

August 16, 2009



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Our August meeting will be held on the **third Sunday, August 16**, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the meeting room behind the cafeteria. Go north past the college and turn left.

PROGRAM: Mr. Francisco Miranda will speak on Brazilian orchids. These are mostly cattleyas, laelias and a bunch of weird stuff. We will see where and how they grow and learn how to grow them here. He will bring plants to sell. Those that preordered plants can pick up their plants before the meeting. See "ABOUT OUR SPEAKER" for Mr. Miranda's bio.



C. intermedia from Miranda's website

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Our September meeting will be the second Sunday, September 13. We are planning our benevolent sale and auction. Every member present will get to buy one blooming size orchid plant, most in bloom or bud, imported from Hawaii at cost! Hopefully less than \$10.00! We will auction the best five or so plants in the shipment to make money for cards and flowers for our sick members.

REFRESHMENTS: We have outstanding refreshments at our meetings. Most of us skip supper after our meetings. This month we ask that you please **don't bring in any extra refreshments.** We will have light refreshments and take our guest out to the Back Bay Seafood Restaurant. All members and guests are invited – Dutch Treat.

SHOW REPORT: Mark your calendars now for our 2010 show. It will be January 29, 30 and 31 at the Singing River Mall in Gautier, Miss.

POTTING MIX: Some of you may remember Jack Wible's great talk about Oncidiums and basic orchid care. He mentioned growing his orchids in a mixture of rock wool and a few other ingredients. Glen Ladnier has some gallon bags of Jack's mix that he will bring to the meeting and sell for \$3.00 each. Try a bag, pot up a few plants in it and see if over time this mix works well in your conditions.

NOTES ON BUYING ORCHIDS: This Orchid society was founded by a group of people who believed that if you give someone a plant and they grow it on to bloom, they will want more plants, better plants and different types of plants. They will learn and grow as orchidists and share their knowledge and love of orchids with others. We still practice that belief. We give each new member a free plant. We bingo for free plants at Christmas and we have sales like the one we had in July regularly to give everyone a chance to try new types of orchids. The problem is people get so used to our cheap prices that they won't pay the more realistic prices offered by the vendors at our shows and our guest speakers. That fact coupled with the sudden realization that many of you don't know the meaning of some of the basic terms used in orchid catalogs prompts me to do a dictionary of terms used in orchid catalogs or websites.

Select – This is the cream of the crop. A plant that is labeled select is going to be ribbon or award quality if grown correctly.

Seedling – A small unbloomed plant. It may take several years for a seedling to bloom.

NFS (NBS)– Near flowering size. A NFS plant will bloom in the next year or so if grown correctly.

FS (BS) – Flowering size; should bloom at its next blooming season if grown correctly.

Hybrid – A cross between two different plants, grown from seed. It may have qualities of both parents.

Meristem – A plant grown from a piece of the mother plant. It will be identical to the parent.

Remember, when you buy a plant from a vendor that plant should be labeled and it should be insect and disease free.

LIBRARY NOTES: Our Board has agreed to purchase Mr. Miranda's CD's. We will offer them as programs from time to time during the next year. They will then go to our library for members to check out.

This month's recommendation from our librarian, Glen Ladnier, is *Miniature Orchids* by Rebecca Tyson Northen. "This is the only book devoted entirely to miniature orchids. It is supported by Rebecca Northen's years of experience growing and collecting orchids, and by the many books and articles she has written on the subject. She provides general information and cultural practices as well as a discussion of how orchids grow in nature. Hundreds of species are described and their particular needs are explained. Over 90 color and 187 black-and-white photographs bring the excitement of miniature orchids to beginners, amateurs and hobbyists, and professional growers alike." If you'd like Glen to bring this book to the meeting give him a call at 392-0919 or email him at gladnier@yahoo.com.



ABOUT OUR SPEAKER: Francisco Miranda was born in Rio de Janeiro on February 6, 1956. He has been growing orchids since 1979, the same year he got his degree in Biology. He began his taxonomic studies on the orchid family in 1981. During this year, he lived from March to November in the city of Manaus, state of Amazonas, in the middle of the Amazon region. During 1982, back in Rio de Janeiro, He began field trips to Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, mainly to trying to find rupicolous Laelia species in their natural habitats. He went back to Manaus, where he began his Master's degree and also made extensive field trips to Rondonia and the area of the future dam of Tucuruí, in the state of Pará. From the

hundreds of herbarium specimens prepared, many new species were described in subsequent years, mostly in Catasetum and Mormodes. He finished his Master's degree and his thesis was "Section Cattleyodes of the Genus Laelia" and he continued to make frequent field trips to the habitats of the Brazilian laelias.

These years of orchid hunting have resulted in many new species described, several scientific papers, magazines articles in Brazil, the U.S. and Germany, two books, and several CDs.

Finally, since 1988, Francisco has been going at least once a year to the United States with the main purpose of giving lectures to Orchid Societies on several different subjects of Brazilian orchids. Since 1986 he has an orchid nursery in Rio de Janeiro, Orquidário Boa Vista, specializing in producing superior cultivars of Brazilian orchid species. Presently, he has Miranda Orchids, in Haines City, Florida, where high-quality species in the Cattleya alliance are being produced continuing Orquidário Boa Vista's tradition.