

February 2007

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

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Editor

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- ✦ Toni Bell, Board
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- ✦ Sherrill Gossett-
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- ✦ Bob Libbey, Past-
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Jim's Bench

Jim Adamson

For those of you who don't know, I am back as your President after I vowed I wouldn't do it again! I think Bob was doing fine, but it was certainly his prerogative to decline to remain for another year and your nominating committee chairman was unable to get someone else to serve. I will do the best I can to keep our club going. I look forward to working with the members of the Board that you have elected. I have every confidence that they will be a pleasure to work with. We already have some critical issues to deal with, that being the meeting place, Show dates, meeting night, etc. I am doing the best I can to get the problems worked out. We are going to continue meeting at the Expo but the building has changed to the **back cafeteria**, where we met in January. **We will be meeting on the second Monday, February 12** at our regular time (7:00 Regular Meeting, 6:15 Board Members), and not the second Wednesday, out at the Expo. This could be tentative or temporary. The club house, where we met for several years, has been taken over by Bingo, and whether that will be a permanent situation we do not yet know. I have been successful in getting a commitment for our Show dates of August 17, 18 & 19.

As for this meeting, I have a speaker tentatively committed. If he fails, Jamie Lawson has committed to fill in. As for programs for the upcoming year we plan on the regular two plant sales and for those of you who would like to make some suggestions, please turn them in to a Board Member.

Thanks, From Bob

Bob Libbey

Look
forward



I did enjoy serving as your President during the past year and will certainly continue to work and support our great Society. I am looking forward to our accomplishments under the new President and his Board, as I am sure you are. Thank you very much for the gift certificate for the Society shirt and the great paph. plant. You were most kind and thoughtful to remember me and both are greatly appreciated. Best wishes for the Society and happy and successful growing to all the members. Bob Libbey

Orchid Potting



Orchids are different from other plants because the potting medium they do best in is not dirt (except for a select few). Some of these different potting materials include:

-lava rocks -sphagnum moss -bark (small and medium)
 -coconut chips -alaflor - mounted (no potting material)

While one potting substance works for one orchid grower, it may fail miserably at the hands of another hobbyist. Orchids thrive on individual care and that old orchid cliché, “Go with what works.”



Lava rocks can be hard to re-pot and keep watered, plus it's heavy, while sphagnum moss does not rapidly degrade but turns a foul black with algae due to a reaction with the sun and being watered. Sphagnum is great for potting fine-rooted orchids, along with small bark on top to keep the sun out. Alaflor is literally expanded clay that has been fired and hardened. It is very light and provides good drainage. More fleshy-rooted plants tend to like a bark and alaflor mix (cattleya mix: 1/3 small bark, to fill voids | 1/3 medium bark | 1/3 medium alaflor). Bark degrades after roughly 2 years. Coconut chips tend to carry salt within themselves and need to be drained many times, soaked in Epsom salt, before they are habitable for orchids. Coconut chips are also a water-holding potting material, which is great in its pulverized form in a paphiopedium mix, published in an earlier edition of this periodical.

If a grower needs to keep a plant moist they will select a material that does not dry out rapidly, like coconut chips. If the grower needs the plant to drain well, they will select a material that does not hold water (like an alaflor/bark mix, or like lava rocks, if you are partial to them). It is impor-

Sunshine

Betty Adamson

Toni Bell is recuperating at home and we send her best wishes for continued improvement. Get well wishes are also sent to Darrell Thimlar's wife, Pat, as she recuperates from her hip surgery.



Officers Installed For 2007

Betty Adamson

The officers for the New Year were installed at the January meeting by Betty Adamson. It was a colorful and interesting installation with orchid bud vases given to each officer. Each vase had a different color of ribbon which was used to delineate their duties during the upcoming term. Betty encouraged the members to support their election officials and the Society in all of its endeavors.



Officers installed were: President: Jim Adamson
 Vice President: Alan Gettleman
 Secretary: Ginny Landreth
 Treasurer: Craig Helpling
 Board Members: Toni Bell
 Jack Taylor
 Sherrill Gossett-Moore(Retained)

Supporting Arches

Phalaenopsis, and many other orchids, are showing new growths at this time of year and soon may need to be staked up for support. It is good to gently tie the stake below the first bud on the inflorescence, when the spike has reached a foot in height. If the spike continues to grow and bud, it could get too heavy and easily break.

When the spike arches and looks like it needs another stake tied to its highest point, do so, but only if it looks like it is bending too much under its own weight. Not all phalaenopsis have great arching inflorescences, some grow just a little over twelve inches tall, and staking is a matter of personal preference. It is most important not to disturb or try re-orienting a plant as the flowers resupinate (twist so that the lip is below the other floral segments) and react to the sunlight.

February 2007

Monday, February 12:
 Regular business meeting: *Cocoa Expo Cafeteria*
6:15pm Board Members
7pm Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 28:
6:15pm Back to Ba-

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

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