

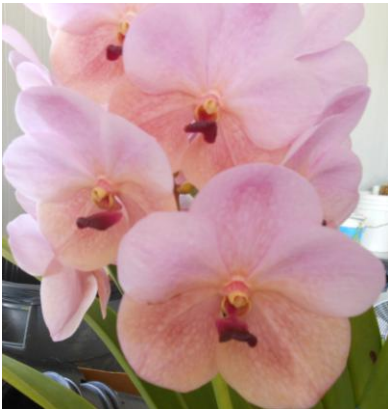


Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

March 13, 2016

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, March 13, 2016** 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 cafeteria is north of the college off Runnymede. The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. The topic will be 'Potting and Repotting'. Glen reports that he **MAY** have some potting mix available for sale at the class. Everyone is welcome!

Daylight savings time starts this weekend; please set your clocks!



Vanda Thompson's Love 'Charles and Bernice' HCC/AOS



Vanda Yarnisa Gold Morning Sun' AM/AOS



Vanda Buttercups 'Tony and Jo Ann' AM/AOS

PROGRAM: Vandas! Jo Ann will bring in some of the Vandas she topped in the spring of 2015 to show you the results. She'll bring in the bottom parts to show also. You will see what worked and what didn't and perhaps you can learn from her mistakes. We'll talk about Vanda care and why she said goodbye to tea bags! She'll also tell you how and where to buy new Vandas cheap!

Vandas are those great big, bright, beautiful orchids that grow in baskets outside, usually from trees. They love almost full sun and lots of water. Above are some of Jo Ann's Vandas that have been awarded by the American Orchid Society. The plants at right and center are top cuts of plants that were divided in June of 2015 and awarded in September 2015! Photos courtesy of Orchids Plus.

Do not expect to see lots of blooming orchids like the ones above or hear Jo Ann brag about how easily Vandas grow. She will show you the errors she has made over the years in hopes that you will learn from her mistakes.

A representative from Three Orchid Friends will have blooming or in spike Vandas for sale at the meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: We had three new members join last month, Stanley Sagara from Gulfport, Janet Bryant from Ocean Springs and Nancy Miller from Chambersburg, PA. If you see some new faces at the meeting please take the time to introduce yourself and make our new friends feel welcome.

All our new members got plants for joining. If you are thinking about joining at the March meeting; please let us know your intentions so we can bring in a new member plant for you.

REFRESHMENTS: March's refreshments will be supplied by Shari Harshberger and Deborah Bordelon, Janet Bridges and Valerie Scurria will bring April's. We will pass around a new sign-up sheet at the April meeting please think about signing up. Call our Hospitality Coordinator, Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640 if you have questions.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

April 17, 2016 third Sunday Tom Kuligowski; an authority on Angraecum orchids will speak and sell plants.



We were told he'll be bringing a van loaded with plants! Angraecums are in the Vanda family. Most flowers are a wonderful creamy green white with long spurs that hold nectar. This is Darwin's orchid, he found the plant, saw the flower and predicted that it was pollinated by a moth with a very long nose! Twenty-one years after his death the moth was discovered.

The list is attached. At left is Angraecum Longidale 'Bentree' photo courtesy of Orchids Plus. Photographer Tom Kuligowski

May 15, 2016 Our annual covered dish lunch and orchid auction.

June 12, 2016 We hope to have a special speaker this month hang on for more details!

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: The February meeting was fun. The society got three new members. All members that supported the show got their choice of a free plant. The left over plants were sold for \$5.00 each with the society making \$205.00 from the sale. There were twenty-four plants on the show and tell tables. John Bridges' Dendrobium aphyllum 'Aunt Alma' won best plant. Valerie Scurria won the door prize. Jo Ann donated a Cookara Bill to the Society for special auction. Sydney Dyce won the plant for \$45.00. She entered it in the Mobile show and got a blue ribbon for her efforts.

TERREBONNE ORCHID SHOW: Sydney Dyce, Andra Mladinich and Valerie Scurria are doing a **small** exhibit at the Terrebonne show on behalf of the society. Three Orchid Friends will be in Terrebonne selling orchids and doing their commercial exhibit. They offered to help us by doing the exhibit and carrying the staging equipment. Andra will bring the plants in her SUV and do the paperwork for our exhibit. Val will do whatever she can to help. We thank everyone who sent plants and also thank you for understanding that we can only bring a few of each person's plants as there is only so much room in Andra's SUV once you put in two people and their luggage. Southland Mall has very strict rules. The backdrop can be no higher than 6' and we cannot go out of our allotted space. It is hard sometimes not to send everything you have so we send a special thank you to those who only sent their best! Our crew will spend the weekend at the show.

