

# Mobile Area Orchid Society

May 2014

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society since 1950.

## In This Issue

- Meeting Location
- June Picnic and auction
- Up coming orchid shows..
- New Orleans Orchid Show.
- Cleaning and reusing pots.
- Election of officers
- 2015 Orchid show location.
- Map to Pensacola Orchid show and Christ United Methodist Church.



Above C. Dowiana

Meeting Location is Christ United Methodist Church 6101 Grelot Rd. Mobile room A201 at 6:30PM. See last page for link to map and directions.

## June Picnic and Auction

Next month June will be our annual orchid picnic and orchid auction. We need someone to host the picnic and auction; this can be your home, or someplace outside like a river or lake etc. Due to the heat we usually start around 5PM and end whenever. Please consider hosting our annual picnic and auction.

If you plan on bringing orchids to be auctioned off please remember to clean them up. Make sure the TAG is readable. Please don't bring anything that you yourself would not consider buying. Also if your orchid gets sold you will get half of the price the orchid sells for with our society getting the other half.

This is a great time to sell duplicate orchids or go ahead and divide that large orchid, or sell the orchid you don't really like.

See you there!

## Up coming orchid shows

### Memphis Orchid Society Show "Orchids in Legend and Lore"

May 16-18

Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd. Memphis, TN.

### New Orleans Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale

May 31-June 1

Lakeside Shopping Center, 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, La.

### Acadian Orchid Society Show & Sale

Jun 13-15

Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnson St, Lafayette, La

The Mobile Area Orchid Society will participate in the New Orleans Orchid Society Show and Sale on 31 May.

We need to make a good showing since this is the first time we have exhibited in New Orleans in several years. I will send out information on where and when to bring your plants that you would like to show soon.

As in any orchid show make sure your tags are readable, make sure the orchid is clean. Remove any weeds, wipe off the leaves, and stake the blooms if needed. As in the last show the AOS tags will be filled out prior to the show so all we have to do in New Orleans is place the small green name tags in the plants.



## Don't throw away that old pot; Clean it!

Spring is here and you may be wanting to divide and repot some of your orchids.

The below is copied from the St. Augustine Orchid Society web page.

### Cleaning Clay Pots

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

If you want to reuse your clay pots, it is important to clean and sterilize them prior to reuse. It is a chore that can quickly become unmanageable unless you clean your pots at the same time as you are repotting during the marathon repotting season in the spring.

#### New, Used and Cleaned Clay Pots

**Scrub Debris from the Pot.** The first step is to remove the potting mix, roots and other detritus from the pot. I fill a 5 gallon bucket with water and drop the pots into the bucket as I am repotting. You can add dishwashing soap to the water if you like. At the end of the repotting session, use an abrasive pad to scrub away as much of the roots, encrusted salt and other debris as you can. Then your last repotting chore of the day is sterilizing your pots.

**Sterilize the Pot.** You sterilize the porous clay pot so you don't transfer pests, diseases or virus from the last inhabitant to the next inhabitant of the pot. You can use chemicals or heat to sterilize clay pots.

**Traditional Bleach Soak.** The traditional advice is to disinfect your clay pots by soaking them overnight in a 10% bleach solution (10% bleach or 9 parts water to 1 part bleach). If you are using a 5 gallon bucket, add one half gallon bleach, drop in your pots and fill to the top with water. You can also add pool algaecide (2 tsp/gal if 10% strength) in lieu of or in addition to your bleach solution for extra killing power. You'll pull the pots out of the bucket, wash them off with a hose and drop them into a second 5 gallon bucket. Fill this with water and let them soak for several hours to remove any residual bleach or algaecide. Remember to use rubber gloves so your skin doesn't contact the bleach/algaecide solution, which after a very few exposures can cause skin sensitivity and chemical burns. The bleach/algaecide kills everything with the possible exception of virus so the next step is heat treatment. If you bake the pots in the oven at 400 degrees for an hour, the virus will be eliminated. Add your used rhizome clips and other wire products to the oven to decontaminate them at the same time. Let the pots cool off in the oven and they are ready to be reused, assuming the salts are gone.

## Election of Officers

This meeting we will vote on new officers for the 2014-2015 year. The nominating committee has been hard at work over the last 3 week. Everyone needs to be in attendance to vote on new officers. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

## Mobile Area Orchid Society Show 2015

I hope everyone is keeping both eyes out for a new location for our 2015 Orchid Show. Remember it's best if the building is centrally located in Mobile and larger than 1600 SF. In addition we need a place to eat and a place for the judges to do their work. As usual cost is a major factor so it can't be expensive. We need to have several places available so we can check them out and vote on the new location. Everyone needs to be involved



in this.

Left: Den. anosmum (superbum)

**Remember Show and Tell at this month's meeting.**

Don't forget to send me pictures of your orchids or favorite article for our website and newsletter.  
[www.Mobile-Area-Orchid-Society.org](http://www.Mobile-Area-Orchid-Society.org)  
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## Christ United Methodist Church map

Click [here](#) for a larger campus map of Christ United Methodist Church Room A201 directly behind the Sanctuary. You may be



able to enter the building at the end opposite the Sanctuary. This is where Beverly and I entered last time we were here in room A204.