



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

September 8, 2019

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, September 8 at 2:00** 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.

The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. The topic is "Mounting Orchids".



Clo. Diane Drisch (Cl Grace Dunn x Ctsm. tigrinum), the first flower to bloom from cross. Available from website for \$18.00 no shipping and before your 10% discount!

instead of your shipping address. If you are a member of the AOS have your membership number ready for a possible extra 5% discount. The computerized order system will not take orders under \$50.00 so for orders less than that call the number listed on the website. They do not take DISCOVER, they do take VISA or Master Card.

For those looking to buy plants this months Janet Olier may bring in a few of the bareroot Vanda seedlings she sold last month for \$5.00 each and Jo Ann will bring in a few more of the blooming size Paphs she sold for \$10.00 each a few months ago. Jo Ann reports that since these plants came in from Hawaii three more have initiated flower spikes.



Trey and Kourntie's Brassia Edvah Loo 'Nishada' AM/AOS

PROGRAM: September 8, Second Sunday We will use this meeting to prepare for our October speaker, Fred Clarke. Hopefully we will work on our orders from Fred's orchid company, Sunset Valley Orchids (SVO). We will review his plants and prepare our orders. Fred is offering both members and friends of the society a 10% discount and free shipping (to the meeting) for orders of plants from his website after Sept 1. Please come to the September meeting and see how easy placing an online order is. If you place your order before the meeting remember to use the discount code 'SOCIETYORDERS' and put 'for the Gulf Coast Orchid Society' in the ship to info

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

October 13, Second Sunday – We have an agreement with Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids to speak and sell plants. He will give two talks the first at 12:30 will be on general orchid care and the second talk at 3:00 pm will be on Catasetums. Please plan to attend and bring your

friends.

November 10, Second Sunday. We'll have a fun program, playing **Name That Orchid**. All the pictures you'll see will be featured orchids from the June, July, August, September and October programs. If you came to those meetings and paid attention – it may win you a free plant!

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



Cynthia's Brassocatanthe Little Mermaid

UPCOMING SHOWS:

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.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 25 members and two guests at the August meeting; Patti



Tanya and Cynthia doing a great job on our logo!

Murphy and Tanya Stelly's mother, Twana Lucken. There were 27 plants on the show and tell table. Best plant was a tie between Cynthia Oetker's Brassocatanthe Little Mermaid and Trey and Kourtne Thigpen's Brassia Edvah Loo 'Nishada' AM/AOS. The door prize was won by Janice Fabo. We'd also like to thank Tanya Stelly and Cynthia Oetker who spent most of the meeting working on a wonderful wreath made with cut orchids. The picture of which will be used for our 2020 show logo.

Jo Ann has worked on the logo as much as she can and it is useable but if anyone is familiar with paint or any other program and can remove more of the

black matting please email me and I will gladly let you work on it.



Andra

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP – By Gayle Green- Aguirre

I am sure that every society member recognizes this month's featured member, Board member, Andra Mladinich. The old saying goes that the Army and the GCOS runs on its stomach, and this is the lady who has been our society "hostess" for many years. Not only does she provide our beverages and snack accouterments at each monthly meeting, she and fellow member Richard Crespin keep us, and our judges stuffed and very happy every January at our Show in Gautier. These two keep the kitchen up and running and the food coming and coming and coming.



Making sure that people always have great food to enjoy is a family way of life for Andra who is a third generation Biloxian. She grew up surrounded by a family who was always busy with their restaurants, bars, clubs and souvenir shops so she knows how to put on a terrific spread for any occasion.

Just how did this lady go from the hospitality business to orchids? Andra explained to me that back in 1982 she and her Mom went to the Edgewater Mall to see the Annual Orchid Show. That was it. One look at the beautiful, but “exotic” plants, and she and her Mom were hooked. She has been a member of our Society ever since, and at one time joined the Hattiesburg Club before her Dad became ill.



Paph. Lady Petula 'Andra's Belle'
HCC/AOS, awarded at one of our shows!

