



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

May 19, 2019

Our next meeting will be held the **Sunday After Mother's Day, May 19 at 1:00 pm** 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.

This is our annual orchid auction and *eatin' meetin'*. There will be **NO ORCHIDS 101 MEETING, NO RAFFLE or DOOR PRIZE and NO SHOW AND TELL.** We have some exceptional plants lined up for the auction. Please wear your name tags or shirts. This will help us with the auction.



May 2018 auction plants

PROGRAM: This meeting will be the **third Sunday of the month at 1:00**. This will be a covered dish luncheon and orchid auction. The Society will provide the meat, drinks, and paper products. Members are encouraged to bring an appetizer, bread, side dish or dessert. Guests are welcome. We will offer for auction many beautiful plants all donated by members. This year we will offer some bare root divisions of awarded or award quality plants that should go for reduced prices. In past years members have gotten some extremely good bargains. **Bring a box or crate* to carry your purchases home. Make checks out to GCOS or bring cash... no credit cards.**



May 2018 members ready to eat!

people do, some don't, others don't bring enough boxes. Orchids don't like to be moved around. Roots like to stay firm in the potting media. Loosening their grip on the media and the pot by bumping them around costs you, in time till blooming and bloom quality. Pack your plants very carefully, bring a box and some newspaper or old shopping bags to sit each pot upright and secure in the box.

If you have some plants, you would like to donate email Glen, gladnier@yahoo.com.

Many of you know that we must leave the room, surrounding cafeteria and hallway as clean as we found it. So, when you're finished eating clean your area; if you spill potting material anywhere please pick it up. If your chair or table came from the main cafeteria return it.

*We ask you to bring a box or crate every year, most

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Some of our summer programs may change, we are trying to get the best programs we can for our meetings.

June 9, Second Sunday. Summer learning starts in June with an American Orchid Society (AOS) program entitled "**What are Orchids**". This program produced by a corresponding member of the AOS Education committee, is one of the best primers on the diverse family of orchids. Even the most hardened orchid specialist will find something to enjoy in this program.

July 21, Third Sunday due to Baton Rouge Show. Continuing with our summer education series, we will see another AOS program on “**Orchid Pests and Diseases**”. We’ll follow it with an open discussion on what we do here on the coast to keep our orchids strong and well.

August 11, Second Sunday. We’ll end our summer education series with a final AOS program on “**Today’s Strap-leaf Vanda Hybrids**”. Since Vandas grow very well here and should be very happy in our August weather we felt this program would be appropriate. We’ll see lots of great pics and study the influence of Vanda sanderiana and Vanda coerulea in modern hybrids. Half of this program is devoted to all aspects of Vanda culture.

September 8, Second Sunday We will use this meeting to prepare for our October speaker Fred Clark. Hopefully we will work on our group order from Fred’s orchid company, Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO) orchids.

October 13, Second Sunday – We have an agreement with Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids to speak and sell plants.

November 10, Second Sunday. We’ll have a fun program this month. We’ll play **Name That Orchid**. All the pictures you’ll see will be featured orchids from the June, July, August and October programs. Come to those meetings and pay attention – it may win you a free plant!

December 8, Second Sunday Orchid Bingo; every member wins a plant! Christmas pot luck

UPCOMING SHOWS:

May 31 – June 2, 2019 New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale, Lakeside Shopping Center 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA.

July 12-14, 2019 Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show

September 13-15, 2019 The Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress held jointly with the Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show the “Show Dome” of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory.

in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

October 16 -20, East Everglades Orchid Society show in conjunction with the AOS Fall Members Meeting. R.F. Orchids gardens 28100 SW 182nd Ave., Homestead, FL

Dec. 7 Acadian Orchid Society Short Course Hilton Garden Inn, 2350 W. Congress St., Lafayette, LA

Jan 24-26, 2020 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: We’ll take a minute to install our new/old officers. The slate of elected officers for the next two years is: President **Gayle Greene-Aguirre**, Vice-President **Becky Jolly-Wood**,



Vicki Perry



Dave Perry

Treasurer **Marilyn Ladnier**, Recording Secretary **Sydney Dyche**, Corresponding Secretary **Jo Ann Vaz**, Elected Board Members: **Andra Mladinich, Janet Olier and Robert Stanton**.

