Platinum Coast Orchid Society

July 2015 Edition

The Rhyzome

Blc. Helen Brown Charlie Scholes was looking for a Helen Brown to replace this one he lost a while back. When Jim Adamson showed up with one at the meeting, it was quickly purchased by Patti for Charlie's Father's Day present. Another PCOS benefit.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi everyone,

Just wanted to be sure you take a close look at the schedule and details for the summer rambles and the August meeting. We are so fortunate our members are so willing to share. Enjoy your summer.

My best, Cathy

SEPTEMBER <u>BUSINESS ONLY</u> MEETING

All business……..that's what the September meeting will be. Several issues need to be decided concerning the length of next year's show and donations from the proceeds of this year's show. We also need a volunteer to chair the show next year. Please think about these things over the summer and the part you can play as we plan for nominations and committee chairs as well as a vote on the above.

Sunshine

John and Lois Hicks continue to be in our thoughts and we send them our best.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR/SAVE THE DATE

Wed., July 8th 6-8 pm Ramble at Bill and Margaret's

510 Indian Bay Blvd., Merritt Island

Since there is no meeting follow the directions below.

Directions: From SR528, take Courtenay Pkwy. North. Turn left (west) onto Hall Rd. Make a right onto Tropical Trail. Make a left on Indian Bay Blvd. The house is on the right in the second block.

Sat., August 1st, 6-8 pm. Ramble at Rosa's

420 Green Turtle Cove, Satellite Beach

Directions: From Cocoa Beach, take A1A, to just past Pineda Causeway. Turn right onto Ocean Blvd. Turn left onto Patrick Drive, Take the second right onto Sail Way. Take the first left onto Green Turtle Cove.
If you want to stay for sunset drinks, bring your own spirits.

Wed., Aug. 12th, 7pm General Meeting /Show and Ask

Wed., Sept. 9th, 7pm Business Meeting

Sun., Sept. 20th Noon Annual Picnic in the pavilion at Cocoa Beach Country Club

2015 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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Judy Law

PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlie Scholes

Jan Castillo

RAFFLE

Karen Snee

PUBLICITY

Ann Colchin

REFRESHMENTS

August—Patti and Charlie Scholes

September—Betty and Jim Adamson

October—

November—

Please consider being responsible for refreshments at a monthly meeting. If you have signed up and are not listed here OR if you would like to sign up for a month, please let Patti know at the meeting (or you can just hit reply and send by email.). Be sure to keep your receipts so you can be reimbursed by the club. You can make it simple by just picking up some iced tea and cookies at the store or you can surprise us with some special treats…..it's up to you.

Monthly Checklist for July and August

Cattleya—Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum - Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Phalaenopsis- Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

Cymbidium—Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

High-elevation Plants—For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothallids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.

Oncidium intergenerics—Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as Odontocidium, Wilsonara and Colmanara, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

Vandaceous—Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later. .

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Other great articles, like this, can be found on the AOS website.

Great Places for Members to Find Information on Orchids:

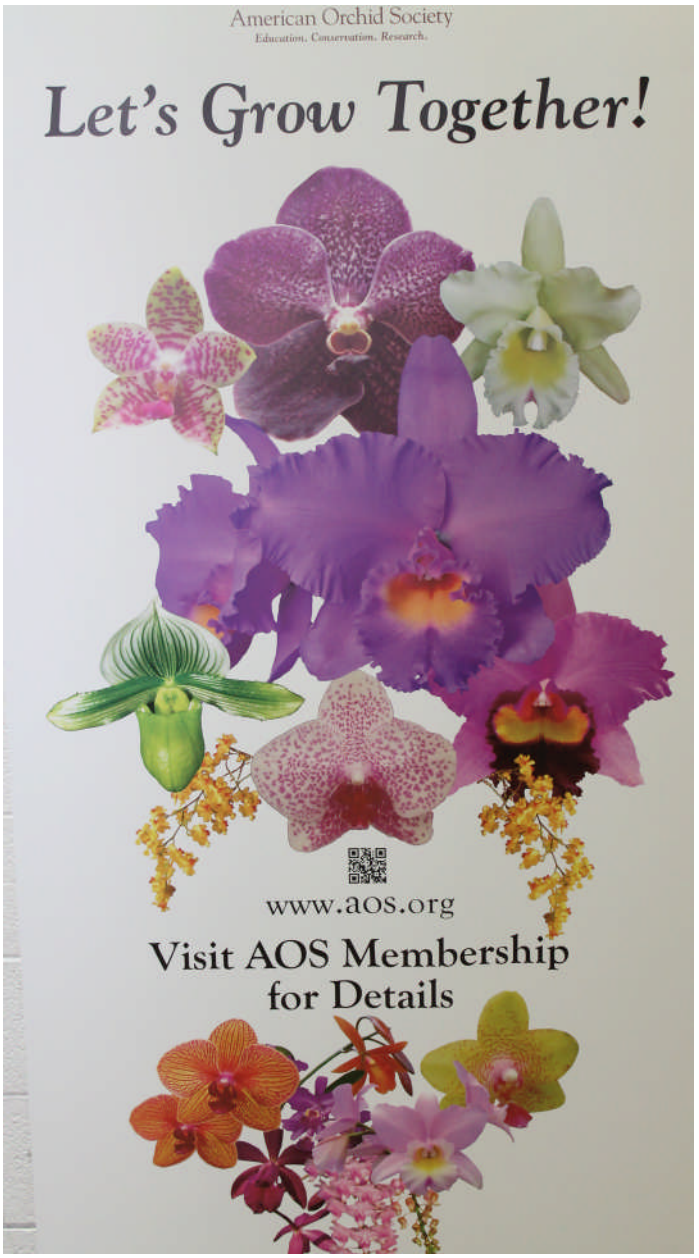
1. Programs—Take notes—someday they will make sense

