

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

## The Rhizome

### August 2020



Pot. Love Call

There is no meeting in August, but that doesn't mean you are on your own. If you have any orchid growing questions, you can e-mail our forum leader, Betty, at [jadamson1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jadamson1@cfl.rr.com).

On page 5, I have included the webinars for August and September, if you are an AOS member.

If you are interested in joining AOS, there is information on page 2. Please contact Betty, who is also our AOS rep if you are going to join, because our society will get a bonus.

Thanks to everyone who participated in July's event by sending a photo of you with your orchids.

August's event is "What works for my orchids." Even if you are a beginner, you have discovered something that works for you. Write it up and send it to me and I will forward to the members.

As Margaret and I learned in the very first orchid class we took almost 30 years ago, when you ask a question about how to take care of an orchid, the answer is always, "It depends." We learn by trying new things. I am fighting ants in my phals and since I don't like to use chemicals, I flooded them out, pinching the escapees as they ran. Then I put the plants on a tray covered with cinnamon. I seem to remember something about cinnamon, but this is an experiment. I will let you know if it works for me.

#### SUNSHINE

*We continue to wish Mike the best as he receives his treatments.*

*Hope all of our PCOS members are staying well and appreciate all that extra time to care for your orchids and eat cookies, cake and candy!*

*We'll have a lot of catching up to do one day soon. Missing our meetings and camaraderie so very much. Stay strong and safe. Betty, Sunshine Chair*

#### Orchids looking for a good home

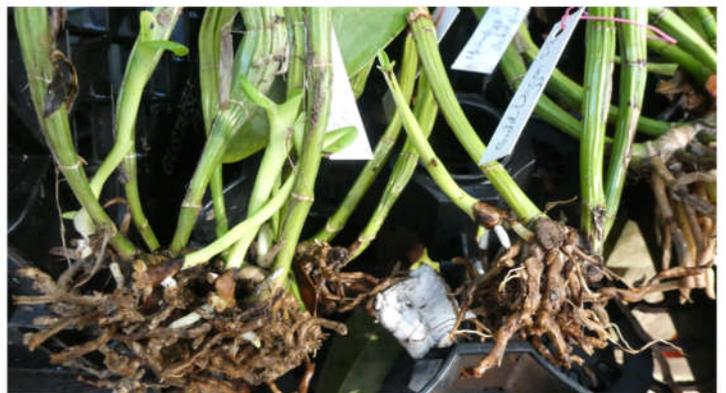
Like many of you, I have been using my self-imposed isolation to work with my orchids. I mean really, who wants to clean the house!. The result of my endeavors are numerous cattleya bulb divisions as well as lead divisions, some dendrobium kikis, and various 'things'. Some of the divisions are well rooted with new leads. These are all bare root, so you will need to pot them..

I also have numerous plants in pots that I don't want or need.

If you are interested, please let me know via email at [Sallypancoast@gmail.com](mailto:Sallypancoast@gmail.com).

This will be totally a NON-CONTACT event.

In the next few weeks, I will try to put together a list of what is available. I won't be charging \$\$\$ for most plants, but instead I am asking that you make a donation to **FEEDING AMERICA**. Visit [FeedingAmerica.org](http://FeedingAmerica.org) for information on ways to donate.



## 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 for check out.
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](http://www.aos.org)—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify the best way to grow your orchids.
6. Our society newsletter is available on [platinumcoastorchidsociety.org](http://platinumcoastorchidsociety.org)

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There’s an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

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](http://www.aos.org)

## Need Something to do?

**DID YOU KNOW?** The American Orchid Society will be celebrating its 100th anniversary April 2021. That’s a lot of orchid love through the years. The February issue of ORCHIDS will be dedicated to the centennial.

Our committee has been asked to contribute an article for publication in the centennial issue.

We are calling on our Affiliated Societies to tell us all you can about your history with the AOS. Personally, I have been our society AOS representative for the last ten years or so. I have been around orchids more than thirty years and a member of our affiliated society for almost eighteen, but I am sure that is just a drop in the bucket, compared to many other members out there.

If you have any history that you can share related to your society affiliation with AOS please share it with us. Please do not limit yourself!

*Here are a few ideas to get you started:*

- Do you know what prompted your society to become an affiliate of the AOS?
- What is the most beneficial aspect of your society’s relationship with the American Orchid Society?
- Does your AOS representative share AOS news with your society on a monthly basis?
- Do you have an amazing story about the history of your society as it relates to the AOS?
- Do you have photos of an early AOS judged orchid show?

