

Alan's Bench

What a wonderful orchid show! It is so nice to hear so many unsolicited comments from visitors, orchid growers, and the dealers how nice and how helpful our members are. Anyone can go to a botanic garden to see orchids in bloom. These institutions are important and deserve our support. But you cannot go to a botanic garden and get the one on one wealth of orchid growing knowledge that you can at an orchid show. In the entire world, YOU are the subject matter experts on growing orchids and making them prosper in our wonderfully complex climate of east central Florida between temperate and subtropical temperature zones. There is a world of plant lovers who only know orchids from a few desiccated phalaenopsis or dendrobiums left unwatered in big box stores. They have a whole wonderful new orchid world waiting for them to discover from our members-what they grow and also how the plants grow.

Welcome to our new members who joined PCOS during the show. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and club events. Be sure to ask any of us questions about orchids or orchid culture. We look forward to learning more from you on your interest in orchids. The more you learn about orchids the more you will want to know.

I found out at the show our club is putting in a fifty foot display at the Volusia County Orchid Show, Mother's Day weekend. If you can help or have plants for display, please contact Glenda Titler at 637-0948 for further information.

I am taking a short hiatus to visit Jamaica where I hope to see their endemic *Broughtonia sanguinea* (Sw.)R.Br. 1789 blooming in its full glory and other fascinating native species, so I will not see you until the June regular business meeting. But until then, a most profound thank you to all our club members and their friends and relatives they got to help who worked many, many hours to stage our first springtime orchid show and to make that effort a critical success.

Alan

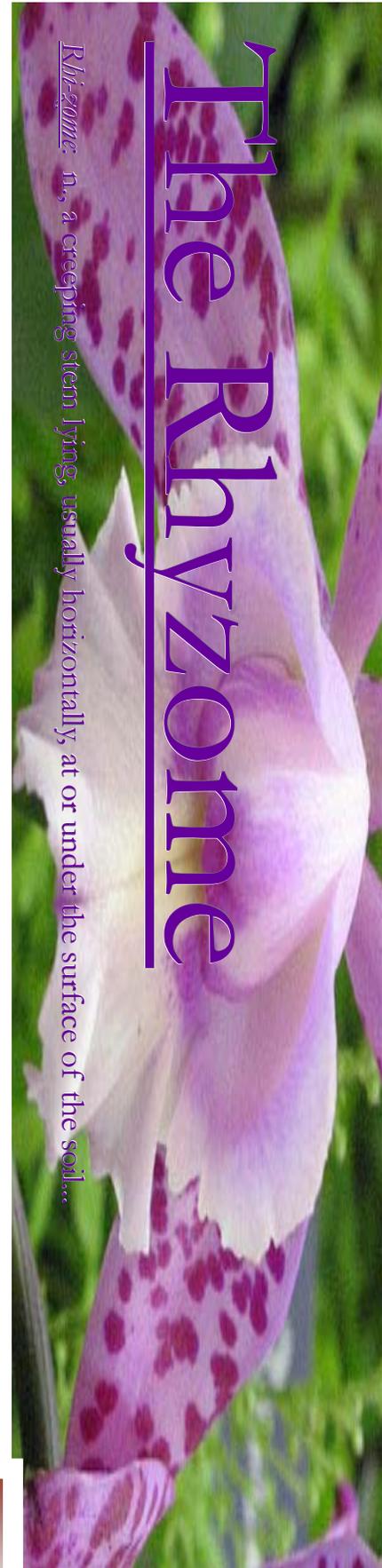
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The next regular business meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, at the Cocoa Expo at 7 pm. Executive board meeting is at 6:30 pm. For new members and visitors, the meeting is in the cafeteria of the sports complex which is the first building as you enter the complex from Friday Road.

The next back to basics meeting is Wednesday, May 27, at the Cocoa Beach Public Library at 6:30pm.

Board Members 2009

President, Alan Gettelman, (321) 454-3239 | Vice-President, Dave Riches, (321) 752-0551 | Secretary, Joan Lenhert, (321) 632-7105 | Treasurer, Joe Permy, (321) 633-0604 | Board Member, Karen Snee (321) 453-1862 | Board Member, Diana Swaney (321) 267-0693 | Board Member, Charles Bishop (321) 253-0240 | Board Member, Rosa Blair (321) 773-3476 | Past-President Advisor, Jim Adamson (321) 632-2847



An Orchid Affair – A quick synopsis of the Show

Trying something new is always an act of faith. We opted to move our traditional summer orchid show to the first weekend in May. A general comment from many were the many new flowers seen, as many orchids tend to bloom during a particular season. And although a warm weekend for the show, the temperature was still much cooler than the blazing mid-August heat of past shows. And no threat of hurricanes this time!

