

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

May 16, 2021



Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobbledick 'Spring Time'; one of our auction plants donated by Gayle Green-Aguirre

Our next meeting will be held the Sunday After Mother's Day, **May 16 at 1:00 pm Sharp!** The meeting is at the **Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS.** Located east of Highway 49 North. Guests are invited.

This will be our first Orchid Auction and covered dish luncheon since 2019! Masks are not required! We ask that **those bringing a dish be at the Legion no later than 12:45 to allow time to set up your dish.** We hope all those buying plants will come in around 12:30 to help set up tables and chairs and help bring in plants and get them arranged on the auction tables. We have a lot of great plants to auction, but business must come first! The business meeting will start while members enjoy dessert. Those that don't want lunch may come at 2:00 for the auction. Latecomers should use the last

door to the east. This is our first covered dish in our new home. Come early and help us figure out how to arrange things!

There will **NO RAFFLE or DOOR PRIZE and NO SHOW AND TELL.**

We have some exceptional plants lined up for the auction. If you have a name tag or a GCOS shirt, please wear them. This will help us with the auction.

PROGRAM: Meeting starts 1:00 sharp! This will be a covered dish luncheon and orchid auction. The Society will provide the meat, drinks, and paper products. Members are encouraged to bring an appetizer, bread, side dish or dessert. Guests are welcome. We have a list of plants available attached to this newsletter. Be aware that we may have unexpected donations and some plants on the list may be pulled. In past years members have gotten some bargains. **Bring a box or crate* to carry your purchases home. Make checks out to GCOS or bring cash... no credit cards. We will not accept checks from guests not known to the society.**

When we met at the college, you knew we had to clean the room afterward; many stayed after to help clean. While we don't have to vacuum, we do have some chores. Please stay a little while after the meeting to help take down tables and put away chairs. Some of our older or handicapped members need help getting plants out the door and down the steps.

*Every year we ask you to bring a box or crate, most people do, some don't, others don't bring enough boxes. Orchids don't like to be moved around. Roots like to stay firm in the potting media. Loosening their grip on the media and the pot by bumping them around costs you, in time till blooming and bloom quality.



Another auction plant, Phrag Alpopureum 'Sir Arthur' AM/AOS. This is the actual plant blooming now. Notice it is in front of the wet pad, most Phrags appreciate cooler climate and lots of moisture.

Plants get lost! As you win a plant, write your name on the pot or stick a label on it, pack it in the box or crate very carefully and snug it in with something so each pot sits upright in the box. Label your box and sit it somewhere where you can watch it closely. The tables get filled with plants and in the confusion, people sometimes get the wrong plants.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Janet Olier, our new Vice President is working hard trying to get the best programs for you. This summer we will focus on potting. Here's our list for the rest of the year.

June 13, Second Sunday. Potting Phalaenopsis orchids. Bring your plants and supplies and we'll help you pot them. Watch the June newsletter for a list of supplies you'll need to bring and things you'll need to do to your Phals at home before you bring them in to be repotted. We ask our more skilled growers to please come and help us help others.

July 11, Second Sunday. Continuing with our potting series we'll pot Cattleyas. At this time, we are not sure whether we'll do a demo only or actually help you repot your plants.

August 8, Second Sunday. We'll end our summer potting series with a treat for all those who participated in the June and July programs. We'll do a program on mounting orchids and those that participated in the prior month's programs will get a free mount and a small growing orchid to mount. We'll walk you through the process and you'll bring home a freshly mounted orchid, all you'll need to bring is some newspaper to keep your work area clean and clippers.

September 12, Second Sunday. Our new President, Sydney Dyche will do a program on Orchid Abbreviations.

October 10, Second Sunday (Date and location may change) We have an agreement with Denny Haase of Spring Orchids to speak and sell plants. Denny's topic will be "How to Acclimate Your New Orchids." Denny is one of our long time show vendors and grows and sells wonderful plants.

November 14, Second Sunday. Tricks on Presenting Orchids. How to get Best Grown Plant and win Trophies at Shows!

December 12, Second Sunday Orchid Bingo; every member wins a plant! Christmas potluck

January 9, 2022 Show Prep:

February 13, 2022, Thank you party for members who worked our show. Those present get a free plant of their choice. Others will be sold at break to all members.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

March 25-27, 2022 Calcasieu Orchid Society Show and Sale Historic City Hall down Lake Charles.