Send your material to: [askmasc@verizon.net](mailto:askmasc@verizon.net)



## **2020 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN**

## **BE PART OF THE TEAM!**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Mike Ellis**

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Ed Kidder**

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### **TREASURER**

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### **SECRETARY**

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Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **DIRECTORS**

**Laura Blackmon (2020)**

**Bert Forbush (2020-2021)**

**Kathy Jacobson (2020)**

**Donna Morris (2020-2021)**

**Peter Pancoast (Past President)**

### **PLANT FORUM**

Betty Adamson

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Patti Scholes

### **SUNSHINE**

Betty Adamson

### **GREETER**

Margaret Smith

### **PROGRAMS**

Ed Kidder

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

Charlie Scholes

### **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

### **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

### **WEBMASTER**

Jody Romanowski

### **AUDIO**

Laura Blackmon

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Kathy Jacobson

### **SHOW CHAIR**

Laura Blackmon

## CULTURE CONNECTION

Visit the AOS website for a [Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care](https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/july-august-checklist.aspx)

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/july-august-checklist.aspx>

### **August: The Month of Midlife**

By Thomas Miranda

OK, calm down everyone. Resist it all you like, but we all get older. Those of us of a “certain age” are frequently accused of having a crisis in our lives because others perceive some slightly reckless or unusual behavior. Isn’t it hyperbolic to say we are in crisis simply because we seem restless in our jobs, dye our hair, buy a sporty car or, I don’t know, sell everything we own and relocate to Argentina so we can dance the tango with beautiful strangers. . . OK, that one does seem a bit much. Even so, why not shake things up a little in our lives? It is not so much about regaining our youth (you could not pay me to be 20 again) as it is about keeping life fresh and fun. When I was 20 everything was exciting and new and life was all about adventure and the future. We may be more settled now in our jobs and houses and partners, but life is still all about the future! Why shouldn’t it be just as exciting as it was when we were kids?

The growing of orchids may seem a passive pursuit to many, some might even say cultivating orchids is a pastime for a more subdued set, but I beg to differ. Readers of Orchids know that the activity is endlessly fascinating, and the subject staggeringly vast and mind-boggling. While the thrill I get from walking into the greenhouse and seeing a long awaited new orchid flower finally unfurled may not be equally adrenaline inducing as hang gliding, I also do not run the risk of breaking any bones when I do it! Some of the greatest peak experiences of my life have involved searching for and finding orchids in the wild. These experiences have almost always involved exotic travel, moderate to intense physical activity, immersing myself in nature as well as hanging out with friends, old and new. If that’s a life in crisis, I’ll take it!

**WISE ABOUT WATER** Rainwater is a gift from above, and excessive amounts of runoff actually can hurt our environment. Collecting rainwater and using it for your orchids is pretty easy and will be a boon to the health of your collection. A simple rain barrel with a submersible pump and a hose are the basic tools needed. Why waste this fine quality water? August is actually a tough time for orchid watering and you have to use your best judgment around this time. So many of your new growths that initiated in the spring are now approaching maturity. The observant grower will notice that they need less water and fertilizer now than they did months ago and should do better with a little less than they did when in active growth. Actually, the summer heat tends to halt plant metabolism in many of the intermediate growing orchids. Only the very warmest-growing orchids are unaffected by the intensities of summer weather.

**CAM PHOTOSYNTHESIS ORCHIDS** In fact, many warm-growing (and even some cooler growing) orchids engage in a water-retentive type of plant respiration referred to as crassulacean acid metabolism, or CAM photosynthesis. This is an adaptation that evolved in plants from desert habitats where temperatures are very high and water is scarce. These types of plants do not open their stomata during the day, or all the water in their tissues would immediately vaporize. Instead, CAM plants open at night, which allows needed respiration to occur without the risk of rapid desiccation. In your orchid collection, this means that many of your more succulent orchids might not be able to take up water from their roots until the sun goes down.

**FUNGAL ISSUES** Astute growers will tell themselves, “Well, I’m told never to water late in the day for risk of crown rot and fungal pathogens that can occur when plant surfaces are wet at night. But if they don’t take in water until evening, when should I water?” This has more to do with a phrase you see in this magazine frequently: “a well-drained but moisture retentive mixture.” This is the key to success for so many orchids. You have won half the watering battle by supplying the right mix for your climate for each individual in your collection. You may have the medium issue adequately addressed, but rot issues do tend to appear in the summer heat, especially if you mist your plants excessively to keep them cool. Be on the lookout for signs of bad fungi, broken down mixes that do not dry out (a sure sign of root rot), leaves that are not turgid and new growths that detach or disintegrate. If you have these types of problems, it might be time for an emergency repotting or treatment with a fungicide.

(Cont. from p.4)

THE HEAT IS ON By this time in the summer, deleterious effects of heat will become more pronounced, and you may have to rescue a few orchids. Do your best to cool plants by using combinations of mist, shade and air movement. If portions of your plants have succumbed to heat stress or appear to be rotting, it is always best to remove and discard those necrotic tissues, as the resulting diseases can easily spread to healthier portions of the plant. Treat any cuts you make with an antifungal or antibacterial substance such as cinnamon. Next month, some relief is in sight for your heat-stressed orchids. *(As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 84, NO.8, August 2015)*

Reminder for AOS Members

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	<b>August 13, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>August 26, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Wednesday	<b>September, 01, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>September 10, 2020</b> 8:30 EST Thursday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<i>Maxillaria</i> Not just <i>tenuifolia</i> anymore	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Encyclias and their Hybrids
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Eric Sauer</b> Awarded Maxillariaologist & Greenhouse Grower	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	Mike Curtin is an AOS Student Judge and member of Oregon Orchid Societies