



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

March 14, 2010

Our March meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 14**, at 2:00 in 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**. Go north past the college and turn left.

PROGRAM: Our scheduled speaker, Mark Rose, has injured his shoulder and is not able to drive down for his presentation on 'Native Orchids of the Southeastern United States.' We will try to reschedule later in the year. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause.

Glen Ladnier will do the March program which he has titled "Hardcore Re-potting". It will not be limited to potting up a plant or two. Instead he will address the whys and wherefores of potting, and the mindset that dictates how one arrives at the process, which too many people take for granted. Glen will demonstrate some of the various mixes he uses.



We will have some hobby bags of the four basic types of potting materials available for sale at very reasonable prices. These materials can be used separately, mixed together or added to locally available materials to pot just about any type of orchid.

Jo Ann Vaz will be selling some blooming nobile dendrobiums for \$10.00 each with half of the gross going to the Society. See last month's newsletter for culture information on nobilities. The photo at left was taken by Ken Miles at our recent show. It is a nobile dendrobium owned and grown by Sarah Tringle. It won best flower in the GCOS exhibit. Jo Ann also has some items that were Chet and Jean Byers that will be sold via a silent auction. The starting price for all items will be \$1.00!

REFRESHMENTS: February's refreshments will be provided by Sarah Tringle. Linda Reynolds and Janis Kelly will provide April's. Please remember we provide only **light** refreshments. If

you would like to bring refreshments or need to change an existing commitment contact Andra Mladinich 228-388-5054.

APRIL PROGRAM: Our April 11 speaker has also had to reschedule. Our program committee has come up with a novel idea for April. We will have a **Vanda Surprise!** We are buying a bulk order of vandas, ascocendas and novelty type vandaceous plants in spike or blooming size from Hawaii. We will sell these plants at our April meeting for just a little above cost! We'll start out the program with a short talk by Becky Jolly-Wood on how to grow these types of plants outside in the summer. See the culture information sheet by the AOS on Vandas at the end of this newsletter. The photo at right is Ascda. Princess Mikassa 'Pink'.

UPCOMING SHOWS: We have two shows coming up in April. The Pensacola Orchid Society will host a show at the Pensacola Fairgrounds on April 16-18 and the Terrebonne Orchid Society Show in Houma will be April 23 -25.



DUES ARE DUE: If you've not paid your dues, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Dues are \$10 for single and \$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 or for persons adding on to an existing membership. Dues can be paid at the meeting or you can mail them to Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532



LINDENIA: Janis Zuleeg recently made a wonderful donation of two almost complete issues of *Lindenia Iconography of Orchids* to the American Orchid Society on our behalf. One was dated 1881 and the other some time later. This was the original orchid magazine! They were given to her by Dr. Clyde Haygood many years ago. *Lindenia* is one of the most important orchid references published in the 1800s. The narrative is by Jean Jules Linden (1817-1898), his son Lucien and other contributors. Linden's interest in orchids "blossomed" when at the age of 19 he was sponsored by the Belgium government on a scientific mission to Central and South America. Over the next 10 years he traveled this region in search of new orchid species. During his life, Linden, along with Lucien, was responsible for importing over 1100 different species of orchids into

Europe. The complete *Lindenia* featured over 813 varieties of orchids. The lithographs in Janis' donation were in great condition and we are sure that the AOS will put them to good use.



How would you like this in your back yard? This is one of the growing areas of a Hawaiian Vanda grower.

Vanda Culture Sheet

(courtesy of the American Orchid Society)

The *Vanda* Alliance is made up mostly of warm- and full-sun-growing orchids with colorful flowers. Originating in tropical Asia, they are easily grown in warm climates, where plants are cultivated outside in light shade, such as in a lath house. In climates where winters are cold, they are often summered outside, and grown inside during the winter in a sunny window, or year round in a greenhouse.

Light is a crucial factor in blooming most vandaceous plants. There are three types of vandas: strap-leaved, semi-terete and terete. The first type has broader, flat leaves, while terete types have round, pencil-shaped leaves. The semi-teretes are hybrids between the two, with an intermediate leaf shape. Terete types need full sun, and are best grown in high-light climates. In a greenhouse, give the plants about 25 to 35 percent shade, less in winter if overcast. Leaves should be a medium green, not dark green. In warm, bright climates, you can grow any type of *Vanda* outside (if warm) with partial shade for strap-leaved types and semi-teretes (especially in midday in summer) or inside (when cold) in a bright, south window. In climates where winters are overcast, try ascocendas. Grow them outside in summer and in full sun inside during the winter. Be careful to acclimatize plants to avoid burn.

Temperatures for most vandas should be warm; a minimum night temperature of 55° F is recommended. Colder spells can be tolerated for a short time if it is not windy. Optimum temperatures are 60° to 70° F at night, and a maximum of 95° F during the day. Warmer temperatures mean faster growth, which must be balanced with higher humidity, air movement, and increased water and fertilizer. Days should be warm and humid for optimum plant growth.

Water should be applied copiously when the plants are growing, but the roots must dry quickly. Because of this, and their extensive root system, they are mostly grown in slatted-wood baskets, or in pots with a coarse potting medium. If their situation is warm and sunny, they may need daily watering. Water sparingly in the winter or during cloudy weather.

Humidity of 80 percent is ideal. In tropical climates this may be easy to obtain. In a greenhouse, this is easier to provide by using an evaporative cooler. In the home, place the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. Air movement must be strong.

Fertilize with a balanced (such as 20-20-20) fertilizer applied full strength once a week during warm weather or use a one-quarter-strength solution at every watering. During cool or cloudy weather, apply fertilizer once every two to four weeks. Use a high-phosphorus fertilizer (such as 10-30-20) every third application to promote flowering.

Potting should be done in the spring. Plants in baskets do not need to be repotted often. Leave them unless the potting medium breaks down. Set the plant, with the old basket intact, into a container of water to make the aerial roots more pliable, and then set plant and basket into a larger basket. For plants in pots, repot in a slightly larger pot, positioning the plant in the center. Use a coarse medium, whether fir bark, tree fern or charcoal, and work it around the roots. Keep shaded, humid, but drier at the roots until new root tips grow. Do not overpot.