2. AOS Magazine articles. "Orchids" is available at every meeting. Check out the great AOS article on the next page.

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 the best way to grow your orchids.



PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS).** There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. For the last few months, a selection of the articles available on the AOS website have been featured in our newsletter. Please visit www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member.

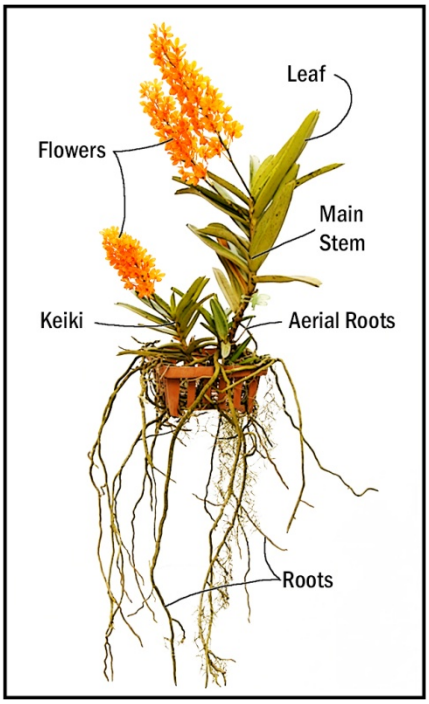
Ask Betty Adamson for an application if you're interested in joining.

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

www.aos.org

Orchid Plant Parts and Why They Matter

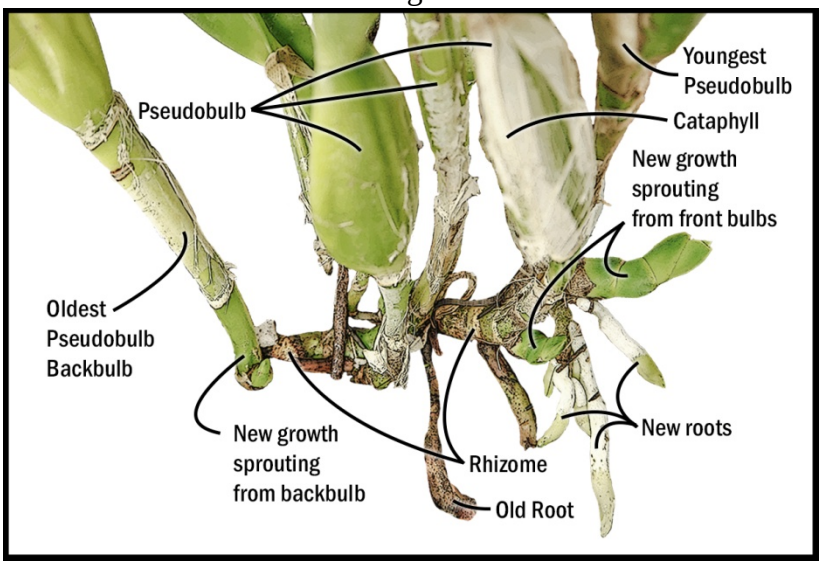
By Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

