

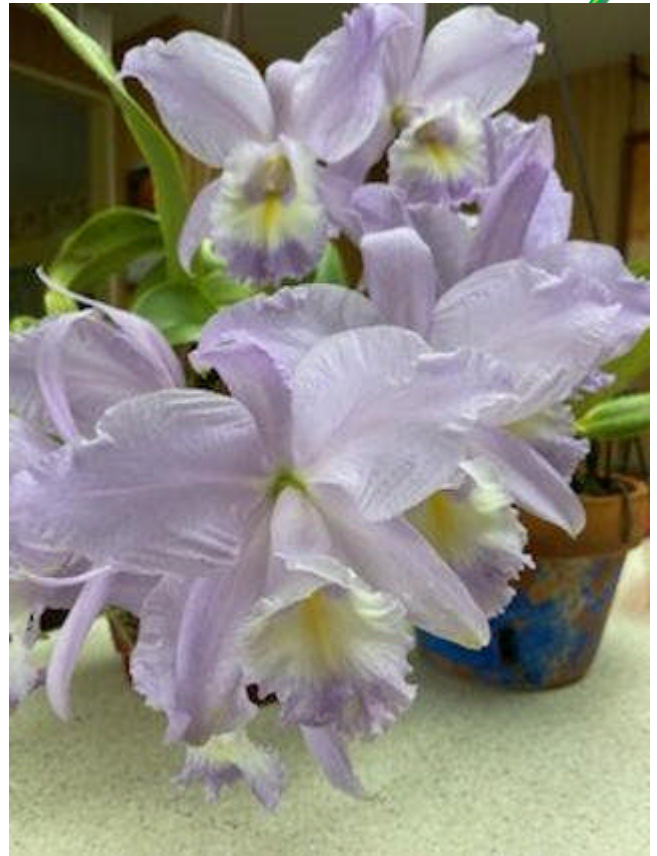
# *Platinum Coast Orchid Society*

## *The Rhizome*

*August 2021*

It was nice to see so many people at the rambles. A big thanks to Al Valentine and Walter's Orchids for hosting us. See photos on the last pages, especially if you weren't able to attend. Al has some great orchid shelves on his patio for those who are looking for new ideas.

It was a treat to have Thanh of Springwater Orchids for our speaker in June. In August, we will do the AOS slide program on spotted cattleyas that we had scheduled for June and then in September, Philip Bredren of Bredren Orchids will be our speaker.



Holly's C. Sea Breeze 'Felrath's Pride'.

### **RAYS OF SUNSHINE**

Deepest sympathy to former member Judy Law on the passing of her husband. Judy's health has also declined recently so she is unable to attend our meetings.

Sympathy is also extended to Dottie Walters on the passing of her husband. Ernie was, for multiple years, the AOS photographer for our annual shows.

Speedy get well wishes are sent to Sally as she recovers from her back surgery. BA

### **CALENDAR**

**Aug. 11th 6pm Board meeting**

**Aug. 11th 7pm Regular meeting**

**Program: Spotted cattleyas**



## Mealybug Infestation Question on AOS

I have been fighting an ongoing mealybug infestation in my Phalaenopsis collection for more than two years. Using insecticides has caused me more problems than it cured. Lately, I have been using Ultrafine Sun Oil pesticide, but if I stop for a week, the bugs come right back. I have been told that systemic pesticides do not work on orchids. Is this true? Can you recommend a safe and effective pesticide for my problem?

### GREAT PLACES FOR MEMBERS TO FIND INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS:

1. Programs—Take notes—someday they will make sense.
2. AOS Magazine articles. “Orchids” is available at every meeting for check out.
3. Members— Ask longtime members about orchids, but realize that your yard and potting choices are key. We all use trial and error to succeed.
4. Internet sites—[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify how other’s in your area grow their orchids.



The best time to control mealybugs is when there are just a few. They multiply rapidly and control becomes difficult. . photo © 1998 Greg Allikas

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There’s an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Ask Betty Adamson for an application if you’re interested in joining.

For all current members, remember that your renewal notice will arrive in the Orchid Magazine prior to your month of renewal.

