



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

**August 11, 2019**

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, August 11 at 2:00** at **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 on the north side of the school off Runnymede. For those with GPS the address of the school is 2226 Switzer Rd., Gulfport, MS 39507.

The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. The topic is "Potting and Repotting Part II".



**Vanda Gordon Dillon** grown by **Marty Miller** The college air conditioner is on high during the week. On weekends its still on high even though there aren't many people there so if you don't like cold, bring a sweater or light jacket.

**PROGRAM: August 11, Second Sunday.** We'll end our summer education series with a final program on "Vandas". For some reason AOS did not send the Vanda program so 'Miss I can do it all!' made a power point program showing her growing area and some of the different types of plants from the Vanda family she grows. You'll see some pretty pics of American Orchid Society award winning flowers and you'll see some ugly pics of plants that have issues. We'll talk about what causes these issues and what needs to be done to make these Vandas happy. One of our members got a great deal from Motes Orchids on Vanda seedlings. She will have some of these available for sale at the August meeting. The program will end with pictures of the flowers of the seedlings or of the parents of the seedlings which will be available for sale during the break.

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

**September 8, Second Sunday** We will use this meeting to prepare for our October speaker, Fred Clarke. Hopefully we will work on our group order from Fred's orchid company, Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO). We will review his plants and prepare our orders. Fred is offering both members and friends of the society a 10% discount and free shipping (to the meeting) for orders of plants from his website after Sept 1. Please come to the September meeting and see how easy placing an online order is.

**October 13, Second Sunday** – We have an agreement with Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids to speak and sell plants. He will give two talks the first at 12:30 will be on general orchid care and the second talk at 3:00 pm will be on Catasetums.

**November 10, Second Sunday.** We'll have a fun program, playing **Name That Orchid**. All the pictures you'll see will be featured orchids from the June, July, August, September and October programs. If you came to those meetings and paid attention – it may win you a free plant!

**December 8, Second Sunday** Orchid Bingo; every member wins a plant! Christmas potluck

## UPCOMING SHOWS:

**September 13-15, 2019** The Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress held jointly with the Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show the "Show Dome" of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**October 16 -20**, East Everglades Orchid Society show in conjunction with the AOS Fall Members Meeting. R.F. Orchids gardens 28100 SW 182<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Homestead, FL



Cynthia's plant, *Stanhopea Assidensis* a hybrid between *tigrina* and *wardii*

**Dec. 7** Acadian Orchid Society Short Course Hilton Garden Inn, 2350 W. Congress St., Lafayette, LA

**Jan 24-26, 2020** Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center.

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Even though the weather was terrible 23 members and two guests made it to the July meeting. Members got a chance to get some great Paphs for very reasonable prices. The program on pests and diseases was well received. Pat Schmidt has agreed to be our Membership Liaison. There were 29 plants on the show and tell table with Cynthia Oetker's *Stanhopea Assidensis* winning best plant. The door prize was won by Diane Seidemann.

### TIME FOR A CHAT WITH GAYLE, A Message from our

**President:** This morning I was treated to an exquisite surprise as I went into my living room to ensure that my animal menagerie had not eaten or somehow maligned my inside orchid collection. My beasties are generally well mannered when it comes to plants and things that can't run. However, they seem to have some sort of radar to hone in on anything that I value or express an interest in besides them. There, sitting safely on top of the six-foot shelf was my new *Phrag. Grouville* procured by Jo Ann from Lehua Orchids and auctioned off at our July meeting. It is a tiny, rather delicate looking coral shaded beauty with some red veins running through the petals. This Phrag with its single bloom stands alone on its own merits and can adorn an entire shelf as the only flower on display. The plant is glorious in its pure simplicity.

Our society members are like the myriad of species which are part of the orchid kingdom and our own collections. All are unique, but somehow the same. Each member brings a love of these plants along with their own expertise and cultural style. This summer meeting was special because we were able to reconnect with some of our old friends like Marty Miller, Charles and Judy Rush, Doris Jones and Diane Seidemann. Diane was gracious enough to share her *Dendrobium nobile* keikis with members who wanted one. Pat Schmidt brought her friend, Glenda Cobb from Denham Springs and we had two perspective new members, Betty O'Brien of Long Beach and Fred Weissinger of Moss Point. Jo Ann sold some wonderful Paphs and Phrags at bargain prices so we could diversify our collections.



