

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Newsletter

September 11, 2022



Phal. pulcherrima 'Thank You Robert' AM/AOS Award photo.

Our next meeting will be held **Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 2:00** at the **Joe Graham Post 119 American Legion Hall, 12320 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, MS**. Located east of Highway 49 North. Guests are welcome.

PREMEETING POTTING SESSION: This month, we'll repot the big Phalaenopsis with all the keikis we sold last month. Potting starts at 1:30. If you have something to pot, bring it and we'll help or at least advise. Call, text or email the following members to reserve time for your plant. Janet Olier, 228-806-2024, ddolier@att.net or Jo Ann Vaz 601-530-8778, joannvaz@bellsouth.net. We offer potting assistance

and general orchid help before the regular meeting, from about 1:30 till 1:50. If we don't get to your plant, we'll help you during the break.

PROGRAM: September 11, 2022, plant distribution of the plants ordered from our wholesaler in Hawaii, followed by a discussion on how to best grow these new plants. Please pay Jo Ann for plants. Checks should be made out to Jo Ann Vaz or cash. Please try to be patient.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Here's our list of programs for the next few months. We are working on 2023 programs now. If anyone would like to do a program or if there's a topic, you'd like covered please contact Janet Olier, her info is above.

October 9, 2022, 2:00 pm Jo Ann Vaz will give a talk on General Orchid Care. We will have plants for sale.

November 13, Second Sunday. Planning for our Show, February 3-5, 2023. We'll talk about doing small individual one plant exhibits. This is a great way to display plants with no names.

December 11, Second Sunday Orchid Bingo; Every member wins a plant! Christmas potluck

January 8, 2023, Show Prep:

February 12, 2023, Thank You party for members who worked our show. Those show workers present get a free plant of their choice. Others will be sold at break to all members.



Coelogyne rochussenii, one of the plants that sold out early on our list!

HAWAIIAN WHOLESALE ORDER: WOW! You guys really do know a great deal. The final totals are 198 plants and \$3488.00! You will not pay any other fees than the price on the plant list. Twenty-three members and some friends of the society participated. The plants will be boxed or bagged for each order. See Jo Ann, pay, checks are preferred, and get your package. Most of you have gotten an email from her stating how much you owe. If there's been a change due to a shortage or error, she will text you on Saturday to let you know so everyone can have their checks written in advance. A big thank you goes out to Larry Hennessey and his New Orleans friends. Larry shared his list with the New

Orleans group, the week after our society got it and sold over \$600.00!

UPCOMING SHOWS:

September 16-18 Alabama Orchid Society Show and Sale, Birmingham Botanic Gardens, 2512 Lane Park Rd., Birmingham, Al 35223

October 7-9 Redland International Orchid Fest, Redland Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, FL 33031

October 14-16 Atlanta Orchid Society Show and Sale Atlanta Botanic Gardens

Feb. 3-5, 2023, Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show and Sale Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 30553



Some of the plants Sydney potted at the August premeeting.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: Twenty-three members signed our guestbook. Judy Harris supplied refreshments. President, Sydney Dyche, called the meeting to order. She talked about the tiny plants we worked on during the before meeting potting session. She had some novel ideas but wasn't sure how to do it, so several members gave advice, and she potted the little plants in a very novel, easy way. Sydney also brought in the last of the free books.

Jo Ann went over the plants on the wholesale list and explained the rules. Cut off was Saturday, August 27. Plants will be available for pick up and pay at the upcoming, September 11 meeting.

Richard Crespino spoke about preparing your growing area for the winter. He brought in samples of shade cloth and some plastic covering materials. This brought about a group discussion on greenhouse coverings and spraying for grasshoppers and snails.

Thank you to Frank Lombardi for donating 3 nice cattleya plants to our raffle. Gayle Greene-Aguirre won the door prize.

Jo Ann brought in nine plants the society purchased from a member who needs to downsize. These were sold during break with a limit of one plant per person.

SHOW AND TELL: There were only nine plants on the show and tell table. Members complained that it was too hot to bring in plants. Larry Hennessey judged and discussed the blue-ribbon winners. Anita Applebee's Rlc Volcano Plum 'Kilauea' won best plant.

SEPTEMBER'S RAFFLE AND

AUCTION PLANTS: We will have six nice plants for our raffle. Sydney Dyche will donate a small division of one of her Stanhopeas that she recently repotted. We appreciate anyone who donates plants to our raffle. We always raffle at least 5 plants and have another for the door prize. Jo Ann will bring in a Cattleya type



The net basket is cut in half and tied to the mount with cable ties and then the little plant still in the tiny net basket it came in was slipped into the mount and the spaces filled in with charcoal.



