

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

November 2013 Edition

The Rhyzome

President's Message,

Plan to attend the November meeting at the Rockledge Garden Club. It's an important one with voting and a plant sale.

We hope you are planning to attend the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7th. It is forecasted to be a great party with dinner, dancing, smooth music, champagne punch and an opportunity to get to know your fellow orchid society members better. There will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate and drawings for orchids and poinsettias.

SUNSHINE

Deepest sympathy to Alan and Kay Keith on the passing of Kay's mother.

Continuing get well wishes to Ginny Oliphant.



Onc. Papilio (psychopsis) and C. chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
AM/AOS

Growers Joan and Ed Lehnert

Mark Your Calendar

- Nov. 13th Holiday party and Board meeting
at Garden Club
- Nov. 13th 7pm Plant sale (For members only)
Elections of new officers
- Dec. 7th Holiday Party—Cocoa -
Rockledge Garden Club
1493 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge
Reservations are required.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

President	Cathy Virata
Vice Pres.	B.J. Hendrikson
Secretary	Holly Pardi
Treasurer	Joyce Schofield
Directors:	Nadine Kern (2 years)
	Camille Theobald (2 years)
	Marsha Lovas (1 year)

2013 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

PRESIDENT

Dennis Gollehon

321-427-6959

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Joyce Schofield

321-783-5200

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

Margaret Croucher

321-454-4067

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

SECRETARY

Camille Theobald

321-868-8277

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Jim Adamson

321-632-2847

jadamson1@cfl.rr.com

DIRECTORS

Sally Pancoast

Kay Broughton

Nadine Kern

Marsha Lovas

MEMBERSHIP

Joyce Schofield

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

SUNSHINE/AOS LIASSON

Betty Adamson

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

HOSPITALITY/GREETER

Shearer Kennedy

Darlene Giers

EXHIBITS

Sally Pancoast

Joyce Schofield

PROGRAMS

Joyce Schofield

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Castillo

Charlie Scholes

RAFFLE

Karen Snee

PUBLICITY

Ann Colchin

PCOS Embroidered Shirts

Platinum Coast Orchid Society with flower in the center.

Available at :

Robin's Nest Embroidery

1314 Clearlake Rd., Ste. 4

Cocoa, FL

Phone: 321-636-4320

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 articles in this month’s edition.
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.

UPCOMING SHOWS

- Nov. 2-3 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show
Pompano Beach Civic Center
- Nov. 15-17 Orchid Society of Coral Gables
“AOS Fall Show and Members Meeting”
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden



A portion of the proceeds from our show go to supporting our local Candlelighters, which benefits children with cancer. President Dennis Gollehon and member Joan Lehnert presented our check to Carrie Wam and Adis Perez from Candlelighters.



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

AOS CORNER

AOS Affiliated Societies. As a member of the American Orchid Society, you have the opportunity and ability to interact with orchid societies throughout the world. AOS recognizes that their affiliated societies are the backbone of the American Orchid Society. At the local level members can discover more detailed regional information about growing a variety of orchids. What works in Florida does not necessarily work in Canada or Australia. Affiliated societies receive a copy of Orchids magazine monthly, are listed in the Orchid Source Directory at no cost to the society and the promotion of any shows in AOS Calendar of Events. Affiliated societies have the benefit of low cost show insurance and on site AOS judging as well as the privilege of presenting the prestigious AOS Show Trophy at their AOS sanctioned shows. These are just some of the advantages of being an AOS affiliated society. More exist and they are described in more detail on the AOS website under the Affiliated Societies tab. The Affiliated Societies Committee is always looking for suggestions from AOS members on how AOS can be more responsive and connected to its affiliated societies. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them along to me at affiliated_societies@aos.org. All of your ideas or suggestions will be discussed at our biannual meetings.

AOS Affiliated Societies Representative. AOS membership for the AOS Representative -- in addition to a society membership -- is one of the basic requirements to be an AOS affiliated society. The AOS Representative is responsible for keeping the society up to date on activities of AOS. They should also be the spokesperson and ambassador for AOS at meetings and shows of the society. They should keep the AOS current on the leadership of their society, notifying headquarters of changes of meeting dates, locations, etc. as they happen. AOS Reps, and any AOS member, can attend the biannual Affiliated Societies Breakfast at the AOS Members' and Trustees' meetings. These breakfasts provide an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas among the societies.

AOS Committees. The business of AOS is conducted through committees. Some of the committees – mainly Research, Conservation, Membership, Affiliated Societies, Education – may be looking for some new members. Being a part of an AOS Committee can be a rewarding experience and give you the opportunity to participate more in the mission of AOS. If you have an interest in joining a committee, communicate your interest to the chair (their email address is provided in *Orchids*).

Lynn Fuller, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

SHOW THEMES TO BE VOTED ON—CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE AND VOTE FOR IT AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Aloha Color Parade Orchid Show	Orchid Luau Show	Orchid Lagoon Show
Island Orchidfest	Oo-La-La Orchids	Orchid Corral
Orchid Color Pinwheel Show	Orchid Harbor Show	Island Orchids
Rocket Cape Orchid Show	Orchid Wave	Orchid Aloha
Indian River Lagoon-An Orchid Paradise	An Orchid Affair	Mosquito Cape Orchid Show
Orchid Planifolia Show	Orchid Color Palate Show	Aloha Color Parade Show
Orchid Memories	Orchid Magic	The Magic of Orchids
Orchid Enchantment	A Rainbow of Orchids	A Kalidescope of Orchids
A Parade of Orchids	Orchids on Parade	

OCTOBER MEETING

Pulled pork, beans, and apple cake helped us celebrate the cooler weather of Fall at October's meeting. Charlie Scholes gave a few personal pointers on how he organizes his orchids.

At right:

V. Dr. Anek X V Pornpimd-Sunray

Vanda Brighton's Ruby Jewel

Ascda Jiraprapa X Pranerm pai X Tubtim Velvet

Growers: Margaret & Bill Croucher

Below: Dendrobium New City

Grower: Christina Rovira



"..Your society has the BEST website, bar none!!! You all do such a fabulous job. I thoroughly enjoy the members and holiday photo's,,pics of plants and newsletters. You should be very proud of the excellent work that you do."

Note from Janet and Stormy

Raffle Fun

Every current member who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing.



Monthly Checklist for November and December from the AOS website

Cattleya Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter. The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases). Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

Cymbidium Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike. While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest. A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules..

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