



# Gulf Coast Orchid Society

## February 14, 2010

Our February meeting will be held on **Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14**, 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:** Bob Chauvin from ABC Orchids in Lafayette, La will be our guest speaker. His subject will be growing orchids on mounts and general orchid care. This will be a "hands on" demonstration. Bobby will also bring plants to sell. He will have non-blooming mounted mini Dendrobiums, Cattleyas and Oncidiums for \$10.00. He will also bring some outstanding big Cattleyas in bloom! Many of you know Bobby, he has participated in our show for a great many years. He is one of the most knowledgeable orchidists in the Gulf area. To the right is a species Phalaenopsis mounted on a piece of cork bark.

Before the meeting at 12:00 noon we will meet our guest at Logan's Roadhouse 15189 Crossroads Pkwy, Gulfport, MS. for lunch. All members are welcome to attend Dutch treat. Please contact Jo Ann if you plan to attend, 601-9478777.

Because we have a guest speaker, who has a four hour drive home, **we ask everyone to hold all business matters (including show talk) until after the break.**

**REFRESHMENTS:** February's refreshments will be provided by Janice Fabo. Sarah Tringle will provide March's. If you would like to bring refreshments or need to change an existing commitment contact Andra Mladinich 228-388-5054.

**MARCH PROGRAM:** Our March 14, 2010 meeting will be in room G121, our Guest speaker will be Mark Rose, formerly of Breckenridge Orchids, who will speak on native plants of southeastern United States.

**2010 SHOW:** John Lewis did an outstanding job as Show Chairman. Everyone worked very hard to make this one of our best shows ever! Especially Andra Mladinich who was in charge of feeding us all! We had six vendors, 15 exhibits and 475 entries that had to be judged Saturday morning. We had 9 new or returning members sign up and the raffle made \$275.25. We should all be very proud!

You'll hear more about the show at the meeting. Below is a photo of just part of the society's exhibit which had 89 plants, some as big as wash tubs. Our chief designer, Janet Olier did a wonderful job!

**OTHER SHOWS:** If you didn't get enough orchid shows; 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. There is also a Mid-America Orchid Congress spring meeting March 19 -21 in conjunction with the Omaha Orchid Society's annual show and Sale at the Omaha Marriott in Omaha, Nebraska. There will be three guest speaks and lots of orchids. The Flyer is attached.

**DISPLAY TABLE:** At each meeting members bring in plants for our Show and Tell table. Each time you bring in a plant



for the display table you get one point. Depending on the ribbons you win you get more points. At the Christmas meeting



the top three point winners get blooming size plants, then we draw from the names of those who brought in plants during the year and are present at the Christmas meeting for more blooming size plants. We have an additional display table for new growers. So for all our new members; feel free to bring in plants and exhibit on whichever table you wish. Limit of 5 plants per month please.



**DUES ARE DUE:** It's time to renew your dues for 2010. Dues are \$10 for single and an additional \$5.00 for each additional member living at the same address. First time members get only one free plant per address; not one per person. There is no free plant for renewals or for persons adding on to an existing membership. Dues can be paid at the meeting or you can mail them to Marilyn Ladnier, 15559 Village Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532

**ANGRACEUM EBURNEUM:** The photo to the left is Angraecum eburneum. John Lewis's plant won the trophy for best grown plant in the vandaceous family. Currently there are 221 accepted Angraecum species. New species are still being discovered in the rain forests of Madagascar.

Most are epiphytes, but a few are lithophytes found mainly in tropical Africa and Madagascar. They occur between sea level and 2,000 m in humid regions. The long-lasting waxy, fragrant flowers grow from the leaf axils. They are mostly white, but a few are yellow, green or ochre. They all have a long spur at the back of the labellum (lip). In the case of Angraecum sesquipedale, a species from Madagascar, on observing the 30cm spur in the lip, Charles Darwin theorized that, since the nectar was at the bottom of the spur, a pollinator must exist with a tongue at least that long. Otherwise the orchid could never be pollinated. At the time, he was not believed. However, long after Darwin's death, the predicted pollinator was discovered, a hawk moth now named Xanthopan morgani praedicta (praedicta meaning predicted). It had an appropriately long proboscis.

Since Angraecums are epiphytic orchids and grow high up in trees where they get plenty of light, they should be given the maximum light

available; this should be diffused to prevent scorching of the leaves which are the food store for the plant.

They should be kept evenly moist at all times of year as they don't have water storing pseudobulbs. They should be watered at frequent day intervals and sprayed with clean water daily from late spring through early autumn and every 10 to 14 days at other times of year. They thrive on good humidity.



Feed these plants every third watering. Flush the pot or basket out once a month with clean water to remove any unused plant food and salts which can build up and harm the roots. During late August and September you should water with a higher potash feed (*again at 1/4 strength and every third watering*) which will encourage the new leaves to harden in readiness for the darker winter months. Feeding should cease by late October and no more should be given until the following late winter (*Feb/Mar*) at which time normal feeding can resume.

**NOBILE DENDROBIUMS:** To the left is Den. Sea Marian 'Snow King' (Lovely Virgin x Cassiope) which is owned, grown and photographed by Sarah Tringle. It won a trophy for the best flower in the Gulf Coast Orchid Society exhibit. We should see quite a few Nobile Dendrobiums on our February Show and Tell table. They are very easy to grow and are ideal for those who don't have a greenhouse.

When new growth starts in the spring, increase water and fertilizer. As soon as temps get above 40 degrees bring them outside to light, filtered shade. Water and fertilize frequently. In the fall, discontinue the fertilizer and start holding back on the water. When temps reach mid 40's, bring them inside to a bright, cool room and only water enough to keep the pseudobulbs from shriveling. Buds should start to appear in late December with blooms opening in January and February. Do not over pot these plants. They like to be root-bound and do well in relatively small clay pots with a bark perlite mix. Keikis or off-shoots may form on the stems; these can be potted up as new

plants when the roots reach a few inches long. If plants produce all keikis and no blooms, too much fertilizer and too warm temperatures may be the problem.