

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society The Rhyzome

August 2013 Edition

## President's Message:

You may not be excited about outdoor activities in August but this is a great time to get out and enjoy your orchids--many choose to bloom at this time of year and others need some TLC. The AOS article in this issue is a great place to start. If you want to know more just click on [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org). There is more free info there for beginner to expert. If you are like me you will want to join AOS to get your own copy of the magazine and access to the members-only part of the site. At our last meeting members voted to donate \$1000 to Candlelighters of Brevard and \$500 to AOS--both worthy causes. At our August meeting members will select the Nominating Committee for the November election. They will recommend a slate of officers at the September meeting. So it may be the dog days of Summer but there's a lot going on in your Society. Happy growing, Dennis



Lc. Josephine Lopez var. Bubba Joe  
Grower: JoAnn Amos

This plant was named for JoAnn's mother and brother.

## CALENDAR

Aug. 14th, 5:30 Board Meeting

Aug. 14th, 7pm General Mtg.

Speaker Ken Russ will present "Backyard Growing" at the August 14th meeting. It is geared toward Orchid beginners. Ken and his wife Judy raise AOS awarded orchids and operate Puddle Pottery in St. Lucie FL. Puddle Pottery creations are one-of-a-kind pieces, each thrown on a wheel and decorated by hand. Ken will be bringing some divisions of his awarded orchids, as well as some of his pottery pieces to sell.

Sept. 29th Picnic

## Sunshine

Lois Hicks continues with her treatment and we again want to send her best wishes. Johnny Hicks is also being treated for a foot infection.

Continuing get well wishes are sent to Marsha Lovas and Barry Kennedy.

Get well greetings are also sent to Joy Prince (Prince's Orchids) as she recuperates from a broken arm incurred during a bad fall.

Betty

# Monthly Checklist for July and August –from the AOS website

WWW.AOS.ORG - CHECK IT OUT

**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.

**Phalaenopsis** Most, if not all, potting should be complete by now. This month and next are when these plants achieve their maximum growth. This growth will be that from which they set their spikes for the coming season. The more leaves the plants grow, the better potential for spiking will be realized. Growers in cooler areas such as the Pacific coast have the advantage this month, should they choose, of cooling for early season spikes. Lots of heat and light call for liberal applications of water and fertilizer.

**Cymbidium** Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growth 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.

**High-elevation Plants** For cooler-growing plants, such as masdevallias, other pleurothalids and the like, the next few months will be a challenge. During the hottest times, keep your plants more shaded and be sure to keep the humidity level much higher. Do not let plants dry out. Delay any potting until the weather cools.

**Oncidium intergenerics** Many of the intergeneric crosses between odontoglossums and oncidiums, such as *Odontocidium*, *Wilsonara* and *Colmanara*, will be blooming now. Take special care to train the spikes for best floral display. Keep plants under fairly shady conditions. Watch for snails and slugs.

**Vandaceous** Plants will be growing quickly now and really enjoying the hot humid days so similar to their native habitat. Watch for pests though, as many of these also enjoy the same conditions as the plants. Check flower spikes so that they can extend unimpeded for the best flower presentation later. .

## 2013 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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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

# July's Meeting



Many thanks to Sally for narrating the AOS powerpoint program. Her orchid, below, is Rby. Tom Courtney (also known as *Brassolaeliocattleya Tom Courtney*). It is a cross (hybrid) between *B. nodosa* and *Blc. Golden Embers*. This cross was made by Joe Grezaffi, a local grower, in 1991. A good Tom Courtney is bright yellow with a red lip, unfortunately this is not a good Tom Courtney. This plant does show the desirable qualities of a larger flower with a large nodosa lip and lots of flowers, but also shows the negative aspect of many *B. nodosa* crosses- the tendency of the flower color to fade over time.



## **GREAT PLACES FOR MEMBERS TO FIND INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS:**

1. Programs—Take notes during every program. Someday, they will make sense.
2. AOS Magazine articles—magazines are available to members at every meeting
3. Members—ask for help at the meeting. Someone will point you in the right direction.
4. Internet sites—[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.  
[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org) is the St. Augustine website and has great info  
[www.repotme.com](http://www.repotme.com) is a retail site, but has some good information

If you don't have a computer at home, you can search online at the public library.

**FINALLY, REMEMBER THAT ORCHID GROWING IS VERY PERSONAL. IT DEPENDS ON YOUR BACKYARD, YOUR CHOICE OF MEDIUM AND YOUR CHOICE OF POTS. THAT'S WHY EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT ANSWER.**

### **Raffle Fun**

Every current member who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing.

## AOS CORNER

The Houston Orchid Society and SWROGA have been featuring kid friendly activities at their orchid shows. The AOS Education Committee, through Sandy Stubbings and Susan Dally, has started posting a 'Kids Corner' on the AOS Website. The May and June postings can now be found under the News and Archive sections of the website (link to the June article <http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=687>). These articles are worth mentioning because they talk about their efforts in engaging children. I had the opportunity to see the featured photo wall at the Portland Orchid Society show last November and can attest that it is just not for kids! The 'Kids Corner' hopes to continue throughout the year. They would be interested in hearing how your society has 'shared your love of orchids with kids.' If your society has had success with some kid-oriented activity, let them know at [education-\\_committee@aos.org](mailto:education-_committee@aos.org).

The Fall Members and Trustees meetings will be held between the Courtyard Miami Coconut Grove and the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, November 15-17. Special AOS rates apply for the hotel and will be available only through October 15. A link for registration for the meeting and hotel registration should be on the AOS website shortly, as well as more information on the featured speakers and vendors.

Over the summer, the Affiliated Societies Committee will be updating the information to be published in the Orchid Source Directory. We hope to contact all societies either by email or phone to confirm or update each society's record.

I hope you have all been enjoying the electronic *Orchids*.

Lynn Fuller, Chair  
AOS Affiliated Societies Committee



PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. For the last few months, a selection of the articles available on the AOS website have been featured in our newsletter. Please visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member.

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](http://www.aos.org)