

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

May 2021



Our program for May is on vandas and will be presented by Cindy Christie. Please don't arrive until 6:30, so our board members can efficiently cover all of the business needed to plan a successful summer.

Attendees will be expected to wear masks and sit six feet apart. There will be no refreshments served, but there will be a raffle.

If you would like to have a ramble at your home in July please let Laura Blackmon know. Walter's Orchids has invited us to visit during the month, also. Details will be in the June newsletter.

Laura's *Trigonidium egertonianum* from the March forum table. It's a relative of *Maxillaria*.

CALENDAR

Wed., May 12, 6:00 Board Mtg.

Wed., May 12, 7:00 Meeting

Cindy Christie on vandas

RAYS OF SUNSHINE

Congratulations and thanks to our Officers and Directors for "rolling over". We couldn't proceed with our annual elections so we chose an alternative way! They kept our society on-going during the pandemic. Thanks to Patti for her frequent emails, pictures, and newsletters during our quarantine. We appreciate Bill's assistance during our slide programs and we keep enjoying Laura's recycling her kitty litter buckets to us. Thanks also to Charlie for his photography skills and to Mark for volunteering to host our July garden tour. Our plant forum was once again a time to share our success and sometimes our failures. Remember to bring in your plants, it's always a relaxed learning session for us. BA



We had a wonderful selection of plants at our April plant forum. Hope to see as many in May.

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.

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.

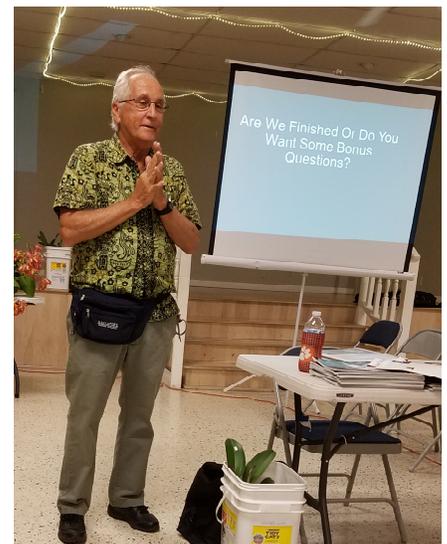
www.aos.org

MEETING QUIZ:

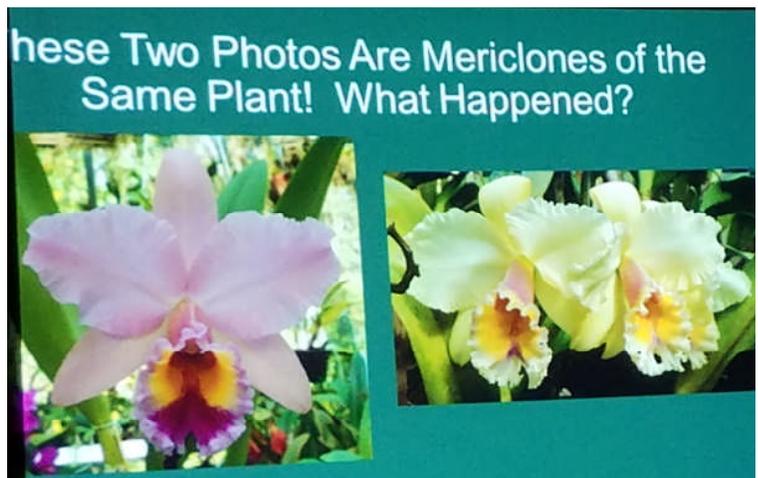
Do you remember the names of these two mericlones? The first person to send me the answer will win one of Charlie’s divisions.

Exciting - A Plant Sale!!

Shows must be just around the corner!



*April Meeting
with Courtney
Hackney*



2021 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Ed Kidder

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

Margaret Croucher

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

SECRETARY

Carolyn Anderson

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

DIRECTORS

Libby VanZino (2021-2022)

Bert Forbush (2020-2021)

Kathy Jacobson (2021-2022)

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

Laura Blackmon

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

JoAnn Amos

WEBMASTER

Jody Romanowski

AUDIO

Laura Blackmon

REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Jacobson

SHOW CHAIR

Laura Blackmon

May: The Month of Exploration and Adventure by Thomas Mirenda

A great thinker named Helen Keller once wrote this: "Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." I dare say she had a very different perspective about life than the rest of us, but I believe that perspective revealed a larger truth to her. I can't imagine how dangerous it would be to be blind, nor what an adventure it would be to discover, or rediscover, our world minus the incredible gift of sight! In a way, without venturing out into the world, we are blind to its many glories and mysteries. Some, like our beautiful native orchid species, might be just outside our back doors whereas others require treks across mountains, oceans and hemispheres to discover.

