



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

June 12, 2011

Our June meeting will be held Sunday, June 12, 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 cafeteria meeting room.

The GCOS award winning exhibit in New Orleans. See more info below.



PROGRAM: Tom Harper from Stones River Orchids, and certified orchid judge will speak on Phalaenopsis, the title of his talk is **"The Twelve Most Important Phalaenopsis Species Influencing Today's Modern Phalaenopsis Hybrids"**. This program actually examines 13 species and their influence in yesterday's and today's Phalaenopsis hybrids. Tom will bring plants to sell; you may preorder. See the next page for more information on our guest.

We are planning to take Tom out to supper after the meeting. At this time we have not confirmed a restaurant. Tom would like some of our good coastal seafood. If you would like to attend, Dutch treat, or if you want to recommend a good restaurant, please call Marilyn at 228-392-0919.

NEWGROWERS: Because we have a special speaker who will be selling plants **New Growers will start at 1:00** and end in time to allow members a chance to chat with our guest and purchase plants. The topic for the New Growers meeting will be "Propagating Orchids using Keiki Grow". Members are invited to bring a Phalaenopsis plant, in bloom, or with a spike that has finished blooming, but still alive. We will have a hands-on session where you can treat your own dormant buds. Everyone is always welcome to attend the new growers meeting. You don't actually have to be a new grower.

REFRESHMENTS: Dorothy and Ben Hobby assisted by Andra Mladinich will provide refreshments for June. Chip Lechner will provide July's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or if you have to change your date; call Andra at 228-388-5054.

JULY PROGRAM: Our July meeting will be the third Sunday, July 17, due to the Terrebonne show. Geraldine Powell, Geri, from Orchid Gallery in Signal Mountain, Tennessee theorchidgallery.net will talk about growing cool growers in warm areas.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover.
August 14, Robert Fuchs from RF Orchids, Miami FL will speak on Vandas
Sept. 11, Bobby Chauvin, ABC Orchids General Orchid Care
Oct 9, Potting an Oncidium Intergeneric - we'll take orders for wholesale plant order
Nov. 13, planning for the 2012 show - Plant distribution from wholesale plant order
Dec. 11 orchid bingo and covered dish luncheon- cafeteria
Save all the dates. You really don't want to miss any of our summer programs.

SHOW REPORT: Becky, Andra, Ken Miles, Joy Lorens, Earl Young and John and Janet Bridges (Janet is a real worker!) did the New Orleans Show June 3-5 at Lakeside Mall in Metairie. Our Resident Judge, Robert Stanton gave a full report. The society exhibit won the Best Society exhibit in its class and the Orchid Digest Trophy. Earl's Dendrobium won Best Grown Dendrobium. Robert says there were over 20 ribbons for the various plants. We'll talk more about the show at the meeting. Thanks everyone for all your help!

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

June 10-12 - Acadian Orchid Society Show, Ira Nelson Ag Center, 2206 Johnson St., Lafayette, LA. Contact: Pat Huval, 1211-A Grand Anse Hwy, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517-7051; (337) 667-6821; orchidplus@centurytel.net

July 8-10 - Terrebonne Orchid Society Show, Southland Mall, Houma, LA. Contact: Sandy Trahan, 208 Rhona St., Chauvin, LA 70344; (985) 637-4479; sbtpepe@yahoo.com

If you are interested in putting up an exhibit for any of these other shows please let us know; we will help you as much as we can. Doing exhibits is a lot of work but it is fun; you'll love it!

MAY AUCTION: The auction was a great success. We sold all the plants we purchased and many that were donated. Thanks to Glen, Earl Young and Jo Ann for donating wonderful plants. We made a profit of \$632.00.



At left. Dtps. OX Spot Queen, Tom will bring 6 of these plants in 6" pots in spike \$30.00 each

TOM HARPER: Tom began growing orchids on a windowsill in 1967. By 1975, he had registered his first orchid hybrid and founded **Stones River Orchids** as a business. A long-time supporter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, he served as its President, Vice-President and *Mid-American* Editor (the MAOC newsletter).

He has been an active member in the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee since 1967 and is a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA), where he is a former president and vice-president and is currently 1st vice-president.

Tom assisted in writing and editing the Phalaenopsis species section of the soft cover Ortho book entitled *Complete Guide to Orchids*. He has written several articles on Phalaenopsis for *Orchids*, *Orchid Digest* and the *IPA Journal*.

Tom has traveled coast to coast and internationally speaking on various aspects of Phalaenopsis. Tom lectured at the 16th World Orchid Conference in 1996 in

Brazil, and the 19th WOC in January 2008 in Miami. Additionally, he was invited to speak in March 2005 and again in 2007 at the Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium in Hsinying, Taiwan, Republic of China. Most recently, he spoke at the 15th Annual International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting in the United Kingdom in June 2009.



In 2008, he received his first FCC/AOS on Dtps. Brother Success, 'Laura'. (The highest award given by the American Orchid Society)

He has been an accredited American Orchid Society judge for over 25 years.

He will bring many beautiful Phalaenopsis plants in bloom and some species to our meeting. His list of plants that he is bringing to sell at our meeting is attached. You can contact Tom Harper to preorder plants 615-771-2755 or email him harper_sro@bellsouth.net.

Above is Dtps. Taida Fortune, Tom will bring five of these with double spikes for \$20.00 each

MORE ABOUT THE ORCHID DIGEST TROPHY: This award is given to encourage the growing of better quality hybrids and species and to encourage their better culture.

The Orchid Digest Show Trophy may be awarded by a team consisting of a minimum of five judges, accredited where possible, to one non-commercial exhibit displaying the highest levels of:

- A. artistry, taste, and innovation in design and presentation;
- B. flower quality;
- C. cultural excellence.

Judges may also consider the exhibit's educational value and the rarity of the plant materials.



SPECIES PHALEANOPSIS: Here are some species Phals that Tom will bring for sale. The top left is Phal. inscriptionensis, on the left bottom is Phal. mariae 'Cherry Jubilee' AM/AOS grown by Tom Harper at Stones River Orchids. The bottom right is Phalaenopsis philippinense. Tom will have several species in limited supply available with prices ranging from ten to twenty-five dollars.

THANKS AOS: Once again we thank the AOS and their wonderful AQPlus for the photos used in this newsletter.