Andra grows most of her orchids in a screened-in greenhouse which she made under her deck. At one time she had as many as 300 orchids which included her favorites; Vandas and Dendrobiums.

She soon realized how much work was involved in keeping all these plants happy and healthy so as they died off, she scaled down. However, she is now down to about 60. Andra has received an AOS Award for her Paphiopedilum named ‘Andra’s Belle’. Her

Mom, who was an artist painted this

plant which Andra has proudly displayed in her home as “her favorite”.

We all seem to have those times when disaster hits our plants. Andra relates that after Katrina, rats invaded her neighborhood. They really loved her plants as they proceeded to eat the new growth, any juicy spikes and roots on the phals along with those delicious plastic tags. That problem has fortunately not returned to her collection.



Rat Damage



Andra's growing area

In addition to her orchids, Andra has over 50 palm trees, 2 dozen knockout roses and a Ponytail Palm which has lasted for 20 years. She gets most of her orchids at our annual show and

monthly meetings and from society group orders. Her sage advice to others is to “pay attention to information presented at our meetings” and to “give new ideas a try and BEWARE OF RATS!” When she isn’t tending to her plants, Andra is busy managing her 11 rental houses and contemplating what new tempting dishes she will prepare for us in January.

ORCHID EDIQUETTE an Editorial by Jo Ann: Lately we’ve heard several complaints about members or past members who upset some of our vendors and friends. I decided to investigate and asked just about anyone on my email contacts list that sold orchids on a big-time commercial basis or was heavily involved with orchids such as on the speaking circuits. Man was I surprised! Not only had some of our members been rude, pushy and down right aggravating but I was guilty of some of the problems as well!

Let me start with the good news, most of our show vendors and speakers were happy with the way we treat them during shows and when they visited us for speaking engagements. Some had horror stories of bad shows and bad speaking engagements. Can you imagine driving several hours to give a talk and when you arrive at the location you find no one there! What if no one offered to bring in sales plants or help with anything?

The list is attached to this email. Please read it, maybe you will see yourself. I will go over the list and read some of the comments by our vendors at Sunday's meeting. One other thing, if ever at one of our shows, someone touches you in a way that you feel is inappropriate; **TELL THEM!** Tell them right then, at that moment, if they do it again scream!

HURRICANE ALERT! We've been fortunate so far this year. As we get further into the season who knows what may come our way. There are some simple things you can do now to be ready for any storms that blow in. Labels cut from Venetian blinds work well. Make a label with the plant's name and your name and wire it to the plant. Think about how many plants you have outside or if you live close to the coast how many plants you own. Make a list. Have ready enough plastic trays, tubs, milk crates or coke crates that will hold all your plants, in case you need to



A reminder of the damage a hurricane can do, and this was 55 miles inland!

bring things inside fast or bring your orchids to a friend who lives inland. Put your name on these trays. Don't throw away any old sheets or tarps. Yes, orchids are tropical and can survive a storm, but in nature they are attached to trees or rocks. Ours are hanging from or sitting under trees. Pots can become airborne fast; pots break and labels get lost. So, tie those labels to the plant itself now.

Friend and orchid vendor, Jodie Schumaker, suffered great loss last year from Hurricane Michael when it struck Marianna, Florida. Michael was a category 4 hurricane with winds of 155 mph when it hit the Florida coast. Jodie's property is 55 miles inland around interstate 10. He is still struggling to recover. He posted pics of the damage noting that the plants sitting low to the ground were not moved by the storm. Knowing that, if you can't move big plants far, perhaps you might be able to save them by putting them on the ground? After Katrina many nurseries in George County had plant loss due to the salt spray that came with the wind. Before it's too late, water your plants well (there may be no water later) and put them in the trays and store inside until the storm is over. Then, if your regular shady spot has been damaged those old sheets and tarps make good shade cloth. Remember to reintroduce your plants to the brightest light slowly.

Good luck to all of us!