



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

June 14, 2020



Yea!!! We are finally going to have a meeting!!!

The meeting will be on our regular meeting day, **June 14, 2020 at 2:00 at the McHenry Library in Stone County**. Complete instructions to the library from all directions are attached. Space is limited. We will not have Orchids 101 and we are asking members to **limit their show and tell plants to just 3 plants**.



Our President, Gayle Greene Aguirre arranged this meeting place and

here's what she says: "I know that we have all experienced a very confusing, frustrating, and often scary three months with our everyday routines upended by the virus. By now most of us have probably settled into a new reality and modified lifestyle. My house has never been cleaner, the yard is looking way better, and I have tried a total of 78 new recipes much to my husband's chagrin.



My orchids have never looked better, perhaps because they are now getting more attention. More genera are in bloom and the plants look gorgeous. I just love to admire them. I am sure that many of you feel the same way.

Research conducted at Rutgers University shows that flowers have a positive impact on emotional health.

Overall happiness, well-being, calm and intimacy benefit from surrounding yourself with flowers. Of course, we already knew this and that is why so many of our members are yearning to show off their newest beauties.

This month we will host an experimental modified style meeting up here in Stone County at "my" little McHenry Library. We chose this spot because it is free and available, and I can ensure the cleanliness of the facility. This is where I taught crafts and homeschoolers before we had to shut down. This library is only used 3 days a week when it is open.

I must let you all know that this is a very small facility so "social distancing" is going to be a bit tricky, but we will do our best. If you choose to come, we will have sanitizer. There will be bottled/canned beverages in the frig, and we will also have a medley of wrapped snacks. The tables and restrooms will be sanitized, and you are welcome to bring your masks. I will be bringing in a few more chairs since they are in short supply at the Library.

We only want you to attend if you feel comfortable doing so. Your health is very important, and we want everyone to be safe as they enjoy the plants and visit with friends. **I would like to have a**

tentative number so if you are planning on attending or know you won't be coming, please send an email, gayle.greenaguirre@gmail.com. If you would like directions to the Library, we can email you the set I made which should cover all bases.

Stay safe and I hope to see many of you soon.”



Just part of Barb Heinbaugh's haul when she and Jessica made a trip to Florida

Thank you, Gayle, for doing this work on our behalf! We will not have a regular program but rather have a “catch up session”. Some of you have taken trips and purchased some orchids, please share your experiences with us. Some have found orchids right here at home! A lot of you have made do without your regular sources for supplies, please come and share that. We want to see what you've been growing so please come and show off your three best plants.

this wonderful bark. If you can't attend the meeting contact Richard at richard3830@caleone.net.

This bark comes from Fred Clarke who says: *“Kiwi Bark is one of the best barks available, it is produced in New Zealand from managed, renewable forests of pinus radiata trees. This is the highest quality bark and it is produced to strict specifications. It is a hard, clean, uniformly graded, and contains no wood by products. I firmly believe that Kiwi Bark is the best bark on the market today.”*

The bags are 50 liters and come in three sizes

#2 1/8 to 1/4 fine grade

#3 1/4 to 1/2 Medium grade

#4 1/2 to 3/4 Large grade

Richard Crespin is getting an order up for KIWI bark come and hear about that. Usually Richard gets us the best price available on



Ladies' Tresses orchid found in Tanya Skelly's yard



The cost of the bark is \$25.00 per bag before shipping. Richard will take orders and collect \$40.00 per bag at that time. If there is a difference he will refund or collect when you pick up your bark. If enough people agree to do an order, he will order the bark the first week of July. Richard needs to know how many bags you want and what size.

Wish List Plants: Many of you know our regular Hawaiian wholesale vendor referred us to a new

orchid grower who sells Paphs, Phrags, Miltoniopsis and Phaius plus a few of the other wish list plants that our regular vendor does not sell. We offered a modified list to all our members in good standing to select from. You guys ordered 92 plants for a total before shipping of \$1,172.00! This vendor has strict rules for his customers and did not want to wait for substitutions so some of you may not get your wish list. For that I am extremely sorry. Those that ordered plants can pick up their plants at the meeting. **Please be prepared to PAY for your plants then if not before.** We may

have a few extras that we will sell at cost. Above are two Miltoniopsis: Red Woodham and Augres 'Trinity' we hope to have extras in spike for those who did not order.

We also want to hear your thoughts and concerns about our June meeting so we can plan the July meeting. Hopefully by August we will be back at the college.



Rlc Crispin Rosales

We will go ahead with a second wholesale order from Hawaii from our regular vendor sometime near the end of June. She has found a good many of your wish list plants:

- Vanda Mimi Palmer
- Cattleya Heathii
- Den Joyce Kelly
- Den Little Atro
- Den Bill Takamatsu
- Den hodgkinsonii
- Den alexandrae
- Den normanbyense
- Sen smiliae
- Laelia lundii

These may be in limited number so those that wished them get first choice. Although we can get similar items, she could not find two plants. **Rlc. Memoria Crispin Rosales** was first made in 1959. So far it was won over 54 quality awards! The judge's description on the one pictured says; " *Lavender sepals and petals; slight midline on petals; lip fuchsia-lavender*

at base, midlobe heavily veined with gold, deep fuchsia on outer half." If anyone has one and are willing to share a

division, please reply to this newsletter. Yes, we heard that Chadwick's has one for \$100.00! The other wish list plant we can't find is **Vanda Hall of Fame 'Peaches and Cream'**