What was not as helpful was a threefold set of circumstances that kept attendance down. One recent orchid show reported a fifty percent decrease in attendance blamed largely upon the faltering economy with the limit that places upon discretionary spending such for orchids. I saw that same phenomenon at many orchid and other shows since January. Our show experienced that, just as a show in August would also have suffered.

Secondly, moving the date necessitates a learning curve for attendees. Moving the show up a full season gave us that much less time to inform the public. As my phone was the one listed in publicity, I received numerous calls asking if this was the “August orchid show” and were we also having one in August? When I indicated this was that show they callers indicated they would be attending. However, we could not get the word out to everyone interested in the show the August show had moved. Third, despite great efforts on the part of our publicity committee, we did not get extensive write ups in the local newspapers so many did not get the information. In a world of internet, face book, and twitter, a pictorial spread in the local newspaper or a television account of the show is golden.

The spring show was great for flowers. Last August’s show table of individual plants had very few entries and this year’s effort was much more extensive and diverse.

Our very loyal orchid dealers stuck with us and we had more vendors than last year.

One of the most unsolicited comments from both attendees (and dealers!) was the praise for the personalized photo trophies of the winner’s display or selected plants.

Our members are definitely multi-taskers. I saw countless times when members would take on whatever task needed to be done at the time with great enthusiasm or just independently did the work.

To single out a few for special comment always results in many great workers being missed, so I will limit the comments to our committee chairs for this abbreviated report.

Glenda Titler, co chair of the show, has a wealth of knowledge about shows and details large and small, about all aspects of putting on a show.

Charlie Bishop took the photos and created the award photo trophies which were so well received by the recipients. He also did the memorial board for our dear members departed since the last show which is a poignant memory and loving dedication.

Dave Riches helped Charlie with the photos, did potting booth duty every day, and worked diligently with setup and teardown, including moving a lot of tables in the warehouse.

JoAnn Amos had the pedestal arrangements, trophies and ribbons, tickets, and helped in a myriad of ways with a quiet efficiency so rare and so appreciated.

Jim Adamson has a most important job of dealer liaison to keep that important group happy, all while trying in his spare time to have a booth himself. He was responsible for arranging for the euphemism ‘foliage’ i.e. trees and material for the displays, was the primary contact with Cocoa Expo and many, many other items.

Betty Adamson is COA liaison as well as another past show chair whose steady, unerring knowledge and support is a matrix which holds so much of the show preparation together, just in part being COA judging approval, and show schedules.

Craig Helpling took on the hardest job of show publicity and made numerous contacts for the various print and electronic media and did a great job.

Jinny Landreth was our sponsorship chair and I was amazed by the number of sponsorships and door prizes she was able to obtain, all in a very dour economic climate.

Most shows have a single door prize per drawing, we had multiple door prizes.

Steve and Mary DeSorbo do the ticket booth and so much more with probably the best efficiency in the club. Steve also had the most challenging job of coordinating the club display, where the term 'let a thousand voices be heard' seemed to happen.

Rosa Blair enthusiastically spread the word about niches, and the more I watched the hard work the entrants put in on their displays, knew this was a great labor of love.

Glenda Beard with hospitality provided an elegant orchid themed displays that so beautified a threadbare building site. She also was responsible for our show theme "An Orchid Affair" and obtained our beautiful 'postcard' glossy printed flyers.

Susan Manning-Roach taught me that registration of plants is a very complex and labor intensive effort, and when that long, long day of registration was done, spent every open hour of the show working at the potting booth.

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Joan and Ed Lehnert are wonderful overachievers- not only did they arrange for the hard work of getting our heavy tables to the show site and with set up, they ran the remarkably successful raffle table. Oh, and then the next day to get all those heavy tables and supplies back to the warehouse. Ed also had to get a special liftgate for the truck when his broke-his extra effort helped make the logistics of the show possible. The raffle was a great success. Orchid shows usually have four to rarely as many as ten raffle items- we have triple that amount thanks to their chairmanship.

Judy Driver chaired table decorations that transformed the ugly bones of bare tables on Tuesday into the decorated Expo for Wednesday ready for vendor and member setup.

