



*Oncidium sphacelatum, one of the plants offered for sale Sunday. Photo by Jay Pfahl*

# Gulf Coast Orchid Society

## October 18, 2020

Our October 18 meeting will be at a new location; **The Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS** Located east of Highway 49 North. Asley road makes a circle, take the second going north. The meeting will start at 2:00. There will be no Orchids 101, but we will have Show and Tell. Please bring your blooming plants with a limit of 5 plants per member. The program will be an open discussion about bringing plants in for the winter. This is our first meeting at the Legion, we hope it suites our needs and becomes our new home for many years to come. Since we don't know about the arrangement of tables and chairs, we ask that those who are able please come early to help. **Masks and social distancing are required.** This is a vital decision for the Society, please come and make your thoughts heard.



*Rat snake found basking by the wet pad in the Vaz greenhouse. Snakes are attracted to greenhouses. They eat rodents that can ruin orchids by eating new growth and flower spikes.*

**PROGRAM:** Our first freeze is near; we have already had some temps in the 50's, tender orchids need to be brought inside. Its hard to know which should come in first. Hard cane or evergreen Dendrobiums should already be inside. They don't like temps lower than 55 degrees and need to be watered regularly all winter. While their cousins, Nobile Dendrobiums, like bright cool weather and don't need to come inside till temps reach the forties. They do like dry winters with little water. Cymbidiums and some other semi terrestrials can take temps in the mid 30's but flowers can be damaged. Come to the meeting and hear from some of our longtime growers about how they bring their plants in and what the different types of orchids require in the winter.



*Dendrobium crumenatum, found throughout the Mid-East. Fragrant flowers bloom in late winter likes it heat.*

**PLANT SALE:** During the break we will have a plant sale; many of the plants the society purchased from Beverly and Harry Stephens at their recent plant sale plus some that were donated to us by Betty Burnsed along with a few from Jo Ann's greenhouse. Please make checks payable to GCOS. We do not take credit cards. The sale of these plants will help pay the rent on a meeting place. A list of some of the plants available is attached. You'll find pictures of some of the plants offered throughout the newsletter. None are currently in bloom. Most pictures are courtesy of the American Orchid Society (AOS).

Beverly gave Janet Olier an awesome plant of *Dendrobium crumenatum* that had many well grown keikis. Janet will give these keikis out to the members during the break also.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Not knowing the legion hall, our refreshment team, Gayle and Andra will do their best to bring treats, drinks and paper products. **Sanitize your hands before you get in the serving line and wear your mask anytime you are near the refreshment area.**

**WHY ARE WE MEETING AT THE AMERICAN LEGION?** We are very appreciative of the folks at JD for hosting us free of charge for the last 10 plus years. They were very generous and kind. We knew that JD was not scheduling any outside group meetings for 2021. We hoped things would



*Neobenthamia gracilis* is native to Tanzania, bright light in early summer will induce blooming. Large plant, grass like foliage. Those flowers are 1".

change and they would allow us to continue meeting free at the JD campus. While the school was closed, we were fortunate to be able to meet in the McHenry library, thanks to our President, Gayle Greene-Aguirre. While the McHenry library was a Godsend, it is small and not centrally located. Our bylaws mandate that our meetings be centrally located. Our September meeting was the first meeting at JD since March. We were happy that things were returning to normal. On Oct. 7, Gayle received a message that the college is not allowing any outside groups to hold meetings at any of their campuses for the rest of the year. Suddenly we not only had no meeting place for 2021 but no place for the rest of this year!

In the August newsletter we asked our members to look for a meeting place. A new member, Anita Applebee, came forward offering the American Legion, it's in a strip shopping center so we can park closer and there is a kitchen. The October meeting is free, after that we must pay a \$50.00 a month cleaning fee. Board member, Janet Olier, made the connections with Anita and now we have an adventure scheduled for October 18. Please come to the October meeting and help us decide if the **Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS** is the right fit for us.



*Iwan apple blossom*, an intergeneric member of the *Cattleya* family. Grows well here spikes just forming.

