

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

July 2012 Edition



C. Leda 'HEB'

Grower JoAnn Amos

President's Message:

We had a great turn out for our June meeting. The program by Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids was very informative. Thanh grows award winning Paphiopedilums and is an exhibitor in our show. He shared some of his "trade secrets" learned over many years as well as the biography of Paphs. Call 321-223-6173 or e-mail him at thanynghuyen79@earthlink.net for more info. The initial report on the show indicates it was a tremendous success. Our net income was nearly as much as last year so the membership voted to present \$2000 to the Candlelighters in two installments. Mark your calendars now for the fall family picnic to be held Sunday, September 23rd. We are looking for a chairperson to lead the group in preparations. Call me if you would like to lend a hand. Our next meeting July 11th will include show and tell so bring your blooming plants to share. The half hour from 6:30 to 7:00 is a great time to discuss growing problems and share successes so come early to network.

Dennis



PCOS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS). There are several articles and excerpts from the AOS site in this newsletter. There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit the site and check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member.

www.aos.org

Mark your calendar

July 11th Board Meeting

Kiwanis Island

July 11th, 7:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Kiwanis Island

Doyle Carlton Pavilion

Program: Sally Pancoast will teach us how to use Orchid Wiz. The program is available for members at every meeting, for finding your orchids' genealogy.



Volusia County Orchid Society Orchid Auction, July 21st 9 AM until 2 PM (or until gone).
Volusia County AG center at fairgrounds.

www.vcosonline.org



New junior member, Marissa, won the drawing. That's a good reason to wear your nametag to every meeting.

Meeting



As usual, the refreshments were delicious, thanks to Camille and Joyce.

June activities

Orchid visit



Thank you to Bill and Margaret for their hospitality and orchid advice. It was a great opportunity to get to know several of our new members.

AOS CORNER

This month I thought I would give a sampling of some of the information one can obtain from the AOS website. More in depth information is available to AOS members by logging into the webpage with your own name and password. Below, however, is an excerpt from the monthly checklist section – probably one of the more widely visited areas of the website.

Cattleya - Cattleyas this month require careful attention to their watering and fertilizing needs owing to characteristically high temperatures. Evaporative cooling is a must in areas of the country where it is effective. Where it is not (the more humid regions), care needs to be paid to proper venting to keep temperatures within reason. Bottom vents in conjunction with top vents provide enough rising airflow to help keep plants cool. Increased air flow lessens humidity and dries plants out more quickly, necessitating more frequent damping down and watering, in areas where high humidity is not a problem. Higher light and heat indicate more fertilizer. The growths your plants are making now are the source of this autumn, winter and spring's blooms, so applying adequate fertilizer this month is the best way to ensure future blooms. Higher temperatures and humidity may also lead to fungal or bacterial rot problems, so it is important to closely observe your plants for any early indication of problems. Pests are also at a high point this month for the same reason.

Paphiopedilum - Cooling and air circulation are especially critical in these two months to prevent stress and avoid disease problems. Watering needs to be closely monitored to ensure that plants do not dry out. Warmer-growing hybrids will be at the peak of their blooming, with attention needing to be paid to staking of spikes. Look for water lodging in growths, which can rot emerging spikes and lead to the loss of the entire growth.

Cymbidium - Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

-- Taken from the American Orchid Society Website – All About Orchids – Monthly

Checklist – July and August

There are also a number of videos and articles that are available to the public and many more to the AOS Members.

Lynn Fuller, Chair
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

****The AOS website address is www.aos.org

More Raffle Fun

Everyone who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing. If you never received your PCOS nametag, please let Joyce Schofield know at least one week prior to the meeting, so she can have it ready for you.

Aphids

By Susan Jones

Among the most common orchid pests, aphids are slow-moving, soft-bodied insects related to scale. Usually less than 1/8-inch long, greenish white or black, aphids have soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, antennae, and sucking mouthparts to feed on plant juices. Most are wingless, but winged versions appear to migrate between plants when a colony becomes crowded..

Life Cycle

The adult female aphid gives birth to between 60 and 100 female nymphs every day for a period of 20 to 30 days. These nymphs immediately start to feed and grow, molting several times to mature to an adult female capable of reproducing within seven to ten days, all without maturing. Within a few days, thousands of aphids can be born.

When colonies become overcrowded, winged forms appear, to fly to establish new colonies. The insects can cycle continuously under greenhouse conditions, their rate of development affected only by temperature.

In the autumn, females begin producing a few males. Females born at the same time have eggs within their bodies; they mate and lay the eggs to provide next season's offspring.

Symptoms

These insects are easy to spot. Their rapid reproduction and development quickly produces colonies, which feed on the parts of the plant receiving the most nutrients. They can be found on new growth, at the base of buds, on flowers and on the undersides of leaves. Their feeding causes poor growth, stunted plants or curled and distorted leaves.

Developing aphids shed white skins. A pile of them on upper leaf surfaces may be your first sign that these destructive insects have arrived.

Damage

Where buds are attacked, the flower - if it opens at all - will be mottled and distorted. The sap sucking may result in wilting, deformed plant growth, yellowing, and even loss of leaves. Aphids' salivary secretions can also be toxic to their host plant.



A

Ants will "farm" aphids for honeydew secretions and can move them from plant to plant.



APHIDS Cont.

Aphids eat more plant fluids than they can digest, excreting honeydew - a sweet, syrupy material - on leaves and stems. This attracts sooty mould, a fungus that grows in honeydew, making leaves look dirty and black. Ants are also drawn to honeydew; they feed on it, and will fiercely defend their source against predators. They will even farm aphids, moving them from plant to plant so that additional honeydew factories can be created. Traveling between plants, aphids can introduce and spread virus and disease.

Control

Prevention is better than a cure; good cultural practices and purchasing healthy plants reduce the chance of infestation. The most common way of acquiring pests is buying an infested plant. Aphids easily colonize clean plants when they are grown close together, allowing movement from plant to plant. Winged aphids may colonize orchids that are outdoors, or indoors and in greenhouses where air currents from fans help spread the critters. To control the proliferation of aphids, immediately isolate an infested plant.

Fortunately, aphids are not difficult to eradicate. For any treatment method, repeat the procedure twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test any treatment on a small population of plants before widespread use.

To control aphids, one must also eliminate ants. Insecticides destroy the worker ants that move and protect aphids, but the colony must be eradicated for total control. Sugar-based ant baits are recommended, as ants that farm aphids prefer sugar over fats.

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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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Thanh Nguyen's presentation on paphs was enjoyed by everyone at June's meeting. Thanh is one of our show vendors, and we were thrilled to have him and his daughter at our meeting. Below is his potting mix, which he shared with us.

PAPH – THANH'S POTTING MIXES

Seedling mix 2.5 inch pots and under:

3 parts small CHC (Coconut husk chips)/bark

2 parts small sponge rock (#1-2)

1 part rock (stalite)/aliflor

1/2 part sphagnum moss/peat moss

1 part small charcoal (optional)

Adult mix 3.5 inch pots and under:

3 parts medium CHC/bark

2 parts course/xtra sponge rock (#3)

1 part small rock (stalite)/aliflor

1/2 part sphagnum moss/peat moss (optional)

1 part medium charcoal (optional)

Adult Paph Mix 4 inch pots and up:

3 parts medium CHC/bark

2 parts course/very course (#4+) sponge rock

1 part medium stalite rock or aliflor

1 part medium charcoal (optional)

1/2 part long fiber uncut sphagnum moss (optional)



Paphliopedulum Lowii

