

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society The Rhyzome

September 2012 Edition

## President's Message:

We have lots going on at PCOS in the next couple months. Of special interest is the elections of the Board upcoming in November. If you are interested in serving on the Board please contact one of the nominating committee: Joyce Schofield, Patti Scholes, or Nadine Kern. The proposed slate of officers will be presented at the September meeting and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November meeting. We will also vote to choose a theme for our 2013 Show and Sale. This is our 50th so it will be special. Please submit your ideas in writing or by e-mail to the nominating committee prior to the meeting so we can prepare the ballot. Themes will not be accepted at the meeting. A plant sale for members will round out the November Meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in filling a key role for the 2013 show. Planning has already started.  
Dennis

## Sunshine

Get well wishes to Peter Pancoast as he recovers.

Get well wishes to John Hicks as he continues his medical treatment.



Pot. Egyptian Queen 'Desert Eve'  
Grower: Margaret Croucher

## Mark your calendar

- Sept. 12th Board Meeting  
Kiwaniis Island**
- Sept. 12th 6:30 pm outside the  
meeting room  
Back to Basics with Bob**
- Sept. 12th 7:00 pm  
General Meeting  
Kiwaniis Island  
Doyle Carlton Pavilion**
- Sept. 29th Noon PCOS Picnic  
Cocoa Beach Pavilion  
at Cocoa Beach Country  
Club at the east end of t  
the parking lot.**
- If you would like to attend the pic-  
nic, please e-mail Denise Baumann  
at [denisebaumann@cfl.rr.com](mailto:denisebaumann@cfl.rr.com)  
with the number attending and what  
you would like to bring (salad, des-  
sert, appetizer, etc.) Lots of fun and  
prizes.**
- December 8th—Holiday Party**

## 2012 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

### **PRESIDENT**

**Dennis Gollehon**  
321-427-6959  
President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Joyce Schofield**  
321-783-5200  
VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **TREASURER**

**Margaret Croucher**  
321-454-4067  
Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **SECRETARY**

**Nadine Kern**  
321-504-1199  
Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Jim Adamson**  
321-632-2847  
jadamson1@cfl.rr.com

### **DIRECTORS**

**JoAnn Amos**  
**Karen Snee**  
**Leeann McCullough**  
**Marsha Lovas**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Joyce Schofield**

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Patti Scholes**

### **AOS LIAISON**

**Betty Adamson**

### **REFRESHMENTS**

**Camille Theobald**

### **LIBRARY**

**Sally Pancoast**

### **SUNSHINE**

**Betty Adamson**

### **PLANT FORUM**

**Steve DeSorbo**  
**Betty Adamson**

### **HOSPITALITY/GREETER**

**Shearer Kennedy**

### **EXHIBITS**

**Sally Pancoast**  
**Joyce Schofield**

### **PROGRAMS**

**Joyce Schofield**

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Jan Castillo**  
**Charlie Scholes**

### **RAFFLE**

**Karen Snee**

### **PUBLICITY**

**Ann Colchin**

### **BACK TO BASICS**

**Bob Libbey**

PCOS Embroidered Shirts  
Platinum Coast Orchid Society with flower  
in the center.

Available at :

Robin's Nest Embroidery  
1314 Clearlake Rd., Ste. 4  
Cocoa, FL

Phone: 321-636-4320

Sizes Small-XL \$28.00

2X \$30.00 3X \$34.00

If you bring your own shirt, embroidery  
charge will be \$10.



## AUGUST MEETING

What a great meeting! **Jim** showed us how to repot, and I think we will all agree, he is very entertaining. Thanks for lots of good advice, Jim.

A big, big thank you to **Camille** for the wonderful refreshments. With the wide variety, there was something for everyone. If you arrive early, please help Camille carry things in.

Our plant forum was very interesting. Thank you,, **Betty**, for a quick, but very informative forum.

**Sally** gave us something else to chew on when she brought the two orchids below. They are sibling seedlings, Lc. Shirley Jones. If you were at the July meeting, Sally talked about this a little. Even though they have the same parents and name, they look very different just like siblings. When you see a varietal name in ' ' it is the name given to that sibling. The varietal name is given by a plant owner to distinguish his plant from another of the same parentage. If you ever purchase a plant with a 'varietal' name, your plant should either be a division of the original plant, or a meristem or clone of the original plant. Either way, the flowers should be copies of the original plant.

*What do we love about raising orchids?*

*It's an experience in life-long learning. You learn something new everyday.*



Nadine brought the plant at the left in, but it had no name. Several members think it is Royal Robe, but she can investigate on Orchid Wiz, available at every meeting for members to identify orchids. If possible, bring some clue, i.e., part of a tag, a memory, a picture, or the orchid.



*Great hostess*



*Great food*

## **A GREAT EVENING IN JOYCE & JOHN'S GARDEN**

*Great ideas*



*Great group*



*Great garden*



### **More Raffle Fun**

Everyone who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing. If you never received your PCOS nametag, please let Joyce Schofield know at least one week prior to the meeting, so she can have it ready for you.