Gayle's *Phrag Grouville*

I know that many members were disappointed by the cancellation of the Baton Rouge Show due to Hurricane Barry, but at least everyone didn't pack up and drive to Louisiana only to have to turn around and come back home with nothing to show for all the effort expended. It is no consolation, but we did have some gorgeous plants at our show and tell. This is a testament to the dedication and devotion that members

have in producing and displaying outstanding plants. If they looked this good now, I am sure that with all the hard work that went into preparing these plants that they will shine again in the future. Who knows? You might wake up at dawn one day to find that floral treasure has rewarded you with a spectacular bloom.



Fred Clarke holding FredClarkeara After Dark

**FRED CLARKE'S VISIT OCTOBER 13, 2019:** The Gulf Coast Orchid Society is doing something we've never done before and it's something few society's do. We are paying for one of the most popular orchid speakers in the world to come to Gulfport to teach us how to grow our orchids better and we are inviting everyone who is interested in orchids to attend - **FREE!**

Fred Clarke is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. Orchids from Sunset Valley Orchids have received hundreds of AOS awards, including 8 that have received the highest honor, the 'First Class Certificate'. He started growing orchids as a hobby almost 30 years ago and now breeds, grows and sells orchids in almost 45,000 sq. ft of greenhouses in Vista, California about 35 miles north of San Diego and 50 miles south of Los Angeles. He will bring plants to sell and he is offering everyone a chance to order from his website,

[sunsetvalleyorchids.org](http://sunsetvalleyorchids.org), and get a 10% discount. Plants will be delivered free to our meeting on October 13. Your website order must be placed after September 1, 2019 and you must use the discount code SOCIETYORDERS, so the cart does not charge you shipping. We ask that you order through the website only. Do not think Fred only sells Catasetums, his greenhouses are full of all types of orchids check out the website he has some great plants for sell including Paphs!

Fred will give two talks. The first will start at 12:30 PM and is entitled **"Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower."** Learn about the



fundamentals of growing orchids and explore some advanced techniques. Orchid plant culture is explained and techniques on how to maximize growth and flowering are reviewed.

After the talk we will have a long refreshment period where you can visit, pick up your preorders, buy more plants, admire outstanding plants on our show and tell table and get some great snacks.

The second talk will start at 3:00 pm and is entitled **"Cycnoches, Mormodes, Catasetums Recent Trends"** A review of the amazing world of Catasetinae. A lively and entertaining presentation, amazing



Fdk After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS

pictures and the making of Fredclarkera After Dark 'the blackest orchid seen.' Also includes a thorough review of plant culture.

After this final talk we encourage you to hang around, visit more, buy more plants and go with us to McElroy's Harbor House Restaurant, 695 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS for Dutch treat dinner.



**E. magnoliae** courtesy of ISOPE

**EPIDENDRUMS IN MISSISSIPPI?** One of our members received a nice gift that she is willing to share with us; a few divisions of the only native epiphytic orchid found in Mississippi, *Epidendrum magnoliae* sometimes called *Epidendrum conopseum* or the Green Fly Orchid. The flowers look like small green flies. They bloom from September to February. It is found in the wild growing on branches hanging low over the water. This plant is very hard to get established. There will not be enough divisions for everyone, so we ask that only those who feel like they have the conditions needed to grow this tiny plant take one.

**NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS:** If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn Lادنier 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.

### SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP – By Gayle Green- Aguirre

This month we will focus on **Pat Schmidt**, our new Membership Liaison who now lives in Amite, Louisiana on 30 acres. She grew up in Thibodaux but has been coming to the Gulf Coast since childhood. Eventually, she settled in New Orleans. Pat has been a very active member of our Society for a little over a year.



**Pat in her greenhouse**

In fact, as new members, Pat and her husband Karl, got a running start with club activities when they helped at January's Show by assisting with our society display and clerking for our judges.

