

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

October 2022

It was great to see everyone back together again at the September meeting. It was a delight to welcome Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids as our guest speaker. In October, we welcome back Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids to be our speaker.

If you haven't already signed up to attend the picnic, be sure to do so at the October meeting. The main dish will be provided by the society, so please sign up with your favorite picnic side dish. As usual, this is a great time to get better acquainted at this beautiful venue on the water. And you might win an orchid if you are lucky. Don't forget to send your show theme to Jodi.

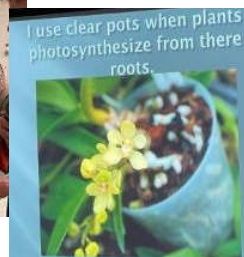


2022 Show Chairman, Laura Blackmon, presenting our check for \$1000 to Andy Scholl of Candlelighter's of Brevard.. They were thrilled with the generous donation from our annual show.



When is the best time to repot?

- ❑ Calcium builds strong cell walls
- ❑ Calcium increases disease resistance
- ❑ Calcium helps promote strong flowering
- ❑ Orchids can only bring in as much calcium as they need
- ❑ Calcium Nitrate help you flush the media
- ❑ Dolomite and Oyster Shell are excellent sources of calcium



2023 Slate of Officer Nominations for PCOS

The election will be at the November meeting.

President	Margaret Croucher
Vice President	Ed Kidder
Treasurer	Mary Ellen Jelen
Secretary	Carolyn Anderson

Directors:

Jim Rice	(2022-2023)
Witha LaCuesta	(2022-2023)
Tammy Cheng	(2023-2024)
Anna Palermo	(2023-2024)

CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 12th 6pm—Board meeting

Wed., Oct. 12th 7pm—Meeting with speaker Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids.

Sun., Oct. 23rd at Noon—Annual Picnic at the Cocoa Beach Pavilion located on the east side of the parking lot of Cocoa Beach Country Club. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the October meeting by indicating what side dish you would like to bring and how many people will be attending.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

November 9: Phillip Hamilton of Bredren Orchids
December 14: Holiday Party

SUNSHINE

Speedy get well wishes to Carolyn Anderson and to Alan Keith as he recovers from his knee surgery. Happiness is welcoming Jodi Kittleson back as our 2023 Show Chairman. Give her lots of support.

Why can't I plant my orchid in dirt or potting soil?

What makes orchid roots different from common house or garden plants?



In nature, orchid roots hold plants firmly to trees or rocks. Their spongy velamen soaks up moisture and nutrients. They can extend for meters away from the plant itself.

Basically the structure of an orchid plant is the same as any plant for it has roots, stems, leaves and flowers. But these parts are adapted to its way of life and differ somewhat from familiar plants which you grow in your garden. Most garden or house plants have a central root system that grows down into the soil and anchors it to the ground. From this central root, smaller, finer roots covered in fine hairs will develop forming the root system of the plant. This underground root system absorbs moisture and nutrients from the soil.

On the other hand, most of the orchids grown by hobbyists are epiphytes. In nature, rather than grow into the ground, epiphytes use their roots to attach themselves to trees or rocks where light and air movement are more plentiful.

The central core of an orchid root is covered by a spongy material called velamen. This spongy material stores water for the plant and should it remain wet for too long, the central core will rot and will no longer be able to absorb moisture and nutrients. If an orchid plant is potted in soil or dirt, the roots will not receive enough air and will be unable to dry out and will rot. In order for an orchid plant to be healthy and produce flowers, water, air and light must be in balance.

Orchid roots can be very fine such as those of the *Oncidium* family or very thick like *Phalaenopsis* or *Vanda* roots. The thickness of the roots is usually a good measure to determine the type of orchid potting media to use: In general, the thicker the root, the more open and less dense the potting material.

Monopodial orchids often have aerial roots that are produced at intervals along the main stem and grow out and down. Some attach to the support, if it is a slab or a totem, some go down into the potting mix in a basket or pot, but many monopodial plant roots hang in the air. Many originate above the lower leaves. Active roots are white with green or brownish tips when in growth. Dry dead roots look like brown strings and may be cut off with a sterile tool if their central core is brown.



