



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

November 8, 2020

Our November 8 meeting will again be at our new location; **The Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS** Located east of Highway 49 North. The meeting will start at 2:00. There will be no Orchids 101, but we will have Show and Tell. Please bring your blooming plants with a limit of 5 plants per member.

We know some of you are concerned about the Governor's rules on groups inside so we asked the Legion what they did and the answer was: "The legion is a private organization and so the rules are somewhat flexible." Members that have attended the meetings lately know to wear masks. We always have sanitizer available plus the room is cleaned for our use. Also stay back; try to give your fellow members as much space as possible. **Masks and social distancing are required.**

A November message of thanks from Gayle



I just want to express my appreciation to all our folks who trekked to Gulfport last Sunday for our inaugural meeting at the Joe Graham American Legion Post 119. Arlan, Emily, Jennifer and John, our intrepid friends from Alabama, even made the four hour round trip complete with their prize plants. Our members from the west, Cheryl and Joy also joined us as well as Tanya from Seminary and many others from all over the Coast. It was wonderful to visit with old friends, some of whom we hadn't seen in quite a while.

Our new venue was made possible by Janet Olier and our newest member, Anita Applebee who is the kitchen manager for the Legion. They knew that we needed a new "home" when the college suddenly decided not to allow outside groups to use their facilities. Anita and her husband, Terry who is the Post Commander, were outstanding hosts who went out of their way to ensure that our needs would be met in a very pleasant environment.

Folks, we are trying out this new location which seems to be very accessible to most members as it is only 3 miles north of I-10. The next two meetings will be held here, but it is smaller than our old facilities so the Board members are trying to figure out how to make our new situation work for things like Orchids 101 and guest speakers. That being said, we are asking all of you please be flexible as we are trying our outmost to present informative, fun and safe meetings.

Since our space is limited and a bit snug once we are all seated, I would like to keep the back table free for those who might be running a bit late. Please sit there and place your Show and Tell plants on the little table at the back of the room where we will also have the sign in sheets. You can go ahead at break and fill out your flower forms and sign in if necessary. We will also place a prominent sign on the outside door to let you know where you should enter as there are numerous doors to the facility. There are ramps at both sides of the building for your use.

This is a new experience for our veteran members, and there will be kinks to be worked out, but we always work so well together that I know we can overcome obstacles with a "can do" attitude. This month we are going to try a power point presentation on Phals. I will do my utmost to make it work, but please remember that we are all learning to adapt to a new scenario, and I am not a techno wizard. (Remember that my husband and I are the only persons in America without cellphones.)

Lastly a huge thanks to our Officers and Board members for their continued efforts to keep our Society viable. We may have missed a few meetings, but we are still functioning. I want all of you to be especially grateful to the tireless efforts of Jo Ann who ordered plants for us over the summer, presented programs and

has been working to get us ready for the big January show. Give her a great big “air hug” from a safe distance, of course, when you see her. She has been carrying a huge load these last eight months.

Please remember that it is November and a time of thanks and know that I am grateful for all you. May your family be blessed with good health and good friends and better days ahead.

PROGRAM: We are anticipating a small crowd so we will try different seating arrangements. We will attempt to do a power point program on Phalaenopsis. This is a timely program as most Phalaenopsis start new flower spikes this time of year. We’ll learn the care of these lovely plants. Also, we will try to save time for a discussion of how hurricane Zeta affected each of us.

REFRESHMENTS: Gayle and Andra will do their best to please everyone; since we are so close to Halloween there may be quite a few left-over treats. So, eat a light lunch! **Sanitize your hands before you get in the serving line and wear your mask anytime you’re near the refreshment area.**

CHRISTMAS ORCHID BINGO MEETING: The society is going to have its annual Christmas orchid bingo on Dec 13 at 1:00 at the American Legion Hall off Ashley Rd in Gulfport. It will be a served meal. **NO COVERED DISH!** Andra and Anita are working on a menu. We will send out the menu as soon after the November meeting as we can. The cost of the meal is \$20.00 per person. Spouses are invited. The room is small, so we have room for about 40 people. If you plan to attend, please let us know. We will collect your money at the door. Members play bingo until we win a free plant. Think about it and if you can attend or will attend let us know so we can get a head count. A served meal is the only safest way we can share a meal and enjoy our Orchid bingo. RSVP to Jo Ann joannvaz@bellsouth.net of call or text 601-530-8778.

SHOW TROPHIES: Trophies must be paid for or given to Joy by our **November meeting**. If you prefer that the society provide your trophy; bring \$20.00 to pay for the trophy to the meeting or mail Joy a check for \$20.00 made out to GCOS. Joy Lorens, 1835 Bouie Rd, Carriere, MS 39426.

SHOW NOTES: Our raffle team does an amazing job every year. They always give out old orchid magazines. So, if you have old magazines, old orchid books or anything that our raffle team can give out or sell that you can donate please bring them to the November meeting. You can contact Sydney Dyché at 228-424-7059 flamingosyd@gmail.com.



OCTOBER MEETING: We had 21 members present and 23 plants for show and tell. Best plant was Janice Fabo’s Vanda Mimi Palmer cross. Door prize was won by John Wlodarczyk.

HURRICANE ZETA: I apologize for such a simple newsletter. Although we had no damage to our home or greenhouse, we only got power back late Monday night which didn’t give me much time. I have not heard from many of you. Sydney has some roof damage; Gayle lost a lot of trees and big branches. Marilyn and Glen are ok, trees down and some lost shingles. The shade cloth blew off, but Glen got it back on quickly. We have a report that Robert Stanton had a tree on his roof. Like most of you, we’ll be

cleaning tree debris for the next thousand years. The world’s best super orchid judge and friend said something recently that will be our 2021 show motto: **‘Let’s move ahead with lots of prayer and hope!’** Please everyone be safe; 2020 is almost over, then we may start another adventure!