



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

January 12, 2020

Happy New Year Everyone! Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 2:00pm** 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 regular meeting at 1:30**. Glen's topic is 'Breeding Trends in Orchids'. Orchids 101 is a free 30-minute session led by one of our best growers, Glen Ladnier. It's very informal and guests are welcome.



Members enjoying our Christmas pot luck! Photo by Marilyn Ladnier

PROGRAM: This is our planning meeting for our 2020 show, January 24-26, with set up Thursday afternoon, January 23 from 1:00 pm until around 6:00pm. Our show is a little more than a week away from this meeting. We need help doing everything; cooking, cleaning, making lists, data entry, staging, photography, signage, clerks, security to protect workers and plants . . . the list goes on and on.

Please come to the meeting and volunteer. We will have sign-up sheets available.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: We are still working on programs for most months. If you can do a program or know of a topic, you'd like us to cover please let us know.

February 9, Second Sunday - Thank you meeting for show workers and an introduction to the Orchid Society for new members. All those who help with the show and are present at the meeting get a free plant. In past years members have asked to bring plants to workers that cannot come to the February meeting. We can no longer do this. If you worked, you get a free plant only if you attend the February meeting.

March 8, Richard Crespin will teach a hands-on class on repotting of Catasetinae type plants.

April 19 Third Sunday because Easter is the 2nd Sunday - Larry Hennessey of New Orleans will talk on Bulbophyllums and bring plants to sell.

May 17 Third Sunday because Mother's Day is second Sunday - Annual covered dish luncheon and Orchid Auction

June 14 Second Sunday the start of our summer learning session – Hard Cane Dendrobiums. Hopefully plants will be available for sale.

July 19 Third Sunday due to Baton Rouge show. Continuing with summer learning session – Maxillarias and Their Friends. Hopefully plants will be available for sale.

August 9 A lot of you asked for more programs on Vandas. You guys must really love Vandas, this time we'll explore other types of Vandaceous Plants. Hopefully we'll have some for sale.

September 13 Test time - We'll have another easy test and free plants to win. All questions will be gleaned from our three summer learning sessions.

October 18 Third Sunday Special Speaker - Denny Haase – Spring Orchids, Spring, Texas, no topic at this time but he will bring plants to sell.

November 8 Second Sunday Open

December 13 Annual covered dish luncheon and Orchid Bingo

SHOW REPORT: Please remember to pay for or bring in any trophies you support. Your names go into the show schedule which we hope will be ready for the meeting. We have five vendors, six commercial exhibits, one educational exhibit and possibly one private exhibit. Four societies have signed up for exhibits.

ORCHID RELATED ART: Don't forget our orchid art section of the show. Entries must be in place **by 3:30 pm Friday, January 24.** We would like to find someone who does not enter anything in the art competition to handle the Orchids Related Art section of our show completely. This would mean setting up the art tables Thursday night or Friday morning, helping people check in their art on Friday, helping with the art judging Friday night and making sure all the art goes home Sunday.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

Jan 11 AOS Outreach Judging Session Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, **Jan 24-26, 2020 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show;** Gautier Convention Center.

Feb. 28- March 1, 2020 Mobile Area Orchid Society Show and Sale, Bellingrath Gardens. This is their 43rd annual show and sale.

Mar 13-15 Calcasieu Orchid Society Show, City Hall Lake Charles, LA 337-368-1456

April 25-26 Acadian Orchid Society Show

May 29-31 New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale, Lakeside Mall, Metairie, LA

July 11-12 Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show and Sale; Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge.

AOS OUTREACH JUDGING SESSION: The AOS Outreach Judging Session sponsored by SWROGA; Houston Region will be Saturday morning, January 11, at the Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge. This is the same place where they've had their most recent shows. The Judges will take us, step by step, explaining what they are required to look at, the process of AOS judging, and why a plant receives an AOS award. They will also tell us what are flaws that prevent plants from being scored. It should help us to know what to look for in our own collections.

