



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

November 11, 2012

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, November 11**, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. in the **cafeteria meeting room**. The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30 in the cafeteria. This month's topic is "This n That". Glen would also like to remind those few members who haven't picked up their orchid bark yet to contact him.



One box of orchids from Hawaii

PROGRAM: Our November program will be a work/planning session for our January show, January 25, 26, 27, 2013 and a distribution of our wholesale plant order from Hawaii. If you ordered plants, please be at the meeting; if you cannot attend, make arrangements with Jo Ann Vaz to pick up and pay for your plants. 601-947-8777. We will have a short question and answer period for those who need help with their new plants. We ordered over \$2,000.00 worth of plants. The grower did not charge us any packing or shipping again this year so the price quoted is the price you will pay. We bought a few extra plants which will be available to everyone during the break. The plants will be crated and covered so no one will get to pick out plants

beforehand. You may get your preordered plants before or during the meeting. Make checks out to cash or to Jo Ann Vaz.

We have no show chairman for our show again this year; we need your help and input. This show will be by the Society and for the Society. We will listen to all ideas, but remember we have a budget! Tables and chairs may be a problem again this year. Does anyone have a cheap easy solution? The judges loved our dessert bake off and wine; and hopefully we can do both again this year. What else can we do to make our show exceptional?

REFRESHMENTS: Irene Lear, Gerri Garringer and Cynthia Oetker will provide November's refreshments. If you'd like to bring refreshments one month or if you have to change your assigned date; call Andra Mladinich at 228-365-0640.



Vanda Pachara Delight

HOW DO I CARE FOR MY NEW PLANTS? Your new plants will have been out of the greenhouse and in dry packing sheds, boxes and garages for the last week or longer. With this in mind water your plants carefully. Tamp down the potting media so the roots are firmly contained and the plant does not wobble and put the plants in a not quite bright section of your growing area. If possible keep it away from your other plants for a while. Once you see new growth starting and no obvious signs of pests or disease move it to a brighter, permanent location around your other plants. Many of the more experienced growers like to repot each new plant they receive. If

your new plant has slipped loosely out of its pot and you notice the potting materials look more like soil than bark then by all means repot your plant into fresh bark and a clean pot.

Most of the plants will be in 4" sq plastic pots. Commercial growers use these as they are cheap and take up very little space. Most of these pots have a raised bottom and are very good for growing young plants. However vandaceous plants might enjoy being placed in a basket or pot that is more accommodating to its roots. You can fill the basket with charcoal. Make sure you use the 100% hardwood charcoal that has no chemicals added. Don't worry if some of the roots are broken. Cut them off at the break with a clean knife or scissors. To avoid serious root damage always soak vandaceous roots before working with the plants. Once soaked thoroughly the root color will turn a gray green and the roots will become more pliable.

DECEMBER MEETING: Our Christmas covered dish luncheon and Orchid bingo will be Sunday, December 9. Get your recipes ready this is always a fun event. Most likely we will move the meeting time up to 1:00. There will be no show and tell or Orchids 101 for the December meeting.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover.

Jan. 13, 2013 Planning meeting for our Jan. 25-27, 2013 show

Feb. 10, 2013 Thank you party for show participants

March 10, 2013 Dr. Doug Martin will speak about growing native orchids.

April 14, 2013 How to Read an Orchid Label and What It Means.

May 19, 2013 Covered dish and orchid auction

June 9, 2013 Our own Harvey Brenneise will talk about Charles Darwin and Orchids.

Save all the dates. You really don't want to miss any of our programs.

NAME TAGS AND SHIRTS: If you want a GCOS name tag; see Marilyn at the meeting. If you want a GCOS shirt see Chip Lechner at the meeting.

It's very important to wear your shirt or name tag. One of our board members has recommended that we give out a second door prize limited to members who either are wearing their shirts or name tags! We may start this on a random month basis so be prepared!



GCOS WEBPAGE AND FACEBOOK: Our webmaster, Chip Lechner, has updated the website, gcorchids.org also you can always find us on Facebook.

SHOW TROPHIES: If you plan on donating a trophy for our show please contact Jo Ann, 601-947-8777 joannvaz@bellsouth.net. You can buy a trophy, something nice, or **give Jo Ann a check for \$15.00 made out to GCOS** and the Society will supply a trophy. Above is a photo of example of trophies. We need this information ASAP for the show schedule and signage for the show. This is a great way to honor someone; many of our members give their trophy in honor or in memory of loved ones. The signage appears in the exhibit, on the trophy card and in the show schedule.



Sydney Dyche with Asdda Thompson's Love which she purchased from our September Donation auction

We should have a few new trophies available this year. If you don't already donate one and would like to donate one, see Jo Ann at the meeting.

SPECIAL AUCTIONS: Since August we've had a very nice plant auctioned off at the end of each meeting. These plants are donated by a member who cares deeply for the Society. This auction was our member's idea with the approval of the board. The funds from this auction will be split two ways: half will go to our Speaker's fund and half will go into a new fund called our donation fund. The donation fund will be spent on donations either to the AOS or the Mid America Orchid Conference to honor members who have contributed to the Society in major ways or to thank our Mid America judges for helping us with our show.

Recently Dr. Clyde Hagood passed away. Dr. Hagood was a member of the Society years ago. He served as President for several years and was Show Chairman at one time. He was very instrumental in arranging our meetings at the Gulf Coast Medical Center which served as our meeting place for many years until the Medical Center shut down. Our Treasurer made a nice donation to the AOS in Dr. Hagood's name with funds from our donation fund.

So when you hear about the plant auction at the end of the meetings please know that the money you spend on these wonderful plants goes to a very good cause.



Nobile type Dendrobium Sea Marian grown by Sarah Tringle

WINTER CARE OF YOUR ORCHIDS: By now most of your orchids should be inside. The only exceptions would be Nobile Dendrobiums and Cymbidiums. These two types should be cleaned and ready to pop inside when the temps start touching the high thirties. There are a lot of orchids that like to be kept on the dry side during the winter such as Nobile Dendrobiums, some other varieties of Dendrobiums, and members of the Catasetum family. When the leaves start to turn yellow and fall off water less and less often. Only water enough to keep the canes from shriveling. Once new growth starts in the spring as temps warm up then you can begin to water.

Nobile Dendrobiums will start making flower buds on what appears to be dead canes. Too much water while the buds are first developing will ruin the buds. One rule to go by with winter culture for all orchids when watering is: "If you're not sure whether to water or not - DON'T!"

SPECIAL THOUGHTS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR HEARTBROKEN: Our orchid society is composed of all sorts of people; people from very different walks of life. We all have at least one thing in common: the love of orchids. Over the years many of us have

become more than associates, we've become friends. Some of our members have fallen in love and married. We've had baby showers at meetings; together we cried at funerals and prayed for those who are sick. Right now we have several members who are fighting serious illnesses, some are caring for ill family members and still others are grieving for lost loved ones. As the Holiday season approaches, let's all pause and think about those who have troubles, let's say a little prayer in their behalf and be there to help them in any way we can.



Chet Byers, one of our founding members who passed away August 28, 2008