

Platinum Coast Orchid Society, Brevard County, Florida

The Rhyzome

October, 2010 Edition

Editor: Patti Scholes



ANNUAL PICNIC Sun., Oct. 3rd

**Last chance to sign up for the annual
PCOS Picnic**

**Where: Cocoa Beach Pavilion
at Cocoa Beach Country Club**

**When: Sun., Oct. 3rd
Noon to 4 pm**

**R.S.V.P.: by Oct. 1st to
Denise Baumann
543-4641**

OCTOBER PROGRAM

An AOS slide show on Equitant Oncidiums will be shown at the October 13th meeting at the Ag Center in Cocoa at 7 pm. We are planning to have some equitant oncidiums available to members who are in attendance and would like to purchase one. Hope to see you there.

AOS CORNER by Lynn Fuller

The Affiliated Society Committee will have its semi-annual breakfast on Friday morning, October 29, 2010 during the AOS Fall Members Meeting being held in conjunction with the **Sixth Annual Merritt Huntington Memorial Symposium in Virginia Beach, October 27 – 31, 2010**. World-class speakers include Philippe Lecoufle of Orchidees Vacherot & Lecoufle, Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids, John Salventi of Parkside Orchid Nursery; Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited, Olaf Gruss from Grassau, Germany, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids and Carlos Fighetti from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

The symposium will also feature approximately twenty excellent vendors (including most of the speakers) plus several interesting tours showcasing the maritime flavor of the area. For more information and to register, visit www.mhsymposium.org. Hope you will join us.

We appreciate the effort many of you have already put toward the distribution of the AOS Cares! Survey in your newsletters, on your web sites and at your meetings. The results so far have been fascinating and helpful for future planning.. For those societies that have not yet had the opportunity to take advantage of this important outreach, please do so soon. This feedback will be invaluable in guiding the AOS to better serve orchidists everywhere.

There are two attractive tri-fold printable AOS membership information brochures now available for use at your meetings, shows and other orchid events. These are well designed and include helpful cultural information for the most common genera and work well printed in either B & W or beautiful color. One has our popular Orchid Basics-FAQ's on the back; the other has Orchids in the Home on the reverse side. You can find them at http://www.aosforum.org/pdf/Mem.Flier_3-fold.v1.pdf and http://www.aosforum.org/pdf/Mem.Flier_3-fold.v2.pdf, respectively.

Back to Basics

The program at our Back to Basics meeting was very informative. Many thanks to Sally Pancoast for the presentation and for giving us a chance to pick up a *purpurata*. Anyone interesting in translating the abbreviations on their tags, might find the following website helpful:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/RHSWebsite/files/87/87be8b1e-908e-4e04-9ee6-30c438354458.pdf>

In the Dec. 2009 AOS Magazine, there is an interesting story about the *Angraecum sesquipedale*, which we discussed during the slide show. It is sometimes called the Star of Bethlehem. If you are interested in this species, you can check to see if Jim may have some blooming.

Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helping

One of the most ideal sources of water for orchids is rain water. If you grow orchids outdoors – under trees, in a pool enclosure or screened lanai, or in a shade house – you probably know how well orchids respond to a good rain. After all, species and natural hybrids survive in the native habitat with only rain, dew and humidity supplying the needed moisture. But rain provides more than just water.

Rain is good for orchids, but not because it is a “pure” source of water. If distilled water can be considered as pure, containing no dissolved solids or nutrients, rain by comparison is quite the opposite. Rain water is usually ‘soft’, containing only low levels of dissolved solids, and that can help leach out any excessive fertilizer salts that tend to build up. But besides containing small levels of micronutrients, rain can also contain some of the fundamental primary nutrients required by all plants.

The atmosphere is composed chiefly of dinitrogen gas, N₂. This combination of two nitrogen atoms is very stable, with strong molecular bonds. However, the forces holding the nitrogen atoms together are no match for another natural phenomenon, lightning. The power in a lightning bolt literally splits the dinitrogen gas molecules apart, creating nitrite, nitrate and ammonia. These components are picked up by the condensing moisture, becoming part of the rain. This natural process becomes one of nature’s ways of fertilizing plants, including our outdoor-grown orchids.

But, the problem we face is the timing of the rains. We seem to get too much or too little to fit our preferred cultural practices. So, how can you make use of rain water on your schedule? A rain barrel is the simplest answer. Positioned to receive rain running off the roof of the house, rain barrels can collect and store the water for your use. Except during prolonged drought periods, this stored rain water can be used for general irrigation, or as a source of good water to mix with your fertilizer program. A delivery system, such as a pump sprayer or electric pump, is needed to water your orchids.



C. Li Ying Hua ‘Bourdette’

Sunshine

Deepest sympathy to John Hicks on the passing of his brother.



Asvtd (Ascovandorities) Prapin (at left)

Grown by Betty Adamson

The compact free blooming plant has pale lavender flowers with a hint of orange in the lip. Since these are not mericlones, the colors vary slightly. The parents are *Doritis pulcheriema* x *Ascda Pralor*. The plant will rapidly send out new growths (new plants) and bloom spikes tend to rapidly follow previous blooms! It prefers bright light and is grown on the moist side. Everyone should have one of these in their collection!!

Right: Mokkara (Jitte)

Grown by Rosa Blair

This orchid is grown under 50% shade cloth.



Below: Ascocenda Prachit Gold X Rhy. Gigantea

Grown by Joan and Ed Lehnert

This orchid is grown under 50% shade cloth in a pergola on the shore of Lake Poinsett in Cocoa. Normal watering and fertilizer



MEMBERS AND THEIR ORCHIDS

Below: Blc. Copper Queen

Grown by new member Laura DeCarlo

This orchid is grown in a base of coir with a mix of medium coconut chips and charcoal. I add in Nutricote 13-13-13 fertilizer pellets. I have a watering system so that each time I water, the plants are hit with a slow release of seaweed (Maxicrop), bloom booster (Jack's or Fertilome), and Epsom Salts. It is grown in rather high light outside.



Patti Scholes
1520 Tuna Street
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Mark Your Calendar

Sun., Oct. 3rd Noon-4 pm, Picnic at Cocoa Beach Pavilion

Wed., Oct. 13th—6:15pm, Cocoa Ag Center Board Meeting

Wed., Oct. 13th—7:00pm, Cocoa Ag Center General Meeting and Program

Wed., Oct. 27th—6:30pm, Cocoa Beach Library
Back to Basics Meeting
Last date for newsletter submissions

Save the Date

December 18th—Holiday Party

UPCOMING SHOWS

October 16-17
Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Community Center
Veterans Memorial Park, Ft Pierce, FL

October 29-31
Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square
51 Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL

October 30-November 1, 9 am—5 pm
Brevard County Orchid Society
Melbourne Auditorium
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL
(Visit www.thebcos.org for details and coupon)

Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

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|----------------|-----------------|--|---------------|
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