



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

November 17, 2013

Our November meeting will be held the **third Sunday, November 17**, 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. Due to our special speaker there will be no Orchids 101 this month.



Roy Tokunaga with Gram. scriptum. That is one plant!

Miss. Members are encouraged to attend. Marilyn will take a head count during the meeting. More about Roy Tokunaga later in this newsletter.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS:

**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. We need your ideas for a program.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Beryl Davis and Jake Jacobsen will bring November's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640.



B. Little Stars at H&R Nurseries

mistake. One suggestion is to bring mailing labels and stick one on each plant you buy so people can tell they'd already been purchased.

To simplify things a bit here's a list.

**PROGRAM: Our November 17 program** will be the third Sunday because we are having a special speaker that we are sharing with four other societies in the area, Houma, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Roy Tokunaga from H&R Orchids in Hawaii will speak on "An Introduction to Dendrobiums with Emphasis on the Latouria and Formosae Sections," and he will bring our preordered plants and other plants to sell.

After the meeting the Society will treat Roy and his hosts for weekend, Bich and Shang Tran, to dinner at Steve's Marina Rest., 213 E. Beach Blvd, Long Beach

**HAWAII PREORDER:** We broke the record for the biggest preorder we've made so far. With Mobile's help we made over \$2400.00 in pre orders. That's without some of our regulars who stayed out this time. Don't worry if you missed ordering some plants our speaker will bring plenty extras to sell.

With our guest speaker selling plants and members picking up their preorders plus all the show and tell and raffle plants the meeting area will be wonderfully crazy. Please bring a box if you intend to buy plants, make sure your box has your name on it in big letters, you don't want someone getting your plants by

**Plants bought at the meeting.** Make checks payable to H&R Orchids and give to our speaker.

**Preorders** – make checks payable to GCOS and give to Jo Ann

**Bark and perlite** make checks payable to Jo Ann Vaz and give to Jo Ann

**Checks for trophies** for show make check payable to GCOS write trophy on it and give to Jo Ann.

**New member's dues and raffle** checks are made out to GCOS and given to our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier who will sort out everything with a big drink that night!



Earl Young's *Ceratostylis rubra* best plant  
Sale, Mobile Botanic Gardens

**SHOW AND TELL:** Last month's plant table was awesome! You could not get another plant on those tables. There were 48 plants entered! Let's show our guest Hawaii "ain't got nothin on us" and let's really wow him this month! This is the last month for members to make points for the show and tell drawing held at our Christmas luncheon.

**UPCOMING SHOWS:** Here's a list of local shows

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

**Feb 28-March 2 2014** Mobile Area Orchid Society Show and

**March 14 -16, 2014 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show**

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

**Sept. 10-14, 2014** World Orchid Conference Johannesburg, South Africa

**ROY TOKUNAGA:** *I grew up on the beautiful island of Maui, in the Hawaiian Island chain. I left Maui for Honolulu, Oahu to attend the University of Hawaii. It was in the honors program, my favorite mentor, Dr. Yoneo Sagawa, introduced me to Orchids and the new emerging technology of Orchid seed germination and cloning. I eventually earned a Bachelors in Education, to teach biology. I was recruited to work at an Orchid cloning laboratory, E&R Orchids. For seven years I honed my skills in seed germination and cloning. In 1981, I partnered with Harry Akagi to start H&R Nurseries in Waimanalo, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. I am an accredited judge for the American Orchid Society as well as the Honolulu Orchid Society.*

*Today, I have been hybridizing, cloning, and germinating seeds for more than 30 years. H&R maintains a laboratory to do its seed germination and grows Orchids under two acres of shade houses. We have been refocusing H&R to excel in the culture of species as well as providing hybrids in the Dendrobium and Cattleya Alliance. My passion has been the proper nutrition of Orchids and the mythical flower booster. I am working on a power point program to share my discoveries.*

**CARE FOR YOUR NEW ORCHIDS:** Last year when we received our wholesale plant order from Hawaii, one of our members had trouble with a plant. That plant eventually died. To help growers with acclimatizing their new plants to their new home here are my recommendations.

Plants from big commercial growers have been growing in a precise environment tailored for that plant's best growth and bloom. Most times they are given massive doses of fertilizers to make them grow and bloom faster than normal. This is because in any business time is money and a blooming plant will sell for more than a nonblooming plant. Most plants won't show any wear from their journey from Hawaii to here but you must be aware of the trials they go through to get to you.

Our plants were 'pulled' from their normal growing areas on Monday, November 4. They were brought to a secondary holding area where they will be counted, sorted, checked for pests and diseases, inspected, stamped and probably on either Friday, November 8 or Monday, November 11 they will be watered, wrapped in newspapers, taped and put in a box for Fed Ex pick up. Those plants will stay in that dark box from that point on for almost a week. They will most likely arrive at my house late on Thursday, Nov 14 or Nov 15. We will unpack them the next day. That's a week in the dark,



Hospital Pot

dealing with a wide variety of temperatures and many bounces and jolts. They will sit in my garage or my van until you get them on Sunday November 17.

When you finally get your plants home you will want to finish unwrapping the newspaper. Check the pot and roots. If the plant is not firmly in the pot you may want to remove it from the pot and repot it in whatever materials work best for you. Inspect the roots carefully. If the newspaper was damp the roots may be starting to rot. If the roots are brownish and damp cut the brown soft roots away. If the roots all look rotted cut off what you can and do not repot the plant. Simply set it upright in a large clay pot, wait a couple days

then water it as you normally water your other similar type orchids. It may have contacted a rot type disease. Water spreads rot so the plant needs to dry out a little first. Once you see new roots start to emerge then pot it up and treat the plant like any other newly potted plant. Since they've been in the dark for over a week, do not put any of these new plants in harsh bright sunlight. Position them in a semi bright area and watch them closely for any sign of sunburn for the next few days. Slowly move them to a brighter area. Once a few weeks have passed and you see no sign of pests, disease or weeds then you can let them join your other orchids.

**FROM THE FACEBOOK CORNER:** We want to remind everyone of the impact of sharing our Facebook photos and status updates. If each member on Facebook has 200 friends and there are 30 members on Facebook, then automatically 600 people see it. The potential gets even larger when friends of your friends see it also. Each of your 200 friends has 200 friends, and so on; the potential is in the thousands!! The closer we get to our show; we really need all the publicity we can get!! Face book is a free, easy way to help us do just that. So, please, anyone who is on Face book, take an extra few seconds, and share any photos, and updates from our page you can. It has the potential to reach thousands of people, who may come to our show!!



Orchid Art 2013

**SHOW NEWS:** Plans for our Feb 14-16, 2014 show at the Gautier Convention Center are moving forward. We have some wonderful new ideas that we are going to try. We will have a Children's Corner on Saturday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Lexie Mitchell will lead a children's coloring table with orchid coloring pages and Kaitlyn Burton will do orchid face painting for children. Kaitlyn's brother Michael will assist these activities.

We are also enlarging our art section to both a children's and an adult category with small cash prizes for the top three winner of each category. We'll also give an award for the most unique art entry.

On Saturday starting at 2:00pm Jo Ann will give a class on 'Your First Orchid'. If there are overflow people she'll give a second class at 3:00pm.