



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

April 11, 2010

Our April meeting will be **Sunday, April 11**, at 2:00 in the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the room **behind the cafeteria**. Go north past the college and turn left.

PROGRAM: Our scheduled program on bulbophyllums has been moved to our September meeting... So, we will have a **Vanda Surprise!** We purchased an order of vandas, ascocendas and novelty type vandaceous plants in spike or blooming size from Hawaii. They are awesome (like the photos at left)



and priced just a little above cost! We hope there are enough plants to allow each **member** to purchase two. To make the selection process fair we will draw numbers to select plants. Each member who wants to buy an orchid will draw a number. We will call the numbers every 20 seconds. You are welcome to look over the plants before the sale and mark them in some fashion so you can find the plant you want fast but **do not remove the plants from the sales area**. Guests are welcome, but **vanda sales are limited to members only**. We'll start out the program with a short talk by Becky Jolly-Wood on how to grow these types of plants outside in the summer. These plants are all in pots; we will have some baskets for sale for those who want to replot them into baskets. For those that don't care for vandas we may have a few paphs that are very reasonably priced.



REFRESHMENTS: Linda Reynolds and Janis Kelly will provide April's refreshments. Please remember we provide only **light** refreshments. If you would like to bring refreshments or need to change an existing commitment contact Andra Mladinich 228-388-5054.

MAY MEETING: May will be a covered dish luncheon and orchid auction. The Society will provide the meat, drinks, and paper products. Members are encouraged to bring anything else. Guests are welcome. We will offer for auction many beautiful plants (many will be in bloom or bud) some donated by members, others purchased from commercial growers. In

the past years members have gotten some good bargains. Call Glen Ladnier at 228-392-0919 if you have plants to donate. Please bring a box to carry your purchases home.

UPCOMING SHOWS/EVENTS: We have two shows coming up in April. The Pensacola Orchid Society will host a show at the Pensacola Fairgrounds on April 16-18 and the Terrebonne Orchid Society Show in Houma will be April 23 -25. If you have plants you'd like to exhibit in either show, call Glen at the number above.

The date has been set for our 2011 show. It will be January 28-29-30 at Singing River Mall in Gautier.

For those who plan on attending the **Pensacola show**. It is not open to the public on Friday. It is open from 12-5 on Saturday and from 10-4 on Sunday. The address is 6655 West Mobile Highway. The vendors at the show are: Woodland Orchids, Orchid Plus, Martin Orchids, Orchids & Moore, J & P Orchids, Keiki Pro and Atlanta Company.

The **Fall 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress**, September 24-26, 2010. The conference is hosted by the Mid-America Orchid Congress and will be held in conjunction with the Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Orchid Show. Both Mid-America and the orchid show will be at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY

Don't forget our **Edgewater Event**, Saturday April 24 at Edgewater Mall, Earl Young, John Tate and Marty Miller will be doing some type of display, selling plants and talking orchids all day. Stop by and give them a hand.

JUNE MEETING: We will have a guest speaker for our June Meeting, Earl and Phyllis Bailey from ORCHIDbabies in Brierfield, Alabama will speak with us about Paphiopedilums. They will bring plants to sell. Two of their plants are featured below. They are taking preorders, you can email them, <http://www.orchidbabies.com/weborder2/orderform2.htm>, call them at 205-665-5650, their web site is www.orchidbabies.com.



The first plant at left is Phrag. Cahaba Morning Mist ((Hanne Popow 'White' x Lutz Rollke 'Emily' AM/AOS). One of theirs was just awarded in Cincinnati; they are offering blooming size plants for \$35.00. This is a fairly small stature windowsill plant, it's pale yellow with a pink blush.



The other plant is Paph. Honey, lower left, which is their breeding of this older cross with a philippinense alba, giving a different look. The other parent, primulinum, has intense yellow, and a larger than normal bloom. Being the pod parent, its beauty is enhanced by the alba form of the philippinense. The philippinense 'alba' was dominant and the twisted petals really enhance this version the Paph Honey. They have plants in bud for \$25.00.

DO WE OWE YOU MONEY? May is the end of our fiscal year. Our Treasurer, Marilyn Ladnier, has to make her annual report at the May meeting. If we have a debt to you, bring your receipts to Marilyn.

COMPUTER CONNECTIONS: From time to time we have featured our website www.gcorchids.com. April Skeels and Glen Ladnier have done a great job of setting it up and keeping it running. Now Janet Olier has created a Facebook page. She has sent the following instructions for those who would like to join our Facebook group. "First, go to the website: www.facebook.com --- It's free and anyone can join!! The only info you need is your name, your email address, create a password, male or female, and your birthday (so your friends can tell you "Happy Birthday" on that day, and that's it!! Once you are logged in- search for Gulf Coast Orchid Society. Once on our page, you can click on photos and look at pics from last month's meeting, and others that have been uploaded by other members. Also, if you click on each one of the pics of members, it can help you learn who is who at the meetings. You don't have to be a society member to join (we have a new fan who is from Tasmania!!) How cool is that???" Also, participation on the page is by choice. We hope it will be a fun way to get to see pics of orchids, share info, and keep us in touch with each other. Anyone can post pictures or make comments, so come on over and check it out!!!"

GROWING TIP: This month's cultural instructions are stolen verbatim from Oak Hill Gardens April Newsletter. . . they are very appropriate for this month. It's written by Liese, one of the owners of Oak

Hill Gardens located in Dundee, Illinois and the person you'll most likely speak with if you call to place an order. Liese knows her orchids, check out their website www.oakhillgardens.com or call 847-428-8500 and ask for a catalog. They have great plants especially if you like species. Like the *Haraella retrocalla* (odorata) below.



“Spring is in the air here at Oak Hill. I saw the first robin hopping around our yard looking for that elusive worm. With the change in seasons, also comes change in our growing routines.

Sunnier, longer days in spring trigger our orchids into action. New root and plant growth begin. During this time, you should switch back to a higher nitrogen orchid food (such as 30-10-10) to help the new growth emerge strongly. If any of your orchids look like they might need a repot job, now is the perfect time to do it. As the plants move into their growing season, they will root in quickly now when they are in active growth. It is also a perfect time to re-mount any orchids you have that may be falling off of their plaques.

Watch for sunburn on your orchids this time of the years. The sun's intensity is much higher and leaf burn can occur quickly if leaves are not protected from the direct rays of the hot, mid-day sun. This is the time to put up shading on greenhouses and pull shut those sheer curtains in our south-facing windows.

The sunny, warm days of spring also wake up the hibernating bug population. Watch your plants for aphids, mealies, scale and mites. It's good to keep some bug spray on hand for when you might see one or more of these uninvited visitors. The Bayer products seem to work well to eliminate most of these pests.

Your watering schedule may change a bit also. If it is warm enough to open windows and let that fresh spring air inside, your plants may dry out a bit more quickly. However, as soon as the higher humidity of summer hits, back off on the watering and make sure your media dries out in between.

As you watch the spring surroundings turn to green, lush foliage, watch your orchids throw out new growths, leaves and roots. It's fun to see them growing out strongly after struggling through the long winter.”