



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

September 10, 2017

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 1:30** at the **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 north of the college on Runnymede. We will start setting up to unpack the two big coffin boxes full (about 140 plants) of orchids at 1:30 so there will be no Orchids 101.

SPECIAL NOTICE: *As this newsletter is written, there is a tropical disturbance off the coast of Mexico and Hurricane Irma is predicted to be in the Gulf sometime this weekend. If there is any change to Sunday's meeting; we will do our best to update the website and our Facebook page with any changes. If the school closes it will be posted on the Jeff Davis website by late Thursday or Friday. Any member who ordered plants but cannot pick them up at Sunday's meeting due to the weather please call Jo Ann; 601-530-8778 or email joannvaz@bellsouth.net.*

PROGRAM: September 10, Second Sunday – This is the Great Unpacking Meeting! Only 15 of our members took advantage of this opportunity to get great plants at wholesale prices; so, we ordered a few extra plants to fill out the boxes. After all the preordered plants are claimed, the extras will be available for sale to everyone present at the prices on the wholesale list. If you did not preorder you'll have as much chance as those that did in buying the extra plants.

Those that volunteered to unwrap plants please bring a pair of scissors if you can. We have volunteers to take the unwrapped plants and place them in the proper bins and we have volunteers to check the bins and make sure the total number of plants is correct. There will be a job for just about everyone. We'll need someone to coordinate the extra plants. It will be fun and very informative. It's amazing how they can pack so many plants in one box. For those that long for Hawaii; be there when the box is opened you'll get a little whiff of heaven!



Make checks out to Jo Ann Vaz; pay Jo Ann please.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Some of the following programs may change; the dates will remain the same. If you can do a program or have ideas for one, please contact Jo Ann.

October 15, Third Sunday – Get ready for winter! Open discussion.

November 12, Second Sunday – Open- work meeting for show

December 10 Second Sunday Bingo Christmas pot luck

REFRESHMENTS: Gayle Greene-Aguirre and John Tate will supply September's refreshments. Valerie Scurria and Andra Mladinich will supply October's. Call our Hospitality Coordinator, Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640 if you have questions.

DUCK ORCHID: We had a few ducks at last month's meeting; *Pecteilis sagarikii* or the duck orchid. Glen Ladnier brought this fine specimen to our show and tell table. It is a deciduous terrestrial from southeast Asia.



LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 33 members present. Thanks to Irene Lear, Cheryl Bradley and Myrtle Barrios who supplied such great refreshments. Thanks to Janet Olier and Cynthia Oetker who talked about some of their new ideas in growing orchids. Members got great deals on the dirt plant sale and Jo Ann gave away Cymbidium divisions. Member voted on the changes to the bylaws to make our Community Coordinator a member of the board. There were 32 plants on the show and tell table. John Bridges Sybil Farwell 'Hawaii' FCC/AOS, pictured at left, won best plant.

This plant also won best plant in February of this year! Dave Perry won the door prize.

SHOW NOTES: During Sunday's meeting our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier, will write a check to AOS to pay the AOS fees for our January show. We are in the process of confirming last year's vendors. Recently the society purchased 5 yards of black felt for our exhibit. It was suggested to try that instead of using bark or pine straw for the flooring. For less than \$20.00 we may have an easier way to do exhibits! If you have any ideas or suggestions please let Jo Ann know. Thanks.



Dirt plants at the August meeting

UPCOMING SHOWS:

September 22-24, 2017 Alabama Orchid Society Show and Sale, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd, Birmingham, AL.

Oct. 20-23, 2017 Fall Mid America Orchid Congress and Greater Cincinnati

Orchid Society Show and Sale Krohn Conservatory

Jan 26-28, 2018 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center,

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. With our show approaching in a few months it would be great if all members wore a shirt or their name badges.

INTERGENERIC ONCIDIUMS: Our wholesale list had several Intergeneric Oncidiums listed and a few of you took advantage of the deal. Hopefully some of the extra plants will be Intergeneric Oncidiums. I dug up this information from an old file. It's courtesy of the American Orchid Society (AOS). It explains the advantages of crossing different members of the Oncidium family. Also attached to the newsletter is a wonderful article written by Frank Zachariah, an orchid judge from Baton Rouge, about the Oncidium family.

The Oncidium Alliance contains many different genera with differing plant, flower and growth characteristics. Intergeneric Oncidiums are the result of crossing two different genera from the Oncidium Alliance. These intergeneric hybrids can then be crossed with other Oncidium Alliance genera making more intergeneric hybrids. Usually breeders make these intergeneric hybrids to get better flowers, and growth on plants that are easier to grow.

A great example is Odontocidium (sym. Colmanara) Wildcatt. This is an outstanding cross which has won over 40 AOS awards since it was first registered in 1992. It is a cross between Odontonia Rustic Bridge and Odontocidium Crowborough. The genus and species that go into the make up of this plant are Oncidium fuscatum (sym. Miltonia warszewiczii), Oncidium leucochilum, Odontoglossum crispum, Odontoglossum nobile, Odontoglossum spectatissimum, Odontoglossum harryanum and Rhynchostele (sym. Odontoglossum) uroskinneri.

Odontoglossums for the most part grow at higher elevations where it is cool, damp and the light is filtered. Oncidiums on the other hand like it bright, hot and dryer and are found in the dryer areas from south Florida to South America.

Odontocidium Wildcat has been bred to be more tolerant of its conditions. It is very easy to grow outside in the shade house. It tolerates our southern heat and conditions well. It doesn't seem to mind being wet for several days during our rainy season (as long as it gets good air movement), and it doesn't seem to mind being dry for several days during our droughts either.

Odontoglossum crispum and Rhynochostele uroskinneri are cool growers. They cannot tolerate our hot climate but when bred with warm growing Oncidiums like Oncidium leucochilum they become more tolerant of intense conditions, and we get prettier flowers! All photos courtesy of AQ Plus. See AOS.org for more great pics!



Oncidium leucochilum 'La Jolla'



Odedm. Wildcatt 'Norman'



Odontoglossum crispum 'Nathan'



Rhynchostele uro-skinneri 'Chunky'

JUST IN CASE: Here's a list of officers you may contact if you need help with a meeting. As always check out our website; gcorchids.org.

President – Becky Jolly-Wood 228-474-2500

Vice-President – Dave Perry 228-388-6319

Treasurer- Marilyn Ladnier 228-392-0919

Reporting Secretary – Sydney Dyche – 228-424-7059

Corresponding Secretary – Jo Ann Vaz – 601-947-8777