

Platinum Coast Orchid Society, Brevard County, Florida

The Rhizome

August, 2010 Edition

Editor: Patti Scholes



Jim's Recommendations

There were several new members at the Back to Basics Meeting, so Jim gave the following advice:

1. Use a slow release fertilizer like Dynamite 13-13-13.
2. Also use Hi-Bloom (Fertilome), half strength twice a month.
3. Don't leave your phalenopsis in a clear plastic pot.
4. Check out repotme.com

AOS CORNER

By Chris Rehmann, American Orchid Society President

Lynn Fuller, the new Affiliated Society Chairperson has given me this opportunity to introduce myself to each of the Affiliated Society members through the AOS Corner. I am your new AOS President and have the pleasure to serve each of you for a one year term.

Who am I? Well, I am an orchid hobbyist like most of you. I grow mainly Cattleya species with some multi-flora Paphiopedilums to take up the darker spaces in my greenhouses. In order to support my "*orchid habit*," I own a Civil-Environmental Engineering firm located in southern New Jersey.

The Affiliated Societies are the backbone of the American Orchid Society. We all probably started as a member of a local society to find more information about these beautiful flowers called orchids. My local society is the Sandpiper Orchid Society, located near Atlantic City, New Jersey. This great group of orchid lovers has assisted me in many ways to cultivate better orchids.

Walter Off, the co-owner of a local commercial orchid business helps to organize the Sandpiper Orchid Society and has been a tremendous assistance to new and long time growers. Walt provides information on local conditions that improve culture and eliminates the trial and error methods to find the right fertilizer for our local conditions.

I am sure each Affiliated Society has a local commercial grower that is involved with their group. Support them so that they are there to provide the best cultural information for your area.

Many commercial growers provide discounts to AOS members. Ask them to see if they participate in this program. If you are like me, I pay for my AOS membership with discounts from orchid purchases.

One of my initiatives is to provide better communication between the Affiliated Societies and the national organization. All too often, the AOS Trustees come to a Show that has been organized by an Affiliated Society, become engrossed in meetings and never mingle with our local members. After organizing the Show, raising funds to rent the venue needed, and all the backbreaking work to set up exhibits, it would be nice to be able to interact with your national leaders. It is my goal to encourage this discourse.

The Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium is being held in Virginia Beach, Virginia from Oct. 27-31, 2010. This will be a great event. Please consider joining us at the Show. The hotel has given the event planners great prices so come for the weekend. There are international speakers from France and Germany. It is a once in a lifetime chance to hear their words of wisdom about orchid culture.

Thank you again for affording me the opportunity to serve you as President. It is a great Society of wonderful people. Join us. Become a member of the American Orchid Society.

Welcome to our New Members

Linda Brayer
Dale Burrell
Nancy Cariseo
Scott Geiser
Natalie Cisneros
Margaret Croucher
Laura DeCarlo
Carolyn Gorenflo
Phyllis Harris
Peter Jones
Barry Kennedy
Lorna Mazza
LeeAnn McCullough
Kathryn Montague
Terry Nickerson
Sue Oliver
Kate Sebastiani
Catherine Virata



Vanda Thanadee-Dr. Arek
Grower-Sue Oliver

SURFING FOR ORCHIDS

By Lee Ann McCullough

orchidmall.com This site is a good link to other orchid sites. There are few general categories. Great categories are *Announcements and Events* that is wonderful for looking at upcoming orchid shows and sales. Another great category is *Orchid Societies* that will link you to each society's website. Yes, we were there and it looked super. If you are looking for vendors of either plants or supplies you can check out *Orchid Plant Sources or Services, Supplies & Software*. These links were alright but a little hard to maneuver. Under *Reading Room* you can find articles, however you really need to know what you are looking for because there is little organization. The *Speakers* section is very outdated and not good at all. The other categories are interesting, so check out orchidmall.com if you want to know about other societies and what they are up to.

The second site is orchidsites.com and is like Orchid Mall but on a state level and not a national one. Here you can find resources in Florida. This site gives you growers, suppliers, a few travel sites and information on orchids. This site was fair.

The third site is fnativeorchids.com. This site has some great photos. If you ever need Florida Law and how it protects our native orchids, then this gets you there fast. State Statute has been copied to this site. This site was also fair.

Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helping

At one of our 'Back to Basics' meetings, someone asked if it was okay to water orchids with reclaimed water provided by the city of Cocoa Beach. Since I work for the County water and wastewater utility, I was asked to answer the question. Later, I was asked if I would write something for the newsletter addressing reclaimed water, other sources of water, and the best type to use on orchids. This will be the first in a seven-part series.

Part 1. Reclaimed Water

Some of the public wastewater utilities in our area have reuse programs to manage part of their treated wastewater. The raw sewage arriving at the plant is treated by various methods to produce effluent that fully complies with state law. This treated, 'reclaimed water' is pumped from the treatment plant back to some neighborhoods and is safe to use for irrigating residential lawns and landscaping. Is it good for orchids?