**MORE HISTORY IF YOU PLEASE:** The Gulf Coast Orchid Society was formed in 1980, our first formal meeting place was Gulf Coast Medical Center off Debuys Rd. in Biloxi. One of our members, Dr. Clyde Hagood, was on staff there. Dr Hagood was active in in our society. He served as President and Show Chair and guaranteed us the use of the Medical Center. In the years after Katrina, the Medical Center changed and in January 2008, we were moved to Biloxi Regional Hospital off Reynoir St. Things didn't work well there so we began looking for another place. We held three meetings at Andra's guest house on Fairview in Biloxi and one meeting the MSUCRC on Popp's Ferry Rd. Finally, one of our members, Sarah Tringle, who taught at an associated college, got us in JD. We held our first meeting there March of 2009.



*Dendrobium Gatton sunray*, a cross of two species large plant. Picture by of AOS

**SHOW REPORT:** Plans for our 41<sup>st</sup> annual show and sale are moving along. All our vendors from last year have agreed to participate. Our show application along with our check has been mailed to Aileen Garrison for approval by the MAOC and then final approval by the AOS. The Convention Center is booked, and we are working on the show schedule. Now we need some help from you. If you worked in any capacity last year and want to do that again or want to do some other task or would rather not help at all. Please let Jo Ann know, 601-530-8778. If COVID is around, we are going to stress face masks and social distancing. We'll talk more about the show in the next few months.

**SHOW TROPHIES:** Each year we give out two orchids in use trophies (floral arrangements and crafts or artwork), seventeen trophies for the various plant categories or exhibits and eight special trophies along with the AOS trophy



*A collection of items suitable for trophies.*

and the Orchid Digest trophy for exhibits. If you do crafts, photography, art or flower arrangements with orchids in them, you can enter them in our show and win an Orchids in use trophy all items must be done by the exhibitor.

Thanks to everyone who donated a trophy for our 2020 show. Donated trophies save the society quite a bit of money and gives our members a chance to remember and honor someone or something. You can donate two ways; purchase a nice gift suitable for a trophy award or give Joy a check for \$20.00 made out to GCOS. If you donated a trophy last year, please contact Joy Lorens, our Show Trophy Chair. Let her know if you plan to donate again this year or not. Trophies must be paid for or given to Joy by our **November meeting**. If you prefer that the society provide your trophy; bring \$20.00 to pay for the trophy to the meeting or mail Joy a check for \$20.00 made out to GCOS. Joy Lorens, 1835 Bouie Rd, Carriere, MS 39426, 601-798-9202.



*Richard's Ctsm. gladiatorum 'SVO35'*

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** We have a few new members. Welcome Anita Applebee from Gulfport, Teresa Covington from Picayune and welcome back Arlan Tenkley from Robertsdale, AL. We had 27 plants for show and tell. Best plant was Richard Crespin's Ctsm Gladiatorum 35. Door prize was won by Arlan Tenkley. We auctioned off a Dendrobium usitae 'Red Coral' donated by Betty Burnsed that was won by Anita Applebee for \$35.00. Joy Lorens brought in 15 well established blooming size plants of Rlc. Laura Bush 'Carmela' and gave them to our members – free! Thank you Joy! The program was an open book quiz on general orchid knowledge. There were several free plants for those who took the test.

**UPCOMING ORCHID EVENTS:** A reminder that Baton Rouge is hosting Nina Rach on Wed, Oct 21 at 7:00 pm. This is a ZOOM presentation. The members of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society are invited to attend. The society has paid a small fee to the Baton Rouge Society on your behalf so if you want to participate in the lecture email [jwmorrisoniii@msn.com](mailto:jwmorrisoniii@msn.com). Please let us know if you attended.



*Rlc Laura Bush 'Carmela' AM/AOS awarded at our show in 2012 picture taken by Chip Lechner*

**Nina Rach** is an orchid hobbyist in Houston, Texas, with a mixed collection of species and hybrids. She has been growing for 45+ years and has served as an AOS Accredited judge for 25+ years. She is a past-president of the Houston Orchid Society and started the first HOS website more than 20 years ago. She's particularly interested in the Stanhopinae and Sobralias, and has given many talks on these genera, including presentations at two World Orchid Conferences. She enjoys traveling to see new plants at shows and in situ, and especially values meeting so many enthusiastic growers over the years. She has learned so much from everyone and is happy to pass it on.

Contact: [Nina.Rach@yahoo.com](mailto:Nina.Rach@yahoo.com)



**FROM OUR MEMBERS:** Some of our members sent in some great shots of flowers that bloomed this month. To the left is Gayle's Monnierara Millennium Magic which she bought from our Hawaiian vendor at the last sale. To the right is a plant Sydney bought out of the box of \$10.00 bareroot divisions that Denny Haase, Spring Orchids, sold last year.



