

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

January 2019



Blc. Pamela Hetherington

Happy New Year!

Where has the year gone? I think time goes by faster and faster the older we get. As we head into our winter season, we experience cooler temperatures with our shorter days. Our orchids are not thrilled with these cooler temps, but we benefit as it triggers blooming for many of our orchid species. The December AOS monthly checklist has some great tips for our winter season. (See page 4)

I look forward to the new year and wish you all health and happiness as we move into our new year!

Jodi

REMINDER:

Margaret Croucher will be collecting dues for 2019 at the January meeting.

INTERESTED IN PRE-2001 COPIES OF "ORCHIDS" BOUND BY YEAR?

Talk to Patti, newsletter editor, if interested, and she will put you in touch with the person who is giving them away. Be sure to let Patti know prior to the January 9th meeting and she will need to let him know by Jan. 10th.

CALENDAR

Wed., January 9th, 6pm Board Meeting

Both outgoing and incoming board members should be present.

Wed., January 9th, 7pm Business meeting

Installation of officers

Have questions about an orchid? Bring it to the meeting for advice.

Tues., January 15th, 6-8pm Show Meeting

for show chairmen at Hobbs Pharmacy.

SUNSHINE

Thanks to Maria for chairing a wonderful Christmas party. We loved her spirit!

Best wishes to each of you during the new year. May you have lots of sunshine in your life and happy growing with lots of blooms. We appreciate all of our members who help make us such an enjoyable and interesting group. We thoroughly enjoy learning about our orchids and sharing our experiences. We're able to share and laugh, even when our growing isn't quite perfect-- that makes us a unique Society! Betty

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

OFFICERS TO BE INSTALLED

TO BE VOTED ON AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

President	Peter Pancoast
Vice President	Margaret Croucher
Treasurer	Margaret Smith
Secretary	Patty Williams
Directors:	Julie Howard (2019)
	Ed Kidder (2019)
	Laura Blackmon (2019-2020)
	Kathy Jacobson (2019-2020)

SHOW PLANNING DATES

January 15th—First Show Meeting

February 19th—Second Show Meeting

March 19th—Third Show Meeting

April 16th—Fourth Show Meeting

May 1st—Show Set Up

May 2nd—Show Set Up

May 3-5—Show

June 4th—Post show meeting

2018 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Jodi Kittleson

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

Margaret Smith

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

SECRETARY

Patti Williams

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

DIRECTORS

Michael Ellis (2018)

Julie Howard (2018-2019)

Ed Kidder (2018-2019)

Clive Gay (2018)

Dave Colchin (Past President)

Many thanks to these 2018 officers and chairs for their hard work and dedication to the society.

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Croucher

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

GREETER

JoAnn Amos

PROGRAMS

Margaret Croucher

PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlie Scholes

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

Laura Blackmon

REFRESHMENTS

Shannon Goff

WEBMASTER

Dennis Gollehon

AUDIO

Mike Ellis

HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIR

Maria Maloney

PICNIC CHAIR

Kathy Jacobson.

CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

CATTLEYA—Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

CYMBIDIUM—We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

LYCASTE—The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

ODONTOGLOSSUMS—Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

PAPHIOPEDILUM—The standard *Paphiopedilum* *insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

PHALAENOPSIS—Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

ZYGOPETALUM—For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

Thanks to the AOS website for this essay by Ned Nash and James Rose.