If you have some free time Saturday please drive over to Houma and support the show. The show is in the Sears corridor in Southland Mall in Houma.



2016 GCOS exhibit in Mobile Area Orchid Society Show

MOBILE SHOW: Becky and her team once again did an outstanding exhibit. There were lots of members there working on other projects who offered assistance but special thanks to Judy Harris, John Tate and Richard Crespin. The exhibit won the AOS show trophy with an outstanding 84 point score. Thirteen members sent a total of 38 plants winning 20 ribbons. The exhibit also boasted 4 tri-color ribbons and 5 trophies and one AOS award. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Thanks also to all the wonderful friends we made in Mobile. They all made us feel at home.

GCOS SHOW: Congratulations to all those who worked our raffle and bought raffle tickets. The raffle netted a record winning \$413.00! Mark your calendars now for our 2017 show, January 26-29!

COMING SHOWS: Here's a list of local shows:

March 11-13, Atlanta Orchid Society Show and Sale, The Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Day Hall, Barbara Barnett, bkbarnett1@windstream.net cell 770-355-9609

April 1-3, 2016 Heart of Dixie Orchid Society Show, Holiday Inn Research Park, Huntsville, AL
June 3-5, 2016 New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale, Lakeside Shopping Center, Metairie, LA contact:
Carol Molero bluecat1147@yahoo.com 504-466-2927



Three Orchid Friends sales table at our show, Tina at left, Judy in center.

THREE ORCHID FRIENDS: Some of you may be wondering what we mean by Three Orchid Friends (3OF). They are a new commercial vendor in our area made of three members of the society: Sydney Dyche, Tina Torguson and Judy Chinsee. They want to thank everyone who supported them at our show. From time to time during the year they will bring in orchid plants to sell at our meetings. This is a great asset for our Society and a real win/win situation for everyone. They make money on plant sales, you get some great plants and the society gets 10% of all the sales made at our meetings.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. If you want a GCOS shirt see Chip Lechner. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. You supply a clean shirt.

CULTURE TIP: Right now many of you have blooming Phalaenopsis (Phal) orchids. These plants are commonly called 'Moth Orchids' as the flowers are presented on the flower stalk in a way that resembles moths hovering over something. A good Phal should have its flowers presented on alternate sides of the flower spike curving downward. This effect is called shingling. When you move a blooming or in bud Phal and don't put it back exactly as it was; often times you'll find that the shingling effect has changed. Flowers will follow the sun and some will turn to reach the available sunlight as they open resulting in flowers facing sideways or even backwards from the rest. Poorly aligned flowers are not show quality flowers. To avoid this effect always mark the label in the pot to a certain position on the shelf where the plant stays.

Depending on what materials Phals are potted in they should be repotted every year or every other year. They should not go longer than that without repotting. After the flowers fade the spike can be removed and the plant can be repotted. Phals like more water than many other orchids and grow best in plastic pots. This causes even the most porous potting mediums to begin breaking down and therefore they will begin to hold water. Leaving plants in soggy medium lets root rot start.

To learn more about potting Phals, attend our Orchids 101 class. Glen will show you how to repot and answer any of your concerns.



Poor flower shingling



Good example of shingling

AN EDITORIAL FROM THE OLD

GROUCH: I would like to thank everyone that helped and supported Becky in doing the society exhibit at our show and in Mobile and also thank those members who helped me. Yes, I know sometimes I'm not too accepting of your help but there's a reason for that; only so much can go in a van.

This is true of exhibits also; there's only so many plants that can fit into an exhibit. We have to limit it some way. We are sorry if we didn't use your plants in any of our exhibits, especially if you made a special trip to bring it to us. The Terrebonne show is especially difficult. We have to carry the supplies for two exhibits, 3OF's sales plants, three adults and their luggage for three days and display plants! We will try our very best to fit everything in, each plant is special, but please understand if some of yours get left behind.