



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

July 21, 2013

Our July meeting will be held Sunday, July 21, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Runnymede Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the

cafeteria meeting room. Orchids 101 lead by Glen Ladnier will start at 1:30. This month's Orchids 101 subject is '**Semi Hydroponics**'. Glen says "Tell people to get there early if they want to buy plants. Delaying my meeting until everyone drags in only gets me in trouble, so I will start my talk at 1:30 on the dot. "

PROGRAM: Larry Hennessey from New Orleans will talk on Bulbophyllums and bring plenty to sell. Larry spoke to our group about three years ago; many of our members fell in love with Bulbophyllums and asked for Larry to come back and sell us more of his plants. Larry says he has a lot of new plants to offer us both seedlings from compots and divisions of his 'special' plants. At left is a Bulbophyllum that was awarded at the GCOS 2010 show. There is more about Bulbophyllums at the end of this newsletter for e-mailed readers.



You can buy Larry's plants as soon as he gets them inside. He says he'll try to be at the meeting around 1:00 pm. So like Glen said, come early, shop for some great plants and get to class before 1:30. Since we have a guest we need our regular meeting to start at 2:00 sharp so we will have plenty of time for Larry's talk. Make checks out to Larry Hennessey.

We will take Larry out to eat after the meeting at the White Caps restaurant. Members are invited to attend.

MEMBER SALES: Members are welcome to sell plants or anything else that is legal at most of our meetings. We ask that you do not sell items when we have a guest speaker or when the society is selling plants. It is rude to ask someone to come here and speak and sell plants only to have the competition of a member selling his personal stuff. Our operating instructions are very clear: Members can sell small quantities of plants or materials at regular society meetings, if they give 10% of total sales to the society. Plants must be disease and insect free. They may not sell plants at the May or Christmas banquets or at any guest speaker programs. Members who want to sell large quantities of plants must pay the 10% and get prior approval.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: **August 11**, Jo Ann Vaz will talk on Cymbidiums and demonstrate how to repot one. The society will have a surprise for all members courtesy of Dr. Walter Taylor. We'll also spend some time going over the GCOS show scheduled for February 14-16, 2013. The August meeting is a great time for members to sell plants or other stuff. (If you call advance I will advertise in the newsletter free.)

September 8, Round table discussion on Greenhouses.

October 12, Work meeting for our show and wholesale plant order from H&R Orchids.

November 17, Roy Tokunaga from H&R Orchids in Hawaii will speak and bring our preordered plants.

December 8, Christmas meeting—orchid bingo and potluck luncheon.

REFRESHMENTS: No one volunteered for July's refreshments so Andra Mladinich, our hospitality coordinator and Jo Ann are stepping up. Jo Ann will make one of her huge



Walter's Cym. Golden Elf

cakes and Andra will bring in a fruit tray. Since some of you may have been overdoing refreshments, this will be more in style of what people should bring. With members going out to eat afterward light is also much better. A gentle warning to those who have gotten used to a full meal with the refreshments: **PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE MEETING HUNGRY!**

John Tate and Bic Tran will bring in Augusts' refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments or change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640.

BATON ROUGE SHOW: Becky Jolly-Wood and her team are doing a 50' exhibit at the Baton Rouge Show on the Society's behalf. It is this weekend, July 12-14. The theme is "Orchid Road Show". By now you should have gotten your plants to Andra. She and Becky will leave Thursday night to be in Baton Rouge early Friday morning for set-up. The schedule on Friday includes show setup from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and plant registration from 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.; A.O.S. judging begins at 6:30 p.m. The show and sales are open to the public on Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Show takedown begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **If you would like to help with set up or break down please call Becky at 228-474-2500.**

UPCOMING SHOWS: Here's a list of local shows. We will exhibit in the Baton Rouge show.

July 12-14 Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show, Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA

August 9-10 International Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium, Austin, Texas Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Convention Center.

Sept. 20-22 Birmingham Orchid Society Show and Sale, Birmingham Botanical Gardens 2612 Lane Park Rd.

Oct 5 Central Louisiana Orchid Society Show, Kent House Plantation, Alexandria La.

GCOS SHOW UPDATE: Several members of the show committee came out to the Gautier Convention Center, Saturday, 6/29 to take measurements. It seems we have enough room for all our vendors and exhibitors plus extra room for a few new projects. Since we are not in a mall environment we have to find ways to draw in people. One of the things we are going to try this year is to take the art entries out of the regular show schedule. The lobby of the Convention Center has room for 6 or 7 eight ft tables for our art and flower arrangements. We are going to add two children's categories: Children under 13 and children 13 and above. Some of us have



volunteered to speak to the local schools about orchids and to loan them a few orchids. If anyone knows anyone who might like to borrow some orchids for artwork please see Jo Ann.



We have it near your

phone or computer so you'll have the various times if anyone asks.

