

THE ACADIAN ORCHID SOCIETY

March 2024 Newsletter

From the Editor:

Hello all!

It's ALMOST here!! Spring is finally just around the corner. I've already started moving some plants around, but then I got a "gentle" reminder from Eddie to advise me that the temps would be back in the 40's shortly. Aaaaargh!! I'm really hoping that that's the last breath of winter!

At last month's meeting, the final version of our Constitution and Bylaws was accepted. Thanks to Denise Ferguson, Bobby Gianelloni, Dennis Wollard and Eddie Dupuy for working so hard to make that happen. Great job to all of you!

Our society's first board meeting of 2024 was held on Sunday, March 10th. Items discussed included potential options for fundraisers and monthly meeting speakers, options for show dates and locations, etc.

Eddie asked that I remind everyone that if you are in need of help related to your plants or greenhouse, reach out! There's always members that would be willing to help if they are available.

Remember, meetings are moved back to 7:00 pm!

Geanna

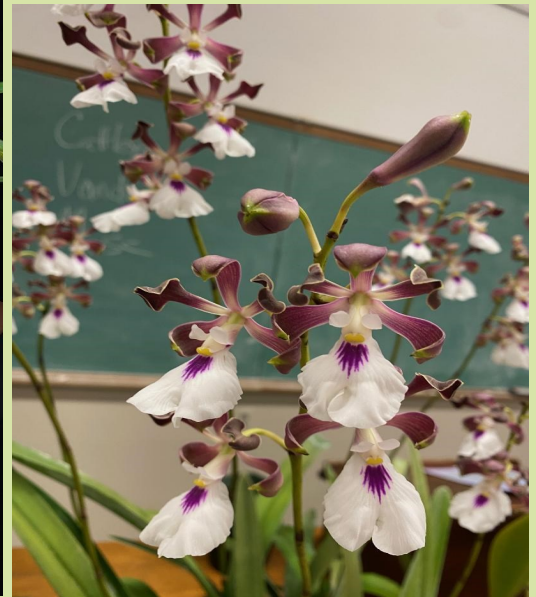
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Society Events

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show – February 2nd

A happy, adventurous group of our members traveled to Ocean Springs, MS to attend the Gulf Coast Orchid Society's annual show and sale. The group included: Jackie Bravo(& Kirk!), Meta Flanigan, Denise Ferguson, Eddie Dupuy and Geanna Gravois. It was a fun day with friends, other society members and lots of blooms. A big CONGRATULATIONS to Eddie Dupuy for winning multiple awards for this *Encyclia Cordigera* that was included in the Baton Rouge Orchid Society's display!