THANKS TO DAVE AND VICKI PERRY: Dave is our outgoing Vice President. Vicki is our librarian. They both have had sickness in the past months and have not been able to attend our meetings. We pray things will get better and they join us soon. Dave has filled in for our President many



Becky leading a meeting

times over the years and has done a great job. Together Vicki and Dave have brightened our meetings, we miss them and thank them for their service.

SPECIAL THANKS: We are getting a wonderful new President, Gayle Greene-Aguirre. Becky Jolly-Wood, our President for the last 12 years is stepping down. It is time for Becky to get a rest from her presidential obligations so she can concentrate on caring for her Mom, husband, umpteen animals that she shelters and most especially Becky needs to take some time and care for Becky. Those 12 years have been full of chairing exhibits, Becky led the exhibit that won our first silver certificate and she cochaired many of our shows especially the first one in the Gautier Convention Center. Becky isn't going anywhere; she will serve as Vice President. We look forward to a wonderful future for the Society

with Gayle and Becky as our leaders.



Gayle Greene-Aguirre

FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT - GAYLE GREEN-AGUIRRE:

NOTE: Starting with this newsletter, Gayle will highlight a GCOS member with a "Spotlight Profile" describing the member's orchid interests as well as additional hobbies or tips/words of wisdom.

SPOTLIGHT ON

MEMBERSHIP

Our inaugural profile will focus on Armand and Val Scurria who live in Picayune where they have raised mini horses for the past 37 years. It is hard to believe, but Armand and Val have only



Armand and Valerie Scurria

been growing their prize- winning plants for the past eight years. Val says, "A friend showed Armand a Paphiopedilum and he was hooked." They agreed to only buy a few, but that has turned into over 300 along with a greenhouse, two shade houses, pergola and sun room.

However, in the past six years as society members, the Scurrias have won three AOS awards. Their first award was Paphiopedilum Astarte given the cultivar named for their daughter 'Andrea Scurria'; second was Phaius tankervillae 'Valerie C. Scurria'; and third was Dendrobium Scurria "Valerie's Choice'. They attribute their success to 40% knowledge and 60% luck. The



Armand and one of his babies

Scurrias say that "when we first started collecting orchids success seemed unattainable, but our

society has so many friendly faces and experienced growers always willing to help with sharing their knowledge. They make us look forward to meetings and AOS shows.” They also advise others to listen to orchid growing tips that are suggested and to give them a try.



The Scurria's Koi pond

What does the Future hold for Armand and Val? They will say “NO” to buying more orchids. Right now, they are looking forward to the foaling season for their mini horses and enjoying their koi fish at day’s end. All in all, Val sums it up by saying “Life is pretty good.”

PERSONALITY ISSUES? We are a good group of people; most of us work very hard for the society and try our best to promote the

knowledge of orchids to all. Sometimes when we are busy, hot and tired, our patience runs a little thin. As an officer of the club I have heard complaints about a few members, especially that pesky newsletter editor! The recent MAOC newsletter had an interesting article. Here’s part of it; it’s worth a chuckle!