RLC Laura Bush 'Carmela' AM/AOS actual Plant blooming now.



Dendrobium usitae 'Red Coral x self. Plant is from Harry and Bev's collection.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: We'll take a minute to install our new/old officers. The slate of elected officers for the next two years is: President **Sydney Dyche**, Vice-President **Janet Olier**, Treasurer **Marilyn Ladnier**, Corresponding Secretary **Jo Ann Vaz**, Elected Board Members: **Andra Mladinich**, **John Tate** and **Robert Stanton**.



FIELD TRIP ANYONE? Many of you know Pat Huval, she and her husband, Malcolm, ran Orchids Plus and were long time vendors at most of our shows. At our show last February, she told some of us that she was shutting down one huge greenhouse due to many reasons. She gave us the information and invited our members to visit on an **APPOINTMENT ONLY** basis. The address is 1211-A Grande Anse, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517. For the phone number reply to this newsletter.



Someone bought this Den Aggregatum in bloom for \$15.00. That's Pat behind plant. Photos taken by Janet Olier.

Janet Olier and a friend made the trip last weekend and came back with a SUV full of great deals. She brought a few for the society and some will be on the auction table on the 16th! Word is spreading fast call and make your appointment soon.

Janet made a side trip to Baton Rouge to visit the LSU Conservatory at the Botanical Gardens at Burden. They have a wonderful display of orchids sponsored by the Baton Rouge Society. www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com. At left are some pics from Janet's trip:



LAST MONTH'S MEETING: There were 26 members present at our April meeting. There were 35 plants on the show and Tell table with Jo Ann Vaz's Paphiopedilum St. Swithin winning Best Plant, Noel Rodriguez won the door prize. Andra Mladinich donated a blooming Vanda for auction which was won by Gloria Schmitz for \$20.00. New officers were elected. Guest speaker, Larry Hennessey from New Orleans gave a wonderful program on Bulbophyllums and brought plants to sell. We hope to see Larry again next year speaking on Terrestrial orchids. In preparation for his talk, Larry wrote about

growing Eulophia orchids which is attached. Some of you may have purchased these plants from Larry at the meeting.

WHAT'S BLOOMING: Last year in the midst to the pandemic we tried our best to fill orchid wish lists for members. We were advised of a Hawaiian grower who grew more temperate orchids and



we made contact, got a list and invited our members to order plants. It turned out to be difficult, because this grower would sell only in minimum quantities of 4 and everyone wanted a different plant! We could have ordered thousands of dollars' worth of plants if we could order one each! We got together and shared orders and finally ordered over \$1200.00 worth of orchids!

Tanya Stelly and others ordered a *Cyclopogon lindleyanus* (photo at left taken by Tanya) which is a terrestrial native to Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in shady, woody areas. It should be repotted every year in Promix. Tanya says it bloomed 1 spike a few months ago and now it's really going to town. It's in her kitchen window facing north and she gives it a drink of tap water twice a week.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: Recently your newsletter editor spoke on orchids to a Master Gardener symposium in

Stone County. While there she was given a small bottle of a product labeled SUMAGROW. This is a microbial soil enhancer that should be applied to the soil twice a year during the growing season. She was told it was being tested on orchids with good results. So, she will try this product on a few of her orchids and let you know the results. It is manufactured by Bio Soil Enhancers Inc in Hattiesburg. www.summagrow.com.



Gayle working the 2019 show.

GOODBYE TO A FRIEND: Sometimes we must remind ourselves that this wonderful world of orchids is just a hobby. Our officers are all volunteers. We've been lucky; most often our officers work harder for the society than they should. We've been blessed with the best. Now one of the best is stepping down.

Our President for the past two years, Gayle Green-Aguirre, is the kind of worker every society needs. She sees what needs doing and gets it done. When we lost our regular meeting place due to the pandemic, she found a safe place to meet, personally making sure it was safe, clean and hospitable! She wrote amazing articles about our members for this newsletter. To help the meetings run smoothly, she wrote an agenda for the meeting, asked for input from some and made sure key members had a copy. To enhance our shows, she built an amazing educational exhibit that won an

AOS award! Gayle put the society first before her own needs many times. Gayle is still going to be a member and a vital member of the Society's board. Now without so much responsibility, she can travel more and take care of things that have gone undone. Thank you, Gayle, for a job well done!

Thanks to our incoming President, Sydney Dyche, and our new Vice President, Janet Olier, for stepping up. Let's all do our best to help them help us!