Even experienced growers can have trouble distinguishing live roots from dead roots. Sometimes roots that appear to be dead, can still produce live, new roots as shown by the white root tip in this photo.

The roots of sympodial orchids grow from the rhizome. They are white and fleshy with a spongy covering layer. The growing tips are bright green, reddish-brown or olive color. As with roots of all plants, the growing tip is pushed forward by the division of the cells immediately behind it.

Roots take up water and nutrients for the growth of the plant. On orchids they also serve as holdfasts, attaching themselves to the insides of containers, into the slabs of cork or tree fern, or even attaching to the plastic peanuts used for drainage material in pots. Roots often venture over the edges of pots or baskets, hanging out in the air as they do in nature.

When growing in the wild, roots may secure themselves in the cracks of bark or rocks. They absorb water and nutrients from the debris that collects around them.

Old roots on a plant may cease to function and turn brown and dry or brown and soggy. These may be cut off with a sterile tool or razor blade. However, as long as roots have a green core, they are useful, and experiments show that old live roots take up as much nourishment as do new roots.



When an orchid root has only a waxy, woody core, the root may be cut off using a sterile pair of shears.

GREAT PLACES FOR MEMBERS TO FIND INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS:

1. Programs—Take notes—someday they will make sense.
2. AOS Magazine articles. “Orchids” is available at every meeting for check out.
3. Members— Ask longtime members about orchids, but realize that your yard and potting choices are key. We all use trial and error to succeed.
4. Internet sites—**www.aos.org**—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify how others in your area grow their orchids.

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 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

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/AmericanOrchidSociety>

UPCOMING FLORIDA SHOWS

- OCT. 22-23** **Gainesville Orchid Society Show**
“Orchids in the Garden” at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville, FL
- NOV. 13** **East Everglades Orchid Society Show**
R.F. Orchids (in the Banyon Pavilion)
28100 S.W.182 Ave., Homestead, FL
- NOV. 26-27** **Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show**
River Walk Center, Ft. Pierce
- 2023**
- FEB. 4-5** **Venice Area Orchid Society Show**
Venice Community Center, Venice, FL
- FEB. 11-12** **Boca Raton Orchid Society Show**
Safe Schools Institute, Boca Raton, FL
- MAR. 3-4** **Englewood Area Orchid Society Show**
“Bewitched by Orchids”
Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park,
Englewood, FL
- MAR. 4-5** **Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show**
“For the Love of Orchids”
Sons of Italy Hall, Tampa, FL
- MAR. 18-19** **Jacksonville Orchid Society Show**
Mandarin Garden Club, Jacksonville, FL
- MAR. 18-19** **Nature Coast Orchid Society Show**
VFW Post 8681, Spring Hill, FL
- MAR. 25-26** **Orchid Society of Highlands Show**
“Art in Bloom”
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, FL
- APR. 1-2** **Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show**
“Hoot Loves Orchids”
Port St. Lucie Polish American Club
Port St. Lucie, FL

Caution: The very toxic Puss Caterpillar is in Brevard County. Its resemblance to a cat’s soft fur is how it gets its name. It’s found especially in oak and elm trees and frequently drops down. Bites are painful and dangerous. Be cautious.

2022 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Ed Kidder

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Walters

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

Margaret Croucher

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

SECRETARY

Carolyn Anderson

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

DIRECTORS

Bert Forbush (2022)

Kathy Ballance (2022)

Witha Lacuesta (2022-2023)

James Rice (2022-2023)

Peter Pancoast (Past President)

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

GREETER

Margaret Smith

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

JoAnn Amos

WEBMASTER

Bill Jelen

AUDIO

Scott Anderson

REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Ballance

PICNIC CHAIR

Kathy Ballance

SHOW CHAIR (2023)

Jodi Kittleson

PARTY CHAIRS

Anna Palermo

Tammy Cheng