



The Meeting Date Has Changed: July 22 *Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter*

July 22, 2018

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, July 22, 2018 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. **We moved the meeting to the 4th Sunday, JULY 22, to accommodate our members doing the Baton Rouge Show.** The cafeteria is north of the college off Runnymede. The Orchids 101 meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30. Glen picked a great topic: "**Rescuing Orchids**". Join us at 1:30 and learn how!



Stanhopea saccata read more about Stanhopeas later in the newsletter!

PROGRAM: July 22, Fourth Sunday – One of our members wants to know more about the various potting materials. We'll see some of the materials that are available and talk about the needs of each plant and your watering practices. You see, although some plants have different needs, the materials used doesn't matter as much as your watering techniques. After a brief demonstration and talk by Jo Ann Vaz, we'll open the conversation to all members.

For those who were anticipating Robert Stanton's Open Show and Tell, we have moved it back due to health issues.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Some of the following programs may change. If you can do a program or have ideas for one, please contact Jo Ann.

August 12, Second Sunday possibly Robert Stanton - Open Show and Tell.

September 9, Second Sunday open

October 14, Second Sunday "How to be a Great Ribbon Judge or Clerk at our 2019 Show"

November 11, Second Sunday Sydney Dyche "How to Keep Track of your Orchids"

December 9, Second Sunday Bingo Christmas pot luck



AOS award photo of *Vanda vietnamica* 'Dearmach'

VANDAS: They are in! Glen ordered some great Vanda plants for us. They will be available during the break at the meeting. We are very serious about this: sales **during the break only**. These are nice healthy plants. Some are bigger than the others because of their parentage. For example; *Vanda vietnamica* is a newly discovered species that is quite small. It is a very free bloomer and sometimes imparts a beautiful green color to the flowers. The price is \$10.00 each. Make checks out to Gulf Coast

Orchid Society (GCOS).

Attached to this email is a list Glen made of the Vandas available. Here's what Glen says about the list *"I changed everything to Vanda, in accordance with the new names. The top ones, I was able to find easy. The five at the bottom have problems. Mostly since names have not been registered. I hope to have two or three of each for the meeting. Some of the tags are going to be hard to read, so you may want to send the list to the membership with a suggestion that they keep the list, in case they can't read the tag fully. Some are large, and some are smaller. As you know, some breeding results in smallish plants anyway."*



These weeds are bigger than the Vanda!

Glen reports that *"Some of the Vandas had ferns growing in the net pots. They must have cut the stems off before they shipped them, but there are still roots that must be dealt with. The majority are fine, but the few can't be ignored."* Ferns in orchid pots is not a good thing. They can take over and take water and nutrients away from the slower growing orchids. You must consistently watch your orchids and be diligent removing all weeds, that said some of our fern growers may be surprised to find some very neat ferns growing in their orchid pots. Just remove the ferns and grow them elsewhere away from your orchids. Ferns grow from spores which travel through the air so keep your ferns out of the greenhouse!

JUNE'S MEETING: We had 27 members at the June meeting. There were 31 plants on the show and Tell table with Richard Crespin winning Best Plant. Sydney Dyche won the door Prize. Most of the discussions are covered in this newsletter but we do

have an upcoming event with the Harrison County Master Gardener's Garden Expo dated Sept. 15 at the facility on Popp's Ferry Rd. Setup is at 8:00 am and breakdown is at 5:00 pm. They will provide

table chair and tent. We just need to bring a few orchids and some culture sheets and sit around and talk orchid. Sydney Dyche and Cynthia Oetker oversee preparations.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

July 13-15, 2018 Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show, Burden Conference Center, 4560 Essen Lane

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Calcasieu Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale, Good Shephard Episcopal Church, 715 Kirkman, Lake Charles, LA.

Oct. 26-28, 2018 Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting hosted by the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas
<http://www.kcorchidshow.org>

Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2018 The American Orchid Society 2018 Fall Members Meeting is being held in conjunction with the International Slipper Orchid Symposium in Apopka, Florida.

Jan 25-27, 2019 Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show; Gautier Convention Center.



Richard's *Catasetum Vroni*

BATON ROUGE SHOW: The theme of the Baton Rouge show is “Orchids on the Bayou”. We have committed to fill a 5 x 7’ space and we will do our best. Trey and Kournie Thigpen will join us to learn about doing exhibits; veteran exhibitor’s Armand and Valerie Scurria will help. If you would like to meet us in Baton Rouge to help with set up or take down, please do so.

