

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

## The Rhyzome

### August 2025

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Boy is it HOT!!! And the rainfall is, as usual, scattered all around Brevard County. I've gotten very little in Rockledge the last two weeks but I understand Merritt Island and the Lake Washington area are getting plenty. If you have plants that can't deal with being too wet, like Phals and Paphs, Thanh Nguyen from Spring-water Orchids recommends moving them out of the rainy spaces and watering them yourself. You should also make sure they have good air circulation so mine are on the back porch with a fan gently moving the hot air around.

Thanks to all of you who made it to the ramble at Sally's house. She's a pretty amazing orchid grower, as evidenced by her impressive greenhouse and yard. She also does a great job demonstrating when and how to repot. I learned from her years ago how to trim roots and use cinnamon to protect the new ones coming in. Potting materials, repotting, and staking are all important and she makes it look easy. So thanks to Sally and Peter for hosting us. I also learned a new trick from Peter on how to open those flimsy water bottles. 😊



As you know, PCOS is a volunteer run organization. So, we need volunteers or some of the perks we enjoy will not be available. I hate to see that, but members have to stand up and assume some duties that keep us strong and make the society a fun group to be a member. I know you keep seeing a lot of the same faces leading various activities. Some of them have been doing it for years and they are now ready to hand over the baton to others. Are you willing to help? We need volunteers for the following:

- Hospitality Chair to manage the snacks available at the meetings. That includes sending around a sheet at meetings for volunteers to bring in snacks, help set them out/keep them coming, and cleaning up afterwards. As of yet no one has agreed to replace Kathy so we will not have snacks at the August meeting.
- Annual Picnic is October 12<sup>th</sup>. Margaret and Kathy are in charge but need volunteers to help.
- Redlands trip is October 18<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn is in charge but needs volunteers to assist managing the day.
- Annual Holiday Party is December 10<sup>th</sup>. Tammy is in charge but needs volunteers to plan and host the event.

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER. Patti has been doing this for over 17 years and needs to have someone take it over. She will help that person get started with the various tips and tricks she has learned over the years. Many members turn in news, articles and photos but someone has to assemble the info into a newsletter format to distribute to society members. Are you that person??? If you are willing to assume a role in the society, please contact any of the names above or me as soon as possible. We can't do it without you getting involved!

See you on August 13<sup>th</sup>!

Laura

#### CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

Wed., Aug. 13, 6pm Board meeting

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Speaker: Francisco Miranda of  
Miranda Orchids in Haines City

He will bring plants to sell.

Sun., Oct. 12th Picnic

Sat., Oct. 18th Bus Trip (see page 3)

Wed., Dec. 10th Christmas Party

#### ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE HEAT?

Then go to our website at [www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org](http://www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org) and click on **Rhyzome**. Then click 2016 and read the articles in the May and June newsletters about heat and watering.

#### SUNSHINE

Deepest sympathy to Charis on the passing of her beloved mother, Elizabeth, who was also a member. Best wishes to Marisa Back as she receives treatment and to Mary Ellen Jelen as she recovers from knee surgery. Our thoughts are with Ed, and we hope Jed is home soon.



*What is this crowd doing????? ..... They are learning how to repot.*



Below: Witha in Sally's greenhouse - WOW! Sally also had lots of plants for free or for sale at just the potting cost, so it was a great opportunity for us.



This was a great opportunity to socialize and ask questions of knowledgeable members.

**These people were just there to have fun and visit!**



(Above)

First, sterilize your tools—Sally uses a blow torch. You can see the medium mixture she uses. See the May newsletter to get the ingredients and amounts. All old newsletters can be found at [www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org](http://www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org)

Next she takes a cutting off of one of her large plants. Next she sprinkles some cinnamon on the cut part of the plant and checks to see in which direction the plant is growing. She places the plant in a pot with the back side of the cutting against the side of the pot and attaches the cutting to the ring she has made. You can also buy these rings for stabilizing your plant or you can attach to a hanger.

Next (below) she pours the medium mixture around the plant in the pot. Tap, tap, tap on the ground to settle the mixture around the roots.







**American Orchid Society**

*Education. Conservation. Research.*

*Affiliated Society*

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

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)

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](#) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](#). Each allows you to post photographs and ask questions about your orchids. The group is the most active of the two, and group members usually respond quickly to posts. The page is parallel to the AOS Instagram account. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839> <https://www.facebook.com/>

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Sept. 13-14 Ridge Orchid Society Show**

**1515 Williamsburg Sq., Lakeland, FL**

**Oct. 18 Bus trip—See info below**

**Oct. 25 Gainesville Orchid Society Show**

**Kanapaha Botanical Garden**

**Gainesville, FL**

## BUS TRIP:

**When: Sat., Oct. 18th**

**Cost: \$35 per passenger**

**General Information:**

- Admission to the orchid show is included with your bus fare. Wristbands will be provided ahead of time to streamline entry into the show.
- The driving time is approximately 4 hours each way. We will provide donuts and water on the way down and light snacks and wine on the way back.
- Purchase your meal (dinner) at the show and bring it on the bus for the ride home.
- There is a bathroom onboard.
- There is plenty of storage room under the bus for your purchases.
- Bring a friend and introduce them to the wonderful world of orchids (same fee as the members).



Email Carolyn Anderson by September 1st at [cjane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:cjane.anderson@gmail.com) with your name and phone number, if you would like to attend.

## 2025 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

## BE PART OF THE TEAM!

### **PRESIDENT**

Laura Blackmon

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Tom Dixon

### **TREASURER**

Charis Gaines

### **SECRETARY**

Tammy Cheng

### **DIRECTORS**

Carolyn Anderson (2025)

Lois Fletcher (2025)

Ann Wade (2025-26)

Phyllis Gautreaux (2025-26)

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Margaret Croucher

#### **PCOS Mailing Address:**

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

### **PLANT FORUM**

Betty Adamson

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Alert—Editor needed**

### **SUNSHINE**

Betty Adamson

### **GREETERS**

Margaret Smith & Jennifer Starr

### **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

### **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

### **WEBMASTER**

Bill Jelen

### **AUDIO**

Scott Anderson

### **REFRESHMENTS**

**Alert—Chairman needed.**

### **SHOW CHAIRMAN**

Carolyn Anderson

#### **Website:**

**PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org**