

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

July 11, 2021

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, July 11 at 2:00 at the **Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS.** Located east of Highway 49 North. Guests are invited.



Richard's winner from June, *Cattleya leopoldii*

PROGRAM: We will repot other types of orchids, mainly Cattleyas and Dendrobiums. If you have a problem plant; please bring it in and one of our more experienced growers will help you. All repotting will be done on separate tables at the back of the room.

We'll start with a demo by Richard Crespin. He is one of our best growers, he's the one who wins most of the best grown plants and blue ribbons on our show and tell table. After his demo he will stay at the back of the room to help others.

Those bringing a plant for help repotting, should be at the meeting before 1:45 to give us time to talk to you privately about your plant and see if the materials you brought are adequate. If not, we may be able to offer substitutions. Our team will then set up a place for you to repot your orchid with our guidance. If you come in after 1:45 we may not be able to help you repot your plant.

Sometimes in repotting orchids the plastic pot must be cut or the clay pots break. Water your plants to be repotted well the **morning before**, this makes them easier to slip out of the pot They don't seem to suffer as much from potting. They should be slightly moist not wet!

NOTE ON POTTING PROGRAM: Each person has different conditions, water quality, amount of available sunlight and most importantly the amount of time available to spend with orchids. We are suggesting ways to repot your plants. If your plants are growing well, blooming as they should, and you are happy, then keep on growing them the way you do. If you see something different that might work for you, try it on one or two plants only. Always remember orchids thrive on benevolent neglect!

If you bring in a plant for help with repotting **it is your responsibility to bring whatever is needed to get the job done.** See later in the newsletter for a list depending on your plant.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: We are already ready working on programs for 2022, If you have any ideas or requests please see our program chair, Janet Olier, at the meeting.

August 8, Second Sunday. We'll end our summer potting series with a treat for all those who participated in the June and July programs. We'll do a program on mounting orchids and those that participated in the prior month's programs will get a free mount and a small growing orchid to mount. We'll walk you through the process and you'll bring home a freshly mounted orchid, bring some newspaper to keep your work area clean, clean clippers and a pair of wire cutters!

September 12, Second Sunday. Our President, Sydney Dyche, will do a program on Orchid Abbreviations.

October 10, Second Sunday: Denny Haase of Spring Orchids will speak and sell plants. Denny's topic will be "How to Acclimate Your New Orchids." Denny is one of our long time show vendors and grows and sells wonderful plants.

November 14, Second Sunday. Tricks on Presenting Orchids. How to get Best Grown Plant and win Trophies at Shows!



Dendrobium bareroot divisions

December 12, Second Sunday Orchid Bingo; every member wins a plant! Christmas potluck

January 9, 2022, Show Prep: Our 2022 show is scheduled for January 28-30 with set up the afternoon of January 27.

February 13, 2022, thank you party for members who worked our show. Those show workers **present** get a free plant of their choice. Others will be sold at break to all members.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

June 12, 2021, MAOC Atlanta Region AOS judging 1:00 Mershon Hall Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

September 17-19 Alabama Orchid Society Show and Sale in conjunction with the Huntsville and NE Alabama Orchid Societies; Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

November 19 -21, 2021 Atlanta Orchid Society Show and Sale, Atlanta Botanical Gardens

January 28-30, 2022, Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show and Sale, Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, Miss.

March 25-27, 2022, Calcasieu Orchid Society Show and Sale Historic

City Hall down Lake Charles.

FOR SALE THIS MONTH: We may have some nice bareroot divisions of hard cane Dendrobiums, both antelope and Dendrobium Phalaenopsis types. These will be available for \$4.00 each during the break. These are divisions from the Vaz greenhouse; big healthy divisions of at least 4 canes.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 22 members and two guests present at our June meeting which was the first in our set of summer potting programs. We helped those who brought in Phalaenopsis orchids repot them, plus Cynthia Oetker gave a demonstration on staking Phalaenopsis spikes. Please welcome new member Anita Auchard of Saucier. Thanks to Anita Applebee for donating an awesome Grammatophyllum scriptum var Leopard 'NN' in full bloom for our auction. Cynthia Oetker won it for a \$55.00 bid.

Thanks also to Glen Ladnier and Andra Mladinich for donating some wonderful supplies to the society for sale to the membership at reduced prices.



Janet Olier demonstrating how to repot a Phalaenopsis

There were 20 plants on the show and tell table. Robert Stanton judged them and discussed the blue-ribbon winners. Best plant was Richard Crespin's Cattleya leopoldii.

The raffle was held; Barb Heinbaugh won the door prize.



This Dendrobium is past needing repotting, note the new growth growing down the side of the pot.



This Cattleya is at a perfect time to be repotted, it has recently bloomed, rested, and is starting new growth.

NOTES FOR OUR JULY REPOTTING SESSION: Many people want to know how to tell when an orchid needs repotting. There are several easy ways to tell:

Is the plant growing so far over the edge of the pot that it won't sit up on the bench?

Does the plant wobble loosely in the potting media?

Does the potting media look more like soil, if there is any at all?

Is the plant weak spindly or just plain sick looking?

Is the plant covered with insects?

In all the above cases if you want to save your plant, the best time to repot it is now! If the plant is growing well, then you have time to consider the growth and condition of the plant. The best time to repot orchids is when they begin to put on new growth. Cattleyas have buds at the base of their pseudobulbs that start to swell and put on roots as the buds grow. The best time to repot Cattleyas is when the new roots start to appear. In Dendrobiums the buds aren't as noticeable but if you see a new cane starting to form then that is the time to repot.

