



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

November 13, 2011

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, November 13**, 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 "Soft Cane Dendrobiums" with an emphasis on Nobile Dendrobiums". *Please be on time; you are welcome to bring any problem plants, or questions to the meeting.* At right is Sarah Tringle's plant Dendrobium Sea Mary. It won a blue ribbon in our 2010 show

PROGRAM: Our November program will be a work/planning session for our January show, January 27, 28, 29, 2012 and a distribution of our wholesale plant order from Hawaii. If you ordered plants, please be at the meeting; if you cannot attend, make



Coelogyne rochussenii

arrangements with Jo Ann Vaz to pick up and pay for your plants. 601-947-8777. We will have a short question and answer period for those who need help with their new plants. We ordered over \$1,700.00 worth of plants. The grower did not charge us any packing or shipping again this year so the price quoted is the price you will pay.

We have no show chairman for our show again this year; we need your help and input. This show will be by the Society and for the Society. We will listen to all ideas; remember we have a budget! The judges loved our dessert bake off and gift bags; new ideas from last year. Should we do that again; can we do something to top that? Did you like the Feb. meeting?

REFRESHMENTS: Dave and Vicki Perry will provide refreshments for the November meeting. 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.

DECEMBER MEETING: Our Christmas covered dish luncheon and Orchid Bingo will be Sunday, December 11. Get your recipes ready; this is always a fun event. Most likely we will move the meeting time up to 1:00. There will be no show and tell for the December meeting.

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

Jan. 8, 2012 Planning for our 2012 show

Feb. 12, 2012 Our after show party!

March ???

Save all the dates. You really don't want to miss any of our programs.

HELP: The reason for the question marks at March's meeting is because the Jr. College will be closed the second and third Sundays of March, Spring Break. This is a serious problem as we have a guest speaker



tentatively scheduled for the March meeting. If anyone has an idea of a possible meeting place please let any board member know.

BOOKS: If you ordered a Phalaenopsis book by Bob Gordon, they are in. Shipping and packing amounted to \$.85 per book. We have one book available, the *Beginners Guide to Growing Phalaenopsis Orchids*, for \$5.85. See Jo Ann at the meeting.

WEBSITE: Our website, www.gcorchids.org is back in business with new features appearing weekly. Check it out; you might see yourself or one of your plants. Sign the guestbook if you wish. Chip Lechner and all his helpers have done a great job. If you have an idea that might be added to the website, email Chip; his email address is on the website.

Don't forget our face book page. There are all kinds of great stuff available about the society and orchids just at the tip of your fingers – that is if you have a keyboard attached to a computer under those fingers.

OUR SHOW: All six of last year's plant vendors will return to our 2012 show along with Hick's Orchid Supplies. We will try to get new supply catalogs out to you as soon as they are available. In the meantime you may want to check out Clown Alley's website www.clownalleyorchids.com John and Sandy are offering our members a 10% discount on anything that we preorder and he delivers to our show. That's a 10% discount from internet prices plus no shipping! Hopefully next month we'll have more "specials" from our other vendors.

MOBILE SHOW: If our show isn't enough fun, the Mobile Area Orchid Society will have a show Feb 16-18, 2012. This will be the start of a long show season so keep 'em blooming!

HOW DO YOU KEEP 'EM BLOOMING? The best way is to give the plants the proper materials to grow and be healthy. If you have mature, blooming size Phalaenopsis that bloom in the spring, they should already be making spikes. If not, you may need to turn down the heat, let them feel a week of temps between 65 and 55 degrees and make sure they are getting enough light and fertilizer.

If you have Vandaceous plants give them fertilizer, bright light and a dose of Epsom salts. That's a tip we learned from Bob Fuchs when he visited with us a few months ago.

SHOW TROPHIES: If you plan on donating a trophy for our show please contact Jo Ann, 601-947-8777 joannvaz@bellsouth.net. You can buy a trophy, something nice, or give Jo Ann \$15.00 and the Society will supply a trophy. We'll have some trophies available at the meeting for you to see examples. We need this information ASAP for the show schedule and signage for the show. This is a great way to honor someone; many of our members give their trophy in honor or in memory of loved ones. The signage appears in the exhibit, on the trophy card and in the show schedule. Attached is a list of last year's trophies.



COELOGYNES: The photo to the left is *Coelogyne fimbriata*. It and the *Coelogyne rochussenii* on the front page (originally from Earl Young) are growing happily right here on the Gulf Coast. There were two *Coelogyne* species offered on our wholesale list. They weren't ordered. Could that be because our members simply aren't familiar with *Coelogyne*s? So here are the basics about *Coelogyne*s taken from personal experience with a little help from ***Home Orchid Growing by Rebecca T. Northen.***

The genus *Coelogyne* is native to North India and Ceylon. There are over one hundred species. Most like to be grown in baskets with a coconut fiber lining and a good bark charcoal perlite mix. They like lots of water in the growing season; dry them out a little in the winter. Since they have thin leaves try to keep water off the leaves in winter. During the summer they are happy under a shady tree or in a lath house **under** the Vandas. They prefer more shade than Vandas.

To the left is *Coelogyne xyrekes* (photo taken from AQ Plus). It was on our wholesale list.



THE VAZ GREENHOUSE: Some of our newer members have asked about visiting the Vaz Greenhouse, which is 35 minutes north of I-10 and 25 minutes from Schillinger's Rd in Mobile. Everyone is welcome to visit; we would love to show you around and talk orchids, but please call first; 601-947-8777. Get and follow the directions carefully. We are located in a very remote part of the Coast; there is **no cell phone reception**. We have a very long driveway with a gate that is often times locked. We recently spent most of the day waiting for orchid visitors who came from Mobile via Hattiesburg! So please if you want to visit; call ahead, get directions and follow them!