Pat first became involved with orchids when she was planning for future retirement from her job as a Nursing Director who focused on Mother/Baby Services. She decided to make a "Retirement Bucket List" of things she could not do while working. She loved orchids and started with a few at her home in New Orleans. There she became a member of the Jefferson Parish Orchid Club, before she retired and moved to Amite. She and her husband have a part-time place in Gulfport near her brother, so she searched the web for another club and found us. After communicating with Jo Ann, she decided to join us.

She has a greenhouse at her home in Amite. Unfortunately, she had about 60 orchids until the freeze a year ago when her

heater malfunctioned, and she lost the lot. Pat has been collecting small orchids since then and now has about 80.

Thanks to the advice from society members her orchids are flourishing. She attributes this new success to better lighting and watering procedures.



**Pat and her art**

Vandas seem to be her pride and joy since she has found success raising these sometimes, finicky beauties. Recently, she bought a Paph at one of our meetings and it bloomed and flourished for her. Her first to survive! Years ago, Pat purchased many of her plants from the now defunct Oak Hill Gardens. Now she evaluates growers such as Seattle Orchids, R.F Orchids and Sun Valley Growers for good deals.

Pat is in her greenhouse daily to check on water, circulation, new roots and to try to thwart any potential issues. In addition to her orchids, Pat also has a variety of cacti, night blooming cereus, bromeliads, and dragon fruit. To ensure growing success, Pat recommends talking to members who have hands on orchid knowledge. She takes articles and YouTube videos with a grain of salt.

Pat may be retired from her nursing profession, but she is one very busy lady. She and Karl have 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren who are scattered around the country and overseas so keeping in touch with all of them is a challenge. She also does oil painting, pottery and

a little stained glass. She has been President of the Amite Art Club for four years. At our January show Pat won ribbons for her orchid oil paintings and won the overall trophy for Orchid Related Art. Pat might be retired, but she certainly keeps her running shoes on. If we don't see you for a while at our monthly meetings, Pat will be sending you a friendly email just to keep in touch. When you see her on Sunday, be sure to introduce yourself if you haven't had to opportunity to do so in the past. She is a delightful person and will be a real asset to our Society.

**AOS NEWS:** The August issue of *ORCHIDS* Fred Clarke continues his series on the Catasetinae with a beautifully illustrated discussion of the breeding of Clowesias and Clowesetems.

AOS membership rates are going up and membership types are changing. As of January 1, 2020, there will be just two membership plans, Gold and Silver. "Extend" your current membership by 1 or 2 years and keep all the benefits with no additional cost!

Here are four reasons to extend your membership today.

### **1. LOCK-IN SAVINGS FOR UP TO 2 YEARS!**

Membership rates are going up (by \$14/yr) as of January 1, 2020. Extend now, pay your current rate and save up to \$28. This is your chance to get Silver or Gold membership without any additional cost.

Plus, receive a \$30 coupon for 2-yr extensions.

### **2. GET OUR "NEW" ONLINE ORCHID SOFTWARE!**

Access over 95,000 photos of award-winning orchids, exclusive and accurate data, in-depth genealogy, and more.

OrchidPro will be going LIVE on October 1st.

OrchidPro will cost \$99/year for "non-members", but **you'll get full access included with your AOS membership!**

### **3. RECEIVE TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS**

Extending now ensures you will be receiving the 2019 Orchid Source Directory and the highly anticipated 2019 Orchids supplement: *Oncidiinae*.

In addition, everyone that "extends" their membership will receive exclusive discounts toward two very special books we're printing by the end of October so you can receive them at wholesale prices (a combined savings of as much as \$50!)

**Only members that extend will receive these discounts** and at least one of the stunning books will only have 1,000 copies available - these books will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. More details coming soon... check the extend

page Q&A - <https://secure.aos.org/extend>

### **4. SEARCH OVER 10,000 PHOTOS**

Search over 10,000 photos from *Orchids* magazine, with more being indexed weekly. Launching Sept. 1st.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXTEND MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

**(HURRY - Offer EXPIRES August 15, 2019)**