

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

## The Rhizome July 2025

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's July and that means a **RAMBLE!!!**. We do this every summer and it's a great way to socialize with society members and at the same time learn tips on how to take care of your orchids. This year's event is hosted by Sally and Peter Pancoast. Both have been active members in PCOS for years. Sally has a huge greenhouse and she often supplies orchids for our raffles. On Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, she'll be talking about the way she grows her large variety of orchids and how her greenhouse operates. At 9am she will demonstrate how to divide some of her larger plants and repot them. She'll also talk about the medium she uses as well as fertilizing and spraying for insects. She may even have a few giveaway plants. You don't want to miss this ramble so be there or be square!

Now I want to give a shout-out to Kathy Ballance and Patty Scholes. Both have been longtime members and active in everything we do. Kathy has been the Hospitality Chair for our meetings since 2017. She's done a great job getting members to bring the snacks while she brings bottles of water. She keeps the snacks flowing by refilling containers and keeping everything nice and tidy. But she'd like to have someone else take over these duties so she can just come to the meetings and enjoy herself.

Patty Scholes has been doing our monthly newsletter since 2007. Guess what??? She would also like to come to the meetings and just be a regular member. She's done an excellent job with the newsletter, adding new topics and articles over the years to make our newsletter both informative and educational.

Hopefully, someone will take over the task of publishing the newsletter as early as this fall. Anyone with skills or experience writing, collating, and/or putting together such a document is sorely needed to keep the newsletter coming.

Volunteers for either one of these positions? I hope so because I'm sorry to announce that unless someone agrees to be Hospitality Chair, the kitchen will be closed during our meetings. There will be no drinks or snacks so you'll have to bring your own.

If you're interested in being an integral part of PCOS, please contact me and volunteer. I'll be at the Ramble so we can talk there or you can contact me on my cell: 321-745-9046. See you later, alligator... *Laura*



Charlie's C. Femme Fatale

### CALENDAR

**There will be no meeting in July, but we will have our ramble visit to Sally and Peter's home July 26th., so save the date.**

**The week before the ramble, you will receive the address and time.**

### SUNSHINE

Our best wishes to Jed for a speedy recovery. We are glad that Gheri is doing better.



# June Meeting

Many thanks to Thanh of Springwater Orchids for his interesting talk on his favorite type of orchid—Paphs. The lists that many of you wanted from the slide show were also sent with this newsletter as a separate attachment from Thanh.



## Forum



Sharon's

C Little Dipper  
'Sato 4 n'

X

C. Rose Surprise  
'Crestwood'



Above left, Jennifer and Mike's *B. nodosa* 'Emma' (white) and *bulbophyllum taiwanense* (Laura's).

At left, Karen's Yen Surprise 'Seiko'

At right: Betty asked, "Did you see the *Cymbidium aloifolium* (shown at right) in the tree as you entered the meeting at the Garden Club?" What a nice welcome.







**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 web-site. 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.

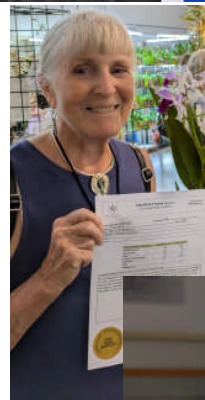
[www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839). 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/groups/52597049839>

## UPCOMING SHOWS

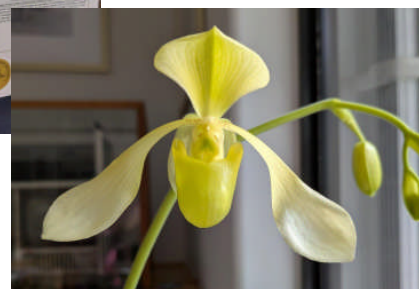
Just a reminder that we will take a bus trip to the show at the Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, FL on Oct. 18th. Sign up at the next meeting if you want to go.

Many thanks to members Margaret Croucher, Karen Chandler, Witha Lacuesta, Lois Fletcher and Laura Blackmon for setting up our club's exhibit at the CFOS show. It won First Place!! See below for the awarded plants within the exhibit.

