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The Rhyzome

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

Board Members 2007

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Jim's Bench

Jim Adamson

Dear Members,

I finally have good news for you about the show. I signed a contract today(7/3/07) with the current expo owners. Therefore the show is a, "Go!" and I finally feel we can rest easy and proceed with all plans as we have in the past. For those of you that don't know, the show is August 17, 18, and 19th. Set up, of course, begins early. In fact, some activity will be started on Monday of that week. You will receive more details and specific information at the July meeting which is on July 11th at the Cocoa Expo cafeteria at 7:00 pm. We will be passing out posters and advanced tickets to everyone at this meeting. Please be there, it is a very important meeting. Please everyone try to help with the show this year.

Another reason to attend this meeting is: we will have a speaker. Vern Black, a well-known grower and prior owner of Palm Bay Orchids, will be our speaker. I have heard several favorable comments from those who have heard him speak before. Please support us with your presence at this meeting.

Thanks,

Ridge Orchid Society Show

The Ridge Orchid Society will present its 45th annual orchid show, "Tropical Jewels", on Sat. Sept 15th and Sun. Sept. 16th. The show will be held at Tiger Town Hangar #2, behind Joker Marchant Stadium, 2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland, Florida. Show hours are Sat. 10-5 and Sun. noon-5.

There will be a variety of orchid displays designed by societies and nurserymen, from around Central Florida. Vendors will be selling orchids, supplies, orchid artwork, and gift items. Society members will be available to provide growing advice and to replot your overgrown orchid plant.

This event is sponsored by the City of Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department.

ADMISSION IS FREE!!!



Grow Orchids on Trees

reprinted from AOS website: <http://www.aos.org/aos/orchids/page16.aspx>

The AOS thanks Tim Anderson of Daisy Farm Nursery for this essay ...

Orchids may be cultivated on trees in Hawaii, the Caribbean and elsewhere in the subtropics and tropics. Many are suitable in USDA Zone 11 of the continental United States. In Florida, they enhance gardens in the Keys and those situated inland along the coast north to West Palm Beach on the east coast and Ft. Myers on the west coast. In California, many orchids are hardy north to Santa Barbara; some survive up to San Luis Obispo, with protection during the winter. Distribution may extend farther north inland near bodies of water, where microclimates remain slightly warmer during cold snaps.

Match the orchid to its environment. Orchids originate in diverse habitats, from treetops in full sun to shaded swamps. Evaluate your garden's exposure, and select the appropriate species and hybrids. In sun, consider vandas. In dim light, try oncidiums, phalaenopsis and cattleyas. Many varieties are suitable for intermediate conditions. A local orchid nursery can help make selections.

Choose a tree that admits adequate light. Oaks, citrus, bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*, *C. citrinus*), palms, schefflera (*Brassaia actinophylla*) and the less-common calabash (*Crescentia alata*) are prime candidates. *Ficus* often casts too much shade. Rough bark is an asset, though not essential for success.

Begin to attach orchids to trees when root activity on the orchids starts (usually the regular potting time). Many orchids produce roots year round, so they can be established on trees during almost any warm month. For example, since *Cattleya skinneri* roots and flowers in March and April, set it on trees in January or February. Late summer is appropriate for *Cattleya bowringiana*, since new roots emerge in early autumn, just after blooming ceases.

Position the orchid so the flowers will be enjoyed from a patio, walkway or inside the home. Match aesthetics with cultural needs.

Try seedlings, divisions or established plants. The back pseudobulbs of cattleyas rapidly adapt to life in a tree.

Set the plant directly on the trunk or limb; do not apply a pad of sphagnum moss, osmunda or other medium. Doing so may keep the surface too wet and induce rot. Roots may grow into the medium, but not onto the tree, reducing their ability to cling to the host.

Attach with cotton string that will eventually decompose and not harm the environment. It fades in a few weeks, blending in with its surroundings, and the plant will have rooted in place when the fibers deteriorate one year later. Plastic ties and monofilament are alternatives. But since these synthetics are not biodegradable, it is necessary to loosen them as the stems grow, and eventually remove them once the roots form. Hot-glue guns are another choice; take care not to injure new leads. Place a dab of glue on the rhizome or pseudobulb and hold against the tree for a few seconds.

Provide adequate care, especially during the first few months. Mist with a hose, or run a sprinkler line up into the tree. Lightweight PVC pipes are easy to hold in place. Specimens near an orchid house respond favorably to the same care given to containerized specimens. Established plants are almost



July 2007

-Wednesday, July 11 at 7pm the Regular Business Meeting will be held in the room behind the Cocoa Expo Cafeteria, **500 Friday Road in Cocoa, Florida**. -6:15 Board Members.

-Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30pm the Back to Basics Meeting will be held at the Cocoa Beach Library, **550 N. Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach**,



Announcement

The Volusia County Orchid Society's annual Orchid Auction & Used Book Sale will be 8:00 a.m Sat., July 21, at the Volusia County Ag Center (Fairgrounds). For more info call 386-943-8154.

Central Florida Orchids

Central Florida Epiphytic:

Encyclia tampensis (FL Native)

Epidendrum conopseum (FL Native)



Central Florida Terrestrial:

Eulophia alta

Habenaria opdontopetala

Sacoila lanceolata

Spiranthes odorata

Spiranthes preacox

Spiranthes sylvatica

Spiranthes vernalis



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