

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

Brevard County, Florida

The Rhyzome

September 2011 Edition

Message from the President:

Dear Members,

Another year is drawing to a close! I am sure most of you will agree that it has been one of the hottest summers we have had. In fact, it might just be the hottest. The winter was as cold as any winter I can recall and now the sweltering heat really has had a toll on our trying to adequately care for our orchids. In all my years of growing orchids, the past two have been the biggest challenge for me by far. I hope all of you have been able to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter!

As most of you know, who have been attending our meetings, the attendance has been extremely poor. Perhaps the cold and then the hot has had some affect on attendance. Hopefully, we will have a great turnout at our picnic. We need to see you all more often.

There has been a lot of interest in a plant sale. Plans have been finalized for the sale to be at our regular meeting in November at the **Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club**. (Larger facilities are unavailable at Kiwanis on our regular meeting night.) I have already begun to make the necessary contacts to ensure that there will be great plants available for you at cost. You will not want to miss this event, which is being planned for the primary purpose of getting our members back to our meetings, so make your plans to be there. It will be for paid up members only, so get the word out!

At the August business meeting a nominating committee was elected to fill a slate of officers for the coming year. Please let them know if you are able to accept a position for 2013. Jim



Ascocenda Anant Gold x V. Rasri Gold
Growers: Joan and Ed Lehnert

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 14th 6:15 pm
Board Meeting
Kiwanis Park

September 14th 7:00 pm
Business Meeting
Kiwanis Park

September 25th 12:00 Noon
Annual Picnic
Cocoa Beach Pavilion

September 28th 6:30 pm
Back to Basics Meeting
Cocoa Beach Library

November 9th
Big plant sale for
members of PCOS.



What a beautiful view from our meeting place on Kiwanis Island. Steve and Jim run the plant forum showing members' orchids inside, while dolphins frolic outside.

Picnic

Our annual picnic will be on September 25th at the Cocoa Beach Pavilion. This is a great opportunity to get to know everyone in the society and have lots of fun. We'll have games and beautiful orchids for prizes.

Denise Baumann, Picnic Chairman, will have the sign-up sheet at the next several meetings, or you can e-mail her at denisebaumann@cfl.rr.com to reserve your spot. The society will provide the main dish, drinks, etc., and society members will bring their favorite dishes to share. Arrive at noon for appetizers. DIRECTIONS: From Merritt Square Mall, take SR520 east. Turn right (south) onto A1A. Turn right onto Minuteman Causeway. Just past Merritt Island High School, bear to the right and then take a left into Cocoa Beach Country Club. Turn left into the parking lot and go past the tennis courts to the pavilion.

Lc. Angel Heart 'Hihimanu'



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C. Netraseria x B. Nodosa
Grower: Steve DeSorbo

Epidendrum Magoniae
'Green Fly' (FL species)
Grower: Margaret Croucher



AOS CORNER

As I write this, summer is winding down. AOS has had a busy summer and this AOS Corner is devoting it's time to a few of the newer projects that were developed over the last few months. First, I hope you have had an opportunity to check out the new AOS website (www.aos.org). Some of the projects discussed below are featured prominently on the website. In addition, if you are an individual member be sure to register and log in for access to the members' only section which is growing daily.

You may also edit your individual profile, manage your membership and any individual membership add-ons. If you are not an individual member in the AOS, check out the benefits of being a part of us and join.

Myrtle Head Savanna Conservation Project—The AOS is working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to assist them with a management project of property TNC owns in North Carolina known as the Myrtle Head Savanna, a part of the ecologically rich Green Swamp. This is a remarkable and ecologically important area in which our collective support can help to resuscitate and sustain a critical habitat for native orchids, as well as numerous other plant and animal species. AOS has a goal to raise \$10,040. I hope that you as individuals or your society as a group will be able to support this effort generously and be able to take pride in protecting orchids in the wild. To support this project, go to the AOS webpage (www.aos.org) and there is a tab marked Myrtle Head Savana on the home page has more information and instructions on giving. You do not have to be a member of AOS to support this project. Even small amounts add up to large numbers when it comes to conservation!

Orchid Photo of the Week—Do your friends and family tell you how beautiful your photos of your orchids are? Do you think they deserve recognition? Do you have what it takes to go up against the very best? Then maybe it's time for you to submit something to "Photo of the Week" it your best shot! Each week one image from the Flickr® group, Orchid Photo of the Week, will be featured on the website homepage of the AOS. The very best will be selected for a feature in Orchids magazine. Be sure to read the complete instructions here. And remember, we are looking for the cream of the crop of orchid photography. So fire up your digital camera and get shooting!

Orchid Fangdango—The AOS Fall Members and Trustees meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 26 30, 2011. It is being sponsored and organized by the Alamo Orchid Society. Speakers include Martin Motes, Bill Thoms, Tom Mirenda, Gene Crocker, Fred Clarke, Steve Frowine and Jeff Bradley. Lots of vendors will be available as well 18 in all including Brazil, Taiwan, Florida, Hawaii and many areas in between. For a complete listing of vendors and further information on the show, check out their website at www.alamoorchidsociety.org. Please support your local orchid shows.

Cymbidiums

Most of the following information is from Samsula Orchids. Sections in *parenthesis* are notes taken or information given by society members. Since many members took home a cymbidium from John Hicks last year, and we may have another donation coming to our society soon, we thought this information might be relevant.

Watering: 2-3 times per week (*Likes soil damp, but not wet*)

Fertilizer: 1 teaspoon per gal. of water weekly. Feb.-June use balanced 20-20-20. July-Nov. use bloom booster 10-30-20. Dec.-Jan., alternate between balanced and bloom booster.

Light: 40-50% shade. Can take more sun if air movement is great enough to keep leaves cool.

Temperature: Low of 40, high of 95 degrees w/good air movement. (*Need temperature difference.*)

Go out at dusk, water with cold water, Aug.-Sept. 2-3 times per week

(Will take temperature down to 27 degrees for a few hours.)

Bloom Spikes: Are set in Aug., first part of Sept. Watering late, near dark, helps to cool bulbs which is necessary to get bloom spikes to set. A difference of 20-25 degrees between day and night temperatures is needed for good blooming.

Repotting: Every 5-6 years late in April. Plants do not like to be disturbed and may not bloom first year after repotting. (*1 gal. up to 3 gal. pot. No drying period. Just proceed to water and fertilizer*)

Suggested Mix:

6 parts fir bark

1 part Canadian Peat

2 parts perlite

1 double handful of Super Phosphate to 2 cu. ft. of mix

1 ten inch clay pot of compost manure

(Some members suggested using sand in mixture.)

Do not use soil, because it stays too wet. Eyes go all around.

(Leaving the cymbidium in the pot, sink the pot in the ground with a little of the pot showing above.)

(The miniature cymbidiums, with the smaller flowers, can be grown in this area of Florida, primarily in shade. The larger cymbidiums, which are grown farther north, generally do not do as well, but there are always those who can grow anything they put their mind to.)

Upcoming Shows

Ridge Orchid Society Show

Sept. 16-18

Lakeland, FL

South Florida Orchid Society Show

Oct. 1-2 8am-5 pm

“Falling for Orchids” and Speakers Day Event

Bank United Center at the University of Miami

1245 Dauer Drive, Coral Gables

Brevard County Orchid Society Show

Oct. 28-29, 2011

(Find details on their website)