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](#) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](#). Each allows you to post photographs and ask questions about your orchids. The group is the most active of the two, and group members usually respond quickly to posts. The page is parallel to the AOS Instagram account. <https://www.facebook.com/>

## Answer

I have never found systemic insecticides particularly effective against mealybugs. However, Orthene does seem to be good for treatment when used at the strength recommended on the label. Because mealybugs are such a problem with fast-growing, soft-leaved orchids like Phalaenopsis, it is important to bring them under control, and then treat as necessary to keep an infestation from reestablishing. The classic prescription is to treat every seven to 10 days for three treatments, alternating insecticides. For example, you might choose to use Orthene and Malathion. The use of a wetting agent is also important with mealybugs to penetrate their waxy coatings. — Ned Nash

(From the question and answer section of [aos.org](http://aos.org))

## **2021 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN**

## **BE PART OF THE TEAM!**

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President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

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**Margaret Croucher**

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

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**Carolyn Anderson**

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

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**Bert Forbush (2020-2021)**

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Betty Adamson

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Margaret Smith

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Betty Adamson

### **GREETER**

Margaret Smith

### **PROGRAMS**

Laura Blackmon

### **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

### **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

### **WEBMASTER**

Jody Romanowski

### **AUDIO**

Bert Forbush

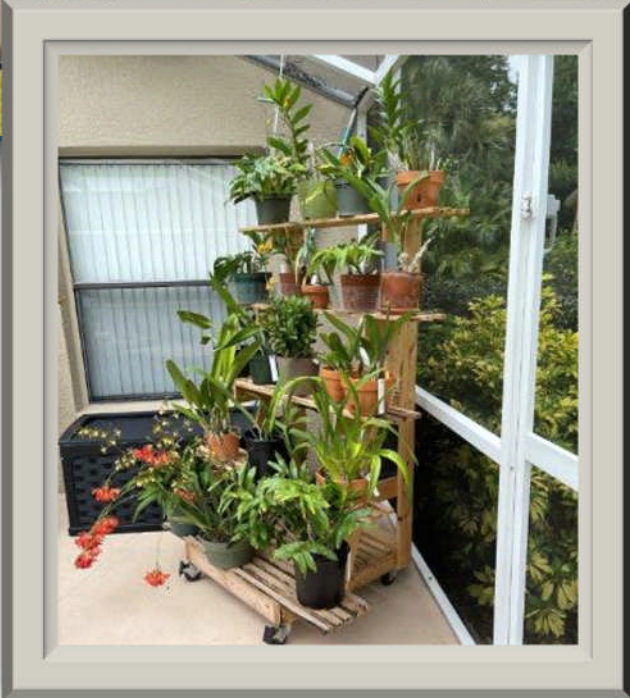
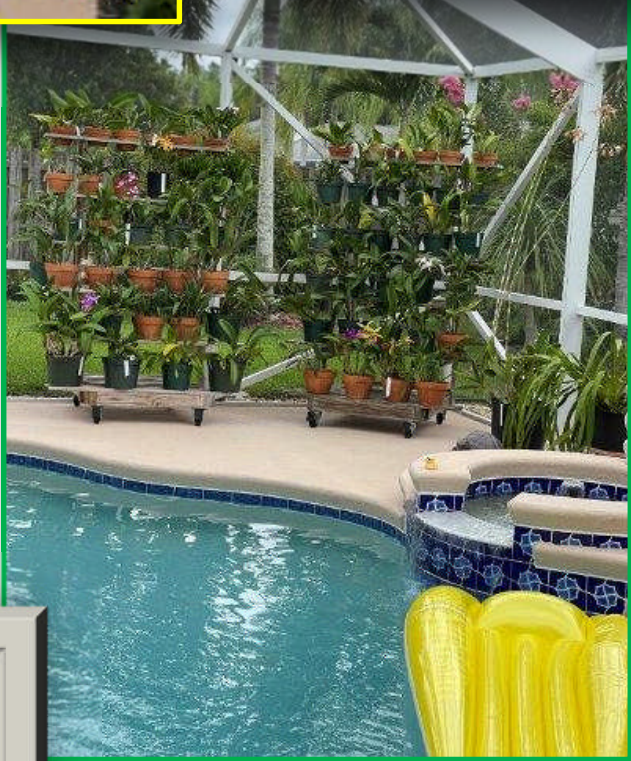
### **REFRESHMENTS**

