

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

December 13, 2020



Helper elves peeking through the flowers on Cymbidium Eva Sue Kidder

Merry Christmas everyone! Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, December 13, at the Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS** Located east of Highway 49 North. **The meeting will start at 1:00 pm.** The meal ***will not*** be covered dish, we will enjoy a prepared and served boxed lunch by American Legion personnel headed up by Anita Applebee. The cost is \$20.00. Please have a check or exact cash ready.

After a brief welcome, they will start serving the food. Afterwards we'll have a short business meeting then the awards will be given out and we will play bingo for free orchids. Cost of bingo cards for guests is \$15.00 each. Only

one bingo card per person. There will be no **Show and Tell, raffle or Orchids 101.**

Please come early, we have devised what we hope is a safe system for entry into the hall. Have respect for our workers, wear your face covering and sanitize your hands. Look for Jo Ann Vaz pay for your meal guest's meal and bingo card for your guests. She will give you a bingo card, a name tag and a place card. Both the name tag and place card will have your name and menu choice to help the servers. Find a seat, we'll have 10, 6' tables with 4 chairs to each table. A pile of bingo beans will be on each table. Leave your place card and bingo card on your chosen table to save your spot. The tables and chairs will be sanitized, once you sit or put down your personal belongings, don't sit in any other seats to visit. REMEMBER COVID! Since everyone will want to check out the award and bingo plants, they'll be spaced out on the counter on the east wall. Remember to put that bingo card and your place card so it can be seen to save your seat! Please give everyone their 6'. When you bingo be patient please wait your turn.



A phal photographed by member, John Pickles

SHOW AND TELL RESULTS: We will award plants to the top three-point winners for the year from our display table and award a plant to the member who brought in the most "best plants". We will then draw three names from the list of members who brought in plants during the year and they'll get a plant. This is our way of thanking those who went to the trouble of bringing in plants for show and tell. You must be present to win the drawing.

For our new members, we keep track of all plants brought in for show and tell during the year. If you bring in a plant you get one point, if it wins a third-place ribbon it gets another point, if it wins second place it gets two points and if it wins first place it gets three points. If you only brought in one plant during the year and you are present for the drawing you will be

eligible for the drawing.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: We are still working on programs for 2021. If you can do a program or know of a topic, you'd like us to cover please let us know.

January 10, Work meeting for Show- January 29-31

February 14, Thank you meeting for show workers and an introduction to the Orchid Society for new members. All those who help with the show and are present at the meeting get a free plant.

March 14, open

April 11 Larry Hennessey of New Orleans will talk on Bulbophyllums and bring plants to sell.

May 16 Third Sunday because Mother's Day is second Sunday. Annual covered dish luncheon and Orchid Auction

SHOW REPORT: Please remember to pay for or bring in any trophies you support. Your names go into the show schedule which we are working on now. Two trophies are available for donation see article entitled **Trophies** for more info.

It is hard to plan a show, with COVID there are so many more issues. The main one being that our new government may shut everything down, or what if the pandemic becomes so bad that too many participants are sick. There are a lot of different groups involved in a show, the hall, vendors, judges, other societies that exhibit their plants and you, our members and friends. I cannot do a show by myself. At the meeting, we will take a quick show of hands of those who want us to continue our plans for a show and are willing to help in some way.

Here's what we know now:

HALL: Brenda at the Convention Center had COVID and almost died. No one enters that hall without a mask properly worn. We will adhere to that stance. No one comes into our show without a face covering properly worn and they will keep it on. **We would like some suggestions on how to enforce that rule.** Brenda says that as of now we can have up to 275 people in the main hall at one time. We did some quick guesstimates; we don't come close to those figures so if our governor cuts back the amount more we'll still be good.

VENDORS: We'll have the same vendors as last year. They all want to come but they are all afraid of getting shut down at the last minute with boxes of blooming plants and no way to move them. Also, they don't want to bring COVID home to their loved ones. Remember our motto "**Move ahead with lots of prayer and hope**". If we get shut down an option is to move the vendors outside if the weather is good. If the weather is bad, perhaps we can set a date for some time in April?