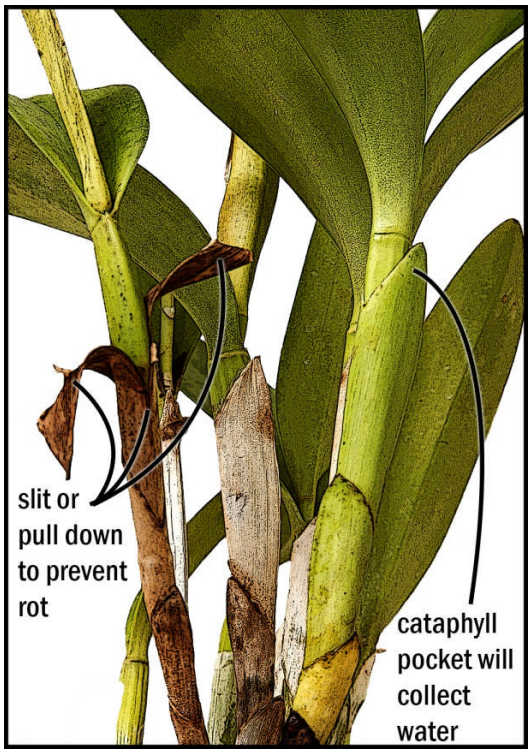


It doesn't really matter if you can remember all the names of orchid plant parts, but it is to your benefit to understand how these parts function. We'll talk about all the basic orchid parts to help focus your attention on things to look for when you are looking at your plants.

Orchid growth habits fall into two basic groups, the monopodial orchids that grow vertically and the sympodial orchids that grow laterally. **Monopodial** orchids like phalaenopsis and vandas grow upward from a single stem. Orchids with this growth habit grow upward from season to season from a single vegetative shoot. Leaves, roots and flower spikes sprout from nodes along the stem. Normally the plant will lose its leaves from the bottom up and continue to grow new leaves from the terminal or apical tip while making new roots along the stem. Monopodial orchids do not have fleshy pseudobulbs for storage of food and water like the sympodial orchids, so they require more frequent watering and feeding. Vandas often produce a **keiki** (KAY-kee) a Hawaiian term for baby that is used to describe a plantlet that sprouts from a mature plant. Keikis are a great way to share your plants with friends.

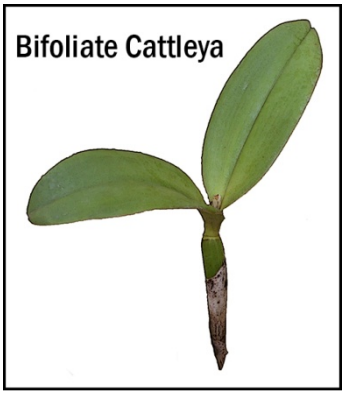
Sympodial orchids like cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums branch outward horizontally rather than grow vertically like monopodial orchids. Sympodial orchids grow laterally and produce a new shoot along a rhizome that develops into a stem with roots and leaves and eventually produces flowers. This growth process is repeated in a continuous cycle. Sympodial orchids have pseudobulbs that grow along a rhizome (RYE-zohm), a root-bearing stem the apex of which progressively sends up leafy shoots. When repotting, the rhizome should be at or just above the potting media. There is a greater potential for rot if the rhizome is buried in the potting mix. A pseudobulb (SOO-doh-bulb) is the thickened portion of a stem used when discussing cattleyas, oncidiums and many other sympodial orchids. A cane, used when discussing dendrobiums, is similar to a pseudobulb but is much more stalk-like in appearance. The pseudobulbs and canes are like the humps on camels, storing food and water to sustain the plant during droughty conditions. They perform a vital function to the plant even when leafless. Front bulbs are the pseudobulbs on the younger part or the plant. The front bulbs are the actively growing part of your plant and it is from these new growths that new flowers will emerge. The backbulbs are the pseudobulbs on the older part of the plant. The backbulbs are often without leaves but as long as they are still green, they continue to provide nourishment to the plant. Backbulbs can be used to propagate new plants from the original plant when new growths are encouraged to sprout from blind or dormant eyes, the incipient buds of vegetative growth. There are at least two eyes on each pseudobulb so that if one eye or lead becomes damaged, a new pseudobulb can emerge from the other eye.