Doors will open at 8:30 AM. The session will start at 9:00 AM. If you're bringing plants for AOS consideration, they must be registered before 9:00 AM. A light breakfast will be served between 8:30 and 9:00 and after the session, around noon, lunch will be served. (Food provided by the Baton Rouge Orchid Society.) If anyone needs accommodations for Friday night or for questions email Frank Zachariah at louisd8@gmail.com

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: This was our annual Christmas banquet and bingo fest. We had 44 members present including new members Megan and Eric Lease from Ocean Springs and 1 guest, Joy Lorens' sister from California



Bingo Plants

We played orchid bingo till everyone won a plant! The food was excellent and so were our bingo plants. Thanks Glen, for finding such great plants. A special thank you goes to Andra who supervised the luncheon and brought in all those drinks and accessories and thank you to all the great cooks who brought in such wonderful food!

Glen Ladnier awarded his most improved grower of the year to Joy Lorens. Cynthia Oetker won most Best Plant with 4 wins. We had thirty-two members bring in at least one plant for Show and Tell in 2019. The scoring was very close; top winner with 109 points was Richard Crespin, second place winner with 108 points was Trey Thigpen and third place winner with 107 points was Janice Fabo. They got their pick of our Christmas plants. We then

drew names of members present and had brought in show and tell plants during the year for three more plants.

VENDORS: Some of you have asked, “When is the best time to buy from our vendors?” All of you want first pick! The best time is to preorder so the best plants will be there waiting for you. The sales areas open after 10:00 am on Friday. Some of our vendors will arrive Thursday afternoon while others will not get in till Friday afternoon! Our vendors have had a long drive and need to unload their plants, check into their motels and start setting up their sales and exhibit areas. They all have a system of unloading as any damaged flower is either one less sale or one less AOS award. Please give them time to catch their breath. When they arrive, ask what you can do to help and be very careful! If you see a vendor working on his exhibit wait until he goes back to his sales area to ask about sales plants.

VENDOR ADS: Some of our vendors have sent in ads promoting what they are bringing for our show. Here is a list of our vendors and what they want you to know:

Jodie Shumaker of Secret Garden Rare Plants jodishu@gmail.com, Is almost recovered from hurricane Michael. Check out his website: secretgardenrareplants.com. If you preorder from his website, you'll get 20% off plus no shipping charge. The society offered three pots of *Macodes petola* as bingo plants which went fast. Jodie has more and may have some in bloom for our show! Show price will be \$10.00 each. He also has some *C. walkeriana* 'Kenny' small plants for \$10.00 and full 4" pots of *Rth. Love Triangle* 'Carmela' for \$15.00.

Denny Haase, Spring Orchids, Spring Texas at springorchids4@yahoo.com will sell plants at our show again this year. Denny's been growing orchids forever and has a lifetime of orchids filling his greenhouses. He has a lot of hard to find stuff that he is willing to share with you! He has a lot of species and weird stuff like *Bulbophyllums* and *Coelogynes*. He has a good many blooming size *Cattleya* species like *walkeriana* and *nobilior*, email Denny, tell him what you're looking for he'll probably have it and give you a great deal! Denny will also bring to our show some blooming mini Phals along with a few of the standard Phals types. He plans on bringing some great bulldog Paphs in bud or blooming in two sizes. If you want *weird, awesome or outstanding*; email Denny your wish lists and he'll get back to you with what he has.

Mark Reinke, Marble Branch Farms www.marblebranchfarms.com of Walhalla, SC sent an ad with photos prices and a lot of info. Mark's a great, knowledgeable grower. His ad is attached.

Kent and Sheila Daniels of Sheila's Orchids, Marrero, LA 504-348-8152 are our newest vendors. This is their second year with us. Kent says they specialize in all types of orchids but the large flowered Cattleyas are one of their specialties. Kent also grows some very special hibiscus plants. If you're interested in Cattleyas give them a call to see what they have.

