

October 2006

## Platinum Coast Orchid Society

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[www.PlatinumCoast](http://www.PlatinumCoast)



# The Rhyzome

*Rhi-zome; n., a creeping stem lying, usually horizontally, at or under the surface of the soil..*

### Board Members 2006

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- ✦ Glenda Titler, *Vice-President, Tel.: (321) 637-0948*
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- ✦ Jim Adamson, *Past-President Advisor, Tel.: (321) 632-2847*

### Bob the Orchid Addict

*Bob Libbey*

The Cocoa Beach Back to Basics meeting was very good and informative thanks to Jaime Lawson.

We will be having a plant sale this month at the Expo. Jim is doing his (as usual) outstanding job of selecting a cross-section of first class plants for this sale.

- There will be no Show and Tell, just "Buy and Spend"!

It is time to select a new group of leaders for your club - please be thinking about whom you would like for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four board members, and if you would like to be on the nominating committee please let me know.

### What Is It?

*Craig Helping*

So, you bought that new orchid at our show, but what is it? Does it have a simple name, or do you have to try to pronounce some lengthy hybrid combination? Here's how to find out. Whether you can get access to the Internet with a home computer or at the public library, the Royal Horticultural Society can help. The recognized international authority for registering orchids, they maintain a web site that provides easy access to their official information called, "The International Orchid Register."

Start at the address: [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration\\_orchids.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp) (Note the underlined space between registration and orchids.asp). Scroll down and click on Parentage Search. Near the bottom of the new page, you'll find four boxes in a shaded background. Using the label on your new orchid, enter the information in the same order. You do not need to enter all of the details. For example, with the hybrid Blc. Ruth Davis x ("x" means "crossed with") Toshie Aoki, you can enter only those parent hybrid names in the boxes marked "Grex." Then click on the word "search" at the bottom. The next page gives the results: Brassolaeliocattleya Hawaiian Features. That is now the grex, or registered hybrid name, of that popular cross. Click on the Hawaiian Features name and the next page will show you the details of the registration. You now know you actually own a Blc. Hawaiian Features! If no result comes up, it means the cross has not been registered yet and you'll have to continue identifying it by the lengthier name on the tag.



## Have I Got It

In the last article [*pg. 1*], we looked at how to see if your new plant has a hybrid, or grex name registered in The International Orchid Register maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society. Besides trying to find out if you can refer to your orchid with a single name, there is another practical aspect to using this web-based resource.

Orchid hybridization is a BIG business. Thousands of new crosses are created each year. If a cross eventually becomes a successful one that people actually want to buy, they are usually registered. However, there can be a significant delay in how soon that registered grex is used in common practice. For the Blc. Ruth Davis x Toshie Aoki, the single grex name Hawaiian Features was created on November 30, 1998. At our show recently, I saw vendors selling orchids labeled Blc. Ruth Davis x Toshie Aoki. I also saw Blc. Hawaiian Features for sale. Both labels are correct, but if you bought both, you now have two of the same orchid! If you have an "orchid wish list" you are looking for, it would be a good idea to regularly check the web site: [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration\\_orchids.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp) to find out if a cross has been registered yet. If so, you will know to look for the name either way. That will keep you from buying multiple plants of the same kind, unless that is your goal!

## Bulbophyllum: A Taxonomist's Nightmare

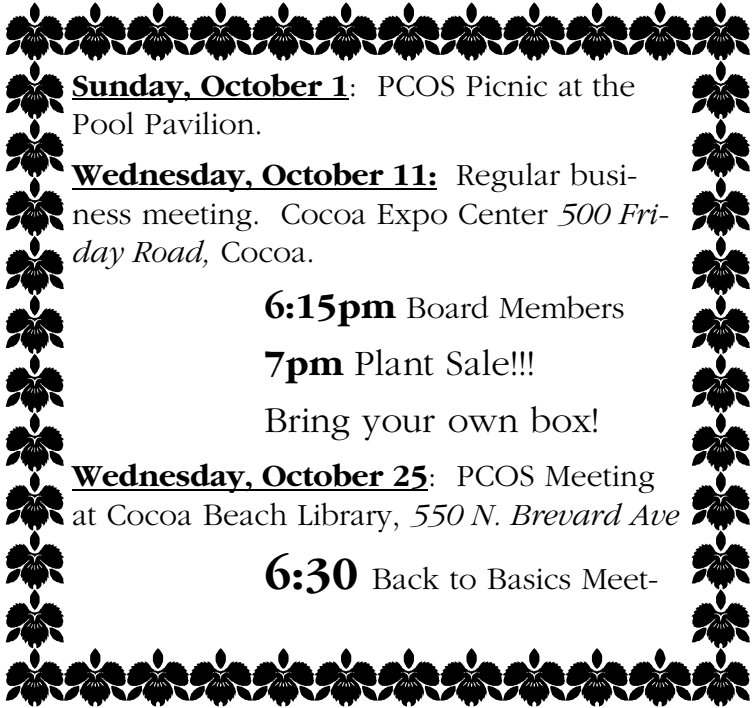
The Bulbophyllum is the largest genus of the orchid family, Orchidaceae, with a current species count that is well over one thousand. The genus Bulbophyllum was first described in 1822 by a Frenchman named Louis-Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars (or botanically abbreviated: "Thouars") in Madagascar, who recounted seventeen Bulbophyllum species. There are now close to three thousand accepted names and synonyms for this genus, causing taxonomists to cringe. The name 'Bulbophyllum' stems from Latin, "bulbus" (or bulb-like), and Greek, "phyllon" (leaf), in reference to the pseudobulbs, from which the leaves grow.

The most famous characteristic of the Bulbophyllum (pictured left) is the mobile lip. It bobs and weaves in the slightest breeze to attract flies for pollination, and reeks of something rotting and rancid.

The Bulbophyllum classification has grown unchecked for many years now. There are currently over a hundred sections and subgenera of this family, with many species having up to *ten* synonyms, some of which may deserve generic status. A taxonomist studying this complex family of flowers can expect many long hours (weeks, months and even *years*) of research. To date, no one has risen to the daunting task of untangling the Bulbophyllum family; we know only a marginal bit of information about the phylogenetics (evolutionary



# October 2006



**Sunday, October 1:** PCOS Picnic at the Pool Pavilion.

**Wednesday, October 11:** Regular business meeting. Cocoa Expo Center *500 Friday Road, Cocoa.*

**6:15pm** Board Members

**7pm** Plant Sale!!!

Bring your own box!

**Wednesday, October 25:** PCOS Meeting at Cocoa Beach Library, *550 N. Brevard Ave*

**6:30** Back to Basics Meet-



## Welcome New Members!

- John and
- Barbara Olsson



## Brevard County Society

### **Brevard County Orchid Society's 46th Annual Fall Orchid Fair**

Saturday, November 4th from 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Sunday, November 5th from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Azan Shrine Center  
1591 W. Eau Gallie Parkway  
Melbourne, FL (3.8 miles east of I-95 Exit 183)

Admission \$3.00

- Ribbon judging with cash prizes. Plants must be registered between 3:00pm and 6:00pm on Friday, November 3rd.
- Free seminars on orchids, including culture and care, every hour on the half-hour.
- Free AOS orchid culture sheets for many orchid types.
- Every paid admission includes an entry for the door prize drawing.
- 15 vendors from south and central Florida with orchids, orchid supplies, and embroidered sportswear.

Janis Walters, Advertising & Publicity





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