



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

July 19, 2020

The July meeting will be the **third Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 2:00 at the McHenry Library in Stone County.** Space is limited. We will not have Orchids 101 and we are asking members to **limit their show and tell plants to just 3 plants.**



Glen Judging June's Show and Tell photo by Andra Mladinich

Program: Glen Ladnier will conduct a program based on our Show and Tell plants on **“What Show Judges are Looking for When they Judge a Plant.”**

A Message from Your President: “I hope that everyone is staying well and relatively cool during these very sultry days of summer. Just wanted to remind folks again that we will be meeting on **Sunday 19 July at 2:00 at the McHenry Library** in Stone County. We published directions in our last newsletter, but if you need to know the way please just email me. Address is below.



Gayle leading June's meeting

For those who did not attend last time, I want to assure you that this little rural library is an exceptionally clean facility. It is not being used except to hand out books twice a week and no classes are being held. We have hand sanitizer and additional masks for sale if you need one. I will place the chairs as far apart as practical and you may choose the spot where you feel most comfortable. I will personally sanitize to the best of my ability.

We will again have canned or bottled beverages ready for you in the fridge along with the Keurig machine for tea or coffee if you desire. I will have the wrapped snacks like before, but will set up a separate little station with the usual fruits, veggies, cheese etc. I will also make a dessert. Gloves will also be available and this “food area” will be set away from the main meeting area.

This is a small library which doesn't have lots of chairs. If you have any inkling that you might attend, please email me: gayle.greeneaguirre@gmail.com **(H) 601-928-9391** I have to round up extra chairs, so it helps me to know how many people we plan to have.

We want you to feel safe, so I suggest also bringing your mask for extra security. Looking forward to visiting with all of you again.”

Thank you, Gayle, for doing this work on our behalf! Please remember Gayle can clean it for us; but once we walk in the door, the sanitization is gone unless we keep it clean for everyone, use sanitizer when you first come in and as many times as possible thereafter, wash your hands often, wear your mask and keep it on, give everyone some space, mask or not. When eating be aware that this is the most vulnerable time; be aware of others!

Last Month's Meeting: Our first meeting back was a success due 100% to the efforts of our President. She found the meeting place, cleaned it, set up chairs and tablecloths and set out refreshments that members could eat without worrying about anyone touching or spreading germs

on the food. Then cleaned it afterward and replaced chairs and tables! Thank you, Gayle! Fifteen



John and Jennifer's Phalaenopsis Sogo Yukidan

members attended including two new members from Long Beach who found us on Facebook: thanks to Janet Olier. We had no real program; we talked about what we've done during the pandemic and what we've learned orchid wise. It was good to be back with our friends. There were 15 plants on the show and tell table judged by Glen Ladnier. John and Jennifer's Phal Sogo Yukidan won best grown plant. Several door prizes were given out including books donated by Gayle. Winners were John Wlodarczk, Barbara Heinbough, Martha Smith and Noel Rodriguez.

Possible Meeting Place Change: If the July meeting is crowded at McHenry, we will need another venue. We may not get the Jr College in Gulfport for our August and fall meetings. The Gautier Convention Center is available for a fee plus we must sanitize and move tables and chairs. It's possible we could get a reduced rate, but we've tabled a decision depending on how bad the virus gets and depending on how many attend the July meeting, and how our members help keep everyone safe. This virus is spread from

facial moisture. Keep your mouth and nose covered except to speak publicly, if you eat try to stand to the back away from others or even step outside. Having the Convention Center would give us plenty of space for our two eating meetings. Plus a full Kitchen for our food! We can do this!



Damage caused by sudden brightness after our last tropical storm.

Wholesale Plant Order: Many of you participated in our last Hawaiian wholesale order for the year. We ordered more than \$1,600.00 in plants. This is a small order for us! The plants will arrive on July 15 and be unboxed privately. Your plants will be boxed, labeled and waiting for you in the children's room at the meeting. If you can't get to the meeting to get your plants, text or call me, Jo Ann 601-530-8778.

How to Acclimate your New Plants: Some members have asked about leaf damage on plants received in the recent wholesale order and on other plants. Stressed plants are extremely vulnerable to leaf damage from sun and sudden temperature change. We all know that the leaf surface is made to take up sunlight. Leaves move to receive as much light as possible. When moved to a darker area they open those solar

receptors wide, trying to get as much sun as possible. It takes a little time to close those receptors. Shipped plants are sometimes in a dark situation for weeks. During delivery, the box of plants can get extremely hot. If you take them home and put them amid other similar plants on a sunny day they probably will burn or at the very least suffer shock. Put them in a shady spot and slowly acclimate them to the light. Same with newly potted plants. They are pulled from their shelves, chopped up and stuck in new pots, they are in severe stress; let them acclimate for a few weeks, move them slowly to brighter light. Now that it's summer, watering can be really tricky. Before you start to water, feel the leaves; are they hot? Are



Damaged roots like these need to be removed, then wash remaining roots repot in fresh material

you really going to water with cold water? Difference in temperatures can cause serious damage. During the summer, either water early or late in the day when plants are cool. Mother Nature likes to ruin our foliage! When we have several days of rain with no sunlight and then whammo!! A bright hot sunny day. What happened; my leaves are damaged? So, when you get your new plants home water well and put in a shady location. Most of us like to repot new plants into our mixes which is good but hold off for a few days till they aren't so stressed and then repot. One last hint if a plant looks tired or wilted and doesn't recover quickly, knock it out of the pot and check the roots; they could be damaged! Cut all the damage off and soak the entire plant for about 30 minutes in sugar water, about 1 tablespoon sugar to a couple quarts lukewarm water. Then either put in a hospital pot with no bark or repot. Keep in a bright but shady spot.



