

Platinum Coast Orchid Society, Brevard County, Florida

The Rhizome

July, 2010 Edition



Hello Everybody,

I look forward to seeing you at the Cocoa Expo meeting. I am sure that you will all agree that the heat is brutal and extra effort is required to take care of your orchids. The requirement for watering has doubled and keeping them out of this extreme direct sun is absolutely essential to preclude burning. As I promised, both at the Cocoa and Cocoa Beach meeting a few months ago, I am getting the High Bloom Fertilizer, Stainless Steel Cutters, and whatever else I can obtain to make your growing easier. I will have them for you at the Cocoa meeting. Those of you desiring to purchase these items will be able to do so at cost. There will also be an excellent paperback book that is truly outstanding and available for you to purchase for \$10.00. This book is being purchased directly from the publisher and I know you will find it to be outstanding. In order to get the special price, I am having to purchase 100, so I am hoping many of you will want one for your personal library. What doesn't sell, I will market at shows and sell them at twice the price you pay. See you on July 14th at the Cocoa Expo.
Jim

Raffle Winners
at the Cocoa Beach Meeting
won a beautiful Phal. Lirardo (shown above)

Kay Broughton
New member, Barry Kennedy
New member, Lee Ann McCollough

SURFING FOR ORCHIDS

GHOST ORCHIDS

Here in Florida, you can visit the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples to see a Ghost Orchid. It appears to float in mid-air, like a ghost. Surf to www.corkscrew.audubon.org/Wildlife/GhostOrchid.html

Surf to www.aos.org to read Jeff Hale's "A Ghostly Success in a Most Unlikely Place"

It seems that Britain also has a Ghost Orchid, which reappeared after 24 years. Surf to <http://www.aolnews.com/world/article/ghost-orchid-reappears-in-britain-after-24-years/19407175>

Sunshine

Deepest sympathy to the family of former member, Doris Mohrbacher. Doris was an extraordinary orchid grower and so very knowledgeable about them. We who knew her remember her wonderful personality and great sense of humor along with her true love and fondness for orchids.

If you know of any member who should receive a card from PCOS, please call Betty at 632-2847.

Show and Tell

Members share their blooming orchids at both meetings. The orchids below were shared at the Back to Basics meeting and some of the growers sent information about their orchid for the newsletter. We hope this will be a monthly article.

Den. Amabile
Grower Steve
DeSorbo



Blc. Empress
Worsley 'Roman
Holiday' HCC/
AOS raised by
Charlie Scholes
was purchased
bare root at the
Aug. 2008 PCOS
Show.

It's potted in a mixture of 40% coir and 60% aliflor, with a bit of oyster shell mixed in. 2T Dynamite 13/13/13 is spread across the top. Coir is first thoroughly soaked and rinsed. This plant lives on Merritt Island on a windy canal, where the plant dries out quickly, so we have had good luck with this mix.



Prosthechea Cochleatum
Grower Craig Helpling:

The species name is sometimes called cochleata and the genus has also been formerly classified as an Encyclia, and also at one time an Epidendrum. A natural species, it is native only in Florida in the USA. It also grows naturally in the islands of the West Indies, and in Mexico, Columbia, and Venezuela. Also nicknamed the Cockleshell Orchid, the blossoms are upside down, lip at top. It blooms in the summer and has long-lasting blossoms. Blossoms actually open successively along the inflorescence and can last throughout the year. Mine is usually in bloom for 8 to 9 months a year. I bought mine at the PCOS Show in Aug. 2005 from Byrd's Orchids. It is potted in redwood bark mixed with small pieces of tree fern fiber, not chunks. I grow it on a shelf in a shadehouse that has eastern and midday exposures, but not much western sun. The shade cloth provides 60% shade.

AOS CORNER

If you are not an American Orchid Society member you may not have heard about a terrific opportunity to own a brand new, award quality Phalaenopsis and support us at the same time. For every donation of \$125 to unrestricted funds (\$100 tax deductible), Norman's Orchids, thanks to the generosity of our past president Carlos Fighetti, will send you a flowering size – they're summer bloomers so many of them are actually now in-spike – limited-edition stem prop of *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Cupid 'Maria Teresa'. This incredibly floriferous plant readily produces basal keikis but its crowning glory is its compact branching flower spikes displaying multitudes of 2-inch (5-cm) golden yellow flowers heavily overlaid centrally with a rich deep rose to produce flowers that appear to almost glow. These stem props are available through no other source. To read more about this great plant and how to get one see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/238iqqe>.

Another exciting development is our plan to produce a special 13th issue of *Orchids* magazine this year. It is not often that we receive magazine content that is of such high quality that we wish we could devote a whole issue to it but it does happen once in a great while. We have a rather long, excellent article that will not fit in a regular magazine and will not serialize well and we truly think it will make a great addition to this volume of *Orchids*. To underwrite this effort, the trustees recently approved the establishment of a temporarily restricted fund; **The AOS Color /Special Issue Fund**. We've set up an easy Paypal route to make donations to the fund and I'm happy to say that in the first month we've raised more than \$2,000 mostly from \$2 and \$4 donations. To read more about this fundraising effort or make a small donation see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/27we15j>.

PCOS LIBRARY

PCOS Library has a variety of orchid books and AOS materials for all levels of orchid enthusiast. Our library will be open for browsing and/or borrowing at every Cocoa Expo Meeting, from 6:15 until after the meeting.

The library is located in the left storage cabinet in the front of our regular meeting room. Procedures for checking out a book will be posted on the inside of the cabinet door.

Sally Pancoast, Librarian



notes

**Several people at the last Expo meeting asked John Hicks if he could bring some supplies for them. Please e-mail John at the e-mail address at the bottom of the page or call him in advance of the next Expo meeting, and let him know what you want.

**Please return all magnetic show signs to JoanLehnert.



MORE SHOW & TELL

Above: Epi. Cindy raised by Judy Law

Left: Epic. Maebly 'Ching-Hua Splash' raised by Joan Lehnert



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Wed., July 14th
Wed., July 14th
Wed., July 28th
Wed., July 28th

6:15
7:00
6:30

Board Meeting at Cocoa Expo
Business Meeting at Cocoa Expo
Back to Basics Meeting, Cocoa Beach Library
All August newsletter information must be received by this date.

SAVE THE DATE

Sun., Oct. 3rd
Sat., Dec. 18th

Annual Picnic
Holiday Party



Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

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