February Winners

Cattleya

1st Place— Pot. Triple Love—Eddie Dupuy

2nd Place—Lc. Alarcon—Jimmy Broussard

3rd Place— C. Drumbeat “Heritage’ Jimmy Broussard

Vanda

1st Place - Vanda - Gordon Dillon—Nancy Anne Rowe

2nd Place - Vanda Kulwadee Fragrance #526 –Denise Ferguson

3rd Place – Rhynchostylis Gigantea – Meta Flanagan

Dendrobium

1st Place - D. Aggregatum - Billy Guidroz

2nd Place - D. Speciosur - Billy Guidroz

3rd Place - D. White Grace ‘Sato’ - Johnny Murphy

3rd Place - D. Hawaii Spectacular - Billy Guidroz

Minis

1st Place –Den. Peguanum – Nancy Anne Rowe

2nd Place - D. senile - Nancy Anne Rowe

2nd Place—D. cerinum - Nancy Anne Rowe

3rd Place - D. Barkers - Nancy Anne Rowe

Paphiopedilum

1st Place—Paph. Cloud’s Chain Reaction - Billy Guidroz

2nd Place - Paph. Prohill - Meta Flanagan

3rd Place-Paph. In Charm -Meta Flanagan

Miscellaneous

1st Place –Cymbidium Red Baker “Benjamin” - Rose Guidroz

2nd Place - Angraecum “Orchidglade’ - Eddie Dupuy

3rd Place—Cynosure “Blue Birds” - Denise Ferguson



Orchid Growing Tips

Top 4 Phalaenopsis Re-Blooming Techniques

from the 'Repot Me' website

Orchids, like most blooming plants, bloom in seasons. The best way to ensure that your orchid will bloom again after its first blossoms fall off is by taking proper care of the plant during its dormant non-blooming season. By taking the proper measures at the end of one blooming cycle, you can set the stage for the next set of showy blossoms and ensure that your orchid blooms again and again.

Each orchid species has a natural blooming season. In most orchids, including the highly popular Phalaenopsis orchid, the growth period during which new leaves emerge begins during the summer months. By autumn, spikes and flower buds begin to appear, and the plant will normally bloom around late autumn, with the blooming period typically ending around the end of winter or early weeks of spring. Although many commercial growers force plants to bloom out of season so they can sell flowering orchids all year round, once your orchid is living at home, you cannot expect it to bloom all year round, as it will naturally revert back to its natural blooming cycle. Most species bloom once a year, with blooms lasting up to several months. Once the flowers begin to drop off, a few more blossoms might appear on the same spike, but this does not always happen. The period of dormancy or non-blooming in most orchids typically lasts about 6 to 9 months, and if your orchid is properly cared for with all of its essential needs met, it will naturally bloom again on its own.

To make sure that your orchid is happy and healthy enough to rebloom each year, take the following steps to ensure optimal blooming conditions.

- 1. Delay Repotting Until After Your Orchid Finishes Blooming** - While it may be tempting to repot your orchid in fresh mix when you first buy it, it's really not recommended as it can cause blooms to drop prematurely. Once the last bloom drops is usually the best time to repot your orchid as that is when most orchids begin their active growth phase putting on new roots and leaves in preparation for the next bloom. Make sure you cut dead roots off with a sterilized tool when re-potting. Sterilize your blade before using it by soaking it for 10 minutes in a Phyan solution. Choose an orchid appropriate pot to provide ample water drainage, but make sure it's not much bigger than the actual roots of the plant. Orchids don't need a big pot to grow in, in fact what they really need is to feel snug in the pot and be able to get physical stability by wrapping their roots around the inside of the pot. Your new pot should be no more than 1 inch bigger than the pot it came out of. Use a specialized potted medium for orchids to provide the proper growing environment as orchids generally do not grow in regular soil.
- 2. Trim Dead Spikes** - It is important to make sure that your orchid truly regenerates during its dormant period, and you can help take stress off the plant by removing old, dead spikes once flowers fall off to help the plant retain more of its nutrients and energy. Use tools that have been sterilized in a Phyan solution to trim each spike to about one inch above the lowest node on the stem. Any dead stems should also be trimmed away. Always cut spikes and roots diagonally to encourage growth.
- 3. Provide Sufficient Humidity** - While orchids need lots of humidity, they only need to be watered about once a week or every 5-12 days, because as epiphytes, they prefer to absorb humidity from the air. A great way to provide the required humidity for your orchid is to mist the plant periodically. Orchids also love to live in large groups or clusters of several orchids so that together they can create their own little ecosystem. Using a humidity tray underneath your orchids will ensure that they have ample humidity without risk of leaving the roots in standing water, which can be dreadfully harmful to orchids. When you do water your orchid, make sure all water drains out of the bottom of the pot, and the potting medium dries on top between each watering.
- 4. Reduce Ambient Temperatures When Night Falls** - Because orchids bloom according to natural seasons, they will typically respond to changes in ambient temperature. When they sense that temperatures are cooling down in the evening, toward late fall, they begin their blooming cycle. To encourage this, move your orchid to an environment where nighttime temperatures naturally drop a bit. Placing the plant on a windowsill may accomplish this, or consider turning down the heat in your home in the evening during winter months.