Armand and Val Scurreia's award winning Phaius tankervilleae



Phaius Chartreuse Magic

PHAIUS: The most ordered plant this year from all three wholesale orders were Phaius. We got 17 plants from the May order and another 17 are coming from the July order! We should study them some so everyone will know what they are and how they grow. Thanks to Jay Pfahl and his Internet Orchid Species website for this clear, concise information. **“This genus is composed of 46 species widespread through Madagascar to the Philippines and the Pacific Islands. It is a larger sized genus that for the most part has a pleasing vegetative appearance even out of bloom. They are mostly shade loving terrestrials with a few epiphytes and generally like even watering. When in their growth phase weekly fertilizer is recommended year-round. Phaius are sympodial with a highly variable plant size. The pseudobulbs are small with new growths arising from the base of the pseudobulb or from the rhizome. They have large plicate leaves that can be ruffled as well and generally have a pretty out of bloom appearance. The inflorescence arises from the base of the old pseudobulb or from the rhizome and has racemose flowers held at the end of the spike. Phaius in general have large showy flowers with a pleasant fragrance. New plants can be obtained from the old spikes, just lay the spike out in a plastic flat filled with sand and half cover them. Put the partially covered, spikes in a deep shaded, humid, well-watered area. In 1-2 months, the new plants will appear from the nodes of the spike. After 6 months they can be transplanted into a pot. The Phaius from Madagascar are also listed in the genus Gasterorchis.”**



Gastrophaius Lady Ramona 'Looking @ You' AM/AOS Orchids Plus photo

Some of the plants we ordered while referred to as Phaius are really a cross between a Phaius and a Gasterorchis. These plants are more correctly named Gastrophaius abbreviated 'Gp'. On our recent order we were able to order Gastrophaius Lady Ramona 'Looking at You' x self. This is a seedling grown from seeds of Lady Ramona 'Looking at You'. The plants will carry the Lady Ramona name but not the clonal name, 'Looking at You', they may not be just like that particular plant. They could be a whole lot better which is the most exciting thing about buying hybrids! The parentage is Phaius tankervilleae, Phaius

wallichii and *Gastorchis pulchra*. Another plant some bought was a hybrid of *Phaius tankervilleae* 'alba' x *Gastorchis pulchra* 'Alba'. (Alba means white and can be green.) This plant will have properties of both parents. The cross has been named: Gp. Microburst. Many of you ordered Microburst clones from our other order but these are seedlings of two white parents. This breeding could result in white flowers with growth habits of both. The flowers of seed grown plants will be similar but unique to each seedling. The third plant available was an unregistered plant. Not sure if it is a clone or a hybrid; it is sold under the name *Phaius Chartreuse Magic*.



Gastorchis pulchra Orchids Plus Photo

More about the parents of the plants we've purchased:

Phaius tankervilleae also known as the **Nun's Orchid**. Enjoys hot to warm summers, blooms in Spring with up to 4' flower spikes with downward facing flowers. According to Jay, "**In Papua the smoked flowers are eaten as a contraceptive.**" The FDA doesn't approve this method of birth control!



Phaius tankervilleae Alba
from orchidtree.com

Phaius wallichii is another huge plant, flower spikes can get 5' tall and carry 16 or more huge almost 6" flowers that face forward. It blooms later in Spring. Try bringing a plant that size to show and tell!

Gastorchis pulchra is known as the beautiful *Phaius*. It is terrestrial and cool to warm growing. It is not as big and when used in crosses, tames the size of the plant some. It blooms off and on during the year on 2 -4' flower spikes. The flowers are long lasting.

IMPORTANT READ PLEASE! The *Phaius* on our list were late additions; we worry that not everyone got a chance to order them. We have asked our Hawaiian supplier to add an extra plant of each cross to the shipment. Since there may be several members who would like to have a *Phaius*, we will raffle off **the privilege of buying these three extra plants**. Just call or email me saying you want to buy the extra *Phaius* and which plant you want to buy. You can ask for all three if you're willing to pay for all three should your name get pulled for them. We will draw names at the meeting. These plants are cheap \$12.00 each for the Lady Ramona and the Tankervilleae cross and \$14.00 for the Chartreuse Magic. If you're not at the meeting, we can arrange delivery somehow.

