



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

February 12, 2012

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, February 12, 2012**, 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 New Growers meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30 in the smaller meeting room. This month's New Grower's topic will be a discussion on problem plants. If you have a plant that needs a little TLC bring it in and Glen will help you. Everyone is welcome.

PROGRAM: We do not have a formal program scheduled for February. We will have a "Rewards Session" for all our show workers as our way of saying thanks. Bring your name tags used during the show and trade all those stars in for great free plants. We'll also give out "special awards" to deserving workers. This will not be a repeat of last year's special awards, although some of the same people may get special awards, they will get them for different tasks. It is wonderful how our members can see a job that needs doing and do it without being told! We'll have some great plants for sale and we will auction off a super "specimen" plant so bring a box for your new plants and your checkbook.



A section of our exhibit
Photo by Marty Miller

The winner of the dessert bake off will be announced. They will get a free first pick of all our sale plants! There were several runners-up who will get free plants too; only later in the meeting.

REFRESHMENTS: Rob and Joy Lorens will provide February's refreshments. Janet and John Bridges will bring March's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-388-5054.

SHOW REPORT: We had an outstanding show; congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated! The society exhibit won Best Society Exhibit, and the People's Choice Award. Becky Jolly-Wood and her exhibit set up crew did the best exhibit ever! Other awards in our exhibit were: Walter Taylor won Best Misc.

Genera with his Ludisa discolor, Earl Young won Best Grown Plant Cymbidium Alliance with his Cymbidium sinense; Earl also won Best Grown Flowering Plant in the GCOS exhibit with his Cattlianthe (Ctt. Syn, Lc.) Magic Bell 'Carnival'. Janice Fabo won Best Grown Cattleya Alliance plant in the ENTIRE Show and Best Flower in the GCOS exhibit with her Sc. Tropical Pointer. Jo Ann Vaz won Best Grown and Flowered Species Plant in the GCOS Exhibit with Prosthechea (Syn. Encyclia) cochleata.



Bolopetalum Midnight Blue grown by Judy Chinsee won a blue ribbon in the show.
Photo by Marty Miller

Our raffle made \$305.00. Congratulations to our super raffle team! We've been getting quite a few thank you notes from the judges on their gift bags with lots of great comments about the wine, the bake off, our friendliness and the quality and variety of the plants.



Earl Young, Bill Torguson, Vicki Perry assisting the judges photo by Marty Miller

We are all different; we have different talents and abilities. Everyone worked as hard as they could. You all need to know we appreciate every effort, every dish cooked, every chair or table moved, every pot wrapped, every ribbon placed, every raffle ticket sold and all the kind words and thoughtful deeds. The kindness and hard work done by all of you is what made this show such a success!

MARCH PROGRAM: Our March 11, 2012 meeting is still tentative.

We're trying to plan something very special for our members. The school, J.D, is closed for spring break so we've tentatively scheduled the meeting at the old Conrad's restaurant in Singing River Mall in Gautier.

MOBILE SHOW: The Mobile Area Orchid Society will have an AOS judged show Feb 17-19, 2012 at the Mobile Botanic Gardens, 5151 Museum Drive, Mobile call Joe Paine 251-209-1008 or Pat Dickey 251-847-2747. We will do a 10' exhibit. Once again we'll need your plants and your help.

DUES ARE DUE: It's time to renew your dues for 2012. Dues are \$10 for single and an additional \$5.00 for each additional member living at the same address. First time members get only one free plant per address; not one per person. There is no free plant for renewals. New members must pay dues at the meeting, returning members can mail them to Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. Chip Lechner's Mom can machine embroider an orchid, the society's name and the member's name on shirts that members supply. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. Find a shirt that you'd like to have embroidered, wash it, and bring the clean shirt to the meeting. **Clearly print** your name as you want it to appear on the shirt on a piece of paper and safety pin it to the shirt. Put your phone number on the paper too, in case there are any questions.



Last month's show and tell table

DISPLAY TABLE: For our new members and guests. We normally have a huge show and tell table full of awesome orchid plants. We have so many that we limit each member to no more than five plants each month. All are welcome to bring plants for judging. January was the start of the year for acquiring points on our plant table. Each time you bring in a plant for the display table you get one point. Depending on the ribbons you win you get more points. At the Christmas meeting the top three point winners get blooming size plants, then we draw from the names of those who brought in plants during the year and are present at the Christmas meeting for more blooming size plants.

We also vote on the best grown and flowered plant on the display table. You'll get a small paper ballot. Each plant is numbered. Write the number of your favorite Best Grown plant on the ballot and turn it in to Tina Torguson.

WHAT'S FOR SALE THIS MONTH? Jo Ann will donate a few of her plants in bloom; Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums and some weirdoes. We purchased some non-blooming and blooming paphs which we will offer for sale. Most of these plants are overgrown in 4" square pots. Many are crosses with Paph. philippinense, which is the lady slipper orchid that has the long side whiskers (petals) that curve and drape down almost a foot. It is referred to as multi-floral in that it has several flowers on a spike, sometimes all open at once. It is native to the Philippines and found growing out over limestone cliffs. It likes our hot, humid, sunny climate and will grow well here. There were philippinense crosses in exhibit 3 which won all the awards.



Paph Green Horizon

Some of the other Paphs available for sale will be crosses of Paphiopedilum spicerianum. Paph. spicerianum is found growing on limestone cliffs in India. It normally has only one flower per inflorescence, but it is a very fast grower and does well in this area. There was an example of it in exhibit 3 that won Best Grown Flowering Plant in the entire show.

We will sell the non-blooming Paphs for \$8.00 each and the blooming or in bud Paphs for \$10.00 each.



Phal. amabilis

We will also feature several blooming Phalaenopsis crosses and two dozen Phal. amabilis meristems in 3" pots. This is the original moth orchid. The first orchid of this type was discovered by a plant explorer back in the 1800's. He was searching in a jungle in the Mideast around dusk and he saw what appeared to be a large group of moths hovering over something. When he got to the moths he found that it wasn't really moths but orchids! Phal. amabilis roughly translated means lovely moth. Phals make good houseplants. In

nature they grow on the base of trees where it's not as bright and it is a little damper. So put these near a south or east window close but not right near the glass maybe about a foot away. A light sheer curtain between the plant and the window is all you'll need. These will be priced at \$10.00 each.

We will auction a specimen sized Guarianthe (Syn. Cattleya) aurantiaca. Specimen plants are plants that are grown to very



large size. This one plant almost completely covers a roughly 14" x 14" mount. It has small, 1", bright orange flowers. It is native to El Salvador and Mexico and is found in tropical rain forests growing on rocks or trees, in



areas of extreme heat. It loves spending its summers outside here on the coast but keep it warm in the winter. It is used in breeding small orange colored cattleyas. We had 18 entries in the small flowered orange cattleya category at the show, most were descendants of Guarianthe aurantiaca. Above right is Ctt. Magic Bells which has C. aurantiaca as a grandparent. A similar plant owned by Earl Young won Best Grown Flowering Plant in the GCOS exhibit.