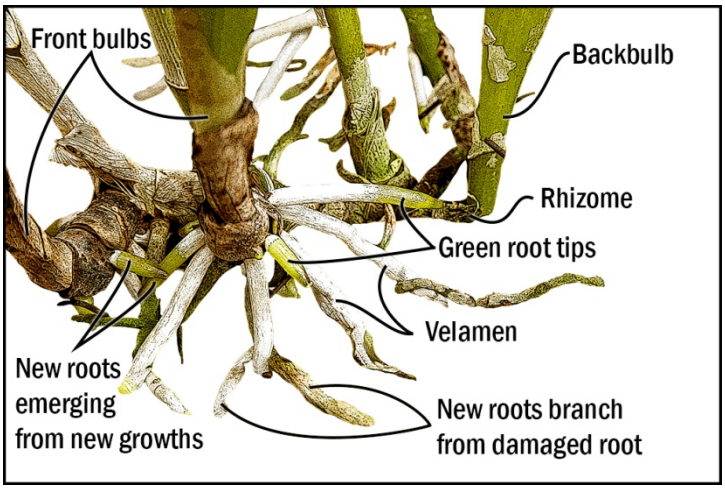


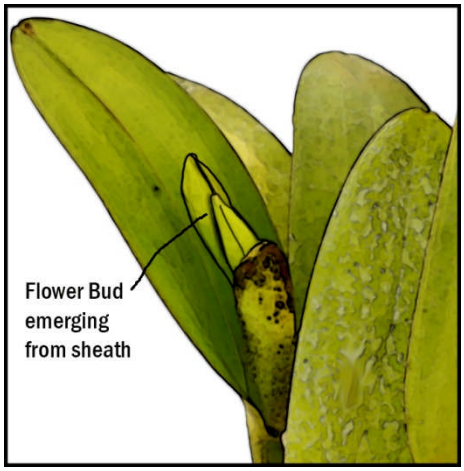
The cataphyll (KAT-a-fill) is an undeveloped leaf that forms around the base of the pseudobulb and matures to form a papery sheath along the length of the pseudobulb. When the pseudobulb is growing, the cataphyll provides some structural support and protects the tender new growth from mechanical and insect damage. Cataphylls can sometimes form pockets where water can accumulate and bacterial action can cause the bulb to rot so the pockets should be slit or the cataphyll pulled down so water will drain freely. Once the growth is mature and hardened, the dried cataphylls can be removed before they become hiding places for scale and other sucking insects.

Orchid Leaves vary from the thin leaved oncidiums and catasetums, the fleshy phalaenopsis to the hard dendrobium and cattleya leaves that have waxy coverings that help minimize water loss. Cattleyas with a single leaf are called unifoliates and cattleyas with two (and occasionally three) leaves are called bifoliates. Unlike the unifoliates, bifoliate cattleyas should be repotted only when they are growing new roots. Stomata (sto-MAH-tah) are pores on the lower surface of the leaf epidermis through which the plant breathes. The stomata are mostly closed during the day to prevent water loss by transpiration and open at night when temperatures are lower and humidity is higher. This means that orchids are not good candidates for foliar feeding. If specialty foliar sprays such as those containing minor or trace elements designed to be absorbed through the leaves are to be used, they are best applied to the undersides of the leaves in the predawn hours.

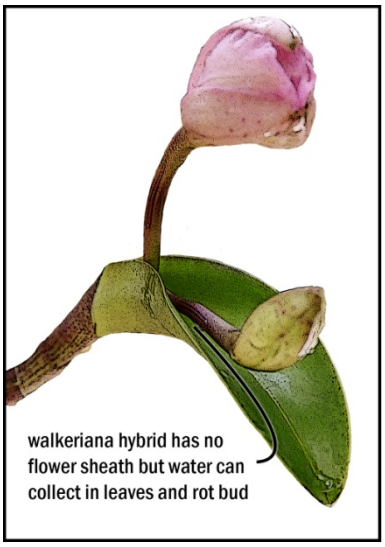


Orchid roots consist of an inside wiry filament and thick sponge like covering called velamen that helps prevent water loss and aids in absorption of water and mineral nutrients. Actively growing orchid roots have green (and sometimes reddish) tips, the longer the green tips the faster the roots are growing. The white velamen layer follows a few days behind the root's growth tip. The emergence of fresh roots tells you your plant is going into the growth mode, if it needs to be repotted, the time is now (or maybe you should have done it last week when the new growth was swelling up before the green tips emerged).

