

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

September 2021

We have some great speakers scheduled for the fall. Philip Bredren of Bredren Orchids in Florida will speak on phaleanopsis orchids in September. Bredren Orchids is one of our show vendors. He will bring orchids for sale when he comes.

Fred Clarke of Sun Valley Orchids will be our speaker in November. His program will be on "Becoming an 80% Grower".

We look forward to these knowledgeable growers and hope all stay well so things will remain scheduled. We will continue to wear masks at the meetings.

Our annual picnic is planned for Sunday, Oct. 24th at noon. The main dish will be provided, and attendees will bring their favorite dish. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. This is always a great opportunity to socialize and get to know each other.



C warscewiczii h v sanderiana

CALENDAR

- Sept. 8th 6pm Board meeting**
- Sept. 8th 7pm Business meeting**
- Speaker, Philip Bredren—Phaleanopsis**
- Sun., Oct. 24 Picnic—Sign up at the September meeting.**

C warscewiczii h v. sanderiana is an old species from northern Colombia. It is named after a 19th century Polish collector. We see his name on many different species of orchids. This is one of Ed's orchids "rescued" from the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens last year and it is doing great. Ed said that a mature large plant can produce 10 to 12 in. wide orchids. These are only 6 in. but Ed expects larger flowers next year.

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EXPOS (Check on these as it gets closer.)

- September 25 & 26 Tampa Orchid Club Expo —U.S.F. Botanical Gardens, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL
- October 1, 2, 3 Tamiami International Orchid Festival—The Fruit and Spice Park, Redland (Homestead), Florida

Reprint: **TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST - SEPTEMBER: BACK TO REALITY**

By: Thomas Miranda

Summer Vacation Inspires for an Active Autumn Growing Season

It has been a most interesting summer here at the Smithsonian Institution, with many international visitors, new collaborations, recently issued institutional mandates (such as the Challenge to Understand and Sustain a Biodiverse Planet; see <https://ssec.si.edu/biodiversity>), and the enthusiasm and energy of summer interns, as well as a little time for vacation or work-related travel. I was fortunate to attend a cutting-edge botanical conference in August in Australia and subsequently venture into the spring wildflower displays just beginning in the west of that vastly different continent. While we are all familiar with the unique Australian fauna, I found the plants to be equally foreign and, for me, new. It reminded me how many things I do not know and have not yet learned despite my age, experience, and wrinkles. It was also a humbling experience being in the company of some of the world's brilliant botanists, all friendly and engaging. But my insecurities about the cavernous gaps in my knowledge made me feel a wee bit ignorant, inadequate, and intimidated. Have you been there? I must say that it was also an honor.

I like to think that such experiences give us personal growth and make us better at our jobs because they add to the experiences we can share. I plan on sharing some of what I learned with all of you. September has arrived and for many of us, students, and professionals alike, it is time to buckle down and resume business as usual, attack some of our new challenges and use some of the things we have learned over the summer. Similarly, with the cooler weather coming, many orchids, stifled by the high summer heat, are making another burst of growth as more temperate, nurturing conditions prevail.

THEY GROW ON YOU Because most of the orchids we cultivate descended from epiphytic species from tropical forests, early autumn temperatures — naturally cooler, especially at night — more greatly mimic those of the natural environment of many orchids. This month presents an opportunity to gain a bit more growth due to the optimal conditions available. Use of a balanced fertilizer (equal parts N-P-K or nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) in half- or quarter-strength early this month will help your plants achieve mature pseudobulbs. Strong pseudobulbs, canes and other growths are the key to generating strong, sturdy, multifloral inflorescences.

TAPERING OFF Keep careful watch of your plants this month. Even though they are still growing, with the gradual shortening of day lengths, some photoperiod-dependent plants are starting to slow down, and spikes may start to appear on several popular groups, among them catasetums, phalaenopsis, labiata-type cattleyas and standard, hard cane-type dendrobiums. When these signs come into view, plant growth has often suspended, and reduced watering will be necessary. Pick up such plants and check their weight to be sure they are not getting waterlogged at this critical time.

SMOOTH TRANSITIONS This is not to say that you must suddenly change your care regimen. Just as you gradually acclimated plants to summer heat, or new conditions when you moved them outdoors, reducing your watering in autumn should be done gradually over several weeks. If your orchids have spent the summer outside, and you live in a harsh winter area, it is certainly time to prepare the interior growing space. Before plants are brought back in, make sure all surfaces have been cleaned and sterilized, and that all heaters and circulating fans are functional. It is much better to find out the heater does not work properly now than on a frosty night in mid-October when it may be too late.

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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 other’s 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 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

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety). 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>

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HITCHIN’ A RIDE Do not bring fauna inside with your flora. September is your last chance to eradicate any pests that may be harboring in among your plants. Even if you do not see any obvious signs of parasites, sometimes a cautionary spraying or insecticidal drench may be in order. Neem oil is often a good choice to spray this time of year because it is mild and will suffocate most living pests as well as render them unable to reproduce. Best to use any oil products, however on a cool or cloudy day to avoid burning foliage.

— 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) [ORCHIDS Magazine \(aos.org\) https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx](https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx)



C. Leaf Hopper—one of Charlie’s summer bloomers.

2021 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

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REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Jacobson

SHOW CHAIR

Laura Blackmon

Grammatophyllum speciosum



Grammatophyllum speciosum is a species from south-east Asia and the Philippines. It is a large epiphyte and known for the plant to reach 6-9ft. Peter made the large basket that it is in. Sally bought this in a 2 inch pot 11 years ago and this is the first bloom! Exciting!

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	September 02, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	September 16, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	October 05, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	October 21, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Sarcochilus Australian Miniatues	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Black Orchids The Lure, The Lust and Licentiousness
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jean Allen-Ikeson JC National Education Coordinator, AOS Editorial Board Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dr. Leslie Ee, ND Associate Judge, President of COC

Upcoming
AOS
Webinars
For AOS
Members.