

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

## The Rhyzome

August 2012 Edition



### President's Message:

Joan Lehnert and I recently had the pleasure of presenting a check for \$1000 to Carrie Wam, the Executive Director of Candlelighters of Brevard. Each year we donate a portion of the proceeds from our Show and Sale to help Candlelighters purchase pre-paid gas cards for the "Get You There" program which helps families make the trek to receive medical care outside the county. Joan has been instrumental as the liaison to Candlelighters and also making sure we get the word out to our guests at the show's courtesy booth. We will make another donation in the Fall. For more info see [www.CandlelightersOfBrevard.org](http://www.CandlelightersOfBrevard.org) or visit their thrift shop at 1875 S. Patrick Dr in Indian Harbour Beach.

Our annual Summer Family picnic will be held Sunday September 23rd, 12:00 until 4:00, at the Cocoa Beach Country Club pavilion. PCOS will provide the entree and drinks. Attendees are requested to bring a dish of your choice to share. Fun games and prizes will be provided. Contact Chairperson Denise Baumann to RSVP or volunteer to assist. ([DeniseBaumann@cfl.rr.com](mailto:DeniseBaumann@cfl.rr.com))



PCOS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS). There's an abundance of information on the AOS website (some examples are in this newsletter) 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](http://www.aos.org)

Joan Lehnert and Dennis Gollehon present the PCOS check to Carrie Wam (far left), Executive Director of Candlelighters.

### Mark your calendar

**August 8th Board Meeting  
Kiwanis Island**

**August 8th, 7:00 p.m.**

**General Meeting  
Kiwanis Island**

**Doyle Carlton Pavilion**

***Potting Demonstration by Jim  
Adamson.***

***This is your opportunity to bring  
a plant you're worried about.***

**Jim will have plants for sale.**

**August 29th, 6:30-7:30**

**Visit to Joyce's Garden.**

**118 Chipola Rd., Cocoa Beach**

**DIRECTIONS: From Merritt Square Mall, drive east on SR520. Turn right (south) onto A1A. Turn right (west) onto Minuteman Causeway. Turn left onto Chipola Rd. and park at 118. Facing the house, go around the right side to the backyard.**

**September 23rd Noon**

**Picnic at Cocoa Beach Pavilion**

## 2012 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

### **PRESIDENT**

**Dennis Gollehon**  
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### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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**Patti Scholes**

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**Betty Adamson**

### **REFRESHMENTS**

**Camille Theobald**

### **LIBRARY**

**Sally Pancoast**

### **SUNSHINE**

**Betty Adamson**

### **PLANT FORUM**

**Steve DeSorbo**

### **HOSPITALITY/GREETER**

**Shearer Kennedy**

### **EXHIBITS**

**Sally Pancoast**

### **PROGRAMS**

**Joyce Schofield**

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Charlie Scholes**

### **RAFFLE**

**Karen Snee**

### **PUBLICITY**

**Ann Colchin**

PCOS Embroidered Shirts  
Platinum Coast Orchid Society with flower in the center.

Available at :

Robin's Nest Embroidery  
1314 Clearlake Rd., Ste. 4  
Cocoa, FL

Phone: 321-636-4320

Sizes Small-XL \$28.00  
2X \$30.00 3X \$34.00

If you bring your own shirt, embroidery charge will be \$10.



At left: Betty Adamson conducts the plant forum at July's meeting.

Below: Thanks to Sally Pancoast for teaching us all about Orchid Wiz. Very interesting!!!



**South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.**

**SPEAKERS' DAY**

**Sunday, October 7, 2012**

**8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**BankUnited Center, University of Miami,  
1245 Dauer Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146**

**Cordelia Head – “Warm Growing Miniature Orchids”**

**Dr. Howard Liebman - “The Spectacular Cyrtorchilums: An underappreciated member of the  
Oncidium Alliance”**

**Nina Rach - “What you need to know about Sobralias and Stanhopeas”**

**David Horak - “Catasetinae and other Deciduous Orchids”**

**Manolito Caluff-“Cuban Orchids”**

**Tickets are \$45.00 (available from the SFOS office only – no tickets sold at the door)**

**Price includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch, admission to Speakers Day and admission into the SFOS Orchid Show on Sunday, October 7, 2012.**

**Please mail your check to: SFOS, 10801 S.W. 124 St., Miami, FL 33176**

**Visa and MasterCard accepted – please call 305-255-3656**

**For more information please call the SFOS office (305-255-3656) or visit our web site:  
[www.sforchid.com](http://www.sforchid.com).**



Charlie shares his Pot. Egyptian Queen 'Desert Eve'



Pot. Egyptian Queen 'Desert Eve'  
Grower Charlie Scholes

This Egyptian Queen was given to us by fellow member Margaret Croucher. Jim Adamson has told us how hard they are to find, so we really cherish it.. As with all of my cattleyas, I grow it in a mixture of coir and aliflor.

## **SUNSHINE**

Deepest sympathy to member Linda Barton on the passing of her beloved father.

Speedy get well wishes are sent to member John Hicks as he continues his medical treatment.

### **At the meeting.....**

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.

Before the meeting, there will be someone at the plant table and computer to answer questions. You may also use the club's computer to access Orchid Wiz, if you want to check the parentage of your orchid. Help yourself to some of the delicious refreshments.

There is a plant raffle at every meeting. 3 tickets for \$1

# Black Rot By Susan Jones

A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible.



Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

## Life Cycle

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

## Symptoms

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off.

In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots..

As its name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied.

Black rot is easily spread by splashing water

**Prevention** Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.

**Mechanical Treatment** To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to

cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

**Chemical Treatment** Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound.

Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terrazole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

To protect seedlings against damping off, water with the fungicide of choice (at the dilution rate for seedlings specified in the product's instructions) as soon as they are deflasked and potted in compots. Afterward, treat with a preventive fungicide at two-week intervals.

## References

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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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