Orchid Fun Facts

Have you ever seen an orchid plant made out of LEGO's??

Imagine my surprise when, in January, my niece and nephew from Colorado presented me with a LEGO kit to build a Phalaenopsis orchid plant! I had no idea that this even existed. All my nieces and nephews are bonkers about LEGOs and they are always getting kits to build cars, buildings, etc, but I'd never seen anything like this one. Of course, being an orchid addict, I was absolutely thrilled!!



I also must confess, I pulled in a “ringer” (my 10 year old, great niece, Avery!) to build it for me.

608 Pieces!!! YIKES!
Good thing I had an expert on hand.

But, how cool is that??



From our Greenhouses



Dendrobium Farmerii
Nancy Anne Rowe

Dendrobium Booseii
Nancy Anne Rowe



Bro. ortgiesiana 'Elizabeth' x Bro.
ortgiesiana 'Claudia'
Denise Ferguson

Blc. Memoria Grant Eichler
"Lenette" Eddie Dupuy



From our Greenhouses



Blc. Golf Green 'Hair Pig'
-Eddie Dupuy



Phal. Miki Crown - Denise Ferguson



Phal. KV Beauy Salu
Peoker x Chih Shang's
Stripes
Denise Ferguson



Blc. Mami Akasuka Volcano
Queen - Geanna Gravois



Dend. Green Lantern 'Red Carpet'
Geanna Gravois



Dend. Fairy Moon 'Sweetie' - Geanna Gravois

March Meeting

For the month of March, our program will be a recorded presentation by Fred Charke titled “Are you an 80% grower?” Fred Clarke is a California based grower and owner of Sunset Valley Orchids. His presentation focuses on the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. This will no doubt provide us all with excellent information! Be prepared to take notes. :)

As per our January meeting, our show will be moved to October. Dates and location to be discussed at the March meeting.

For our March meeting, snacks will be provided by Harold Letz, Pat Huval and Josh Abshire and Adriana Serrano.

Gentle reminder: There are several people that haven’t signed up to bring snacks at our monthly meetings. If you haven’t done this, please check with Denise Ferguson to do this. Again, our goal is to have three people assigned for each meeting. Thanks again.

Upcoming Events:

April 5th-7th Calcasieu Orchid Society “Picture Perfect Orchids” Show & Sale, The Cash and Carry Building Venue and Event Space

April 6th Festival des Fleurs, Blackham Coliseum, Lafayette, LA

April 12th-14th Terrebonne Orchid Society “Orchids: Hidden Gems” Show & Sale - Southland Mall, Houma, LA

April 20th Lowe’s “Orchids 101” follow up—Lowe’s Ambassador Caffery Pkwy. Lafayette, LA

June 1st - 2nd New Orleans Orchid Society Show & Sale, Lakeside Shopping Center, Metairie, LA

July 13th-14th Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show & Sale, LSU Rural Life Museum, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA

February Birthdays!

Janet Gianelloni - March 6th

Kimberly Walden - March 8th

Nina Menard - March 27th

Rose Guidroz - March 29th



Wishing all of you a very, very

Happy Birthday!!!

About Us—Our 2024 Society

President - Eddie Dupuy

V. President - Denise Ferguson

Treasurer / Membership - Jodeen Davis

Secretary – Jackie Bravo

Newsletter - Geanna Gravois

Social Media - Chip Thompson

Web Administrator - Nancy Ann Rowe

Board Members: Chip Thompson, Johnny Murphy and Brenda Kovach

Honorary Life Members: Dr. Ellis Fletcher, Dr. Dennis Wollard and Ms. Rosie Leonpacher.

Meetings are held at **7:00 pm** on the 3rd Monday of each month. Visitors are welcomed!

Yearly dues are \$20 per individual, or \$25 per couple.