

# East Texas Orchid Society

*"Creating a common bond between orchid enthusiasts in east Texas..."*

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## Charging Forward – Potting Workshop and Shreveport Show

■ **Potting Workshop** – Our planning is starting to pay off and the first East Texas Orchid Society Workshop is right on track for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Plants have been ordered and the number of attendees continues to grow. We are very fortunate to have a great venue for this event and would like to thank Dawn at the SFA Mast Arboretum for allowing us to use this facility. The event has been publicized on our website, our newsletter, Dragonfly Nursery, Yahoo Events, The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches Farmer's Market, Gardening Friends of Lufkin, and the Pineywoods Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. If we haven't reached you – you don't get out enough! Thanks to all that helped spread the word.

■ **ETOS to be Represented at Shreveport Show** – At our September meeting we agreed to, as a group, participate in the Shreveport Orchid Society's Fall Show on September 26<sup>th</sup>. This will give us an opportunity to solidify our presence as a legitimate group in the area and provide a learning experience for those of us still new to orchids and orchid shows (that's almost all of us). Getting a first hand account of what a show entails will help us plan for our own show in Fall 2010. This is where that member roster will come in handy. Let's keep in touch as the event approaches so that we might utilize members' unique skills and talents to pull this off with such short notice. I'm sure we will have fun, but it will take some work and cooperation.



### Orchid Show Displays

This is a topic to which I bring no experience, but since ETOS will be setting up a tabletop display at the Shreveport show on September 26<sup>th</sup> we need to get an idea of what to expect. I have never even been to an orchid show, much less participated in one, so I'll be learning right along with you all. Fortunately, we have an experienced AOS Judge in our group to guide us through the process. Thanks Olie!

Setting up a display is more than just dropping a few plants on a card table. Plants are prepared by cleaning leaves, staking flowers if needed, and covering or dressing up the pot or container. Backdrops, supplemental lighting, and foliage plants are options to consider keeping in mind that the orchids are the stars of the show. Many displays follow a theme such as a geographic region or a particular group of orchids. Our display will only need to fill a tabletop, but certain design elements hold true for any sized installation. Balance, proportion, contrast, continuity, flow, visual impact, and other dramatic elements can all be used as if creating a living work of art. The display as a whole should be pleasing to the eye and flow naturally from focal points to avoid a feeling of chaos or disunity. Nothing in the design should distract from the flowers. Experienced participants have the benefit of planning and have trained spikes and buds ahead of time for the best possible presentation. Advanced planning also allows plants to be forced into bloom by altering growing conditions. We will just have to make due with the blooms we have available and try to make it work. Participation will be our main goal. We will have a few plants to work with, but nothing too crazy. It should be just enough to let them know that the East Texas Orchid Society has arrived, we are serious, and here to stay. ~



### Upcoming Events

**9/19:** ETOS Re-potting Workshop, SFA Mast Arboretum, 1pm

**9/25-27:** Shreveport Orchid Society Show, R.S. Barnwell Garden & Art Center, 501 Clyde Fant Parkway, Shreveport, LA.

**10/2-4:** SWROGA Show & Sale, Little Rock, AR

**10/11:** ETOS October Meeting, Nacogdoches, TX, 1:30 pm, see [www.EastTexasOrchidSociety.com](http://www.EastTexasOrchidSociety.com) for details.

**10/9-11:** Greater North TX Orchid Society Show & Sale, Dallas area, Location TBA.

**11/6-8:** Orchid Society of Jefferson Show & Sale, Clearview Mall, Metairie, LA

**\*\*\*Please note that the October meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\***