



Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

September 11, 2011

Our September meeting will be held Sunday, September 11, at 2:00 at the **Jeff Davis Community College**, 2226 Switzer Rd. located at the corner of Switzer Rd and Debuys; just north of Pass Rd. We will meet in the cafeteria meeting room. The New Growers meeting led by Glen Ladnier will precede the meeting at 1:30 in the cafeteria. This month's New Grower's topic is "Growing Terrestrial Orchids".

PROGRAM: Bob (Bobby) Chauvin from ABC Orchids in Lafayette, La will be our guest speaker. His subject will be "Potting Mixes and Potting Orchids" This will be a slide presentation. Bobby is a "hands on" speaker so get ready for a fun informative program. He will also bring plants to sell. He is closing out one of his greenhouses and will be bringing in lots of Cattleyas and some Phalaenopsis. Many of you know Bobby, he participated in our show for a great many years. He is one of the most knowledgeable orchidists in the Gulf area.



Fordyceara Hawaiian Lei 'ABC'S Maroon Blessing' HCC/AOS

meeting. Guests will be asked to pay \$5.00 for their plant. The society will supply the potting media, you need to bring some newspaper to protect your workspace, a 4" on the diagonal, square plastic pot and either gloves or paper towels to clean up afterward. Additional plants to pot up later at your home will be available for purchase at \$5.00 each. We will also go over our November wholesale plant order. To the right is an Intergeneric Oncidium; Wilsonara Hawaiian Monarch. You may get one of these in October!

LIBRARY NOTES: Thanks to our electronics guru, Chip Lechner, we now have copies of our old DVR programs on two CDs. One has "An Introduction to Orchids", "The Many Worlds of Orchids" and "Potting and Maintaining Orchids" the other has "Growing Orchids Under Lights". They will be available at the meeting. We also have the original DVD's available to anyone who wants them.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Please let us know if there is a topic you wish us to cover.

Nov. 13, Planning for the 2012 show - Plant distribution from wholesale plant order.

Dec. 11, Orchid bingo and covered dish luncheon- cafeteria

Jan. 8, 2012, Planning for our 2012 show

Feb. 12, 2012, Our after show party!

Save all the dates. You really don't want to miss any of our programs.

BIRMINGHAM SHOW: September 16-18 - Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, AL. Contact: Margaret Holder; (205) 933-8688; margoholder@aol.com. While the society has no plans to exhibit at this time, this show is only 5 or 6 hours away. It is held at the Birmingham Botanic Garden which is awesome. There are usually 8 to 10 vendors and about 20 exhibits.

Before the meeting at 12:00 noon we'll meet Bobby and his wife, Anne, at Back Bay Restaurant, 1458 Magnolia Ave., Gulfport, for lunch. All members are welcome to attend Dutch treat. **Please contact Jo Ann if you plan to attend, 601-947-8777, joannvaz@bellsouth.net.**

Back Bay has enclosed their porch and has a great new Sunday Brunch menu with prices ranging from \$6.95 to \$8.95, along with their regular dinner menu.

REFRESHMENTS: Marilyn Ladnier will provide refreshments for September. Sarah Tringle will do October's refreshments. We are asking for volunteers for next year's refreshments, a sign up sheet will be passed out at the meeting. If you'd like to bring refreshments, call Andra Mladinich at 228-388-5054.

OCTOBER PROGRAM: Our October program will be Oct. 9. Every member will get a free in spike intergeneric Oncidium plug to pot up during the



Wilsonara Hawaiian Monarch

UPCOMING SHOWS: There are no shows within a few hours drive scheduled for the rest of the year but there are several interesting shows or workshops scheduled. Check out one of these events, you'll be glad you did.

Sept. 17-18 Fall Mid America Orchid Congress and the Wisconsin Orchid Society's Fall Orchid Show. All Mid-America events will be at the Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West, while the orchid show will be held in the Show Dome at Mitchell Park Conservatory. <http://midamericanorchids.org>.

November 4-6 - Northeast Louisiana Orchid Society Show, Pecanland Mall, 4700 Milhaven Rd., Monroe, LA 71203. Contact: Jack Battaglia, (318) 801-3828; battj@bellsouth.net.

Dec 3 - Acadian Orchid Society Workshop, Ira Nelson Horticultural Center, 2206 Johnston St., Lafayette, LA. Contact: Pat Huval, (337) 667-6821.

INTERGENERIC ONCYDIUMS: O.K. so we're going to get a free one at the October meeting; but what is it?

The Oncidium Alliance contains many different genera with differing plant, flower and growth characteristics. Intergeneric Oncidiums are the result of crossing two different genera from the Oncidium Alliance. These intergeneric hybrids can then be crossed with other Oncidium Alliance genera making more intergeneric hybrids. Usually breeders make these intergeneric hybrids to get better flowers, and growth on plants that are easier to grow.

A great example is *Odontocidium* (sym. *Colmanara*) Wildcatt. This is an outstanding cross which has won over 40 AOS awards since it was first registered in 1992. It is a cross between *Odontonia Rustic Bridge* and *Odontocidium Crowborough*. The genus and species that go into the make up of this plant are *Oncidium fuscatum* (sym. *Miltonia warscewiczii*), *Oncidium leucohilum*, *Odontoglossum crispum*, *Odontoglossum nobile*, *Odontoglossum spectatissimum*, *Odontoglossum harryanum* and *Rhynchostele* (sym. *Odontoglossum*) *uroskinneri*.

Odontoglossums for the most part grow at higher elevations where it is cool, damp and the light is filtered. *Oncidiums* on the other hand like it bright, hot and dryer and are found in the dryer areas from south Florida to South America.

Odontocidium Wildcat has been bred to be more tolerant of its conditions. It is very easy to grow outside in the shade house. It tolerates our southern heat and conditions well. It doesn't seem to mind being wet for several days during our rainy season (as long as it gets good air movement), and it doesn't seem to mind being dry for several days during our droughts either.



Odontoglossum crispum 'Nathan'

Odontoglossum crispum and *Rhynchostele uroskinneri* are cool growers. They cannot tolerate our hot climate but when bred with warm growing *Oncidiums* like *Oncidium leucohilum* they become more tolerant of intense conditions, and we get prettier flowers! All photos courtesy of AQ Plus. See AOS.com for more great pics!



Rhynchostele uro-skinneri 'Chunky'

Can you see the influence of the three different genera species in the pictures of the two different clones of *Odcdm. Wildcat* above left? Both *Wildcats* have the same parents. This is a great example of the color, size and shape differences found in hybrids.



Oncidium leucohilum 'La Jolla'



Odcdm. Wildcat 'Norman'



Odcdm. Wildcat 'Clown Alley II'