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. The fee is \$15.00 and \$3.00 for your name. You supply a clean shirt.

REFRESHMENTS: Last month we tried something new. Jo Ann brought in cookies and fruit. Nothing fancy or expensive. Members present seemed to enjoy these treats and most agreed this type of refreshment was good for our meetings and our society. Jo Ann will continue to bring in this simpler type of refreshment keeping the budget to around \$25.00. The society will reimburse Jo Ann for her expenses. Hopefully someone will come forward and offer to take over bringing in our ‘cookie’ type refreshments.

OUR 2019 SHOW Jan 25-27, 2019 SHOW CHAIR REPORT: We have some good news and bad news, let’s take care of the bad news first. Clown Alley will no longer be a part of our shows. They have moved to Arizona although the Texas nursery will stay open. We wish them the best of luck and good health. Riverbend Orchids will not return this year. Morton Engleberg recovered from his prior issues but is facing knee replacement surgery. Morton and James Philips are old friends of the society and life time members. We wish them the best.

Now for the good news, James will still do an exhibit in our show. They always do extremely beautiful exhibits which add so much to our shows. We have found a new vendor; Sheila’s Orchids from Marrero, La will join us this year. From our phone conversation they seem like good people and should fit right in. Thank you, Armand, for bringing me their business card. We are also talking with Dee Nguyen from So Orchids in Orlando. Marilyn sent me their business card. If any of you see a new vendor at any show, please get a business card. We will call them if we haven’t already.



HAWAII REPORT: Our friend, Karen Kimmerle from Island Sun Orchids sent an aerial picture of her home. The white roof at bottom right hand corner. It is startling how close the volcano is, yet they are living at home and doing OK. Karen says: *“We still cannot believe all those farms and homes are gone just a couple miles from us. Total homes gone is over 700!”*

When asked where we can send donations, Karen says: *“The Pu’uhonua O Puna is a direct to the community organization. They have been joined by*

the guy who was just on 60 Minutes who has been making meals in Puerto Rico and Haiti. I heard they are making excellent meals for the people who have lost their homes. I also found Hawaii Community Foundation www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/volcanorecovery If you go to this site they have an address you can send donations and it tells about them. They sound good and are

locally sponsored. With so much red tape and bureaucracy a lot of the larger organizations are questionable as to the appropriate quality of what they provide for a community."

The inevitable question is what will happen to the people that lost their homes, Karen's response was: *"Eventually they may be able to rebuild but that would be a long time from now. The County and State are talking about making state land available in a kind of land swap. But all this will take time, and many are relocating. FEMA is helping now too."*

Karen wants to thank all of you for your kind thoughts and prayers.

Some of you may know we bought the Vandas we will sell to you at cost from Kalapana Orchids who had two growing areas, one in the low land and another higher on the mountain. They are moving as much as they can to the safest area. Here's what the report on the area growers.

It is almost inconceivable how much damage, loss and sadness has transpired in the last **4 1/2 weeks** here in the Lower Puna district on the Big Island of Hawaii....

What I thought was inconceivable last week...just turned into a complete nightmare.

Within 3 days all of Kapoho, Vacationland and the pristine Kapoho Bay and surrounding areas are gone...including 1/2 of our orchid industry.

Asia Pacific Flowers - Greg Braun

Orchid Plantation - Elton Mow

Orchids Paradise - Joseph Kekedi

Hawaiian Tropicals Direct - Mike Hughes

Moani Farms

Kamaili Nursery -Bev & Afa Tuaolo suffered 90% sulfuric acid damage, so their farm is ruined, but still here.

...possibly more I am unaware of....

I am glad to report that these two nurseries in Kapoho are still here...with a stalled lava flow not far away.

Alohilani Nursery - Elizabeth Kekedi

Island Sun Orchids - Karen Kimmerlee



One final picture that hurts, Hawaiian Tropicals Direct, June 3, 2018. More pictures are available on Kalapana's website.

STANHOPEAS: The opening picture of Stanhopea Saccata is a glowing example of orchid exhibitor misery. One can't be involved in any show without hearing at least once "If only the show was last/next week." Orchids do not check the show schedule to bloom. This one surely didn't.

Stanhopeas only bloom once a year and most stay open for only a few days. It is worth the wait; the mostly summer blooming, whimsical flowers open with a deep sensual aroma that draws you closer to see the strangely shaped flower parts. This weird plant, native to Central and South America, blooms from the bottom. Even though it's in a basket you can see how the grower had to cut holes to help the flowers through. They love our summer weather.



Close up of Stanhopea saccata