Hicks Orchids and Supplies, Kenny Hicks, Orlando FL 1-407-733-1887 hicksj0430@bellsouth.net, check out their website hicksorchidsandsupplies.simdif.com. Kenny and his family were our vendors for several years. They were last here in 2014. It's time they came back and with your help they may keep on coming. One of our biggest expenses with potting media is the shipping, which can sometimes be triple the initial price. Check out their website, find out what you need, then call Kenny and preorder the materials. He will bring it to the show with no added shipping! Do not assume they will bring big bags of barks, charcoal or rock without preordering. If you're a Vanda grower, they have very good, sturdy, cypress Vanda baskets in both the square and octagon sizes. Kenny will also bring some great orchids and some Bromeliads.

January's "Spotlight on Membership: Earl Young from our President, Gayle Greene-Aguirre:

This month let me introduce you all to our very own "Orchid Whisper"—Earl Young. Earl has been raising orchids for nearly 50 years in Hattiesburg, his hometown. During this time, he has become familiar with just about every genera of orchid, although Bulbophyllums are his favorite. This is due to their unique and unusual habits and the fact that they are quite a challenge to grow successfully. Earl has been able to crack the code on keeping these beauties not only alive but flourishing in his numerous greenhouses.



Our Earl at a prior meeting

When he was living in Hattiesburg, Earl had three greenhouses differing in sizes from 14x20', 33x72' and his cool growing area in an 8x10 house. Now that he has moved to Purvis to be near family members, he has scaled down a bit, but still has a 14x20' greenhouse for all of his newest acquisitions. Most of his plants come from auctions, shows and other members. Earl is a major force within the Southern Coastal Region as he is a member of our GCOS, Hattiesburg Orchid Society, Mobile, New Orleans as well as the Pensacola Society. Through his work with these groups Earl has met numerous orchid fanciers and judges and has acquired extensive expertise as a renowned grower. Because of his persistence and attention to detail Earl has earned over 10 AOS Awards, one of his favorites is the yellow coconut orchid, *Maxillaria tenuifolia* 'Marty Martin' AM/AOS.

Just how did Earl become the local "Orchid Whisperer"? Earl told me that it all started back in Hattiesburg in 1974 at Gipson Distributors.

This local company imported items from Mexico and Central America and the foreign companies used foliage as well as native orchids for packing material. As a lover of all plants Earl spotted some raggedy epidendrums in a pile of junk outside of the store. He took them home and to his surprise they flourished. From this time on Earl was an orchid aficionado who traveled all over the Caribbean and Central America in search of these beauties. He and Jo Ann even rode elephants into the jungles of Thailand to view magnificent plants that filled the canopies above them. Back in his earlier days, Earl had many "Indiana Jones" style adventures in search of these elusive beauties. When you see him, be sure to ask him to tell you about his orchid escapades!

It is not surprising that Earl was able to get these plants into shape as he is a retired Army Quartermaster Corps NCO who spent much of his career as a Mess Sergeant. Now if Earl can manage to serve up three meals a day for over 2500 hungry soldiers at a time, then he certainly has the stamina to handle these finicky plants that also demand their food and drink. OK. Maybe not scrambled eggs with bacon and SOS. These days Earl serves up “feedings” for his orchid crew about 30 minutes every day when he is not busy taking care of his vending machine and washateria businesses.



Maxillaria tenuifolia 'Marty Martin' AM/AOS

Earl always tries to come down to our Orchid Auction and Christmas

BINGO to spy out the best plants. If you have questions about your plants do not hesitate to ask his advice and opinion as he has a myriad of orchid experiences to share with all of us. We certainly can all benefit from his first-hand orchid knowledge.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES: Dues are due at our January 2020 meeting. Dues are \$10.00 per single membership, 15 for double membership and then \$5.00 for each extra person living at the same location. New memberships get a free plant one plant per membership only. Dues cannot be paid at our shows; if you cannot attend the meeting send your check to Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. After January dues will be \$15.00 per person.

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.



Just in case you've never seen Earl without his red shirt!