



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

August 12, 2018

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 2:00** 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 off Runnymede. The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. Glen's topic fits in nicely with last month's program. He will answer any questions left unanswered with the topic: "What Should I Plant this Orchid In?" Join us at 1:30.



Ms. Myrtle at our 2016 Christmas luncheon picking out bingo plants

SAD NEWS: Ms. Myrtle Barrios passed away on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. She was the oldest member of the Gulf Coast Orchid Society and until recently attended regularly with her neighbor and friend, Irene Lear. Ms. Myrtle would be 98 years old this month. Ms. Myrtle and Irene were good friends of the society. You could count on them whenever we had a Dutch treat dinner after a meeting for guest speakers. They certainly livened up the conversation. Ms. Myrtle always seemed much younger than her years and we enjoyed her and Irene's company. We have missed Ms. Myrtle these last few months but know that she is in a better place now, tending heaven's garden. Thank you, Irene, for bringing such joy to our meetings.

PROGRAM: Robert Stanton is feeling well enough to do his famous open judging of our Show and Tell table. We are very fortunate to have Robert as a member, he is an official judge of the American Orchid Society. His knowledge of orchids and what they should look like is awesome. Plus, he has a very cool way of making us understand what he's talking about. Every time Robert does an open show and tell, members ask for him back. He will judge the table aloud critiquing the flowers and sharing his thoughts on what he looks for in our orchid flowers.



Members at one of our Dutch treat speaker's dinners. From left, Ms. Myrtle Barrios, Irene Lear, Andra Mladinich, Marilyn and Glen Ladnier and Vicki and Dave Perry.

SPECIAL TALK FROM CHIP LECHNER ON OUR FACEBOOK

PAGE: Our resident computer guru will tell us about our Facebook page and why we can't post pictures of our orchids there. He will discuss things we can do to post our pictures. For those who aren't Facebook or computer comfortable; don't worry Chip will make things seem easy. We want to see your pictures!

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

September 9, Second Sunday possible guest speaker on Paphiopedilums.

October 14, Second Sunday "How to be a Great Ribbon Judge or Clerk at our 2019 Show"

November 11, Second Sunday Sydney Dyche “How to Keep Track of your Orchids”

December 9, Second Sunday Bingo Christmas pot luck



Some of our leftovers, by Christmas they will be even bigger!

VANDAS: Glen brought in 100 Vanda plants last month of all different sizes; a good many had multiple plants in the pot and some had blooms or buds. Each plant was just \$10.00 each. We had 17 plants left over, they will be available at our Christmas Orchid Bingo along with many other great plants.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Calcasieu Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale, Good Shephard Episcopal Church, 715 Kirkman, Lake Charles, LA.

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting hosted by the Orchid Society of Greater

Kansas <http://www.kcorchidshow.org>

Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2018 The American Orchid Society 2018 Fall Members Meeting is being held in conjunction with the International Slipper Orchid Symposium in Apopka, Florida.

Jan 25-27, 2019 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center.

BATON ROUGE SHOW: The theme of the Baton Rouge show was “Orchids on the Bayou”. We did a nice 5 x 7’ exhibit. While the exhibit did not win any trophies, we

did get best Grown Plant in the

Paphiopedilum Alliance and Best Flower Oncidium Alliance was won by Armand and Val Scurria. We only had 20 plants in the exhibit and still won 10 ribbons! Two plants were pulled for AOS consideration but not awarded. Thanks to Trey and Kourtnie Thigpen, Armand and Valerie Scurria, Richard Crespin, and Jo Ann Vaz who set up the exhibit. Special thanks to Andra Mladinich who handled the paperwork.

LAST MONTH’S MEETING: There were 27 members present for our July meeting. Jo Ann Vaz did a program on potting materials. There was a discussion about our Facebook page. Kourtnie Thigpen volunteered to take pictures at the meetings and post them on our page. Richard Crespin volunteered to make LED lights for our exhibits. Val Scurria gave a report on the results of the Baton Rouge show. There were 24 plants on the show and tell table, Richard Crespin won Best Plant and John Tate won the door prize.



2018 GCOS display at the Baton Rouge Show



July's Best Plant Ctsm. Bela Vista Sangria x pileatum grown by Richard Crespin

MASTER GARDENER EXPO: Mark your calendars for the Harrison County Master Gardener Expo which will be September 15 at the Extension office on Popp's Ferry Rd. We will share a table with the Day Lily Society. Sydney Dyché and Cynthia Oetker will oversee the preparations.

OUR 2019 SHOW Jan 25-27, 2019 SHOW CHAIR REPORT: Our talks with Dee Nguyen from So Orchids in Orlando did not pan out nor did our talks with Francisco Miranda of Miranda orchids. We are presently waiting on an answer from Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids. Please keep your fingers crossed. If any of you see a new vendor at any show, please get a business card. We will call them if we haven't already.

Richard Crespin has volunteered to make us new lights for our displays. He will make 2, 4' vertical track lights with removal LED spots. These will replace our outdated light stands that are pictured to each side of the Baton Rouge display.



Another of Richard Crespin's outstanding plants on the July show and tell table

SHOW AND TELL: We need to remind our members that we limit the number of plants you can enter on the show and tell table each week to FIVE plants. You are very welcome to bring more if there is room on the table but please only enter five plants. Please mark the extras as not eligible for show and tell points before the judging. This can be done by simply writing "Not for show and tell judging" on a piece of paper and taping it to the plant.

HAWAII REPORT: At last month's meeting we voted to send \$100.00 to the charity recommended by our friend, Karen Kimmerle from Island Sun Orchids. Our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier, sent off a check. The Vandas from Kalapana Orchids were outstanding. Kalapana was moving their orchids from the lower area near the volcano to a higher area out of the volcano's path. With no new volcano issues Kalapana is optimistically restocking part of its lower area.

STORM PREP: 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. We've talked about the importance of labels. 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 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. 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 them to the brightest light slowly.