Bob Libbey as AOS clerking chair had more entries and fewer AOS judges than in past years so keeping that all straight was a complicated task.

Also thanks to your society's executive board who were there almost every minute of the show and for setup and teardown, and several of whom also put in displays. In addition to aforementioned Dave Riches, Joan Lehnert, and Charlie Bishop; Karen Snee and Diane Swaney worked diligently and Treasurer Joe Permy was always busy with that most demanding job during a show.

Continued from page 3

To our many members who put up signs, talked to neighbors, relatives and friends, spoke to groups and classes (including an art class!) before the show; came on Tuesday to set up all the tables and the plants for our society display (hot and sweaty work I can attest), Wednesday for the table covers and the display; Thursday one long blur of vendors and plants arriving for registration and staging for judging and making the place 'show ready'; Friday for AOS judging, opening of the show, manning the booths; Saturday for a second long day to eagerly meet and greet the public; and Sunday where after a long day, the very long, very tiring prospect of vendors and club members trying to get everything packed up and out as rapidly as possible. And Monday to get the heavy lifting back to the warehouse and begin post show reports and to tie up the myriad loose ends.

And now the work begins for PCOS show 2010. Thank you all again, I admire your energy, dedication, knowledge, patience, and enthusiasm.

Alan

American Orchid Society Awards at the PCOS Show

Two plants displayed at our 2009 "An Orchid Affair" were awarded by the American Orchid Society (AOS). This is the second year two plants gained a coveted AOS award at our annual show.

Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh 'Don Prince' was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) with a score of 78 points. The owner is Joy Prince of Orlando Florida. The judges commented "One flower and 1 bud on 1 erect, 24 cm red brown infl(orescence) covered in long white hairs; flower cram; sepals overlaid lightly suffused raspberry, dorsal sepal slightly asymmetrical, synsepal completely hidden behind pouch; petals suffused raspberry heavier toward apical half front of petals with hirsute; pouch heavily suffused dark raspberry; staminode dark mahogany basal half with yellow-green central stripe upper half; substance average; texture petals slightly crystalline, remainder matte; fine dark streaks in dorsal sepal precluded higher scape."

The other is a spectacular very large specimen of *Ascocentrum garayi* which lit up the Expo Center with colorful bright orange flowers which won an Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) with 82 points grown by Ed Gilliland of Orlando. The judges stated: "One thousand eight hundred symmetrically arranged, well-spaced flowers and buds on 51 erect inflorescence evenly distributed on a 57 cm dia(meter) by 48 cm tall clean compact plant grown in a 15 cm square wood basket, flowers slightly cupped bright orange, typical of (the) species."

So did you think that bright orange plant was actually *Ascocentrum miniatum* as indicated on the label that came with the plant as some of us did? Seems most of the plants labeled *A. miniatum* in cultivation are actually *A. garayi*. *A. garayi* was described in 1992 by Eric Christenson in *Lindleyana*. *Ascocentrum miniatum* is native from Java and has narrowly strap shaped leaves that are fleshy and V shaped in cross section. The flowers have tri lobed lip with the mid lobe strap shaped. *A. garayi* has long rigid and straight leaves, flowers also trilobed; mid lobe concave. This species occurs in Vietnam and Thailand. The species was named after Leslie Garay, the former curator of the Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium at Harvard.

Congratulations to the award winners for these well grown, interesting plants!

A BIG THANKS GOES OUT TO MEMBERS

The Sponsorship Committee extends our thanks to the following members, who donated sponsorships or door prizes: Jim and Betty Adamson, Glenda Beard, Mittsy Blackham, Rosa Blair, Mary and Steve De-Sorbo, Judy Driver, Alan Gettleman, Craig Helpling, Ruth Larson, Karen Snee, and Marie Williams.

Thanks also to the following members who secured sponsorships and door prizes: Jim and Betty Adamson, Charlie Bishop, Rosa Blair, Judy Driver, Pat Geiger, Judy Law, Ruth Jackson, Sally Pancoast, Patti Scholes and Karen Snee,

A special thank you to **Charlie Bishop** for his assistance and guidance, he made my job so easy in that I was able to follow the guidelines he has so meticulously developed over the years.

Thank you, everyone!

Ginny Landreth, Sponsorship and Dor Prize Chairman



*Ascocentrum
garayi*



Paphiopedilum
Ho Chi Minh
'Don Prince'