MATERIALS TO BRING: Potting mix Lowes, Home Depot and Walmart sells hobby bags check their inventory. Some mix will be available for sale at the meeting.

Clean pots, do not feel like you must buy special orchid pots or fancy pots of any sort for your orchids. Simple plastic or clay pots with plenty of drainage holes in the bottom work well. Remember usually Paphs, Phals, Cymbidiums and any orchid that likes a moister medium should be planted in plastic pots.

Cattleyas, Dendrobium and others that like to dry out between watering grow best in clay. If any doubt, bring some of each. Larger drainage holes can be made simply by lightly chipping away at the normal drainage hole with an old

pair of clippers or the edge of a hammer.

Clean Clippers, Labels, Number 2 pencil

Sometimes we put materials in the bottom of the pot to improve drainage and hold potting mix in. Some examples are **pebbles, Styrofoam peanuts and clean, broken, clay, pot pieces.**

We will provide work trays and newspaper for the meeting but if your plant is so involved that it can't be repotted in 30 minutes, **please bring a box to put the unfinished plant in so you can finish it at home.**



Now sure if enlarging the hole is necessary but I do it for plants that like to dry out. The hole is covered with clean pieces of broken pots.



This plant has so many roots you can't see the pot! You can see at lower center; I've started trimming roots just to find the top of the pot! Always use sterile tools.

WHY CUT ROOTS? One of the things that must be done when repotting some orchids is removing the roots or at least a great deal of roots. There are different opinions on how much root to remove, some growers remove all living roots to about 2 inches, others cut back only what won't fit in the new pot without being broken. Why cut them at all? Well on a well grown plant they just won't fit in a pot! Plus, that white or grey green thick stuff is really a spongy covering for the root. It's something called **velamen** and works like a sponge soaking up nutrient rich water and holding it for the root to send to the plant. Broken roots in a pot still soak up water but since the connection is broken, they can't send it to the plant to use for growth so those soggy roots sit in the pot like a rotten sponge and can ruin new roots. As a plant grows it makes new roots and old roots die and build up in the pot, that's one reason why we should repot our orchids regularly. Often scale insects take up residence on the roots along with other small insects like snails. It's really hard to kill scale on roots; cutting the infected roots off cleaning the plant and placing it in a hospital pot until new scale free roots are grown is a good way to heal the plant.



WHAT'S BLOOMING? Gayle Greene-Aguirre sent some pics of her Miltoniopsis which are blooming like crazy in her home for the last 2.5 months. Notice the distance to the window and how she makes the best use of space. All it takes is a south or east window.

NOTES FROM OUR JUDGING CENTERS: We are very lucky to be within a 5 to 6 hour drive to a judging center. Visitors are welcome and bring your best plant for judging.

The **Atlanta Judging Center** met on Saturday, June 12th at 2PM. 21 plants were submitted for judging and 4 received AOS awards. They are: Cattleya tigrina 'Palmetto Thunder', a cross of C. tigrina 'Brazilian Beauty' X C. tigrina 'Towering Inferno', which received an AM of 82 points owned by Fred Missbach. Vanda Crownfox Avocado Honey 'Blood Moon', a cross of Vanda Siam Spots x Vanda Doctor Anek, which received an AM of 83 points owned by RF Orchids. Robert Fuchs. President of the American Orchid Society was a guest at the judging center and participated in judging. The award was granted to a cut flower inflorescence. Bletilla ochracea 'Chasus', a species that received a CCM of 82

points and owned by Charles and Susan Wilson. Vanchoanthe Ben Mianmanus 'Crownfox', a cross of Vandachostylis Evergreen Magic X Papilionanda Mimi Palmer, which received an HCC of 78 points and owned by RF Orchids. This award was granted to a cut flower inflorescence. All photographs by Charles Wilson. You are always welcome to bring your plants or cut inflorescences to the monthly

judging which is held at 2pm on the second Saturday of each month at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Mershon Hall.



Cattleya tigrina 'Palmetto Thunder'



Vanda Crownfox Avocado Honey 'Blood Moon'



Bletilla ochracea 'Chasus'



Vanchoanthe Ben Mianmanus 'Crownfox'

The **Louisiana Judging Center**, sponsored by the Central Louisiana Orchid Society in Alexandria Louisiana met on June 26 at their new permanent meeting place the Westside Regional Library 5416 Provine Pl, Alexandria. They held their semi-annual action and offered some exciting plants. Training starts at 11:00 am followed by lunch with judging starting at 1:00. Four plants were awarded. Eron Borne won two AOS awards: an 85-point AM for his Phrag Vingtaine du Roguier 'Catahoula Goliath and an 82-point AM for his Cattleya Catahoula Sunset 'Julia Katherine'. Al Taylor won a 79-point HCC for his Barkeria melanocaulon 'Louisiana' and Mary Mancini won a 77-point HCC for her Choloscista vinidiflava 'Snookie'. Susan Hathorn was the photographer. Guests are welcome.



Barkeria melanocaulon 'Louisiana'



Phrag. Vingtaine du Roguier 'Catahoula Goliath'



Cattleya Catahoula Sunset 'Julia Katherine'



Choloscista vinidiflava 'Snookie'