Kathy Jacobson

### **SHOW CHAIR**

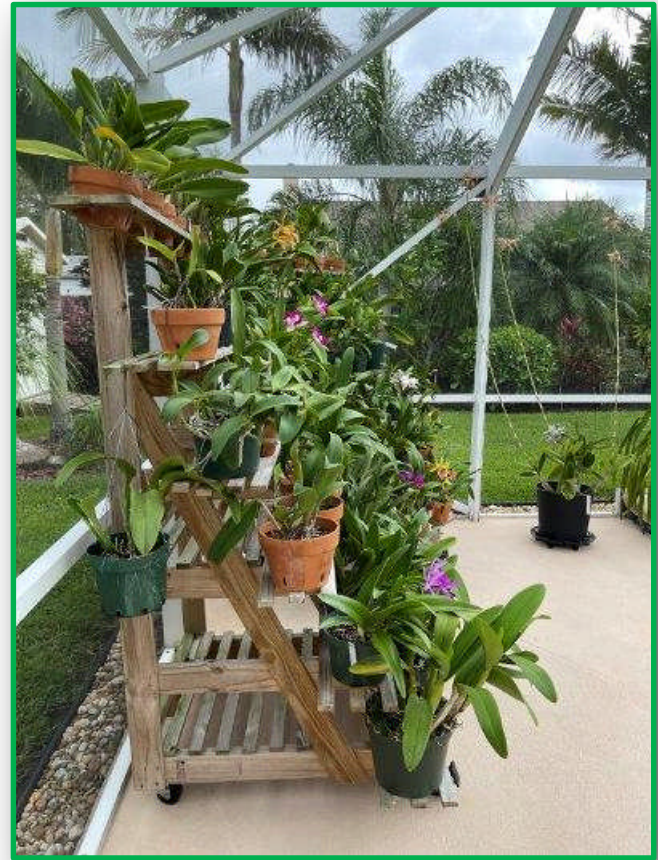
Laura Blackmon





Many thanks to Al for his hospitality. He is at the far right in the top photo. These great moveable shelves come in handy.





Many thanks to Leo and Mark for their hospitality at Walter's Orchids. Contact information can be found at [www.waltersorchids.com](http://www.waltersorchids.com) or on Facebook.



Reprint: TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST JULY: THE MONTH OF BACKSTORY By Thomas Mirenda

First impressions, while super-important for events such as job interviews, party mixers and speed dating, rarely tell the full story, as anyone who has ever followed up on a speed date will tell you. We humans are complicated creatures formulated through a strange, alchemic mixture of ingredients: where we grew up or went to school, who nurtured us, who tortured us, who loved us, etc. Not to mention the mind-boggling genetic component of our natures. We are such complex organisms that to fully understand and appreciate each other is a truly monumental task. We simply cannot do it all. On the regrettably rare occasions I do reach out and connect with new friends, I am invariably amazed at their stories and inner beauty. We are all who we are for real reasons and understanding what motivates others requires real time and effort.

Understanding your orchids is not different. Whether species or hybrid, to delve into the back-story of your individual orchids is the key to success with them. In the same way that a friendship is nurtured by conversations and storytelling about the past, orchids have a history and a context that, once uncovered, fully explains their needs and natures. July is a month laden with historical events. It is also a month many of us travel or go on vacations. Take this month as an opportunity to reflect and learn. Cultivate some new friends, and learn exactly what your orchids need. If you can do the former, the latter is actually much easier.

**GRILLING** One great way to make friends is to throw a summer barbecue. People will rarely turn down a fantastic feast. Most orchids will be outside as well enjoying the humid, tropical weather. A dappled area under a tree or lath area is an ideal spot to summer your orchids, and feeding your orchids is most appreciated this time of year. While I hesitate to recommend a particular fertilizer regimen, formula or brand, I encourage you to ask among your orchid friends (while they are eating that burger you just grilled for them) what works best for them. Plying them with some beer or wine can also be helpful in finding out their orchid cultivation secrets.

**COOL IN THE POOL** On a hot summer's day, is there anything better than plunging into the cool water? While certain warm-growing orchids, such as myrmecophilas, encyclias, trichocentrums, brassavolas, standard hard-cane dendrobiums and most vandas thrive in the torrid weather, most orchids from more montane habitats prefer cooler conditions. Wetting them down during the heat of the day will often keep the plant's metabolism working well, which in turn will keep your orchids growing despite the summer heat. Beware of waterlogging orchids with excessive mistings though.

**LET US MOVE! BUT GENTLY** Whether your orchids are inside or out, a little air movement mimicking the mountain breezes of their natural habitats can be really beneficial. Sweltering, still air combined with direct sunlight on an orchid leaf will almost always result in overheating and sunburn. Even orchids that crave the heat and sun, such as dendrobiums, really benefit from air movement this month. Just like water, light levels and food, air movement must be given in moderation. If the movement is too strong and relentless, orchids may have trouble respiring. Gentle air caressing your orchids is always a good idea.

**RELATIONSHIPS** All of this summer socializing, while fun and exciting, actually serves a larger purpose. Engaging in the social aspect of orchids — the plant societies, the shows, the auctions, supporting orchid businesses, etc. — broadens our knowledge and capabilities. The complexity of the orchid world is pretty incredible. No one can really know it all. But because of this, it is also wildly fulfilling. New orchid species are discovered virtually every day, and thousands of lovely, novel and rewarding hybrids are created frequently by professional breeders and enthusiasts around the world. The backstory of orchids is endlessly fascinating, and once you look past the awesome first impressions they make, a profound, deeper bond will invariably form between you and your orchids.

— Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)).