ORCHID SUPPLIES: You'll get your bark that Richard Crespino ordered on our behalf very soon. He got a pallet of 50 bags of Kiwi bark. He may deliver a good bit of it! Thank you, Richard. For those needing more supplies Janet Olier reports that Tropical Plant Products in Orlando, FL has moved. They are still in business; but their website isn't completely set up. You can call them at 407-293-2451. Tropical plant products is a great source for all orchid supplies and a good reason to go to Orlando when the virus is over. The old place was not a storefront merely a warehouse brimming with all sorts of potting materials, baskets, pots, chemicals, wires etc.

Spotlight on Membership: John and Jennifer Wlodarczyk by Gayle Greene-Aguirre

This month I will introduce you to another of our wonderful “orchid” couples from south Alabama. In addition to being members of our society since June of 2017 when they were introduced by Judy Rush, both presently serve as officers in the



John and Jennifer in their new greenhouse

Mobile Area Orchid Society. John is the Vice President while Jennifer takes the reins as President for the 2019-2021 term. If you have attended the Mobile Show at Bellingrath Gardens in the past few years you would have seen these two busy beavers hard at work whether it was setting up displays, helping vendors or greeting guests. This dynamic duo is certainly full of energy and devoted to producing exceptional plants. They are also taking two-hour (one way) road trips to attend our summer meetings at the McHenry Library. Talk about dedication! Just how did this love of orchids come to be?

John was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the Drexel Institute of Technology. His work took him to New Jersey and eventually to Alabama where he retired. For many years he worked as a Project Manager in the Petro Chemical Industry as well as for the US Government. In these roles he traveled extensively and developed his love of plants.

While working in St. Croix in February of 2000 John visited an Orchid Society Show in Gallows Bay where he bought four orchids. He was able to keep them alive, but New Jersey did not prove to be the ideal orchid growing venue. John restarted his love of orchids when he retired in 2016 and moved to Alabama and much warmer weather.

Jennifer was born in Camden, New Jersey and graduated from Stockton University. She lived in Philadelphia and worked in the corporate financial area for 17 years before moving to Alabama where she currently works as a Senior Operations Administrator for a national recruiting company. She and John have enjoyed many hobbies over the years, but their main interest today remains devoted to raising orchids.



Vanda Rothschildianum 'Blue Sky' which they recently got from Hawaii and bloomed!

They have two adult children and 5 grandchildren who all live in the Northeast so they try to make the trip to visit them whenever they can.

John's favorite plants are the Bulbophyllum and Cattleyas while Jennifer is a huge Vanda fan, and she has found great success with these beauties. Her very favorite orchid is definitely *Rhynchostylis retusa*. Most of their plants come from area shows and this spring John and Jennifer ordered some wonderful plants from Hawaii as part of our Society's order. They have also had success purchasing plants from Fred Clark, Bill Thomas, as well as Jodi in Mariana, Florida.

Now that their collection has really taken off the dilemma of where to put all these beauties arose. Before John retired, he contracted to have an 8'x8' greenhouse built so that he and Jennifer could familiarize themselves with greenhouse growing. This was designed to get them started and to house plants that would be moving South. However, as we all know “you can't just have one” so their collection started growing. In October of 2019 they decided to have one of those gorgeous 24'x14' Gothic Arch Greenhouses built. They and their 180 plus plants love it and the old greenhouse serves as the quarantine facility.



One side of their new greenhouse

John spends several hours each day in the greenhouses since there is so much to learn. He also enjoys reading about orchids and has an extensive orchid library. He frequently talks to other growers and society members about the “best practices” while Jennifer tends to go with her gut feelings. She loves to try different methods and says she can always repot if something goes wrong.

Part of their intensive orchid education has come from visiting a myriad of orchid venues around the nation which include in addition to our local societies, the Missouri Orchid Show, Atlanta Orchid Show, Philadelphia Flower Show, Calcasieu Orchid Show, Lake Charles , New Orleans and Baton Rouge as well as the Tallahassee Orchid Show. Their national orchid tour was temporarily halted by COVID, but I am sure that once things settle a bit and the shows return these two will be seeking out new venues to explore as they always find some kind of orchid that is a “must have” at orchid shows.

For the present Jennifer says they will be concentrating on growing “GREAT Bulbophyllums, Cattleyas and Vandas.” They will also concentrate on learning more about the special techniques needed to be successful growers in their wonderful new Gothic Arch Greenhouse. With their dedication and devotion to their orchids we know that we will be seeing some real beauties at the 2021 shows. It is such a pleasure to have this energetic couple as Society members who inspire others with their positive energy.



Kaitlyn and Paisley

New Baby: Most of you remember Kaitlyn Burton; Michelle Glazier and Marty Miller’s young daughter. She joined the society in 2008. Today Kaitlyn is a grown-up married woman and on June 1 she had her first child, Paisley Rae Friedrich, 5 lbs. and 12 ounces. Kaitlyn was one of our young workers and seemed to grow up in the society. We wish her the best. Marty



Kaitlyn in red along with Lexie Mitchell in purple working at the children's table in 2014 with an unknown child. Time passes fast!

reports that Kaitlyn is a wonderful mom and of course Marty is a very proud and tired Grandpa!

We still have not heard of any member with COVID 19. We pray that all of you stay virus free. Everyone please stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, and love each other!



Paisley Rae Friedrich