

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

June 2021

Thanh Nguyen is our speaker for June. Thanh is a local grower who is also one of our show vendors and his program will be “Everything About Growing Orchids.” He will also have orchids for purchase.

July will be left open for rambles. If we have additional members volunteer to have a ramble, an e-mail will be sent the week before with address, date and time.

A big thank you to President Ed Kidder for supplying the orchids for the drawings at the May and June meetings.

Charlie Scholes is dividing his orchids, so if anyone is interested in a bare root piece, please let him know by contacting the newsletter editor.



Libby Vanzino's orchid opened the day after the meeting.

RAYS OF SUNSHINE

Please let Betty know if you know of any member who needs some “sunshine”. Right now, everyone seems to be fine.

CALENDAR

Wed., June 9, 6:00 Board Mtg.

Wed., June 9, 7:00 Meeting

****Speaker Thanh Nguyen**

Everything About Growing Orchids

**Sat., July 10, 10am—2pm Ramble
at Walter's Orchids, 800 North
Tropical Trail, Merritt Island**

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—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.



Betty’s vandas



May Meeting with Cindy Christie.

MEETING QUIZ: What is the most likely bug you will find on vandas? Respond to editor if you remember.

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 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

FERTILIZING PRODUCT OPTIONS

- Vandaman (Tony Roman)/R and R Orchids:**
 - Dyna-GRO Grow and Dyna-GRO Bloom (1 tsp/gallon) weekly
 - Three times with Dyna-GRO Grow then once with Dyna-GRO Bloom
 - 1-2 days before cold (if you can't bring Vandas inside) 1 Tbsp Epsom Salts
- Notes:**
 - Fertilizers with lower middle number (2 tsp/gallon) weekly.
 - Alternate with Epsom Salts and Potassium Nitrate (1 Tbsp/gallon each) which can be mixed with soluble trace elements (no phosphorus as active metal and binds up trace elements which inhibits absorption)
 - No bloom boosters (rare: shock occasionally once spring, once fall with first cold snap)
- Palmer Orchids— for Calcium/Magnesium AND soluble trace elements:**
 - Cal-Mag plus Seaweed Extract (14-2-14) 1 Tbsp/gallon
- Sue Bottoms:**
 - Peters Excel Cal Mag Special 15-5-15 with 5% Ca and 2% Mg (amount to use depends on water used)
- Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed (0-0-1)**

2021 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

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REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Jacobson

SHOW CHAIR

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TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST JUNE: THE MONTH OF TRANSFORMATION

By Thomas Mirenda

Have you ever wanted to just chuck it all? To start over, erase past mistakes, buy some fine new clothes, take a hot shower and feel like a brand-new you? Have you ever inadvertently said the precisely wrong thing in a conversation and hurt or upset someone you cared about, or would like to care about? Wouldn't it be great to just press a reset button and have all those awkward moments vanish? I have always liked to think that our basic core values stay with us all our lives, and though we may change outwardly, inside we remain the same. As I mature, I have come to realize that the brash young man I once was has indeed changed. It is no longer so important to be always right, to get all the attention, even to believe I am "special." Though the following statement changes the definition of the word, truly, we are ALL special.

June is a month that heralds development and transformation, both in our orchids and in our lives. The summer season is both a shift from academic pursuits to more hedonistic ones as well as a chance to balance, catch our breath, rest and assess, and change direction if need be. Before the stresses of summer heat materialize, this month may very well be the very best one to promote growth and progress in our plants and in our lives. Past cultural mistakes can now be corrected. Observant growers will witness rapid advancement practically daily at this time of year. It can be incredibly satisfying and most exciting. For me, it is actually more exciting than the onset of flower spikes.

LIGHTNESS The onset of summer marks the sun's ascent higher in the sky and increasing day length. This can have profound effects on your plants if you take advantage of it. Although most of our cultivated orchids grow in semishady conditions under a canopy of leaves, there is much to be said for natural light. After all, people spend hundreds of dollars on lighting systems that replicate sunlight, so why wouldn't you use the real thing if you had access to it? This is one reason why I recommend that everyone who can do so put their plants outside during these months that have generally excellent weather. It is, of course important for you to understand the light requirements for your individual plants so you can place them correctly. Cattleya light might burn a phalaenopsis and, phalaenopsis light will not induce vandas to flower.

AIRINESS Another reason to bring plants outside is to take advantage of the fresh air and gentle air movement. Fans, cool pads and vents are important tools to replicate orchids' epiphytic environments. But again, if the perfect conditions are outside under your willow, beech tree or covered patio, why not take advantage of that proximity? Fresh, naturally humid air will encourage excellent root growth, which will in turn produce big fat pseudobulbs on oncidiums, lycastes and catasetums. Many of these will grow incredibly fast this month if...

YOU FEED THEM June, with its optimum environmental conditions, has the potential to completely transform young plants if you supply them with the necessary nutrients and sufficient water. Many different quality plant foods abound — there are many excellent ones in the pages of this magazine. Although orchids generally do not need too much fertilizer (plants can make their own food after all) light fertilizing can sometimes do wonders, especially this month. Look for new leads on many orchids especially cattleyas, dendrobiums and cymbidiums. By the end of June these can often have grown 6 inches (15 cm) or more.

MOISTURE Because orchids are often so tough and leathery, we can sometimes forget they are mostly water and need plenty of it when in active growth. I often compare orchids to succulents such as aloes, euphorbias or even cacti. We think of these plants as being desert-adapted, and they are. But even most desert plants experience a short rainy season, or have extraordinarily long tap roots to gain access to water that they store in their succulent tissues for tougher times. For most of our epiphytic orchids, spring and summer is that time when moisture and nutrients are stored. It is definitely time to step up on our fertilizing and watering duties. Do not miss the opportunity for growth and transformation that June promises us each year.

— Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com).

INFO ABOUT THE AOS CENTENNIAL THAT SOME MEMBERS REQUESTED:

AOS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DATES: October 27th - 30th, 2021

We are proud to present the American Orchid Society's Centennial Celebration!

The four-day celebration will encompass our 2021 Fall Members Meeting activities. Join us for an exciting live auction, a splendid gala banquet with gourmet dinner, live entertainment with music and dancing in a beautiful historic setting.



Make your plans now to meet us at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this important occasion.

Events include:

Wednesday, October 27 - Meet and Greet reception for registrants 5-6 p.m.

Thursday, October 28 - AOS Judging, hosted by East Everglades Orchid Society

Friday, October 29 - Special Centennial Auction, starting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 30 - Speaker Series, until 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 30 - Centennial Gala, starting at 6 p.m.

<https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings/schedule.aspx>