# Starring the Dendrobiums....

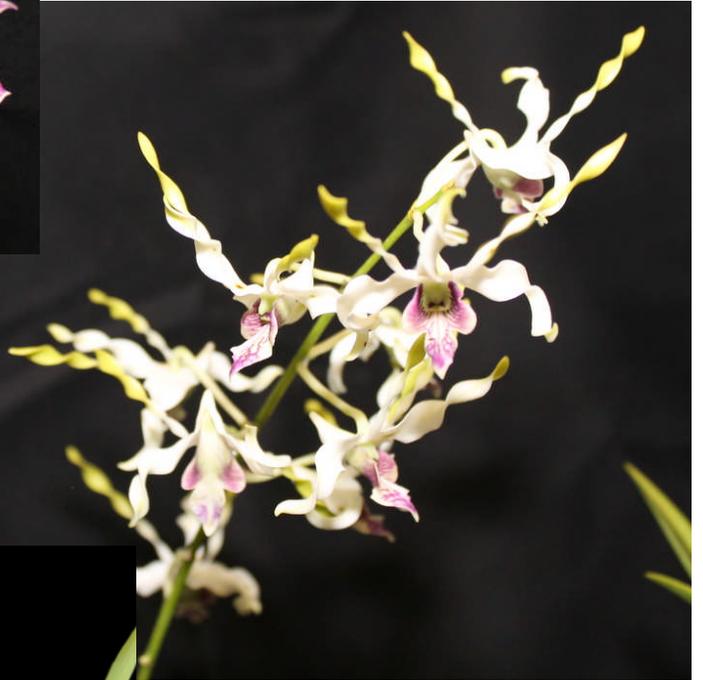


With all of the beautiful dendrobiums blooming this summer, we had a wide variety of them at the last meeting.

At left: Den. Easter Bunny  
Growers: Ed and Joan Lehnert

This plant can grow to 4—6 feet tall. You can see how long the back petals are. We have been told that the longer they are, the better the quality of the plant. We grow it under 50% shade cloth. With luck, it could grow into a large, specimen plant.

At right: Den. Friend Gems  
Grower: Margaret Croucher  
Grown on my pool deck, with no shade cloth, just the screen as a filter.



At left: Den. Samurai  
Grower: Patti Scholes

Patti says, “Finally a dendrobium that Charlie likes!” After killing most of our dens hanging on our windy canal, we started hanging them on clips at the outside of the orchid house, and keeping them in a small pot, if possible clay, so the roots can grab onto the pot and the wind won’t blow them out.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### Sept. 14-15 Ridge Orchid Society

Lake Mirror Auditorium  
121 S. Lake Ave.  
Lakeland, FL

### Oct. 6-7 Florida West Coast Orchid Society

Minneg Hall  
6340 126th Ave.  
Largo, FL

### Oct. 5,6,7 South Florida Orchid Society Show

Bank United Center—Univ. of Miami  
1245 Dauer Dr.  
Coral Gables, FL

### Oct. 13 & 14 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show

St. Lucie County Shrine Club  
4600 Oleander Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL

### Oct. 13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
4700 S.W. 58th Drive  
Gainesville, FL

### Oct. 19-20, 9-4 George Housmans Octoberfest

4265 Marsh Road  
Deland, FL 32724

### Octo. 20-21 Tampa Orchid Society Show

USF  
4202 East Fowla Ave.  
Tampa, FL

### Oct. 27 & 28 Brevard County Orchid Society

Melbourne Auditorium  
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne,  
\$4—visit [www.thebcos.org](http://www.thebcos.org) for a \$1 coupon

### Oct. 26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society

Old School Sq. Gym  
51 N. Swenton Ave.  
Delray, FL

## BACK TO BASICS WITH BOB

Do you have a problem child, oops, I mean orchid? Do you have an orchid that needs repotting, but you are afraid to do it by yourself?

Then **Back to Basics with Bob** is for you. Bring your plants to each meeting, and Bob Libbey will be outside at the picnic tables at 6:30 p.m. to help you. If you want help repotting, be sure to bring the potting supplies you need, because he will not have pots or medium, only lots of knowledge and know-how from growing orchids for a long time.

If you need supplies, you can call John Hicks at 407-493-3064 and place an order several days in advance. He will bring your supplies to the meeting, and you can pay him then.

\*\*Back to Basics is for **Members Only**, and is a special benefit of membership in PCOS.

## SPEAKING OF MEMBERSHIP

Joyce is our membership chair. Please let her know by emailing [joyceschofield1@att.net](mailto:joyceschofield1@att.net)

1. if there are any changes in your information.
2. if you have not received your nametag.
3. if you are not receiving your newsletter.  
For this, you may also let Patti know at [orchidpat@aol.com](mailto:orchidpat@aol.com)
4. if you need a membership form for a friend.



PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. For the last few months, a selection of the articles available on the AOS website have been featured in our newsletter. Please visit the site and check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member. Ask Betty for an application.

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

# Thrips

By Susan Jones

Many species of thrips feed on orchids; some of the most common include western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), Cuban laurel thrips (*Gynaikothrips ficorum*), greenhouse thrips (*Heliiothrips haemorrhoidalis*) and flower thrips (*Frankliniella bispinosa*).

Thrips are a common problem on vandaceous plants, dendrobiums and to a lesser extent, cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Because they are quite small (about 1/16 to 3/8 inch [1 to 5 mm] long), they are difficult to see with the naked eye. Much more easily detected is the damage to plants, deformed foliage and injured floral tissues caused by their feeding. They most often attack buds and new growths with their rasping mouthparts, sucking the plant sap.



Thrips can make a mess out of flowers you have waited all year to see.

## Symptoms

Much like aphids, thrips feed in buds and flowers by using their mouthparts to pierce the surface of the plant tissues and suck up juices from leaves, stems and flowers. Blooms may become prematurely brown, and their petals spotted, streaked, silvery or discolored. Damage to leaves appears as chlorotic spots, wilting and eventually dropping. Plant growth can be stunted, and a severe thrips infestation will kill an orchid. If you suspect that thrips are present, gently blow into an open flower and watch for the insects crawling around inside the blossom.

Because of their method of feeding and ability to travel from plant to plant, thrips, like aphids, may introduce and spread virus through an orchid collection.

## Life Cycle

The majority of the pest thrips belong to the family Thripidae. The adults of most species are brown or black. The winged adults (males and females) are found mainly on flowers and developing growths. Females deposit their eggs beneath the surface of the plant tissue. Often the only visible evidence of this is the callus tissue formed by the orchid in response to the wound. The nymphal (immature) stages are creamy yellow to pale orange and resemble adults without any wings. The nymphs feed on the tender young plant growths, then drop to the medium to pupate. The pupae are a darker orange color than the nymphs. As they are generally below the surface of the medium, they are unlikely to be spotted and more difficult to control with pesticides. When they emerge as winged adults, they fly back up to the plant to feed, lay eggs and begin the cycle once again.

Each female is capable of producing 25 to 50 eggs at a time, and many species reproduce at a rate of three to five generations per year. Their reproduction rate is more rapid in warmer temperatures, making thrips a more difficult pest to control in southern climates.

## Prevention

Thrips are among the more difficult insect pests to prevent and control, but some measures that help include covering all vents and doorways with insect-proof netting, segregation of infested plants and disposal of all affected loose plant material, and overall good general sanitation ? removal of all weeds and plant debris from the growing area

Thrips can be monitored using blue or yellow sticky traps, which should be checked weekly. Thrips will appear as small dark specks on the traps. This will allow the application of pesticides while populations are small, so as to minimize chances of damage and infestation.

## Controls

The nature of the thrips' life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages fairly well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest.

Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, malathion and acephate (Orthene) are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well.

If your growing area is enclosed and is not part of your living space, such as a greenhouse, biological control with a predatory mite is an option. The female *Amblyseius cucumeris* deposits eggs in thrips. When the young hatch, they parasitize their hosts, killing them.

The use of insecticides is not compatible with employing predatory mites for control, as the insecticides are harmful to the mites as well as the thrips. As always, adhere strictly to the manufacturer's instructions for safe application and use of chemical pesticides.

As with any spray-on pest control measure, any orchid plants infested with thrips should be managed to allow easy and thorough pesticide application. Arrange the plants in the growing area so that they have adequate space for air circulation and ease of spraying, and be sure to cover all plant surfaces, such as those between and on the undersides of leaves, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment.

## References

Cloyd, Raymond. Orchid Pests and Their Management. Orchids of the World Web site. (<http://www.orchids.mu/Problems/Pests/>).

Hamon, Avis B., PhD. 2002 Revised Edition. "Orchid Pests." Orchid Pests and Diseases. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach.

Laemmlen, Franklin, PhD. Western Flower Thrips on Cymbidium Blossoms. The Coastal Gardener Web site. (<http://cesantabarbara.ucdavis.edu/wfth.htm>).

Martin, N.A. Thrips Insecticide Resistance Management and Prevention Strategy, Revised January 2003. New Zealand Institute for Crop & Food Research Ltd. Web site. (<http://www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/thrips.htm>).

Pests and Diseases. The Philippine Orchid Society Web Site. (<http://www.philippineorchidsociety.org/Pests&Diseases/Philippine%20Orchid%20Society%20-%20Orchid%20Pests.htm>).

Plants and Seeds. UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Central Science Laboratory Web site. (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pestnote/thrips.htm>).

*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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Thrips are very small and may go unnoticed until significant damage has been done.