JUDGES: Aileen and Barney have both said yes; their plan is to drive down, stay in a motel in Moss Point and drive back Saturday afternoon and Sunday. They live outside Atlanta. They are doing that for us, at their own expense! They are both in their 80's! God has truly blessed us with Aileen and Barney! Many of you remember Charles and Susan Wilson. Charles has written many articles for the American Orchid Society magazine and they have won many AOS awards. Knowing them is an honor; we knew them years ago when they came down and did the always amazing Memphis exhibit. They are warm and kind; true friends to everyone! They are both judges and are coming to judge our show! Charles has suggested many great ideas which you'll hear about later. Aileen suggested early on that the ribbon judging be two-man teams with no clerks. We have adopted this plan not only for this year but for future shows. We will ask some of our

knowledgeable members and friends to sit quietly near the exhibits just in case you are needed to find a plant, hang a ribbon, or assist when asked.

SOCIETIES: So far, the only society to commit is Mobile. They responded right away, Baton Rouge isn't; the other societies are still mulling it over. This is fine, we understand the questions caused by COVID plus the question of finding someone to do exhibits and if anything is blooming? All difficult decisions for our fellow societies.

YOU: We need your honest response to the question of having a show and if so, will you help in some way. Even if just a contact number to take some of the calls wanting to know about the show. We'll take a poll at the December meeting. Help is needed at the raffle desk, setting up and taking down the exhibit, aides are needed in the hospitality area, data entry and plant registration and sanitation; people to walk around and spray or wipe common surfaces.

OUR PLAN OF ATTACK: Not only will all people in the hall be required to wear a face covering and stay apart but we will have cleaning stuff everywhere. We will hire people to set up our table and chairs. Andra has some great ideas for hospitality; As suggested, our judge's lunch will be a boxed lunch. Food will be served; there will be no buffet. Most of our food will be cooked at the Convention Center! There will be limited access to the kitchen. At our January meeting Andra will discuss this in detail.

As suggested, we will set up one-way traffic around the main hall floor. We will allow and promote tabletop exhibits this year. They take up less space which will allow us to widen all sides of the exhibit area.

We will stagger take down. Vendors leave at 3:30, then exhibitors, finally at 4:00 we can take down the society exhibit.

For those who have plants they want to put in our exhibit they can drop them off. Simply drive up to the last door on the east side of the hall, call my phone and I'll come and get your plants. You can come back at 4:30 on take down Sunday and I will bring your plants out.

Finally, we need advertising. Spread the word to all your friends.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

Jan 28-31, 2021 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show: Gautier Convention Center.

Feb. 26-28, 2021 Mobile Area Orchid Society Show and Sale, Bellingrath Gardens. This is their 44th annual show and sale.

OUR VENDORS:

Jodie Shumaker of Secret Garden Rare Plants jodishu@gmail.com, from Marianna Fl. Check out his website: secretgardenrareplants.com. If you preorder from his website, you'll get 20% off plus no shipping charge if picked up during the show. He also says he purchased Glenmar Orchids and will be selling some of their inventory. Sounds like he got some special plants of all types. Email Jodie to see what he's got that may not be on his website.

Denny Haase, Spring Orchids, Spring Texas at springorchids4@yahoo.com will sell plants at our show again this year. Denny's been growing orchids forever and has a lifetime of orchids filling his greenhouses. He has a lot of hard to find stuff that he is willing to share with you! He has a lot of species and weird stuff like Bulbophyllums and Coelogynes. He will offer Oncidiums in 6" pots for

\$15.00 each and will be selling some great Vandas starting at \$15.00 each. Denny grows in 2 - 100 ft. long greenhouses and he's trying to cut back to only one greenhouse. Email him to see what he's got that may be on your wish list and to preorder some things.

Mark Reinke, Marble Branch Farms www.marblebranchfarms.com of Walhalla, SC Mark's a great, knowledgeable grower and breeder. Mark usually sends an ad. You'll get his ad as soon as I get it!

Kent and Sheila Daniels of Sheila's Orchids, Marrero, LA 504-348-8152 are our newest vendors. This is their third year with us. Kent says they specialize in all types of orchids but the large flowered Cattleyas are one of their specialties. Kent also grows some very special hibiscus plants. If you're interested in Cattleyas give them a call to see what they have.