## October's Spotlight on Members by Gayle



This month I would like to highlight a very personable and productive Society Board Member: **Joy Lorens**. Joy has been a member of the society for ten years and is our AOS representative. She is also the can-do lady who spends countless hours collecting, coordinating, and getting our trophies ready for our annual show. At our show Joy and her husband, Rob, work behind the scenes assisting wherever needed from helping with the exhibit, to aiding the judges. Last month she graciously brought in numerous premium cattleyas to share with fellow members. This is just one example of her selfless desire to share her love of orchids with others.



Joy was born in New Jersey and moved as a child to California, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania. She later attended graduate school at the University of Rhode Island where she met Rob. After marrying they moved to Mississippi in 1978 for Rob's first job.

Twenty-five years ago, Joy acquired her first orchid which was a Lowe's dark maroon colored Dendrobium. After that, Rob sent her some orchid plants from Hawaii which she eventually killed, but she still has a pot of that original Dendrobium.

She joined our Society because she wanted to learn how to grow native orchids but found that they were more difficult to grow and much more expensive than the tropical ones. Joy decided to focus mainly on the tropical especially the terrestrial type orchids. Joy really enjoys working with the Cymbidiums, Phaius, Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, but says that she has the most success with the Dendrobiums and Cattleyas which grow best under her conditions.



*Cattleya Memoria Alvin Begeman 'Poem'*

Joy has had one plant awarded an Award of Merit, but it already had a clonal name, so she wasn't able to name it. The plant was Cattleya Memoria Alvin Begeman 'Poem' which was a nice small plant with a pretty red lip which she wishes that she still had. In 2014 at the Mobile Show Joy won Best Dendrobium with a Den. aphyllum "Aunt Alma".

She gets most of her orchids at our GCOS meetings where generous members donate and sell wonderful plants at modest prices. Joy also gets plants at shows, and at our group sales. She especially enjoys the New Orleans Show because of the number of vendors and exhibits. Although she sometimes purchases plants online, she prefers to see the plant in person so she can evaluate its quality.

Most of her plants are grown in a 10'-12' Harbor Freight Greenhouse which Joy would recommend to other members as a great deal (especially if you have the 20% off coupon)! It serves as a wonderful starter greenhouse. She also grows about a quarter of her plants indoors under LED lights so she can better control the temperature and humidity.

Joy spends about ten hours a week tending to her plants but feels that is not nearly enough time. However, she says that "orchids are very forgiving, and even when not given the best of care they will continue to grow until one has more time to spend with them."



*Joy works every year assisting Sydney Dyché setting up the Society exhibit.*

When asked a about her “tips for success” Joy replied that the “quickest way to kill an orchid is to rot the roots.” She doesn’t care for repotting, so she has started including a larger portion of inorganic media into her potting mix to try to keep the media fresh. She has had good luck with perlite, lava rock, leca, charcoal, and pebbles. Additionally, Joy likes to use good hard fir bark like Kiwi or Orchiata. Her sage advice to aspiring orchid growers is to “start with orchids when they are young.”

Joy is a very energetic lady who is also a Master Gardener where she devotes her time to perennials which she favors. She also enjoys history and reading and has recently begun investigating her ancestor’s stories on genealogy web sites where she has discovered some amazing information about her family.

This fall she hopes to put up a low-cost cold frame for her cymbidiums and other plants that can tolerate temperatures 40 degrees F. These large plants are starting to overwhelm her greenhouse, but if it gets too cold she will still be forced to move them to a warmer spot for a few days. We wish her the best for the winter ahead and hope to see more of her beautiful plants at our January Show.

**GOOD NEWS:** After a hard two years Jodie Schumaker of Secret Gardens Rare Plants, Marianna, FL and one of our show vendors has finally completed his new orchid range. Also, he had his biggest sale since last February at the Mobile Show. The sale was at Tallahassee Nurseries the first weekend in October. The new range is built to withstand winds of 175MPH. We wish him the best!



Here's a few more pics of plants available for

**purchase next Sunday: All from AOS.**



*Catyclia El Hatillo 'Pinta' (C.mossiae x Enc. tampensis)*



*Dendrobium anceps, mounted on tree fern fiber*



*Maxillaria luteo-alba*



*Coelogyne fimbriata*



*Dendrobium Micro Chip*



*Pot. Elaine Taylor'Krull-Smith' FCC/AOS*