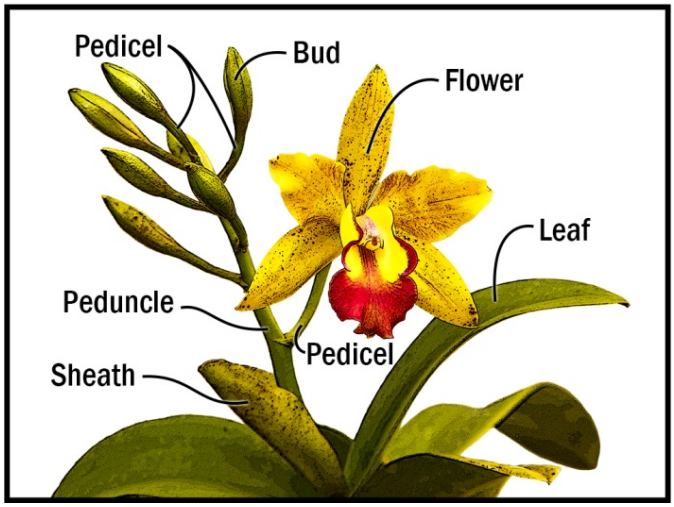




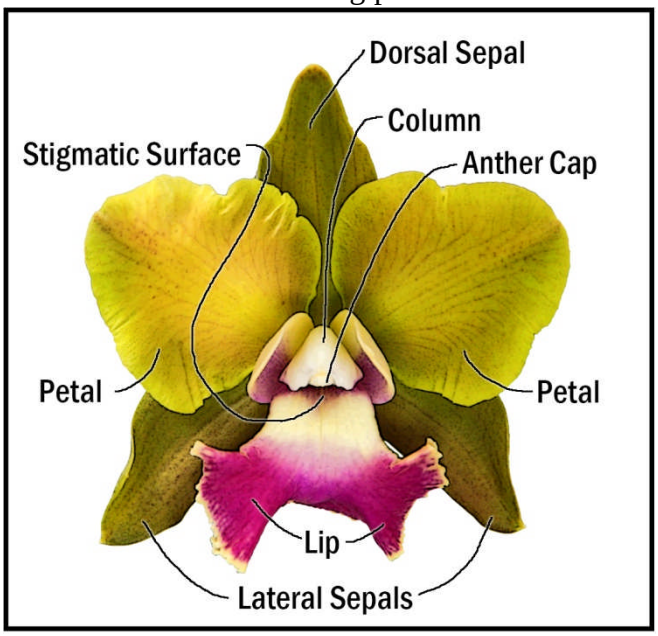
On cattleyas, flower buds emerge from a **sheath**, a modified leaf that encloses an emerging inflorescence. Some cattleyas bloom soon after the growth matures and the sheath is formed (said to bloom on green sheaths) and others rest for several months before blooming (said to bloom on dried sheaths). Sheaths should be watched carefully. If the color changes to yellow or brown, the sheath should be carefully opened and pulled down so water can drain freely. Otherwise condensation inside the sheath from day-night temperature changes can cause the flower buds to rot in the sheath. Some cattleyas like those with walkeriana in the background don't bloom from sheaths. If you allow water to accumulate in the cataphyll extending above the leaf base, it can rot the emerging bud.



The inflorescence (in-floor-ESS-ents) is the flowering part of the plant. Typical parts of the inflorescence include the peduncle, pedicel and flower itself. On a cattleya, the inflorescence consists of a peduncle (pe-DUNK-ul), the stalk of an inflorescence that arises from the bulb, and the pedicel (PED-i-sel), the stalk of an individual flower that branches from the peduncle. Some orchids like a *Rl. digbyana* have a long and twisted pedicel so the flower is normally not well displayed unless it has been staked to provide structural support. Phalaenopsis bloom from a raceme (ray-SEEM), a type of inflorescence with short-stalked flowers borne on an elongated stem that bears the pedicels and flowers. Racemes can be upright, arched or even pendent. Those of phalaenopsis are most often upright or arched and should be staked during development to make sure the flowers are presented to their best advantage.



Orchid flowers have three outer and three inner flower parts. The outermost flower parts are the three **sepals**, the dorsal sepal at the top of the flower and the two lateral sepals at the bottom of the flower. The innermost flower parts are the petals, consisting of the two petals on either side of the flower and the **lip** or **labellum** usually at the base of the flower. The lip is a modified petal and often the most striking part of the flower. It is very different from the other two petals and plays an important role in pollination, often serving as a landing platform for insects. The **column** is a flashy structure that is in the middle of the flower and consists of fused reproductive parts, the male **anther** that bears the **pollinia** or pollen pellets and the female receptive organ, the **stigma,** a shiny depression filled with a sticky fluid. You don't need to know much more about this X-rated material unless you feel compelled to carry a toothpick around with you while you are admiring your orchid flowers. At that point, you'll have to give yourself over to a higher power as your orchid addiction has escalated!



Thank you to Sue Bottom for permission to reprint this article for our newsletter. Sue and her husband, Terry, are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Sue maintains the society's website and publishes its monthly newsletter. Check out the STAUG Orchid Society website and the AOS magazine, ORCHIDS, for more of Sue's articles.

Thank you Sally

We may have been rained out for the ramble, but Sally didn't disappoint any of the new members who showed up with plant issues. She brought her supplies and had plenty of time to give each person individual attention. Thank you, Sally, for your great lessons and we look forward to visiting your orchid house some time in the future.