



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

September 8, 2013

Our September meeting will be held Sunday, September 8, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Runnymede Rd and Debuys; just north of



Pass Rd. We will meet in the **cafeteria** meeting room. Orchids 101 lead by Glen Ladnier will start at 1:30 pm. This month's Orchids 101 subject is '**Snails and Slugs**'. With all the rain we've had this summer; most of us have seen a few of these critters! Please get to the class early.*

PROGRAM: The program will be a 'modified' open discussion on greenhouses and growing areas. Members have sent in photos that were placed into a power point file which we will see through the school's projector. Each member will explain their own pictures and you can ask questions and discuss some of the unique ways our members manage their greenhouses and growing areas. You'll see greenhouses made from kits and some free style greenhouses and growing areas built into existing places like porches and patios. We'll discuss some great ideas on heating and cooling and keeping your greenhouse safe. You'll also see some shade houses like Armand and Valerie Scurria's at left and Janet and Dave Olier's below left, that are ideal summer homes for our orchids.



It's not too late to send in your photos; send them to joannvaz@bellsouth.net as late as Saturday morning.



FUTURE PROGRAMS: This month's program is in response to a member's request. It may be our best program ever! If you have any ideas or suggestions for programs please let us know at the September meeting.

October 12, Work meeting for our show and wholesale plant order from H&R Orchids.

November 17, Roy Tokunaga from H&R Orchids in Hawaii will speak and bring our preordered plants.

December 8, Christmas meeting /orchid bingo and pot luck luncheon.

January 13, 2014, open: plant sale to raise money for our Feb. show art contest.

REFRESHMENTS: Marilyn Ladnier will bring September's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640.

SIGN IN: Did you know that every signature line on our sign in sheet is a chance to win our monthly door prize which is a free plant. If you sign in as two people on one line you limit your chances to win. Please sign each name on a separate line. Thanks to our sign in lady, Lexie Mitchell, for helping us.

SPECIAL THANK YOU: Our August meeting was more than a little 'messy'. Since we have to leave the cafeteria clean, one would think the job would be hard. It's not! We have wonderful members who work together each month cleaning the floor and tables. Thank you all!

***WHY GET TO ORCHIDS 101 EARLY?** Our contract with JD says we must be out of the facility by 5:00 pm. That means we need to close all our meetings around 4:30 pm to allow us time to clean up and clear out. Even if there wasn't a deadline from the school, many of our members need to get home before dark or before evening church services. Some of our members have over an hour's drive to get home! Our regular meeting starts at 2:00 pm, and is packed full of things to do. Programs and show and tell take a lot of time. We don't want to cut back on those two parts of our regular meeting. Our board tries to take care of as much business as it can but there is still some business that needs your input; discussions take time. A long break period for members to chat and buy plants and for our Show and Tell judges to do their work makes for a very full meeting. We expect this month's meeting to run long as we want everyone who sent in pictures to have time to discuss them.

So if Orchids 101 starts late then our meeting sometimes starts late and we may have to cut off some part of our regular meeting to make up time. Do your part; come early for Orchids 101 which starts at 1:30 pm and learn about slugs and snails!

UPCOMING SHOWS: Here's a list of local shows

Sept. 20-22 Birmingham Orchid Society Show and Sale, Birmingham Botanical Gardens 2612 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, AL

Oct 5 Central Louisiana Orchid Society Show, Kent House Plantation, Alexandria La.

Oct 19 – 20* Fall Mid America Orchid Congress Orchid Show and Sale Dayton, Ohio
www.orchidsandart.com

November 14-16, 2013 American Orchid Society Fall Members' meetings, AOS home at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, FL.

Feb 14-16 2014 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show, Gautier Convention Center

Feb 28-March 2 2014 Mobile Area Orchid Society Show and Sale, Mobile Botanic Gardens

March 14 -16, 2014 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show

March 21-23, 2014 Terrebonne Orchid Society Show, South Land Mall, Houma, Louisiana

* The Fall MAOC show and sale will be at the Dayton Art Institute in Dayton Ohio. There will be 5 different speakers over the two day period. One of the speakers, Jolger Perner, operates Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology LTD in Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R. China. www.hengduanbiotech.com. They have sent a wonderful file full on species native to China with descriptions and pictures. It is almost a book! It is attached to this newsletter for those with internet.



WHO WANTS TO TAKE A TRIP: One of our members, Sydney Dyche, is also a Master Gardener. The Master Gardeners are sponsoring several local trips to various venues that revolve around gardening. A basic knowledge of how things grow is a must for growing orchids. For more information see Sydney at the meeting. The trips are open to the public. Here's a list of the various trips:

Fall Flower and Garden Festival in Crystal Springs, MS, October 2013 Photo at left

New Albany Home and Garden Show, New Albany, MS, April, 2014

Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, October 2014

Mississippi Master Gardener Conference, Oxford, MS, May 2014

Some of the packages include hotel accommodations and transportation but not event registration.

Please notice the deposit deadline for the Crystal Springs trip is September 1, 2013. This is the best trip so try to sweet talk them into letting you go!



Chet Byers in one of his greenhouses (pre-Katrina)

once a week during the growing season. RF Orchids also uses SUPERthrive which is a concentrated vitamin and hormone solution about once a month. Also they flush all their orchids with plain water regularly.

Right now is a good time to put about a tablespoon per pot of Super Phosphate on your Cymbidiums so the nutrients for blooms will be available to the plant when it needs them. Don't give blooming size Cymbidiums any other type of fertilizer now. If you're using a high Nitrogen solution on plants that are close to their blooming time it is time that you switch to a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 or a bloom booster like 10-50-10. High Nitrogen fertilizer is for growth and will inhibit flowering. Also now is the time to stop using regular fertilizer on plants that like a dryer winter or go dormant during the winter.



For those that don't know; the series of numbers on fertilizer containers stand for the three major ingredients in fertilizer. The first number is the percentage of Nitrogen (N) which is for growth, the second number is the percentage of Phosphorous (P) or Phosphate which is for blooms and the third number is for Potassium (K) which helps the overall well being of the plant. When buying a fertilizer try to find one with trace elements. Remember too much fertilizer can harm your plants.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. Chip Lechner's Mom can machine embroider an orchid, the society's name and the member's name on shirts that members supply. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. Find a shirt that you'd like to have embroidered, wash it, and bring the clean shirt to the meeting.

Clearly print your name as you want it to appear on the shirt on a piece of paper and safety pin it to the shirt. Put your phone number on the paper too, in case there are any questions.

MID AMERICA NEWS -CASH FOR BEST ESSAY: Write an essay on "Travels with Orchids" -- and win up to \$100.00! The essay should be no more than 500 words in length and submitted no later than October 1st to Doris Asher ashedorisdoris@juno.com, winners will be announced at the Mid America Orchid Congress' Sunday Business Meeting in Dayton, OH, October 20, 2013. You do not need to be present to win. First prize is \$100.00; second, \$50; third, \$25. All three prizewinning essays will appear in future issues of Mid America's newsletter, The Mid-American.