“Chair Donna Lipowicz opened the Breakfast meeting with the topic **“How to Deal with Difficult Members of your Society”**. She started by giving an example of a member in her society that would ‘zero in’ on new members at a meeting and talk negatively about the President of the society. One MAOC member spoke about a professional grower that placed 3 plants in a pot and showed it as one plant. Another MAOC member told about how one small group of people broke their society into two clubs which caused a lot of animosity. Another MAOC member told of a member of their society that is very ‘caustic’ to members and is known for a hostile personality. They move plants in the exhibit at their show, ruining plants as they do it. Another example is the society member that has grown orchids for a long time and believes that their way is “the only way”! “And you have to do it this way!” This member volunteered to do the beginner’s group at their society and scared people away. One MAOC member told of a member in his local society that would just start talking about whatever he wanted, regardless of the topic being discussed. Another example was a member at a local society meeting that would constantly interrupt a speaker by asking question after question and not letting the speaker talk. This same member would go through the member swap table and take lots of plants and then put them in her car. Another MAOC member told of when a long-time member of their club passed away and the society was selling that member’s collection. Another member bought plants but had switched the price tags to a lesser price. Another MAOC member told someone else about confidential information discussed at a board meeting which then caused hard feelings with a vendor. “

If you want to know the solutions to these problems, read the entire newsletter sent as an attachment to this newsletter.

LAST MONTH’S MEETING: There were 23 members present at our April meeting. There were 42 plants on the show and Tell table with Jo Ann Vaz’s Phalaenopsis stuartiana winning Best Plant, Kourtnie Thigpen won the door prize. Janet Olier led the program with a power point

presentation that showed a lot of great ideas for orchid containers. With the help of some members, Janet showed an array of orchids growing in unusual containers. The program was very interesting and educational. Cynthia Oetker spoke about the field trip to the New Orleans Orchid greenhouses. Armand and Valerie Scurria donated an Epidendrum in bloom to our raffle.



Phalaenopsis stuartiana

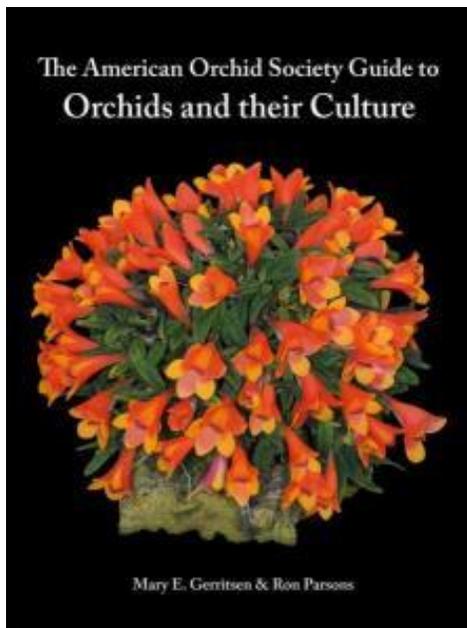
NEW ORLEANS SHOW: We will be exhibiting in the New Orleans show with a 50 sq ft exhibit. There is no theme. Sydney Dyche will lead the exhibit; Andra Mladinich will do the paperwork. At this time, we have no one convenient to the coast to pick up plants so if you have plants you can't bring to the show call 601-530-8778.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn Ladnier 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A BOOK? The American Orchid Society has published the *Guide to Orchids and their Culture!* This book is crammed with nearly 250 pages of valuable information on orchid culture, paired with stunning, full-color images from cover to cover. Mary E. Gerritsen and

Ron Parsons have delivered a quintessential guidebook for facilitating a blossoming interest in orchids!

This book covers the basics of orchid culture including sections on light, water, temperature, humidity, fertilizer, and specific culture information on the popular groups of orchids. You will find information on when and how to repot, orchid mounting, and how to grow orchids semi-hydroponically. There is a section on common orchid pests and diseases, and the Orchid Doctor answers many frequently asked questions. Featuring more than 450 color photographs, The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture covers everything you need to know to grow orchids successfully.



These handy books are now available at the AOS web store for \$24.95 retail price, but with your 10% Membership discount, your copy will be \$22.46!

Sounds like a good deal? How about an even better deal, the society ordered 24 of these books and we'll sell them to our members for only \$14.00 each. The problem is we aren't sure if 24 books are enough. To get this cheap price we must order boxes of 24. We need to know if you want a book and if so, how many you'd like. So, respond to this newsletter and we'll have anyone who wants one, great new book for the June meeting.