For those who are involved with hospitality, Andra will have a huge kitchen with refrigerator, icemaker and microwave plus lots of shelves for storage! More details about our show at the August meeting.

SHOW THEME: Thanks to all those who entered themes for our 2014 Show. We decided on 'A Tropical Valentine' because it fit in with our Valentines Day's dates and the word 'tropical' gave us something to work with for exhibit props. Throughout the year if you see some small tropical looking things that can be used in an exhibit please let Becky know. Examples would be shells, lava rock, and coconuts with or without hearts etched in them.

a basic flyer which is attached to all emailed newsletters. Please print it out and keep

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. Chip Lechner's Mom can machine embroider an orchid, the society's name and the member's name on shirts that members supply. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. Find a shirt that you'd like to have embroidered, wash it, and bring the clean shirt to the meeting. **Clearly print** your name as you want it to appear on the shirt on a piece of paper and safety pin it to the shirt. Put your phone number on the paper too, in case there are any questions.

Bulbophyllum Growing Tips

by Larry Hennessey

I never considered growing Bulbos until I met Tom Nasser of Carolina Orchids at the Orchid



Bulb. decurviscapum photo from Internet Orchid Species

Growers Fair in Baton Rouge about 12 years ago. He gave a talk about them and I had lunch with him afterwards. He couldn't understand why no one was interested in growing Bulbos down here. He said the climate was perfect for growing them at least 8 months of the year. Most of them love the warmth and the humidity that we all complain about. They are both disease and pest resistant. The only problem that I've experienced is the occasional new growth that rots when water gets trapped in it after watering. But this doesn't appear to

bother the plants any; they just put out another new growth. In fact they seem to be the quickest orchid to grow into a large specimen. Young plants appear to double in size each year. And many bloom off and on for several months. Some are sequential bloomers and some just put out occasional flushes of blooms.



Bulb. blepharistes photo from AQ Plus

Bulbos are one of the largest and most diverse groups of orchids. They range from miniatures well under an inch in height with flowers too small to be clearly viewed by the naked eye; up to Bulbo Phalaenopsis, which can have leaves over 6 feet long and Bulbo echinolabium whose flower can be over 15 inches from top to bottom.

Bulbos have two complaints commonly levied at them: they have an unruly rambling growth habit that doesn't allow them to be grown easily and they have weird foul smelling flowers.



Cirr. vaginatum photo from AQ Plus

It is true that some bulbos have a rambling growth habit just like other groups of orchids such as Cattleyas but this can be handled in a number of ways. You can choose the bulbos that don't have a gap between the pseudobulbs. This includes a number of species and hybrids in the levanae group, echinolabium, carunculatum and others. If you do choose one of the rambling types you can pot them in a large bulb pan or basket and just keep wrapping the growths around the inside of the pot. You can also grow them mounted, which is a more natural way to handle them.



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Jean' photo from AQ Plus

It is also true that some bulbo flowers are foul smelling but some do smell nice. Besides, the foul smelling ones don't smell up a greenhouse. You have to stick your nose all the way up to the flower if you're curious about how bad it smells. The smell is to attract their pollinating insect, which is a fly. The worst smelling ones that I know of are burfordiense (ripe Bourbon Street garbage truck), levanae (rotten shrimp heads), nymphopolitanum (barnyard droppings). I've had a macranthum in bloom off and on for a couple of months in the greenhouse and filling up a quarter of it with a most pleasant aroma. Also, the flowers have so many intricate features that you really have to study them to notice everything. Most have a hinged lip that swings back and forth when the flower is moved by the wind or something touching it. Some have filaments that may appear to be tassels fluttering in the wind.

The bulbos are most commonly split into 2 groups: Bulbophyllum and Cirrhopetalum. The Cirrhopetalums were split from the rest of the bulbos because the flower is arranged in an umbel. This is sometimes called the Daisy Chain type because the umbel resembles a daisy if you look down at it.

I've been successful growing bulbos in pots using my Phalaenopsis mix, which is 67% bark mix and 33% Fafard potting mix. The bulbos need even moisture around the roots just like phals and this mix seems to accomplish that. Another way to grow them is in baskets filled with sphagnum moss. I've been growing some in baskets next to my vandas most of the year and have not had any rot problems even though they get watered at least once a day in the summer. Of course the more natural way to grow them is mounted. If you decide to try growing them mounted make sure you place a pad of sphagnum moss under them to retain some moisture around the roots and water them like a vanda, the more the better during the hot summer.

There is also a good reference book dedicated to bulbos by Emily Seigerist, *Bulbophyllums and Their Allies* published in 2001. This book is primarily a reference book. A more practical book for beginners and people interested in growing tips for Bulbos is *Bulbophyllums The Incomplete Guide; From A to Why?* Self published by Bill Thoms in 2009.