Anita's Volcano Plum 'Kilauea', best plant for August.

orchid from the Ladnier collection, **Ctt. Hazel Boyd x Rlc Dick Smith**, its near blooming size and should bloom next year. Jo Ann will donate from her plants: **Paph Strawberries n' Cream**, (Oriental enchantment x Telstar) nice large flower with pinkish greenish colors. Also, a very special Phalaenopsis that she got from Robert Stanton. When it was awarded in Birmingham, she named it after him, **Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Thank you Robert'**. This division has one spike on it. For those who like small to medium sized weird stuff we'll have a **Den platycaulon** and a **Bulbophyllum wendlandianum**.

Our meetings are free to attend but the society pays \$50.00 a month for use of the American Legion and Refreshment chair, Judy Harris, has a budget of \$30.00 for each normal month's refreshments. We especially appreciate those of you who take the time to buy raffle tickets.



Stanhopea saccata

MORE ABOUT STANHOPEAS: Stanhopeas are native to Central and South America. The flowers are unique and very fragrant. Each flower lasts for just a few short days, but they keep opening for much longer. Most bloom in the summer out of the bottom or sides of the pot. These plants can get big and may require a large wrought iron basket with holes big enough for the flower buds to get through. Sometimes the weight of the plant and basket will straighten out the hanger, so make sure the hanger is strong too. Hang them low in bright, diffused light and water frequently in the summer.



Cymbidium Cherry Cola, just sprinkle the phosphate lightly over the top of the pot

TIPS FROM OUR OLD FARMER: With our show coming up in a few months the show committee and board have been trying to make all the necessary preparations for a great show. It's time for those who might want to exhibit plants to do the same. Here's some tips. If you grow **Cymbidiums**, try adding a **light sprinkle** of Phosphate or Triple Phosphate to the top of the pots. Sprinkle it right over the bulbs. Phosphate is the middle initial in the NPK of fertilizer. Phosphate builds roots and increases the size of flowers. I recommend this tip only for **Cymbidiums**. They should start thinking about blooming soon. When they need a little extra umph to make those flowers awesome, they'll have it. Plants need good roots to bring in nutrients for leaf and flower production. Another thing to try is plain, not for the lady's bath, **Epsom Salt**. Epsom Salt is mainly magnesium and sulfur, both minerals needed by plants but not included in all fertilizers. Humans take Epsom

Salt to help with any blockages they have and that's the way Epsom salt works. It makes our plants able to use the nutrients available to them. Dilute **1 tablespoon** of Epsom salt in enough hot water to get it diluted, then add cool water to make **1 gallon**. When cooled, spray it on your orchids or any

plant. They all love it. Do this to your orchids about the end of October for happy plants at our show. **Note:** this stuff must be diluted well, if not, you will have tiny little crystals on your leaves and a clogged sprayer!

FROM OUR JUDGING CENTERS: We are lucky to be within a 5-to-6-hour drive to two different judging centers: the **Atlanta Judging Center** which normally meets the second Saturday of each month and the **Louisiana Judging Center** which normally meets the fourth Saturday of each month. Visitors are welcome; bring your best plants for judging. Please call first. **Louisiana Judging Center**, sponsored by the Central Louisiana Orchid Society in Alexandria Louisiana met on Saturday August 27 at the Westside Regional Library. **Dr. Wilton Guillory** reports *“Our August monthly judging last Saturday had six entries. We gave three awards. Two AM’s and one CBR. The CBR was provisional till the plant taxonomic identification is complete. One beautiful Vanda and a Bulbophyllum with a neat appendage at the petal tip (osmophore) see picture attachment.”* Information is provided in the captions. All but the final photo were taken by Sue Hathorn.



Above Vanda Prepawan 'Catahoula Violet' AM/AOS, exhibited by Eron Borne

Above Right: Schoenorchis phitamii 'Maggie' CBR/AOS exhibited by Mary Mancini



At left:
Bulbophyllum
unitubum 'Layla'
AM/AOS exhibited by
Larry Hennessey



At right: close up of
Bulbophyllum
unitubum showing the
appendage at the petal
tip



HOW NEAT IS THIS! From our Editor: Bulbophyllums are pollinated mostly by a variety of flies. Flies are attracted by various odors ranging from pleasant to downright nasty. Osmophores are the things that secrete a combination of chemicals that make these odors. Bulbophyllums are known to have particular odors for each plant, often times each odor attracts a different type of fly or pollinator. The various parts of a flower sometimes can change size and shape to aid in pollination.

The grower of this plant, Larry Hennessey, is a member of our society and a student judge. He provided the final close up of the Osmophores below. Here are his comments concerning the judging experience:

"It was quite an adventure figuring out where were the petals. It took us a couple of days to definitively prove that the petals were 2 thin filaments that extend over the column and have tiny osmophore bundles that hang over the lip. I'm amazed one the judges even noticed them in trying to write the description, but none of us knew what we were looking at!"

"Please mention how hard the judges work at getting it right when they see something they don't know or aren't sure of. Judging is always a learning experience." This certainly was an exciting day for the Louisiana Judging Center judges and students. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a judge, talk to Larry at our next meeting.

