

# *Platinum Coast Orchid Society*

## *The Rhizome*

### *February 2022*



Patti's beautiful D. Green Apple from Orchids in Bloom at the orchid show in 2019.

For PCOS 2022 is off to a great start. At the January meeting we had our installation of officers and directors. Thank you to Betty for conducting the installation. Work on the April 2022 show is progressing well, Laura gave us a report on the progress of the committees. As always we need volunteers. This will be our first show in 3 years. It is our only fund raiser. I'm certain it will be a great success. The program for the February meeting will be Classic Cattleyas presented by Art Chadwick of Chadwick Orchids in Virginia. You will not want to miss this meeting. Thank you to all for your support of PCOS.

Ed



Presenting our new board R-L: Pres. Ed Kidder, Vice Pres. Mark Walters, Sec. Carolyn Anderson, Treas. Margaret Croucher, Directors With a LaCuesta, James Rice, Bert Forbush, Kathy Balance, and Past Pres. Peter Pancoast. Betty Adamson installed the new officers and led the plant forum.



## **CALENDAR**

**Feb. 9th, 6pm Board Meeting**

**Feb. 9th, 7pm Meeting—  
Art Chadwick of Chadwick Orchids from Powhatan County, Virginia will be our guest speaker. Plants may be pre-ordered with free shipping and he will also have plants to sell at the meeting. Read the interesting bio at [www.chadwickorchids.com](http://www.chadwickorchids.com) and let them know you are a PCOS member, if you order.**

***2022 dues now due.***



## 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**—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify how others in your area grow their orchids.

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.

[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

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/groups/52597049839> <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety>

## UPCOMING SHOWS AND EXPOS

*Please check before attending since shows in January were cancelled.*

Feb. 5 & 6—Venice Area Orchid Society Show  
Venice Community Center

Feb. 11 & 12 - Boca Raton Orchid Society Show  
Schools Institute

Feb. 11 & 12— Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show  
Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden

Feb. 25-27— Naples Orchid Society Show  
Naples Botanical Garden



Charlie Scholes’s answer to cold weather and hurricanes; orchids hanging on suspended rods over the car.



## **2021 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN**

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

### **PRESIDENT**

**Ed Kidder**

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Mark Walters**

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **TREASURER**

**Margaret Croucher**

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **SECRETARY**

**Carolyn Anderson**

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **DIRECTORS**

**Bert Forbush (2022)**

**Kathy Ballance (2022)**

**Witha Lacuesta (2022-2023)**

**James Rice (2022-2023)**

**Peter Pancoast (Past President)**

### **PLANT FORUM**

Betty Adamson

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Patti Scholes

### **SUNSHINE**

Betty Adamson

### **GREETER**

Margaret Smith

### **PROGRAMS**

Laura Blackmon

### **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

### **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

### **WEBMASTER**

Jody Romanowski

### **AUDIO**

Scott Anderson

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Kathy Jacobson

### **SHOW CHAIR**

Laura Blackmon

I have been growing, and killing, orchids for 35 years now and it occurred to me that I should pass on to others some of the more basic, as well as advanced methods I have discovered, and in some cases “stumbled upon” to accomplish this task!

**BASIC RULES** Never seek information on how to keep them alive. For example, do not try to distinguish what KIND of orchid you have, do not ask for help from other orchid growers, do not read *Orchids*, do not go to local orchid society meetings, and do not purchase the AOS handbook on orchid pests and diseases.

**RATHER OBVIOUS FUNDAMENTAL METHODS** Aside from pouring on gasoline and striking a match, consider the following: Give your orchids far too little or too much light. As most orchids like fairly good air movement, either give them none at all or a veritable hurricane. Do not worry about what particular temperature your orchids like – a good “rule of thumb” is to treat them all alike. Forget that most orchids like rather high humidity and let the humidity drop as low as it will. Never “damp down” the benches and floors on really hot days. Remember to water every orchid every day (drench thoroughly) regardless of what kind of medium or pots they are in - or very seldom water them at all, allowing the pseudobulbs (those things between the top of the pot and the base of the leaves) to become very shriveled and wrinkled. Never be concerned about the quality of the water you are using - whether it is loaded with chlorides, sulfides, or what have you. Repot your orchids only when you have to and only “when you have spare time.” Use just about anything handy as a potting medium, it really does not matter and there is no truth to the thinking that certain types like different potting medium (that is the stuff you put in the pot). Potting in plain old dirt from your garden is a good idea. Fertilize only once or twice a year, but when you do – really pour it on, perhaps triple or quadruple the recommended strength. Try to never be concerned about insects or diseases – just let nature take its course.

**ADVANCED RULES** Because orchids prefer the full light spectrum, put them under badly discolored fiberglass or perhaps brightly colored plastic. Arrange your greenhouse or growing area near a bright city streetlamp so they will not know the difference between night and day. Try to locate your orchids as near as possible to heavily traveled roads – the carbon monoxide (and other goodies) will help with your job. Keep turning each pot around about one quarter turn each day so they will become thoroughly disoriented. If it gets cold, put an unvented kerosene heater in your greenhouse – the fumes will work wonders. If it gets really cold, do not do anything — perhaps they will just go into hibernation. When you water, always try to water late in the afternoon or, preferably, at night – the water standing in the new leads creates unusual effects. When potting your plants, always use a pot about four times as large as the plant’s roots, remembering that that is the way they grow in nature. If your plant starts to look sick, **NEVER** take it out of the pot to see what is happening with the roots, after all, what you cannot see cannot hurt you, can it? Should you notice some sort of insect on a plant, just put it under the faucet and wash the critters off – do not bother to check the other plants in its vicinity and do not worry about some kind of pesticide, that stuff is hard to handle properly and besides, it leaves the greenhouse smelling poorly for days. Keep your leaves clean – never spray a preventive fungicide as it leaves an ugly residue. Always use the same knife or plant shears when cutting from one plant to another and do not bother to sterilize – if one has some sort of malady, soon they will all share!

I am sure there are those of you who have discovered more unusual ways to kill your orchids, but I have only been growing these plants for 35 years and I am still a’ learnin’!

[milton@evergladesorchids.com](mailto:milton@evergladesorchids.com)

**EDITOR’S NOTE** *The suggestions above are, obviously, all tongue-in-cheek but, unfortunately, we all do one or more of these at some point in our growing experience. Local societies are invaluable as sources of information relative to your specific issues. Who best to understand your local problems than others who are dealing with them. The AOS is invaluable for vetted orchid knowledge. It is true that “it is all available on the web” but that also includes the obviously incorrect as well as that which masquerades as correct. Invest in books, they are another source of invaluable growing knowledge. Ask! No question is dumb. We all, deep down inside know that, but how many of us remember it when it is important?*

*If you would like to spotlight an issue or share news with other affiliated societies, we welcome your input. Let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter! If there is something within your society that is working extremely well – let’s share it here. If there is something you could use help with – let us know. By chance, another affiliate may be able to offer a solution, or want to try something you have achieved. Your contributions are critical to bringing fresh, timely content to this publication each month. Please send your questions, solutions, and submissions for the AOS Corner to [eileenh@aos.org](mailto:eileenh@aos.org) or [askmasc@verizon.net](mailto:askmasc@verizon.net)*

**Eileen Hector**