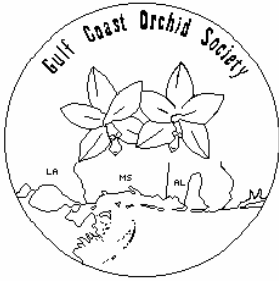


September 13, 2009



Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Our September meeting will be held on the second Sunday, September 13, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College** located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We meet in the room behind the cafeteria. Go north past the college and turn left.

PROGRAM: We will have our benevolent sale and auction. Every member present will get to purchase one blooming size orchid plant, most in bloom or bud, imported from Hawaii at cost -\$8.50 each!! We will auction the best few plants in the shipment to make money for our special benevolent fund – more about that at the meeting. We have ordered an assortment of plants; most will grow nicely inside near a bright window. The plant pictured below is an awarded Paphiopedilum (Paph. Parishii 'Lehua Ben Ten' AM/AOS) from our supplier, Lehua Orchids; www.lehuaorchids.com. While none of our sale plants will be this nice; they all have that potential. See the next page for paph. culture. Below is the email Lehua Orchids sent about our plants.



"we have 50 plants pulled for you. it is an eclectic bunch including some very large plants (not necessarily in bud) and lots of stuff in bud. i don't now whether we can get everything in one box some are that big and overgrown. so some of your members will have repotting and dividing challenges. it does include 5 zygo plants not in bud. they are in 5" pots and should flower this fall"

The sale will be held in the same manner as our February sale. Each member will draw a number. We will call the numbers every 30 seconds. You are welcome to look over the plants before the sale and mark them in some fashion so you can find the plant you want fast but do not remove the plants from the sales area.

REFRESHMENTS/TIDINESS: As mentioned at our July meeting, we must tidy up our meeting space after each meeting. Our refreshments have gotten out of hand. Bring in refreshments only if it is your assigned month and just something light. The term to remember is "cookie meeting"! If you make a mess, have a spill, etc., anywhere at the college; clean it up. Bring

your plants in some type of container that will contain spilled potting media. If you anticipate buying any plants at a meeting, bring something to store the plants in during the meeting.

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. It is time to think about donating trophies. Those that donated last year and want to donate the same trophy this year get first choice. You can purchase your own trophy or purchase one from the Society. See Janet Olier at the meeting.



OCTOBER MEETING: Third Sunday, Oct. 18 Dr. Martin Motes will be our guest speaker. He will speak on Vandaceous orchids. We will not do a preorder. He will bring a variety of his unique hybrids and some Indian species. If you have special requests, email him at vandas@mindspring.com. The following site, www.thebcos.org/mot/october2007.html is an article by Dr. Motes directed to growers in south Florida for the month of October. While it doesn't exactly fit our weather conditions it is very good information for the fall on the Gulf Coast. The latest AOS newsletter also has an article by Dr. Motes on downsizing Vandas. www.aos.com The photo to the left is Vanda Alice Motes.

OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our November meeting is scheduled for November 8; we have tentively planned to have a "trick and gadget meeting". Some of our members will show how they make wire hangars and supports for their orchids; another will explain what a hose proportioner is and how to use it. If you have a gadget or trick you could share with our members email Tony at Tonyvaz@bellsouth.net or speak to him at the meeting. The December meeting will be December 13, it will be our covered dish and orchid bingo. Every member will bingo until they win an orchid.

BILL MOORE'S SALE: Orchids and Moore is going out of business. He is selling his remaining plants at very low prices and is located near Pensacola in Molino Florida. Call him at 850-587-2808. If you would like a copy of his latest sales list email me at joannvaz@bellsouth.net

LIBRARY NOTES: Or August speaker, Francisco Miranda, gave a very interesting, informative program. Our Society purchased one of his CDs. It will be available to the members. It is awesome; beautiful photos and very informative text. Also available is a copy of the CD on Judging and Flower Quality that we used as the June program. Our library has lots of great materials to help our members learn more about orchids. If you'd like our Librarian, Glen Ladnier to bring a book or CD to the meeting, call him at 228-392-0919 or email him at gladnier@yahoo.com.

ILLNESS REPORT: Barbara Duncan has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She asks for your prayers and well wishes. She is in room 626 at Biloxi Regional. You may call her direct 228-436-1626.

The following culture information is from the AOS culture sheets found on the AOS website www.aos.com

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURE: The lady's-slipper orchids, originate in the jungles of the Far East including Indonesia. They are semi terrestrial, growing in humus and other material on the forest floor, on cliffs in pockets of humus and occasionally in trees. They are easy to grow in the home, under lights or in the greenhouse.

Light is easier to provide for paphiopedilums than many other types of orchids. They require shady conditions, as in the home in an east or west window, or near a shaded south window. In the greenhouse, shade must be provided.

Water must be available at the roots constantly, because all plants in this genus have no pseudobulbs. All of these plants need a moist medium - never soggy, but never dry. Water once or twice a week.

Fertilize on a regular schedule, but care must be taken to avoid burning of the fleshy, hairy roots. High-nitrogen fertilizers (such as 30-10-10) are recommended when potted in any fir-

bark mix. In warm weather, some growers use half-strength applications every two weeks; others use one-quarter strength at every watering. It's important to flush with clear water monthly to leach excess fertilizer, which can burn roots. In cool weather, fertilizer applications once a month are sufficient.

ZYGOPETALUM CULTURE: They are generally considered to grow best at intermediate temperatures but will withstand summer heat if shaded correctly and well-watered and can take some cool nights in winter if kept drier than usual. These are soft-leaved plants and dislike direct sunlight, especially in the hot months. One of the great characteristics of some zygopetalums is their fragrance. They are not fussy about feed ratios so any slow release or liquid feed is suitable. A liquid 20-20-20 formulation at half label recommendation year round has proven to work well. They do not like to be pot bound.



MASDEVALLIA CULTURE: Most species grow epiphytically at high elevations; cool conditions are a must for many. Some will tolerate intermediate conditions and a few people have had luck with the warmth tolerant varieties as far south as Florida. The unusual, brilliantly colored flowers range in size from less than an inch to over

12 inches. Flower color varies. White, red and purple combinations are common. Most require bright shade to diffuse bright conditions. All require 40-70% humidity with excellent air movement. All lack pseudobulbs and should not be allowed to dry out. Many are sensitive to dissolved salts; excellent water quality is very important. Use a dilute, 1/2 to 1/4 strength balanced fertilizer applied every other week.



RAFFLE NEWS: Thanks to the generosity of Earl Young we will offer more plants in our raffle each month. Glen tells us he will bring in five named plants and then offer several plants with lost tags for those members who don't mind having an unnamed plant.

ARE YOU A GOOD SOCIETY MEMBER? Some of you may have gotten an email about a missing pen. Yes, a pen is a small consequence to some. A few got a good laugh about it. Many of us inadvertently take pens. Recently I found a pen in my purse from a funeral home in Missouri? Who did I steal that one from? The point is the pen was a nice one and meant something to someone. More importantly, things have been turning up missing from our meetings in the last several months. Our board has tried very hard to insulate our members from these "problems". We feel now that you all must be warned to mind your money, plants, purses, and belongings. Also do not listen to those selfish members who seem to want to cause strife and unrest. All members should know that membership in our society is a gift which can be taken away by a majority vote of a quorum of our board, which is as few as three board members. Be aware that there is no place in our Society for thievery and **UNREST** and it will not be tolerated. The mission and goal of this Society is to foster a love of orchids and to teach others about orchids. So let's enjoy the meetings, just please be more aware.