Reclaimed water usually does not contain a lot of nutrients, such as nitrogen or phosphorus. State rules require the wastewater to be treated to remove such nutrients. What 'safe' really means for reclaimed water is that it has also been treated sufficiently to remove all harmful bacteria and viruses. But, even though reclaimed water has very low nutrient content and contains no bacteria or viruses, that does not mean it is always ideal for use on orchids.

The state rules for domestic wastewater treatment do not address total dissolved solids. Dissolved salts and other minerals are in the raw sewage when it gets to the treatment plant. The biological, filtration and disinfection methods used at the plant to clean up the wastewater do very little or nothing to reduce those mineral and salts.

When the water in the ground is influenced by brackish or salty water, it is common for the domestic sewage arriving at the plant to be more salty than the wastewater leaving the houses. Sewage collection pipes and manholes, especially ones built many years ago, often leak. But, with a high water table and deep sewer lines, raw sewage does not leak out; ground water leaks in. Commonly on the barrier islands, it is more likely that the ground water is salty and this infiltration adds dissolved solids to the collected sewage; dissolved solids that won't be removed by the wastewater treatment processes.

Reclaimed water that is low in total dissolved solids content can be an ideal source for irrigating orchids. However, whether you live on a barrier island or on the mainland, it's best to make sure how salty the reclaimed water is before you use it. Take a sample to the local Agricultural Extension Office and ask that it be tested. The service is free. When you get the results, then decide if it might be good for your orchids, or if it is so salty it might damage them.



Blc. Tillie Mueller - Grower Joyce Schofield

This was one of sixteen orchids that was given to me about 10 years ago by my next door neighbor. She was moving into a condo and wouldn't be able to care for them anymore. This is when my infatuation with orchids began. I realized after a while that growing and caring for orchids was not that difficult. I repotted this orchid about 2 years ago in sphagnum moss. At that time sphagnum moss was being touted as the best medium, but I found that it dries out too quickly. When I repot in a few months, I will probably use a combination of aliflor and coir and only report my phals with the sphagnum. Most of my 'cats' hang from my magnolia tree in the backyard. Right now, I water about twice a week. I try to fertilize once a week with ferti-lome blooming and rooting plant food (9-59-8).

Dendrobium bracteosum—Grower Sally Pancoast

I purchased this plant as an unbloomed seedling at the Miami International Show in March of 2009 from H&R for \$7. It is a cross of 2 color variations, white and rose. It bloomed last summer with only 1 cluster of flowers. I was hoping for the rose, but got the white. This plant is aptly named. The flowers grow from the "bracts" along the old canes. It has been flowering for the past month, with even more clusters of white 1" flowers with orange-yellow lip exploding from the bracts on older canes. It's grown in my shade house with medium to bright light conditions and, with most of my Dendrobiums, given a winter rest period with limited water and no fertilizer.



MEMBERSHIP

Dear PCOS Members,

There comes a time when all of us will choose to step down from our current positions and responsibilities within the PCOS due to physical limitations or other circumstances in our lives. That time has come for me. Effective Dec. 1st, 2010, I will resign my position as PCOS Membership Chairman and hopefully turn the work over to a current member who has active interest in the PCOS and the importance of performing the duties of Membership Chairman.

The Membership committee consists of the Membership Chairman who sits on the PCOS Board and is appointed by the President. The Membership committee chairman's responsibilities are to maintain accurate membership records and provide current membership lists to Board Members and selected committee members, as required. There are two membership committee members who work with the Membership chairman. One, Denise Baumann, prepares and distributes membership Name Tags to all members. The second member is responsible for New Member Orientations, including preparing and distributing related materials to all new members. This position has not been filled to date, therefore no New Member Orientations have been conducted.

The purpose of this article is to request current members who may be interested in the Membership Chairman or the New Member Orientation positions to please contact me or Jim Adamson as soon as possible. I will be happy to spend as much time as reasonably necessary to train selected members so there is a timely transition to these positions. You can contact Jim Adamson at 632-2847 or e-mail Jim at jadamson1@cfl.rr.com. Or, you can call me at 453-4856 or send me an email at mjtquest@cfl.rr.com.

We look forward to hearing from those who would like to help the PCOS in one of these important positions.

Best Regards,
Jack Taylor, PCOS Membership Chairman



Phal. Mahinhin
(Phal. equesteis x
Phal lueddemanniana)
Grower - Mary DeSorbo

Patti Scholes
1520 Tuna Street
Merritt Island, FL 32952

Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Aug. 11th—6:15pm, Cocoa Expo
Board Meeting

Wed., Aug. 11th—7:00pm, Cocoa Expo
General Meeting

Wed., Aug. 25th—6:30pm, Cocoa Beach Library
Back to Basics Meeting

Save the Date

October 3rd—12 Noon Annual Picnic

The picnic will be held at the Cocoa Beach Pavilion. Thank you to Denise Baumann for volunteering to chair this event.

Reserve your place and choose the side dish you would like to bring at the August and September meetings.

December 18th—Holiday Party

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 18-19
Ridge Orchid Society Show
Lake Mirror Center
121 S. Lake Ave.
Lakeland, FL

October 16-17
Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Community Center
Veterans Memorial Park
Ft Pierce, FL

October 29-31
Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
51 Swinton Ave.
Delray Beach, FL

Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

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