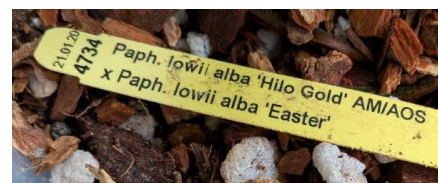


Witha also received an AOS award for her Paph.

Shown below.



Above: Margaret with her Enc. 'Newberry Tuity Fruity' which was awarded an AM/AOS. Margaret gave it the clonal name 'Sally's Gift', because Sally gave it to her. There are lots of benefits when you join PCOS.



## Keeping Track of Your Orchids

Last month Charlie Scholes talked about his method of keeping track of his orchids: names, parentage, blooming period, repotting, fertilizing, etc. You'll find many of our members who are serious growers (or just anal) have developed their own process for keeping track of their plants, and the systems are as varied as the people who use them. This month I'm going to talk about my method of orchid record-keeping.

I use Word and keep my records in a File Explorer document folder.

- The primary folder is entitled simply "Orchids" and contains internal folders that list the various genre of orchids that are in my collection, such as Beallara, Brassavola, Catasedium, Cattleya, Dendrobium, Encyclia, Vanda, etc.
  1. I have 24 folders. One of them is a DEAD folder to keep the info on plants that have committed suicide, just in case I get/want another one.
  2. I use the genre folders to collate all the orchids I have recorded, which helps me know their genre. For example, I have several small vanda orchids identified as Ascocenda. The genre was changed to Vanda so all my Asconcdas are under the Vanda file and I know how to classify them for registration. I have lots of miniature orchids filed under their genre and under Miniatures so they can be registered as both.
- Next in the primary folder is a file entitled AAA Individual Orchid Sheet that is the boilerplate file I use to record new purchases and then save under the name of the orchid. AAA keeps it at the top of the files list.
- Following are all the files of orchids that I have recorded.

Here's a sample of an orchid sheet:

### INDIVIDUAL ORCHID INFO SHEET

Plant Name: Cattleya Portia 'Appleton' (1887)  
Pod Parent: Guarianthe bowringiana  
Pollen Parent: Cattleya labiata  
Date received: 2/13/19  
Received from: PCOS raffle  
Awards: FCC/AOS, AM/AOS  
Growing Notes: These are large sized plants, that get many multi-flowered flower spikes. Flowers October-November



Components of the info sheet:

- As you can see, the file includes the name of the cattleya hybrid with the date it was registered (I kind of like to know how old it is). If it's a hybrid without a name I list both parents as the plant name and save it as such.
- Next is the parentage which is great to have when registering your plant for the show. If the name is not on the tag, I first look on google to find the parents and then check with the Royal Horticultural Society to verify the information is correct.
- The date/received lets me know how long I've had it and where I got it. If I purchase it, I put the vendor and the price. If was given to me I write the name of the person so I know who to go to if I have questions.
- In awards I list AOS and any personal awards I have received in the various shows.
- Growing notes may be short or longer, depending upon how much I need to know about the plant. I also copy growing notes off the internet and notes from our monthly speakers for the various genres and put them in the genre folders listed previously.
- The picture helps me identify the plant if it's blooming and I have unfortunately lost the name tag. Initially the pic may be from the internet but I try to replace it with a picture I've taken of the plant in bloom because they sometimes look different. If I don't have the name then I put two pictures, one of each parent.

So, that's my system. It works for me but maybe not others. Let me know if you have any questions.

Laura

# **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:**

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P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

### **Website:**

[PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org](http://PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org)

## **PLANT FORUM**

Betty Adamson

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Patti Scholes

## **SUNSHINE**

Betty Adamson

## **GREETERS**

Margaret Smith & Jennifer Starr

## **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

## **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

## **WEBMASTER**

Bill Jelen

## **AUDIO**

Scott Anderson

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Kathy Ballance

## **SHOW CHAIRMAN**

Carolyn Anderson



Violet's native orchid.