



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

October 10, 2010

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, October 10**, at 2:00 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. The New Growers meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30 in the cafeteria. This month's New Grower's topic is: *"The start of a series on meeting the cultural requirements of orchids. Starting with light requirements, and working through the rest of the items in future meetings. Please be on time; you are welcome to bring any problem plants, or questions about your collection to the meeting."*

PROGRAM: James Phillips from Riverbend Orchids will speak on the basics of growing Phals with a question and answer period. He will not bring plants to sell. Many of you know James, he and Morton Engleberg, founders of Riverbend Orchids are lifetime members of the Society. They had a huge range of greenhouses primarily filled with Phals which they grew and hybridized. Katrina left a mess of jumbled frames and equipment. They planned to raze everything but they held off the bulldozers until Glen Ladnier, Tony and Jo Ann Vaz and Dan Fabo could dismantle it and take what they could. It was all stored at Glen's home. James had hurt his back severely and Morton was overseeing the new construction, yet they found time to give us much needed advice on what



to take and how to do it. Now Riverbend's materials are part of Glen's and Jo Ann's greenhouses along with Ken Miles and Renick Taylor's, many of you have shade cloth, heaters and other items that were salvaged from Riverbend's misfortune. At left is Phal. Riverbend Garnet Drops "Jayne Garrison" AM/AOS

bring November's. If you'd like to bring refreshments one month or if you have to change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-388-5054.

REFRESHMENTS: Renick Taylor and Ken Miles will provide refreshments for the October meeting. If that's not enough to scare you; wait till you see their refreshments. Kathy and John Pahlman will

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Our November program will be November 14 in the cafeteria meeting room. We will have a work/planning meeting for our January show and a distribution of our wholesale plant order from Hawaii. Some of our more knowledgeable growers will answer any questions you may have about your new purchases. More about the order later in this newsletter.

NOTES FROM LAST MONTH: Last month's great speaker on bulbophyllums, Larry Hennessey, sent the following email: "Please share with everyone how much I enjoyed being able to share my love for bulbos. I really appreciated everyone's enthusiasm for the plants and the knowledge I was able to share. Hopefully, I was able to present it clearly enough for everyone to take some useful info with them along with the plants. Also, thank you for your hospitality.

I've attached a write up I did for our society to be included in our newsletter when I did the program originally. I updated it to include a reference to Bill Thoms new book on Bulbos. A lot of what I said about culture is included in his book.

Again thank you for the opportunity to present my passion for bulbos to your membership. If anyone really has to have more plants, let me know if there is anything in particular someone is looking for and I'll see if I can accommodate."

Larry's culture sheet is attached.

Proper credit was not given to the awesome photos of Bulbophyllums used in the September newsletter to advertise Larry's talk. Those photos were taken by Dot Potter Barnet and found on the Porter's Orchids website, www.portersorchids.com. Please take a few minutes and check out Porter's Orchids; they have some outstanding plants as well as photos. Thanks Dot!

All the wonderful photos in this newsletter are AOS award photos from AQ Plus. Go to WWW.aos.org and order your copy today. A year's subscription is only \$50.00 plus shipping!

SHOW: Our January 28, 29, 30 2011 show is coming along. We are trying some new things this year. One of which is to bring in a supply vendor, John Hicks of Hicks Orchid Supplies in Florida. He sent some catalogs for people to preorder. His catalog is attached.

Our show advertising chairmen, Marilyn Ladnier and Janet Olier, are working on our advertising which is vital for a great show. It's our way of getting new members and if we don't provide customers for our vendors they won't come back. If anyone has an "in" with any advertising venue please speak to Janet or Marilyn at the meeting. We need members to step into the spotlight. Would you like to be interviewed by a magazine or newspaper, how about a TV spot? We will provide plants and a "script" about the show, our society and basic orchid knowledge.

WHOLESALE PLANT ORDER: For those who missed the last meeting and did not get an orchid list, one is attached. Call or email Jo Ann with your selections or give her your list at the meeting, 601-947-8777. You must make some arrangements to get your plants if you can not attend the November meeting. Payment is due when you get your plants. Several items are sold out (over 100 plants ordered so far) but there are plenty left. Some of you asked for recommendations. Not knowing everyone's growing area makes recommendations hard especially with winter approaching. Listed here are a few plants from the list that grow well in homes in the winter, won't take up a lot of space and bloom regularly.



PAPHS: Paphs are ideal house plants; they grow well inside year round. Lehua's (Graham Wood) paphs come in 4" square plastic pots which fit easily in a 6" ceramic pots to dress up a table near a window. Water it well every 5 to 7 days depending on your conditions. Lehua has paphs from \$9.75 to \$16.75. All are blooming size; most are in spike.

Our Earl asked for some 'Bulldog' paphs (large round flowers) and Graham responded with four that have been added to the list. Three Paph Winston Churchill crosses which are red (\$16.95) and one yellow plant, Paph. Mele Moon, (\$13.95). If you remember the video of Graham holding a huge pot full of large round

yellow flowers – that was Paph. Mele Moon. Paph. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS above left.

MASDEVALLIAS: These are small windowsill plants for sure. There's a photo of Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland' CCM/AOS at the end of this newsletter. That plant is in a 6" pot! They do not like our heat so keep them inside in the A/C on a bright windowsill. Temps over 85 degrees are bad news for these cuties. If you let Graham pick one out for you its \$6.95 and in bud!

CATTLEYAS: There are lots of cattleyas on the list. They all like very bright conditions and high humidity. They'll be happy in a southeast window for the winter on a tray filled with moist gravel. If space is limited, try the mini



cattleya, Pot. Memoria Alvin Begeman 'Poem' HCC/AOS (pictured above right). It's bright yellow with a red lip and only 6" tall! A blooming size plant in a 2" pot is \$6.00. One of the parents of this plant is Bc. Beaufort Gold, solid yellow, there's one plant left on the list - 2" pot \$6.00!

VANDAS: Vandas like bright light and plenty of water; they love it outside during our summers. Most get very big and aren't suitable for home growing, there are some Vanda intergenerics that



will do quite well in a sunny window over the winter. Try Neostylis Fuchs Ocean Spray, blooming size \$9.00. This is a real cutie, clusters of tiny flowers that are white in the center going to a pink blush with a blue lip. Its parents are Neostylis falcata which is a tiny white plant and Rhy. coelstis which is a medium sized blue and white. This one should be fragrant!

Some have asked why we are doing this. Is the Society making any money? What about shipping and handling charges? We have a crazy board member who wants every member of our Society to have a chance to buy great plants at wholesale prices. She found some dealers who are willing to go that extra step and give us very good prices. The Society is not going to make any money unless the discount is larger than the shipping fees, in which case the Society will make some money. In April the Society made \$12.00. Lehua does not charge any shipping fees; the price quoted is the price you pay.

Island Sun does but they also give discounts depending on the size of the order. Shipping at the most will be \$.50 per plant; it's likely there will be none.

CULTURE TIP: Now that the temperature is beginning to drop we need to start bringing most of our orchids inside. Before you do check your plants for insects and other creatures like frogs, lizards and yes, snakes that like to crawl into the pots through the slots in the bottom of the pot. This is especially important if you keep your plants in your home over winter! One way to evict little creatures is to soak the pots thoroughly before bringing them inside.

COMPUTER CONNECTIONS: Don't forget our website www.gcorchids.org. Janet Olier runs our Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Gulf Coast Orchid Society. Always check out the American Orchid Society website www.aos.org.

