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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

- ✎ Jim Adamson, *President*, Tel.: (321) 632-2847
- ✎ Alan Gettleman, *Vice-President*, Tel.: (321) 454-3239
- ✎ Ginny Landreth, *Secretary*, Tel.: (321) 631-6316
- ✎ Craig Helpling, *Treasurer*, Tel.: (321) 779-0123
- ✎ Jack Taylor, *Board Member*, Tel., (321) 453-4856
- ✎ Toni Bell, *Board Member*, Tel.: (321) 751-3900
- ✎ Sherrill Gossett-Moore, *Board Member*, Tel.: (321) 784-4006
- ✎ Bob Libbey, *Past-President Advisor*, Tel.: (407) 568-2740

## Jim's Bench

*Jim Adamson*

Put Monday, May 14 at 7pm on your calendars for the first regular meeting of the month!

I regret to inform you that as of press time I do not have much more definitive information relative to our permanent meeting place or where, if any place, we will have a Summer Show. I can tell you that there are a couple of glimmers of hope but the information is too indefinite to report to you. So I going to leave it at that and hope to be able to give you more positive information at the meeting. I was tempted to put together a plant sale for you but as you can surmise it was just too risky not knowing where we would be meeting etc. to do it for now. Hang in there and hopefully we can have it in June. We will come up with something of great interest for this meeting.

Thanks,

Jim

## Welcome

We would like to welcome **Pat Walker** to the club as our newest member!



## Epidendrums in Full Bloom

Betty Adamson

The ever popular *Epidendrum radicans* are rapidly growing and blooming with the warmer and more humid temperatures. While we often complain as these conditions develop, the orchids relish it and especially this *Epidendrum*. Commonly known as, “the poor man’s orchid,” or sometimes, “the crucifix,” I prefer to recognize it as the, “landscape orchid,” since it is easy to have a lot of bright showy colors with a minimal amount of effort.

*Radicans* are tough and prolific, and can stand more abuse than any other orchid. They are easy to care for but with some special attention they will reward you with an extraordinary burst of color. These thin, tall, reed-like growths constantly put forth new growths. Some of the newer hybrids have shorter and stronger growths and produce even more flowers, looking almost like a ball of blooms. They are free flowering and their colour range is white, yellow, pink, orange and all shades in-between. My favorite is always the fire red ones but the others are also great! Their growth habit is very upright with roots emerging from the base of the stem at or below the soil level. They tend to be relatively free of insects and flower throughout the year, but more prolifically during the warmer months. Their leaves are leathery and their globular shaped heads with thirty to forty flowers appear at the top of the spike. Some of them have a slight fragrance & their blooms are long lasting. The plant will generally flower again from the same spike in a few months, which always tends to amaze even the seasoned orchid grower. The spike also is prone to produce a keiki(s) (or “baby”) after flowering. Once the keiki has three inch roots, it can be detached and planted.



The plant should be kept tidy: remove the old flowers spikes by snapping them clean with your fingers or you may cut them. They will tolerate a wide range of temperatures, over 100 degrees does not seem to bother them! Do not let them dry out, and since they are growing in the sun they will require a lot of moisture. While you can grow them in lower light, do not expect as many flowers. One should also acclimate them to the sunlight if you have had them in a shadier spot. Watch the plants closely because a reddish tinge to the leaves means their light tolerance has been reached. They require copious amounts of fertilizer and will respond immediately with denser flower spikes and more robust roots; healthier stronger roots always give you more flowers. The potting medium can be fir bark, old fir bark, tree fern, etc., or even some soil, providing it will drain well. They should be placed in lower light for a short period after re-potting. The fertilizer requirements may be a little different, depending upon your medium—just experiment and see which one they respond to the best!!

The choice of pot is clay but they will also tolerate the plastic ones. The pot should drain well as the plants like to be wet, then allowed to dry.

If you do not have the various colors of the *radican*, hope you will try to obtain some soon. You will be happy with the strong burst of color and the easiness of acquiring a happy showy plant and your neighbors and guests will be awed!



**Monday, May 14:** Regular business meeting: in the room behind *Cocoa Expo Cafeteria*

**6:15pm** Board Members

**7pm** Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, May 23:**

**6:15pm** Back to Basics Meeting, *Cocoa Beach Library*

### Sunshine

Betty Adamson

Deepest sympathy is sent to the family of former member Gilles Kaat, who recently passed away.

Continuing get well wishes are sent to Toni Bell and Judy Driver.

### Umbrella Chances

The orchid umbrella will be won by someone at this month's meeting. Tickets will continue to be sold up until the drawing; \$1.00 a chance, *eight* for \$5.00 or *twenty* for \$10.00.



### Yours, "Cheap"

Large, *very large*, mammoth Staghorn Ferns. You must pick up. Contact Flossie Staton [321-453-2703] for all the information!

### Redlands Show at Spice Park *Betty Adamson*

Brevard County Orchid Society has chartered a bus to the Redlands Show on May 19. Seats are available for \$25.00. This covers the transportation, entrance fee and a \$5.00 purchase coupon. If you want to go to a place where there are vendors everywhere, this is the place to go! The bus will depart from Eau Gallie Blvd in Melbourne at 6:30 a.m. and they expect to be back by 7:30 p.m. For additional information or to sign up, contact Ron Fisher at 626-9883.

### ***AOS: Looking Ahead***

The South FL Leadership Council is presenting a special "Orchids by the Beach" on October 19-21 at the Headquarters at Delray Beach. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Alec Pridgeon. (It's been years since I heard him speak but have never forgotten it!) This is the same weekend Ft. Pierce Orchid Society will be having their show which is an AOS judged show. One could visit their show then journey on down to Delray Beach.

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

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