HCC/AOS. The judges' description for the attached picture is " *sepals and petals light chartreuse, dorsal sepal and petals suffused and finely tessellated light raspberry red, lateral sepals finely tessellated light raspberry red; lip chartreuse, midlobe heavily overlaid dull brick red; column light raspberry red, anther cap cream-colo*". We plan on getting the new



Vanda Hall of Fame 'Peaches and Cream'

price lists out by the end of June with the shipment coming sometime in July. We hope to unbox the plants together at some public place, so please keep an eye out for an outside, shady, covered, centrally located, public space with nearby restrooms for our final unboxing for the year. **If you don't get an email with the order list by the end of June please call 601-530-8778 to get a list.**

FREE PLANTS? Thanks to member, Karen Nelson, who arranged a meeting with her friend who needed to find a home for about 16 of her orchids, the society now has some plants that will be ready for an auction or sale later in the year. The society owes a big thank you to Betty Burnsed!

The New Orleans Orchid Show and the Baton Rouge Orchid Show have been cancelled for 2020. Everyone is looking forward to our 2021 Orchid show. Our Show Chairmen, Trey and Kournie Thigpen, will do their best to put on the best show yet. The 2021 show will be at our regular location in Gautier, MS. During all the virus business the Jackson County supervisors took the time to consider us. They voted to let us rent the hall on a yearly basis for only \$100.00 a year. We must write a letter each year asking for the reduced fee. Photos really helped so at our show

please take plenty of pictures. We need to prove to the Jackson County Board we bring people into the area. We need shots of the parking lot loaded with cars; of TV crews interviewing people; Glen teaching his class; our vendors selling plants and most importantly pictures of customers walking out with arms loaded with plants grinning from ear to ear. We also need you all to be polite, friendly and courteous to all attendees of the show. You never know when a Supervisor will show up. If they do; invite them to have a cup of coffee and discreetly holler for Trey and Kourtnie!

Please look through your cameras; if you have any photos like the ones mentioned above of our 2020 show please text them to Jo Ann 601-530-8778, thanks.



Armand's Dendrobium aphyllum

March Meeting Report: It seems like March was a lifetime away. We need to get back to our old routine like raffle and door prizes, programs and show and tell. Our March program was our own Richard Crespin who showed us all how to repot our orchids we bought from Fred Clarke at the October 2019 meeting. Richard demonstrated how to repot them then helped everyone who needed help pot their own plants. Richard brought all the supplies even papers to cover our tables. Thanks, so much Richard! The March meeting boasted 39 plants on our show and tell table with Armand Scurria's Den aphyllum winning Best Plant. The door Prize was won by Richard Crespin. We held a silent auction with the left-over plants from the judge's gifts and the society made \$372.00! Andra gave a report on the Mobile

show and Sydney reported that we bought materials and stands from Mary Roberts. Members were asked to grow greenery for our shows.



Richard teaching us how to repot Catasetums



Working hard; foreground Janet Olier and Deborah Bordelon background John Wlodarczk, Judy Harris and Sydney Dyche

Are you bored!

Most of us are. We should all still stay home as much as possible. We can't clean house or do yard work forever and orchids thrive on benevolent neglect. Too much touchy feely can kill an orchid fast! So, what to do. Not much on tv? If you do cross stitch and need some fabric or books, I'll have some at the meeting. Paper

backs piling up, bring them to the meeting to trade. Same goes for those stacks of Jigsaw puzzles you've accumulated. Bring them to the meeting and let's swap!

We pray that all of you stay virus free. We did lose a special member. In May, **Judy Rush** passed away in her sleep. Those that know Judy and Charles know they were special. Charles brought 15 of Judy's blooming orchids to the church and placed them on the pulpit behind the casket, which was covered with pink and white orchids, roses and glads! Our President, Gayle Greene Aguirre wrote a memorial for Judy as follows:

Gayle's memorial tribute to a Special Lady



As some of you already know our Society lost a long-time friend and member in early May when Mrs. Judy Rush quietly left this earth bound for Heaven. Judy and her husband Charles have been members of our group since 2012 when they started driving over to our meetings from Eight Mile, Alabama. They didn't always bring plants to share because they came to over to visit with us right after church and were afraid that the plants would suffer being left in their car during services.

Judy kept busy as the full time Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor of Redemption Church in Saraland where she had worked for almost 24 years. Both Judy and Charles have also taught Sunday School and adult classes at the Church for over 50 years.

Those of us who knew Judy experienced a sweet, loving and very kind lady who always exhibited class and a positive attitude no matter what kind of day she might be having. Judy was always ready to listen and learn from others and to share her own orchid or plant tips. She loved our Show and Tell Table each week and was fascinated by new and "different" plants. Judy was comfortable conversing with both new and old friends and was a delight to be around.

Judy was also a member of the Mobile Area Orchid Society where she regularly showed her plants and in 2019 one of her plants, *Paph. Macabre in Pink* was awarded an AM/AOS. She was known in local orchid circles for her gigantic *Ludisia discolor* which she acquired from Ruth Gordon in 2008, but some of her favorites were giant cattleyas. It was a red cattleya which was displayed at the "Festival of Flowers Show" on the Providence Hospital Ground in Mobile which first piqued Judy's interest in orchids.

I know that we are all saddened by the loss of this lovely lady, and our hearts and prayers go out to Charles and their two sons and families. We will feel her loss, but those who knew her best will always remember her friendship and gentle nature. I would like to think of Judy in Heaven now surrounded by thousands of blooming orchids as she looks down on all of us and serves as an inspiration to make the most of the time we are given and to share our love with others.

Everyone please stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, and love each other! See you June 14!