing cool growers in warm areas

**August 14,** Robert Fuchs from RF Orchids, Miami FL will speak on Vandas

**Sept. 11,** Bobby Chauvin, ABC Orchids General Orchid Care

**Oct 9,** How to pot an Oncidium Intergeneric - we'll take orders for wholesale plant order

**Nov. 13,** planning for the 2012 show - Plant distribution from wholesale plant order

**Dec. 11** Orchid bingo and covered dish luncheon.

**WHAT'S ON SALE?:** Carter and Holmes (1-800-873-7086) has doubled their bonus plant deal. From now till July 31 for every five plants you purchase they will include 2 free plants their choice. **RF Orchids (1-877-482-6327)** has their spring special sale. From now until May 31 you can get bare root vandaceous seedling species, hybrids and mericlones for \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. For more information; ask Jo Ann at the May meeting.

**NEWS FROM AOS:** The computer guru for AOS, Ron Hatten sent an email stating "*I am pleased to announce that the replacement website and Orchids Plus, the replacement to our older AQ Plus, are now available at <http://www.dev.aos.org>. For the next week, the site and Orchids Plus will be open without the necessity to log in. Please feel free to examine the site and try out Orchids Plus.*" If you have computer access please try out the new website it is great! You don't have to be an AOS member to try it this week!

**AUCTION PLANTS:** below are just a few of the plants we will have for auction.

**Reed Stem Epidendrums:** (Photo on front page) These plants have no pseudobulbs and are identified by their tall reed-like stems and brightly colored terminal flower spikes. *E. ibaguense* (*E. radicans*) will grow in very bright light here; be sure to bring them inside when the night temperatures drop to the low 50's. With proper culture, lots of water and fertilizer, they'll stay in bloom most of the year. They make keikis on the old flower spikes quite often so don't cut them off if the spikes are still green if you want more plants.

**Encyclia cochleata or Prosthechea cochleata:** (photo at top of page) The national flower of Belize where it is known as the "Black Orchid". This is a mounted plant in bud from Jo Ann's collection. They are species orchids and are native to South Florida through Central America down to Venezuela. They thrive outside in filtered bright light during our summers. Bring them inside when temp get in the 50's. Since it's mounted, give it plenty of water and lots of fertilizer. Once they start to flower they make successive blooms all summer long.



**Den. antennatum** (photo at left) Another species orchid from Jo Ann's collection, she originally purchased two. They are both really big plants, exactly identical; so some lucky member will get a very nice plant in spike. These plants are so big that they have some blooms all year long. *Den. antennatum* is an antelope Dendrobium, the flowers resemble an antelope's horns. It is native to Australia. Lots of heat, bright light, lots of water and fertilizer year round will keep this plant happy.

***Phalaenopsis Jill St. John*** (venosa x Orglade's Secret) A keiki from one of Larry Strasburger's plants; Larry loved Phals and you'll love this one too. It is a solid yellow flower with no markings, has very good texture and usually wins a ribbon when entered in shows. There are 7 awarded Jill St. Johns. This one is in bloom in a 6" plastic pot. Phals make great house plants if grown near a bright east or south window, keep the potting media evenly moist.



***Gongora quinquenervis var x sib.*** (photo at left) A division from Jo Ann's collection in an 8" basket in bloom now but another spike is forming. Gongoras are sometimes called "Flying Dragons" because of their weird flower shape. They are found from Mexico to South America. This one has a sweet scent and loves bright shade outside in our summers. Let them dry out a little in the winter. Give them lots of fertilizer and water in the summer.

***Rhynchostylis retusa*** (photo below) This plant is also called the **Foxtail Orchid**. Jo Ann has four blooming now and will donate which ever plant is still blooming for the meeting. These are fragrant clusters of pink/purple flowers that are in the Vanda family. All Jo Ann's retusas are in baskets and love bright filtered shade, lots of water and fertilizer in the summer. With four plants blooming at once you can smell them outside the greenhouse during certain times of the day. They are very fragrant.

***Brassavola nodosa*: also known as the Lady of the Night:** This is a mounted species orchid from Central America and South America. It is very fragrant but only at night. It's in bloom now, so the winner of this plant will get a chance to smell it! Bright light, lots of water and fertilizer and it will soon cover the piece of wood it is mounted on.

**ORCHID SUPPLIES:** Did you know there is an orchid supply store on the Gulf Coast or close to it? Some of our older growers have known about this place for years. Its BWI located in Semmes AL; just off Highway 98 on Illinois St. They are a wholesale only nursery supply dealer but will sell and order supplies for large purchases. If you don't have a tax number you will have to pay tax. They will special order orchid bark in



minimum quantities of 5 - 2 cubic ft bags. The price will vary from order to order but the last ordered was \$16.50 per bag including tax. They stock course grade perlite in 4 cubic ft bags for \$15.00. They also have a wide array of hard to find chemicals and greenhouse supplies such as shade cloth and plastic. Check out their website; [bwicompanies.com](http://bwicompanies.com). Their catalog is on line but you have to call for current prices. 1-888-447-3403.

Jo Ann purchased five 2 cubic ft bags of medium grade Nexus fir bark at \$16.50 per bag including tax and is willing to part with three bags. They will be available at the May meeting; one bag to a member please. The first three members to email her and ask for a bag will get them.