

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome July 2018 Edition

Happy Summer!

I cannot believe July is almost here. Where has the first half of 2018 gone?

With the beginning of a new month I look forward to my next edition of the AOS magazine. This is a great resource for orchid growers of all skill levels. I always find something useful in the articles -especially the monthly checklist. And when enjoying the AOS awarded orchids (yes, the pictures at the back of each issue). I often challenge myself to guess what type of orchid each is and as a result have furthered my knowledge of orchids. If you are not a subscriber of the AOS magazine please pick up a copy of the shared society issue at our next meeting in August. I promise it will be well worth your time. Happy growing!

Jodi



Phals/Phalaenopsis: This photo of phals and the selection on the last page of this newsletter come directly from the AOS website. For our new members who want to be able to identify all of their orchids, one of these novice culture sheets will be featured in each newsletter. Be sure to save these selections or go directly to the AOS website on your own for the information. Once you can identify all of your orchids and know how to care for them, the sky is the limit to your expertise.

SUNSHINE

Deepest sympathy to the family of Tom Ritter. Tom was a long time orchid grower and vendor who so willingly shared his knowledge and love of his orchids.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Charlie Bishop, a former member of PCOS.

CALENDAR

*****THERE WILL BE NO BUSINESS MEETING IN JULY**

Sat., July 14th, 3-5pm Ramble at Carol and Clive's

Sat., July 28th, 9-11am Ramble at Peter and Sally's

There will be several rambles planned throughout July and August as members decide dates convenient to them. Directions and addresses will be sent by e-mail at least one week prior to rambles.

Wed., August 8th, 6pm Board Meeting

Wed., August 8th, 7pm Orchid Question and Answer session and meeting at Garden Club. Bring your blooming orchids

Sun., October 14th Picnic

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.



OUR EXHIBIT IN THE CENTRAL FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW:

Many thanks to the team that put our exhibit in the CFOS show. It received Second Place, as well as many individual awards. Clive and Carol joined the group that was featured in June’s newsletter for this event. Other members sent their blooming orchids for use in the exhibit. Consider participating in this activity next spring. This is a great way to learn about how important balance and color are to a successful exhibit, which is so evident in this photo.

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.



Members enjoyed Vern Bloch’s program and the selection of orchids he brought with him to the June meeting.

2018 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

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NOVICE PHALAENOPSIS CULTURE SHEET

If you are lucky enough to have a Phalaenopsis, you are about to enter the wonderful world of growing orchids! Phals are one of the easiest orchids to grow in the home. If you follow a few basic requirements, these plants will reward you with several months of beautiful blooms.

Water

How often you water will depend on the potting medium. Bark retains less water than moss. If your phal is potted in bark watering once a week is generally sufficient. If your plant is potted in moss, water when the top feels dry. The amount of light and heat your plant receives will also affect how soon your phal needs watering. Summer months will need more frequent watering, winter will need less. After a few waterings, you will be able to tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is time to water again. If in doubt, wait a day.

It is best to water in the morning. Place the plant in the sink and use tepid water. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Let the water run through the plant for a minute or so. Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

If any water remains in the crown (where the leaves join in the center) use a paper towel to blot the water to avoid crown rot.

Light

Phalaenopsis are 'low' light orchids. They grow beautifully in an east window and can be grown in a south or west window if protected by a sheer curtain. A phal's leaves should be olive green. If they are darker it means the plant is not getting enough light; red tinged leaves mean the plant is getting too much light. Once the plant is in bloom you can place it anywhere in your home out of direct sunlight. If your plant does not re-bloom, increase the amount of light that it receives.

Continue watering and fertilizing while waiting for the blooming cycle to begin!

Temperature

Phals are easy to grow because they enjoy the same temperatures we do – above 60° F at night and a range of 70° F to 80° F or higher during the day. 95° F is the maximum temperature recommendation. Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

Fertilizer

Any balanced orchid fertilizer (look at the numbers on the container, 20-20-20, etc.) can be used to fertilize your orchid. Feeding weakly (half strength) weekly works well. Once a month, use clear water to flush any accumulated salts from the potting mix.

Humidity

Use a shallow tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity around your plants. Be sure the pot does not sit in water as this will rot the roots.

Cutting the spike

When the blooms are finished, you can cut the spike down to the level of the leaves and the plant will bloom with larger flowers and a strong stem within a year. You can also cut off the stem leaving two nodes (those little brown lines on the stem below where the flowers were) on the stem. One of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within eight to 12 weeks. See the video on the AOS website: [Where to Cut a Phalaenopsis Spike](#)

Continue watering and fertilizing while you are waiting for the blooming cycle to begin again! Repotting is usually done every one to three years.