



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

July 17, 2011

Our July meeting will be held the third Sunday, July 17, due to the Terrebonne show, at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. The regular meeting will start 2:00 with the New Growers starting at 1:30. We will meet in the cafeteria meeting room.

NEWGROWERS: Led by Glen Ladnier will meet at 1:30 in the smaller meeting room by the cafeteria. His topic will be "Growing Specimen Plants". Everyone is welcome to attend the new growers meeting. You don't actually have to be a new grower. The plant below, *Coelogyne roehusseni* 'Howe' originally from Earl Young, is an example of a specimen plant. Specimen plants don't all have to be this big, just large and well grown for their size.



PROGRAM: Geraldine Powell, Geri, from Orchid Gallery in Signal Mountain, Tennessee will speak on about growing cool growers in warm areas. She will bring plants to sell. She sells plants on their website, theorchidgallery.net and Amazon and EBay. For those wishing to preorder plants call or email your orders. Below is *Vuystekeara Fall in Love* 'Lovely Lady' AM/AOS. Available through the Orchid Gallery website in 3.5" pots for \$9.99.



Geri has been growing orchids for over thirty years and has been involved in the orchid business for over twenty five years. She liked Masdevallias and Miltoniopsis but hesitated to try them because of their reputation for being cool growers. When she and her partner opened a nursery in Brooksville, Florida, she set up a small greenhouse specifically for cool growers. Everyone thought she was nuts but the cooler growing plants grown in Brooksville started receiving AOS awards. Since she moved to Signal Mountain, Tennessee she developed the Cool Pots. They have allowed her to grow a much wider variety of cool growing plants. She began marketing the Cool Pots about three years ago. Last August, when Graham Wood from Lehua Orchids in Hawaii, spoke with us he recommended Geri and her cool pots very highly. More on Cool Pots later in this newsletter.

Orchid Gallery also designs and builds greenhouses for sites that won't fit or allow a normal greenhouse. If you'd like a greenhouse but think you have no room or may have problems with the "neighbors" call Geri and see if she can help. 423-886-2950

We are planning to take Geri out to supper after the meeting to Steve's on the beach in Long Beach all members are invited, Dutch treat.

REFRESHMENTS: Chip Lechner will provide refreshments for June. Janet Olier will provide refreshments for August. If you'd like to bring refreshments or if you have to change your date; call Andra at 228-388-5054.

AUGUST PROGRAM: Our August program will be August 14. Robert Fuchs from R.F. Orchids, Miami, Fl. will speak on Vandas. He will bring VANDAS to sell. R.F. Orchids' plants are quality; all are possible award winners. One of our members bought a seedling from R.F Orchids in the summer of 2008 from their annual summer \$5.00 seedling sale. That plant below, Ascda. Thai Classic 'Tweety Bird' photographed by Larry Hennessey won an 80 point Award of Merit at the New Orleans show.



Visit their website www.rforchids.com. You can preorder plants and he will bring them to the August meeting. You'll save on shipping. When you order make sure you tell them the order is for bob's talk to the Gulf coast orchid Society. More about R.F. Orchids next month!

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover.
Sept. 11, Bobby Chauvin, ABC Orchids General Orchid Care, he'll bring plants to sell.
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 lunch.

SHOW REPORT: Becky, Andra and a bunch of members are doing the Terrebonne Orchid Society Show July 8-10 at Southland Mall, Houma, LA. If you have plants for the exhibit you should've sent

in your list by now. They'll need those plants by Wednesday; they're leaving for Houma Thursday. Email Becky bjwzoo@aol.com or Andra at andrajmladinich@gmail.com for more information.

UPCOMING SHOWS: There are no shows within a few hours drive scheduled for the rest of the year but there are several interesting shows or workshops within a days drive. Check out one of these events, you'll be glad you did.

August 5-6 - Houston Orchid Society Workshop, St. Thomas University, Crooker Center, 3900 Graustark, Houston, TX. Contact: John Stubbings, (832) 693-8140; jdstubbings@comcast.net.

September 16-18 - Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, AL. Contact: Margaret Holder; (205) 933-8688; margoholder@aol.com.

November 4-6 - Northeast Louisiana Orchid Society Show, Pecanland Mall, 4700 Milhaven Rd., Monroe, LA 71203. Contact: Jack Battaglia, (318) 801-3828; battj@bellsouth.net.

Dec 3 - Acadian Orchid Society Workshop, Ira Nelson Horticultural Center, 2206 Johnston St., Lafayette, LA. Contact: Pat Huval, (337) 667-6821.



COOL POTS: (taken from the Orchid Gallery website)
“These are clay pots designed and made by hand specifically to help you grow spectacular Masdevallias, Miltoniopsis and other orchids that like cool, damp conditions. They have a clay cone in the center and the drain holes are elevated slightly above the bottom of the pot, so the pot holds a small amount of water at the bottom after watering. They are fairly porous and absorb that water quickly. The water then evaporates from the outside of the pot and down through the center cone. This acts as an evaporative cooler and keeps the media around the roots 8 to 10 degrees cooler than it normal.”

“Since we started making and using these pots the difference in how well our mazzies and milts grow and bloom in them is amazing. They grow at least twice as fast as the plants in plastic pots on the bench right beside them. These pots are handmade from white clay and there are slight variations in size. They come in small, medium and large. These are perfect for Masdevallias, Miltoniopsis, Phragmipediums and any plants that like cool, wet conditions. We have been selling out of these at orchid shows. Just [visit our catalog](#) or call The Orchid Gallery to place an order - 423-886-2950.”

VISIT CYBERSPACE: Just a few quick words regarding the internet and tech side of the society. Janet and Chip have been trying to get the new [FaceBook company](#) page up and running. We have seen quite an upswing in traffic and are hoping more of you will join us. They are adding more content almost daily with videos, pictures of member plants, links to suppliers and growers and even recently links to smart phone apps. If you are on [FaceBook](#) please take a minute to 'like' the page and if you aren't on [FaceBook](#) you could think of joining just to see the page, but that is a personal decision. In related news we now have a [YouTube](#) page that will be used to archive our speakers in the future (we're still working out the kinks and have to start taping the speakers) the name of the [YouTube](#) channel is [MSGulfCoastOrchids](#) there are a few videos already up and many helpful videos from others in the favorites section. There is much more in the works so please join us in cyberspace.