



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

October 16, 2016

Our October meeting will be held Sunday, October 16, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Runnymede Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We meet in the **cafeteria** meeting room.

**ORCHIDS 101:** Due to the fact that we are having a special guest speaker who will be selling plants prior to the meeting; there will be no Orchids 101 this month. Orchids 101 will precede the November meeting. Come early to get the best pick of plants!

**PROGRAM: October 16, Third Sunday** –Kermit (Harry) McElroy of Jacksonville, Florida will speak to us about Cymbidiums. He has approximately 3000 Cymbidiums in his greenhouse in Jacksonville and specializes in Cymbidiums that grow in hot climates. His experiment with warm growers began in 1991 when he came to Jacksonville from Arkansas with about 200 cymbidiums and was informed by an expert that they wouldn't grow here. Since we had three outstanding Cymbidium plants on the show and tell table last month; we know that 'expert' was wrong. Harry will show us how to grow Cymbidiums better and what types to buy that will thrive here on the Coast. He will bring seedling size Cymbidium plants to sell. Come to the meeting and learn how to grow these wonderful orchids. To get a handout for the program click on the link: [Cym Handout.pptx](#)

The society will take Harry and his wife out for dinner after the meeting. All members are invited to attend Dutch treat.



Harry McElroy in his greenhouse

**FUTURE PROGRAMS:** Some of the following programs may change; the dates will remain the same.

**November 13, 2016:** Chip Lechner - Orchid Photography geared toward cell phones and organizing your gallery.

**December 11, 2016:** Christmas orchid bingo. Every member wins an orchid.

**January 15, 2017:** Prep meeting for show January 27-29,

**February 12, 2017:** Thank you meeting – everyone that worked the show will get a free plant!

**REFRESHMENTS:** Deborah Bordelon and Andra

Mladinich will bring October's refreshments. Gayle Greene-Aquirre and John Tate will bring November's refreshments.



The complete list for the rest of our fiscal year is: December 2016 – Covered dish; January 2017 –Diane Seidemann and Jo Ann Vaz; February 2017 - Dave and Vicki Perry; March 2017 –Judy and Charles Rush; April 2017 - Janet Bridges and Becky Jolly-Wood.

Please call our Hospitality Coordinator, Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640 if you have questions.

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Twenty-six members attended our September meeting. We had an open discussion on bringing in our orchids for the winter. Cynthia Oetker, Marty Miller and Marilyn Ladnier brought in some great refreshments. There were 32 plants on the show and tell table with Lexie Mitchell's Perrieraara LeBeau Blue (*Aerides lawrenceae* x *Vandachostylis Sasicha*) pictured at left

winning best plant. The door prize was won by Sarah Tringle.

Special thanks to Janet and John Bridges who sold divisions of their Dendrobiums for \$10.00 each and donated the money to the society. That money is earmarked for children's activities for our show. Lexie Mitchell is chair. Also big thanks to Richard Crespin who for the second month in a row brought in a tray of very nice divisions for the members – FREE! He also gave away spider plants. Over the years Richard has proven his generosity time and again. Thanks Richard!

**UPCOMING SHOWS:** Here's a list of local shows:

**October 19-23 American Orchid Society Fall 2016 Members Meeting and Huntington's Annual International Orchid Show** Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108 The meeting will include presentations by internationally renowned speakers and is being held in conjunction with the Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show.

**Dec 3, 2016 Acadian Orchid Society Short Course Workshop,** Wyndham Garden Lafayette, 1801 W. Pinhook Rd., Lafayette: Dennis Wollard [Wollard@louisiana.edu](mailto:Wollard@louisiana.edu)

**Jan 27-29, 2017** Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center, Gautier, Miss.

**February 17-19, 2017** Mobile Area Orchid Society Show; Bellingraph Gardens.

**April 21-23, 2017** Calcasieu Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale, good Shephard Episcopal Church, 715 Kirkman, Lake Charles, LA.

**July 7-8, 2017** Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show

**NEW SOCIETY IN THE AREA:** The Calcasieu Orchid Society is a brand new society that meets in Lake Charles Louisiana. They will hold their first show ever in April. I've been told to expect a really special show. Mark your calendars and plan a nice Spring drive to see some awesome orchids and meet some special people.