This is a remarkable planet with outstanding and dazzling diversity. To spend your life in just one place, however safe and lovely, would be like reading just one page of the encyclopedia. The fields and forests of May are a wonderland of floral magic and I encourage you to get out there and see them for yourself. I try to go on an orchid trip every spring; sometimes a local jaunt to the Green Swamp Preserve in North Carolina is all I can muster, but it is still most incredibly satisfying. I guarantee you that there are some fascinating and beautiful wild and orchid-rich areas well within driving distance. With a little bit of research, you can easily find out about them. Last year a group of my friends reveled in the spring spectacle that occurs annually on the island of Sicily. It was probably one of the best experiences of my life. Don't sit on the sidelines! Get out there and explore your world! Enjoy an adventurous spring this year!

EMERGENCY Don't be alarmed! Spring is all about emergence. And your orchids are showing the signs of this. New roots and growths are popping out of your plants rhizomes with incredible vigor now! Everything wants to grow in May while the air is cool, fresh and moist! The flowers in your garden will attest to this basic truth of the spring.

TAKE ME OUT Any cool- to intermediate-growing orchids in your collection can be moved outside this month. Bringing orchids out for the fine weather will produce stronger and tougher growths. Spring rains are falling and the delicious rainwater can be a tonic for struggling orchids. Chlorine and fluoride added to our water are often the culprits when an orchid seems to languish. If such plants seem to perk up when exposed to spring rain and weather, it may be worth your while to invest in rain barrels or a reverse osmosis water purification system for your orchids.

DO ME PROUD Take this spring growth spurt as your golden opportunity to repot. Repotting during dormancy, while sometimes necessary if a plant falls over or starts to rot, is rarely a good idea. But the spring, when new orchid roots are searching for fresh bark to adhere to, is just about the best time to take on this annual chore. Cattleyas that have grown to the edge of their pots, oncidiums and miltonias with broken-down mixes, catasetums and lycastes coming out of dormancy and any pot that has weeds growing in it, should be taken and redone while they are in active new growth. Plants establish best when repotted with about 1 to 2 inches (25–50 mm) of new root growth. Roots longer than this are more easily damaged.

THE EDGE OF WETNESS Always soak your bark overnight before a potting session. Orchids take in water through the velamen in their roots by osmotic pressure. If your mix is too dried out, it will actually desiccate your orchids by wicking moisture out! This being said, roots are searching for moisture and keeping them too wet will inhibit their colonization of your new medium. Always allow newly potted plants to dry out a bit between waterings for best results. Watering and fertilizing in general should be stepped up this time of year. Take advantage of your orchid's natural willingness to grow in the spring. Water and fertilize accordingly!

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD Whether it's the wooded area down the street or across an ocean, wild orchids are patiently waiting for you to discover them this month. Don't disappoint them! Many orchid societies and botanic gardens offer nature walks and other excursions this month to see some pretty incredible places, encrusted with fantastic plants at their peak. If such trips are just too challenging to participate in, I encourage you to go to your local public garden! National Public Garden Day is on May 9 this year: [www. nationalpublicgardensday.org/gardens](http://www.nationalpublicgardensday.org/gardens).

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I hope each and every one of you ventures out that day to see all the great marvels of nature, which are everywhere on our spectacular planet.

— 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).

From the AOS website...

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, an exciting live auction, and a splendid gala banquet that will feature a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, music, and dancing in a beautiful and historic setting.

Please join us at the beautiful landmark location - The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

EVENTS:

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.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



| When | May 04, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday | May 31, 2021 8:30pm EDT Monday | June 08, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday | June 17, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|
| Topic | Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i> | <i>Prosthechea karwinskii</i> in Mexico, reintroducing a threatened species | Show Trophy Subjective or Objective | Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i> |
| Presenter | Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer | Julia Douglas AOS Conservation Grant Recipient | Marc Burchette Head of Biltmore Estate Orchid Collection | Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer |