

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

December 2013 Edition

The Rhyzome

The November elections and plant sale were a big success. Thanks to Jim for assembling a nice selection of orchids for us to choose. Please write the date on your calendar now and join us at the January 8th meeting for the installation of your officers for 2014. The members chose the theme "The Magic of Orchids" for the 2014 show. That should be lots of fun to work with. Any ideas for the poster art? Invitations to vendors have been sent out and several have already accepted. We do have a slot open since Bill Byrd retired. Please send me contact info if you know a quality vendor you would like in the show. We intend to repeat the non-orchid vendors and food truck outside the Gym. I'm looking for contacts for both of those too. I want to thank everyone for their enthusiastic support of PCOS in 2013 and wish Cathy and the new Board of Directors all the best for a successful year. See you at the Christmas Party Dec 7th. Merry Christmas!

Dennis

**The Show theme is "The Magic of Orchids",
submitted by Barbara Biondi.**

Sunshine: Hope everyone stays well for the holidays and best wishes for a bright and healthy New Year



Jim's CH Ruth Loveless, which was awarded at the Deerfield Beach Show. He named it 'Pride of PCOS'.

You are invited to the PCOS Holiday Party

But you must reserve by Nov. 30th

When: Saturday, Dec. 7th 5:00 pm
Social Hour followed by dinner
Where: Cocoa -Rockledge Garden Club
1493 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge

Details for gift exchange:

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped orchid related gift not to exceed \$15 and present it at the door to receive your exchange ticket.

Other details: Punch will be served during social hour, but you are welcome to BYOB.

Cost: \$20 per person (age 14 and under—\$10)

Call Shearer Kennedy to reserve.

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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

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. Check out the great articles in this month’s edition.
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.

Did you see the great list of pronunciations of orchid names in November’s “Orchids” magazine?



Blc. George King ‘Serendipity’

Grower: Charlie Scholes

Raffle Fun

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

Byrd's Orchids has three 18 x 60 gutter connected greenhouses made by Stuppy. Stuppy has their own polly-lok system on their greenhouses. They have 3 forty eight inch fans with some wet pads for cooling. We would like 3500 dollars for the three. Disassembly would be by the buyer. If interested email me at orchidswb@aol.com or call me at [863-669-7402](tel:863-669-7402)(Cell).



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 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

AOS CORNER

News from Headquarters: The Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest deadline is fast approaching – November 30, 2013. The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families. You do not need to be an AOS member to submit an entry.

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing. The contest was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the *AOS Bulletin* (now *Orchids*). Gordon Dillon served as editor from 1943 through 1968 and again from 1970 through 1973. Richard Peterson's name first appeared on the masthead of the *AOS Bulletin* in April 1971 as associate editor. In 1973, he was named editor and, upon Dillon's retirement in 1977, he became the executive director, retaining his position of editor through 1984.

The theme for 2013 is: **Finding Space for One More Orchid**. Orchid growers are incurable collectors and always seem to find that one orchid that they simply must have. Tell us how you make space to for an ever expanding orchid collection. Membership in the American Orchid Society is not necessary to enter the contest. The deadline is November 30, 2013. The winning entry, if any, is published in the June issue of the following year. The 2012 winner was Sarah Waddoups and her Essay was “Playing Angraecoid Go Fish.”

For a listing of complete rules for the contest go to www.aos.org. All entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay should be submitted to The American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156, Attn: Ron McHatton ,or via email to rmchatton@aos.org.

Thanks to all the societies who responded to the request for updated society information for the Orchid Source Directory. It would be helpful if AOS could be notified of any changes in officers, AOS representatives, newsletter editors and meeting locations, dates and times as those changes occur. In addition, just a reminder that AOS membership renewals are included in the 3 *Orchids* received prior to the expiration of the membership. The Orchid Source Directory will be included in an upcoming mailing of the magazine. It is also available on the website. Please support the advertisers in the OSD.

Lynn Fuller, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies



CONGRATS TO OUR NEW 2014 OFFICERS

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| President | Cathy Virata |
| Vice Pres. | B.J. Hendrikson |
| Secretary | Holly Pardi |
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*Rhyncholaeliocattleya*¹ George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS

Some orchids become classics that are always available and always in demand. *Guaritonia*² Why Not, *Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope and *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae come to mind as examples. It may be ease of growth, awesome beauty of the flowers, or just the serendipity of marketing that has catapulted such orchids to fame and popularity making them part of orchid collections far and wide. In conversation at shows and meetings, these orchids are often referred to by just the grex name, like old friends. One of my personal favorite "classics" is *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS. It is a cross between *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Buttercup x *Cattleya* Bob Betts, and was registered by G.A. King in 1970. This hybrid embodies all of the fine qualities one would expect in a standard *Cattleya* hybrid. Two or three large, flat flowers are produced and well-held on a strong inflorescence. The flowers are usually spaced nicely and rarely crowded. They open a soft pink and over the first few days, progress toward a salmon-peach color that is hard to actually describe, but is instantly recognizable on a nursery bench or show table. As they age they tend toward apricot-peach with more of an orange overtone. For me, this transformation greatly adds to my enjoyment of this orchid because I get to enjoy its many nuances. One of *Rlc.*³ George King's extra bonuses is the delicious fragrance that can perfume a whole room. Although the *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* parent is four generations back, the sweet citrus fragrance is unmistakable. And if these qualities were not enough to put this grex in the orchid hall of fame, it blooms several times a year for your enjoyment.

Let's take a brief look at the breeding line of this remarkable orchid. The pollen parent, *C. Bob Betts*, is a fifth generation hybrid involving only three species: *C. mossiae*, *C. gaskelliana* and *C. trianae*. Although *C. Bob Betts* has produced a number of notable hybrids, it appears that most of the efforts were aimed toward white progeny. Any colored offspring produced appears to be a result of the totally unexpected, or the whimsy of hobby breeders who used *C. Bob Betts* because of its form, size and substance. So the beautiful color of this hybrid must come from the *Rlc.* Buttercup parent, which is *Rlc.* Primate x *Rlc.* Golden Myth. The two most recent award descriptions for *Rlc.* Buttercup both suggest pink overtones or reddish suffusion of floral parts. This would certainly be expected when we look at its genealogy of a dozen or so species, which includes highly colored ones such as *Sophranitis cinnabarina*⁴ and *S. harpophylla*⁵ as well as *C. bicolor* and of course, *C. dowiana* (25%). What is interesting about *Rlc.* George King is that I have never seen it produce crippled flowers, that is, deformed flowers with extra tissue on the petals. This might well be due to the reputation of *Rlc.* Primate as being an antidote to crippled offspring. This subject will be covered in detail in an upcoming *Orchids* magazine article by Ron Midgett, PhD.

Another reason for adding *Rlc.* George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS to any "must have" orchid list would be its easy growing nature. It is adaptable to a wide range of cultural conditions and seems to produce flowers in most. Bright filtered light produces the stoniest plants but this hybrid can be grown shadier and may be suitable for windowsill culture...if you have a big windowsill. If you grow any cattleyas, you can grow this one. Ideal conditions would be those outlined in our [culture sheet](#) for *Cattleya*. In our climate (Florida) we like to grow cattleyas in somewhat coarse media because we have an open shadehouse and constant summer rains will rot roots as the media deteriorates. Recently I have experimented with large chunks of hardwood charcoal in clay pots and it seems to work well for standard *Cattleya* species and hybrids. It comes close to growing them mounted, but has the advantage a pot offers for display of blooming plants.

- 1) formerly *Brassolaeliocattleya*
- 2) formerly *Cattleytonia*
- 3) formerly *Blc.*
- 4) formerly *Laelia harpophylla* Rchb.f.
- 5) formerly *Laelia cinnabarina* Bateman ex Lindl.

Greg Allikas - November 2009 "Orchids"



There is also a yellow clone of this hybrid, *Brassolaeliocattleya* George King 'Southern Cross', AM/AOS (shown here with the 'Serendipity' in a pink hue, because it has just opened. See page 3 for the 'Serendipity' after it has been open for 2 weeks and taken on a peach hue.