**FREE STUFF:** Sydney Dyche reports she has cleaned up her place and has lots and lots of plastic pots – all sizes for anyone that wants. [flamingosyd@gmail.com](mailto:flamingosyd@gmail.com) 228-424-7059.

**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.



**SHOW AND TELL:** Show and tell results have been tabulated and are now up to date. The list is attached. At left is Glen Ladnier's Habeneria medusa which was on the Show and Tell table and also the subject of his Orchids 101 class for September, 'My Favorite Genera.'

**UPDATED WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PAGE:** Our Webmaster, Chip Lechner is doing a wonderful job with our website; [gcorchids.org](http://gcorchids.org). Check it out. If you would like to contribute to the webpage, you can send your information directly to Chip at [msgcos@gmail.com](mailto:msgcos@gmail.com).

Also Janet Olier, Andra Mladinich, Chip and all of you have done a great job with the facebook page. Check that out too!

**SHOW NEWS:** We've sent in our payment to AOS and are awaiting confirmation. Jo Ann is working on a flyer and schedule which has to be done very soon. In the last few years we've given a class or two; some were well received. If any of you would like to give a class or anything to attract people to the show; please contact Jo Ann, [joannvaz@bellsouth.net](mailto:joannvaz@bellsouth.net) so she can put it on the schedule.

In the meantime we have some wonderful workers/members who have stepped up and started working on their projects.

**Lexie Mitchell** has a brand new \$100.00 budget that she can use however she wants to enhance the children's activities. We will try to give her the entire atrium area.

**Gayle Green-Acquire** is collecting anything orchid related from jewelry, books, placemats, photos, art, porcelain/china flowers, silk arrangements etc. for the Orchid Collectibles sales table which she will run. Her slogan will be *"Orchid Collectibles, Vintage to new, There's something for you!"* If you have items to donate please bring them to a meeting before the show.

**Sydney Dyche** has agreed to take over the raffle along with **Janis Zuleeg**. They will work with Lexie and Gayle in arranging the lobby to best benefit of everyone and allowing good traffic flow.

**Joy Lorens** is our trophy chair this year. She needs your information - whether you will continue with the trophy you furnished last year or not. You can bring in a trophy or give the society \$20.00 and we'll provide one in your name. Start bringing in your trophies now. Please try to get them in this month as



Joy will not be at the November meeting. All trophies and checks have to be in by the December meeting. The best trophies are usable items that are orchid related. See photo at left. Also do not be afraid to make your own trophies. If you are crafty there are all sorts of items you can make. For instance sew some placemats or napkins out of orchid patterned material, do ceramics, paint something, crochet or make jewelry – as long as it's nice. Remember to box anything breakable very carefully before bringing it to Joy.

**CULTURE TIP:** Here on the coast you should start now preparing your plants for winter. Unless you live on the most southern parts of the coast, most of your orchids should be protected from the cold by the end of October. Select a bright sunny day and soak each plant well to drive out insects, frogs and snakes that may be resting inside the pots or baskets.

These cooler nights will signal many plants like Phalaenopsis, to initiate flower spikes. Consider switching to a fertilizer with a larger percentage of phosphate (middle number) to support emerging flower spikes. Cymbidiums benefit from a light sprinkling of super phosphate over the potting media at this time. Watch your watering methods, since it is cooler, orchids won't require as much water. Over-watering could rot roots and promote the growth of bacteria. As new growth matures, hold back on the water a little and be careful not to leave standing water on the leaves.

**TABLE TOP EXHIBITS:** Here's a picture of the table-top exhibit done by the Northeast Alabama Orchid Society at the Alabama Orchid Society 32nd Show and Sale in Birmingham. (Photo taken by Glenn Bryant) We do not have table top exhibits in our show so many of you have never seen one. This is an excellent example of what a great table top exhibit can be. Neat clean, all the plants are right there for you to see no bending over needed. So why do we not allow them. They require a 6 ft table, we only have 8' tables and tables get real scarce at shows. Table tops take up a lot of space for only a few orchids. They require the 6' length of the tables plus work room while our 5'x5' floor exhibits require less space and can hold more orchids.



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