

# New Orleans Orchid Society's Newsletter



## January 2022

### Officers:

President: Molly Prokop  
Vice-President: Larry Hennessey  
Secretary: Ann Ebert  
Treasurer: Gayle Dellinger  
Past President: Randy Johnson  
Newsletter Editor: Larry Hennessey  
Website Editor: Debbie Dinwiddie  
Board of Trustees: Carol Stauder  
Pat Herbert  
Clarine Usher

### Meeting Notice:

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:30pm  
Marine Corps League Building - Boyd  
Detachment 579  
2708 Delaware St., Kenner

**Orchid Basics:** 6:45pm

**Meeting:** 7:30pm

### Program:

Bletilla species and hybrids – How to  
grow them Larry Hennessey

## *In Person Meeting Notice*

We will have an in-person meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm, at the Marine Corps League Building - Boyd Detachment 579, located at 2708 Delaware St. in Kenner. Doors will open at 6:45 pm. Please enter the building through the double doors on the side of the building, where you will find sufficient parking. There is a wheelchair ramp at the rear of the building.

## *Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events*

### **Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show**

January 28 - 30, 2022  
Gautier Convention Center  
2012 Library Lane Gautier, MS 39553

### **Calcasieu Orchid Society Show**

ORCHIDS Go To The Movies  
March 25 - 27, 2022  
Lake Charles Historic City Hall  
1001 Ryan Street, Lake Charles LA

## *2022 Dues were due January 1*

Dues were due January 1, 2022. Please plan on bringing a check to the meeting. Otherwise you will need to send a check to the society's P.O. Box, so the secretary can have you current with your dues for 2022. It makes the secretary's job a lot easier if they don't have to remind people to pay their dues month after month as the new year starts.

## Orchids for the Garden



Since we get the occasional freezes here, it is impossible to grow the showy phals and cattleyas outside year round. Unfortunately, most native terrestrials have specific requirements that are nearly impossible to duplicate in the home garden. But there are hardy terrestrial orchids found in temperate regions throughout the world that will grow and thrive year after year growing in the ground even here in south Louisiana.

Luckily, there is a genus of orchids from Asia that we can easily grow in our own back yards. The species of the genus *Bletilla* are native to Japan, Korea, Myanmar (Burma), and China. Most of their native habitats get much colder than we do. The hardiness map for these species goes from zone 5 to 9.

*Bletilla* species and hybrids grow as a spring flowering perennial that grow from underground tubers. The foliage is pleated, spear-shaped leaves 12 to 18" tall. Depending on the weather, they can start new growth in the late fall while the prior year's foliage is still green but typically the prior year's foliage dies back before the new growths appear.

The small cattleya shaped flowers range from purple, shades of dark pink to light pink, lavender, yellow and white. Flowers can be easily viewed on the sequential blooming inflorescence since the flowers are held well above the foliage.

*Bletilla*'s should be planted in part shade in

well drained or raised beds. They enjoy our year round moisture but will not survive in poorly drained soils that stay wet. I've successfully grown them in pots using potting soil for years since I have dogs that would dig up anything planted in the ground.

*Bletillas* multiply quickly. If you dig up the tubers (pseudobulbs) while dormant, they will typically be triangular in shape with the old growth at the center with 2 growing points branching off from it.

Growing them in the ground entails planting 1 to 2 inches deep depending on your soil conditions. I plant 1 inch deep since my garden beds tend to stay wet but 2 inches deep would be best for those with drier or colder conditions. And don't forget to mulch to keep the soil moisture consistent, these guys don't like to be totally dry.



## ***Minutes of November 16, 2021 Meeting***

Secretary Ann Ebert called the meeting to order.

### **Announcements:**

- We are circulating a Get Well card for Vice-President Sara Duarte. Please sign it.
- We are resuming plant judging and the plant raffle tonight.
- Dues for 2022 are due by 12/31/2021.

### **Upcoming events**

- 12/4/21: Louisiana Short Course – Hybrid in-person/Zoom program to be put on by BROS in Baton Rouge. A flyer was emailed to members. Register by following the link in the flyer and a Zoom link will be sent to you.
- 12/5/21: NOOS Holiday Party – to be held at 6:00 P.M. at the Marine Corps League Building. The membership agreed to having the usual potluck dinner. We are circulating a sign-in sheet for members to indicate what dishes they will bring.
- 1/28 – 1/30/2022: Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show at the Gautier Convention Center. Carol Stauder, Gary Crozat, Marian Prigmore and Carol Molero volunteered to set up our exhibit. Pat Herbert and Molly Prokop volunteered to take down.
- 6/3 – 6/5/2022 NOOS Show

### **Requests for Volunteers**

- We need an out-of-town show coordinator to manage volunteers for set up/take down of our exhibits.
- We need a volunteer or volunteers to coordinate refreshments for the monthly meetings.

### **Election of Officers and Trustees for 2022**

The following officers and Trustees were elected by acclamation:

President	Molly Prokop
Vice-President	Larry Hennessey
Treasurer	Gayle Dellinger
Secretary	Ann Ebert
Trustees	Carol Stauder Pat Herbert Clarine Usher

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## *Continued Minutes of November 16, 2021 Meeting*

Refreshments and plant judging.

Thanks to those who brought refreshments: Molly Prokop, Denise Emmer, Ann Roth, Theresa Klainer, Mary Bahn, Nancy Click and Christian Bordelon.

Plant raffle.

Program: Larry Hennessey discussed the top-placing plants in tonight's table judging.

Our next meeting will be our holiday party on Sunday, 12/5.

Meeting adjourned.