Hicks Orchids and Supplies, Kenny Hicks, Orlando FL 1-407-733-1887 hicksj0430@bellsouth.net, check out their website hicksorchidsandsupplies.simdif.com. Kenny and his family were our vendors for several years. They returned last year and will be back again this year. One of our biggest expenses with potting media is the shipping, which can sometimes be triple the initial price. Check out their website, find out what you need, then call Kenny and preorder the materials. He will bring it to the show with no added shipping! Do not assume they will bring big bags of barks, charcoal, or rock without preordering. If you're a Vanda grower, they have very good, sturdy, cypress Vanda baskets in both the square and octagon sizes.



Richard's Blc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst'

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 16 members present. Twenty-two were on the show and tell table. Best plant was Richard Crespin's Blc. Greenwich 'Elmhurst'. Richard also won the door prize. Jo Ann brought in a Bulb careyanum for auction which went for \$25.00. Anita Applebee donated a Rlc. Thelma Ayoko Tsukamoto 'Volcano Queen' also for auction which went for \$40.00. Thank you both for these great donations! Gayle Greene-Aguirre gave an AOS presentation on Phalaenopsis. Thank you to all our buyers and bidders!

TROPHIES: Our trophy chairwoman, Joy Lorens, reports that two trophies have become available. **The Walter Taylor Memorial Award best Oncidium Orchid in the GCOS exhibit and the trophy for Orchid Related Art.** When you donate a trophy, you can honor someone or something with the wording which would read "Trophy donated by Suzie Que in memory of her dog Poncho." This

wording appears on the trophy card placed in the exhibit. It also appears in our schedule or show booklet. The society can provide a trophy for \$20.00 or if you're a shopper you can sometimes get some great crystal or orchid related giftware from antique shops, good will or great sales. Some of the trophies given out last year were orchid clippers and sharpener, orchid teacup and saucer, painted orchid plates, orchid night lights and orchid hummingbird feeders.

On my Mind: Reflections on the Year 2020 by our President, Gayle Greene-Aguirre

As this most tumultuous year finally grinds to a halt, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the positive values which our Society bestows on each of



us. Many of us were cooped up for days and weeks and in some cases months without the ability to get out in the community. For some this was the “perfect” time to spend sprucing up our orchid collections by repotting, culling the old, cleaning the greenhouse or trying out new genera. We certainly were offered a wonderful array of exciting plants this summer when Jo Ann ordered all those exotic orchids from Hawaii. Hopefully, you are beginning to see those efforts pay off when your newly acquired plants begin to bloom just in time for the holidays.



Members playing bingo at our 2019 Christmas bingo



Glen Ladnier giving a talk in July at the McHenry library

Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. Please do not pay them at the December meeting.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS If you want a GCOS shirt see Chip Lechner. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. You supply a clean shirt.

Challenges awaited us at every turn as we were forced to find new places to hold our meetings. First, we had to cancel two meetings. Then, when the college shut us down due to concerns over the virus, many members made the trip to the little McHenry Library. Just recently we were able to locate a new more centrally located venue at the American Legion Post in Gulfport. We have all worked diligently to hold our meetings and fellowship together while practicing all the safety measures designed to keep everyone as healthy as possible. Changes in our meeting format were made to accommodate our new reality.

Now we must prepare for perhaps our greatest travail, our January Show. Jo Ann and the Board members have been busy trying to deal with every eventuality in planning for this event. All contingencies are being evaluated, but we will have to see what January 2021 brings us. We continue to remain hopeful that the “show will go on”.

I know that 2020 has been a supreme challenge, but I hope that our connection with nature through our love of orchids and our personal connections to each other will continue to give each of us strength and determination in the new year. Through this all, we lost old members, but gained new friends. As we look forward to new challenges and commitments in the days ahead, I urge you to embrace others in the true spirit of the season and to reach out to those who may need some encouragement. All my best to you and your loved ones as this year comes to a much-needed halt. May we all look ahead with renewed hope to a fresh starting point start in January. Be safe and keep well.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES: Dues will be due at our January 2021 meeting. Dues are \$15.00 per person. New memberships get a free plant one plant per membership only. Dues cannot be paid at our shows; if you cannot attend the meeting send your check to