

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

May 2016 Edition



A BIG thank you to every member who volunteered at the show. What great fun and a wonderful way to connect with other members. We had many new members join at the show. Our casual May meeting should provide lots of opportunities to meet them and welcome them into our society. Check out page 5 for show photos.

NATIVE ORCHID PROJECT:

It is about time for the native deciduous orchid we are studying to send up its bloom structure. The plant itself should appear in May, the bloom structure in June, and then white blooms in August through September. Please keep track on your Botany Specimen Report or if you've lost it, give the date it appeared and bloomed, as well as the soil type, water, mulch and fertilizer you used. We will compile the information in the fall.

SUMMER MONTHS:

During the summer months, we will have a few rambles to see how our members raise their orchids. Then in August, Ken and Judy Russ will be here with their pots and a great program. You won't want to miss this.

CALENDAR

May 11, 6pm **Board meeting**
May 11, 7pm **General Meeting**
Doyle Carlton Pavilion

At Kiwanis Island

Come with your favorite orchid book or website to share with other members, and don't forget to bring in all show signs.

SUNSHINE

So many of our members have had setbacks recently. We're glad that so many have recovered quickly and were able to come to the show. We wish Nadine, Jodi, Barry, Peter, Camille, Jim, Christina, Walter, James, Betty, and John continued healing and good health.

ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO JUST LIKES TO LOOK AT ORCHIDS

I'm the wife of an orchid hobbyist. Normally, you wouldn't want advice from me, because I have no idea what I'm doing. Oh, I can publish a newsletter and I'm great at talking people into taking jobs in the orchid society, but go to Charlie if you want orchid advice. Well, today, I am breaking the mold. I've been an American Orchid Society member for years, but I always just passed the *Orchids* magazine on to Charlie to read. Over the past year, I've been reading *Orchids* and have corresponded with Sue Bottom, who graciously allowed us to reprint some of her articles for beginners. The AOS magazine "*Orchids*" is chock full of wonderful advice, and in my opinion, PCOS members who are not AOS members are really missing out on some great information. Of course, we have *Orchids* available at every meeting, but rarely do I see someone borrow the magazine. The Supplement to the November issue of *Orchids* was a wonderful guide. The first article listed "the four musts for beginners—1. Join an orchid society. 2. Subscribe to *Orchids* magazine. 3. Purchase and read as many books as possible. 4. Visit as many nurseries as possible." You've already accomplished #1, so you're on your way. Numbers 2 and 3 are available in our society library, and you can visit members' nurseries this summer at our rambles. There were other articles about essential tools you need, best orchid mixes, sunlight for your orchids, sprouting backbulbs, taking advice about orchids, fertilizing, signs your orchids are happy.....well, you get the idea.

Check out the AOS website at www.aos.org to join or to find information, like the excerpt below. If you have a question, that's the first place you should look. Happy reading on your way to becoming a successful orchidist.

Patti

Water

Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components; quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry (Figure 2). If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant.

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Watering frequency can be controlled by the choice of pot. For those who really like to water their plants or live in humid, rainy areas, clay pots, especially slotted pots are a good choice. Growers in drier climates or those who tend not to water often enough might want to use plastic pots to hold moisture longer.

From *Orchid Basics* 101 on www.aos.com

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.
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 the best way to grow your orchids. We’ll visit a few homes this summer.

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

UPCOMING FLORIDA SHOWS

May 7-8 Volusia County Orchid Society Show

Volusia County Fairgrounds

Visit www.volusiacountyorchidsociety.com for coupons and information.

PCOS EXHIBIT FOR VOLUSIA SHOW:

Don’t forget to contact Judy Law if you have any orchids to send to the Volusia show for our exhibit or if you would like to go along to help.



Tropical Pointer ‘cheetah’ (at left) was given by Charlie to his daughter’s friend, Laura. Laura loves all plants and decided to attach this orchid to a tree by her front door. Look at those roots! Oddly enough, this orchid blooms 2-3 times a year now, so it must be happy.

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SHOW 2016



MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SHOW SPONSORS

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We appreciate Florida Today writer Maria Sonnenberg, Hometown News writer Brittany Mulligan, and Joe Crews from Brighthouse TV for covering our society and show.