

Ridge Display Committee Brings Home The Bacon

Submitted by Glen Gary

The Ridge Orchid Society Display Committee, headed up by Chairperson Sue Dowudom traveled down to Venice on Friday, February 6th, to put in their first display of the 2009 Show season.

The Committee was out in force, caravanning down in several cars laden with orchids, foliage plants, supplies and decorations befitting the theme, which was "Mystical Orchids".

In attendance was Sue & Niyom Dowudom, Dan DeCausey, Gail Hutchinson, Dina Emig, Jean Mitchell, Kay Stone and Glen Gary.

The Venice Society had some time constraints placed on them by the venue where the Show was being held and had to change the set-up time from 10AM to 1PM. That gave us a mere three hours to set up our display and get all of our plants registered, no small feat.

Everyone got right to work, sorting plants by color, writing name tags and building the beginnings of the super structure of the display. Slowly the display began to take shape. Kay, Niyom and Jean, ever the perfectionists, placed the plants in their proper places, replaced them and placed them again before moving them an inch this way and that way and then this way again before being totally satisfied that the color flow and spacing was just right.

Dan and Glen served as the brawn and handled all the heavy lifting while Sue, Gail and Dina worked on getting the plants ready for the display, writing labels and filling out registration forms.

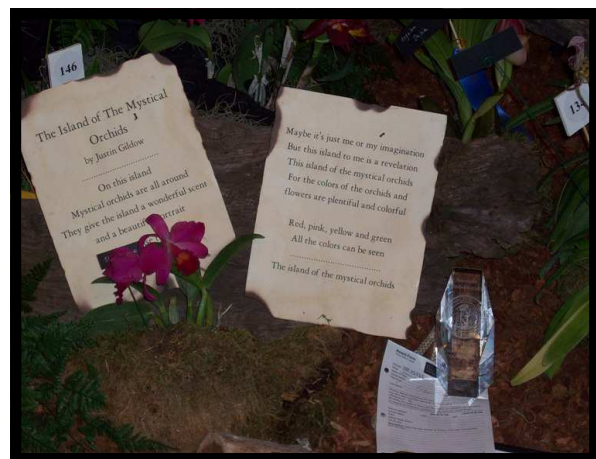
As the display progressed there was much discussion on how to best fit Jean's theme inspired props into the display, to show them off at their best. After a half dozen attempts, the perfect positioning was agreed upon by all and the finishing touches could be added. More and more foliage plants went in to fill in bare spots and to hide exposed fabric and we all went to town finishing off the display with sheet moss and Spanish moss. On went the bark. the border was put in and the excess plastic was cut off.

Could it be? No, we couldn't be finished! Alas we were. We actually had time enough to browse through the vendor booths, take a look at the other displays and catch up with old friends. We all left feeling very proud of our accomplishments and that no one had killed or offended anyone else too badly.

A very short 45 hours later we were all back in Venice to see both how we had done and to dismantle the display that took us hours to put in. We got there early so that we could finally take a good look at all the displays and do some shopping before breaking down.

Lo and behold and thanks be to whatever power you believe in, we not only won the First Place Blue ribbon for Best Display with a cash prize of \$150.00 we also won the AOS Trophy for Best Display and our members managed to win an impressive total of 19 individual ribbons for plants that they entered for judging.

Below is a picture from the display with the much coveted AOS Trophy for Best Display. A full list of the Ribbons won will be posted on the website with more photos from the Show.



We as a Society should be very proud of the hard work and dedication of our much unheralded Display Committee. Congratulations to all, way to go team! Let's hope that this is the first of many more to come this year.