



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

July 18, 2010

Our July meeting will be the **third Sunday, July 18**, due to the Baton Rouge show during the second weekend, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the room behind the cafeteria.

PROGRAM: Jo Ann Vaz will show you how to hack a Cymbidium to pieces with a butcher knife and get it to win the best flowering plant in the entire show two years later! She will share with everyone some of her "secrets" on growing not only Cymbidiums but all orchids. She will also bring some plants to sell. Most of the plants will be potted within the year and priced very cheap; potted divisions of her winning Cymbidiums start at \$5.00 each plus some cattleyas and a few others. Please bring boxes to carry your plants home. For those that can't attend; see the next page for Cymbidium culture. To the right, the tall plant at the back of the exhibit is Cym Showgirl. On the next page is Cym. Starbright; all photos taken by Ken Miles

NEWGROWERS: Glen Ladnier will be starting off the 'New Growers meeting' series with a presentation on nomenclature, the names of orchids. He will go over terms and definitions that every grower should be familiar with, and teach them to read and interpret even the most difficult plant labels. This is a trial run.

If we don't get enough participation, it may not be worth the effort that it takes to put these mini-programs together. If you have any topics that you would like to hear, let us know. We will meet at promptly at 1:30 in the corner of the cafeteria. For those that need to register plants for show and tell; you can do so before New Growers or shortly before the regular meeting.



REFRESHMENTS: Marilyn Ladnier will provide July's refreshments. John Tate will provide refreshments for August. If you'd like to bring refreshments one month or if you have to change your date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-388-5054.



AUGUST PROGRAM: Our August meeting will be in the Media room on Sunday, August 8. Graham Woods from Lehua Orchids in Hawaii will be our special guest speaker. Graham is on the mainland to speak to the Houston Orchid Society workshop on August 7. Orchidists attending the Houston workshop have to PAY to hear Graham's talk; we get to hear him for free*. He will drive from Houston to the Coast just to speak to us and sell some of his fabulous Paphs. His topic will be on breeding red complex Paphs through the use of Paph. bellatum. (photo at left)

*Not counting his expenses

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Our Sept. meeting will be Sept. 12 in the Media room. Larry Hennessey from New Orleans will speak on Bulbophyllums and their kin. He will bring plants to sell. Below is an unknown member of the Bulbophyllum family from our 2010 show taken by Ken Miles.



OCT. PROGRAM: James Phillips from Riverbend Orchids in Biloxi will speak on growing Phals.

SHOW REPORT: John Tate, Earl Young, John and Janet Bridges, Andra Mladinich and Becky Jolly-Wood are doing the Baton Rouge Show July 9, 10 11 at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Park Blvd, contact James Jeansonne 225-275-8103 jamesmj@cox.net. You'll probably get this newsletter too late to send plants but hopefully you'll be able to attend.

SAD NEWS: Juanita McMillin passed away on July 4. She was a longtime member of the Society. She held many offices; in 1987, she was secretary and newsletter editor. Every year she worked tirelessly for our shows, bringing in beautiful plants, chairing the raffle table and cooking blueberry muffins. She made something called trash that was totally out of this world good.

Cymbidium

sym-BID-ee-um

*American Orchid Society
Culture Sheet*

These orchids are prized for their long-lasting sprays of flowers, used especially as cut flowers or for corsages in the spring. There are two main types of Cymbidiums - standards and miniatures. Where summer nights are warm (above 70 F), only miniatures can be recommended, because many are more tolerant of heat and able to flower in warmer weather.



Cym. Starbright

Light is important for growing Cymbidiums. Coming from cool and bright areas in Asia, they need high light but cool temperatures. In many southern climates, high summer temperatures, especially at night, may prevent the plants from blooming. The maximum amount of light possible, short of burning, should be given to the plants. This means only light shade during the middle of the day, or about 20 percent shade. In cool areas (such as coastal California), full sun is tolerated. Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green.

Temperatures are another critical factor in flowering standard and miniature Cymbidiums. During the summer, standard Cymbidiums are usually grown outside in semishade, where day temperatures should be 75 to 85 F (or more), but night temperatures in the late summer to autumn (August to October) must be 50 to 60 F to initiate flower spikes. Optimum temperatures in winter are 45 to 55 F at night and 65 to 75 F during the day. When plants are in bud, temperatures must be as constant as possible, between 55 and 75 F. Miniatures can stand temperatures five to 10 degrees higher than standards and still flower. Most Cymbidiums can tolerate light frosts and survive, but this is not recommended. Bring them inside when temperatures dip to 40 F. In mild climates, they can be grown outside year round. A bright and cool location inside is best for winter months.

Water is necessary to provide a constant supply of moisture to Cymbidiums, which are semiterrestrial plants. They generally produce all their vegetative growth during the spring and summer and need the most water during that period. Water heavily during the growth season, keeping the potting material evenly moist. Reduce water when the pseudobulbs complete growing in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

Humidity outdoors is usually sufficient during the summer, except in dry climates, where evaporative cooling in a greenhouse is necessary. Keep humidity at 40 to 60 percent during the winter, especially if plants are in bud. Keep the air moving to prevent fungus (Botrytis) from spotting the flowers.

Fertilizing at the proper time to help cymbidiums flower. During the growth season (spring through late summer), high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) is used. In late summer, use a high-phosphorus, blossom-booster fertilizer (such as 10- 30-20), to help form bloom spikes. Fertilize at full strength every week to two weeks. In winter, fertilize once a month.

Potting is usually done in the spring after flowering, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes. Shake all of the old potting mix off the roots, dividing the plant if desired. Pick a water-retentive potting mix; medium-grade fir bark with peat moss and perlite is a common mix. Select a pot that will allow for at least two to three years of pseudobulb growth before crowding the pot, while planning on placing the active growing pseudobulb(s) of the division farthest from the side of the pot. Spread the roots over a cone of the mix in the bottom of the pot and fill the container with medium, working it among the roots, tamping firmly. Single backbulbs need not even be placed in mix until new growth and roots are noted. Keep shaded and warm until new growth sprouts, and pot as above. Photo at right is Cym. Mimi 'Lucifer'.

COMPUTER CONNECTIONS: Don't forget our website www.gcorchids.org. April Skeels and Glen Ladnier have done a great job of setting it up and keeping it running. Janet Olier runs our Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Gulf Coast Orchid Society.

