

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

September 2013 Edition

The Rhyzome



Lc. C.G. Roebling 'Beechview' var. coerulea AM/AOS
Grower: Charlie Scholes

The August meeting was a great informative and educational meeting, especially for new orchidists. Holly was nice enough to provide notes from the meeting, which can be found on the last page on this newsletter.

The nominating committee is now involved in the process of compiling a slate of officers. If you have any desire to hold a position of responsibility and are willing and able to attend board and regular meetings, please let the nominating committee know: Dennis Gollehon (contact info page 2)
Judy Law
Elaine Chambers

Do you remember the Orchiata potting mix mentioned at the presentation by Springwater Orchids last year? We will have a sample for everyone at the next meeting, if you're interested.

We hope to see everyone at the annual picnic. Please notice the information at the right and let Joyce know if you have not signed up, but would like to attend.

CALENDAR

Sept. 11th, 5:30 Board Meeting
Sept. 11th, 7pm General Mtg.
AOS slide show on rynchostylus orchids
Sept. 29th, Noon Picnic

PCOS PICNIC

Sunday, Sept. 29th, Noon

Cocoa Beach Pavilion at Cocoa Beach Country Club
at the east end of the parking lot.

If you would like to attend the picnic, please use the link below to e-mail Joyce Schofield with the number attending and what you would like to bring (salad, dessert, appetizer, etc.)

joyceschofield1@att.net

PCOS will provide the main course and drinks. There will be games (Bingo), prizes (Orchids), Door Prizes (?) and lots of fun!

Monthly Checklist for September—from the AOS website

WWW.AOS.ORG - CHECK IT OUT

By Ned Nash and James Rose

Cattleya Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom. Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold. This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too. Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium Summer can be the most rewarding season for cymbidiums. Growths should be coming strong now. The leaves of the new growths are best when they are broad and fairly stiff. The color should be a light green to nearly yellow. Early flowering varieties should be showing flower spikes, so move the plants into a cooler area with lower light. For mid-season varieties, lower the dosage of nitrogen to assist in spike initiation.

Dendrobium This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Rhynchostele bictoniensis Both *Rhynchostele bictoniensis* and its hybrids bloom in this season. *Rhynchostele bictoniensis*, formerly known as *Lemboglossum*, *Odontoglossum*) is a showy species from Mexico that has three different color forms: sulphureum (green with white lip), album (brown with white lip) and roseum (brown with a pink lip). It is a vigorous grower with tall inflorescences of many flowers, and imparts to its progeny (as seen in Odcdm. Bittersweet and Odm. bicross) ease of culture, warmth tolerance and eye-catching patterns. They make a prime candidate for odontoglossum beginners and advanced alike.

Paphiopedilum Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

Rossioglossum grande Once known as *Odontoglossum grande*, this is a spectacular orchid with six to eight flowers up to 8 inches across. Often known as the tiger orchid, it has bright golden yellow flowers heavily marked with chestnut brown barring. The plants are beautiful with a grey-green cast to the foliage, which is borne on succulent pseudobulbs. It prefers hot and wet summers with cooler, even down to 40 F, dry winters. Grow under filtered light. Watch for snails and slugs that eat the flowers, pseudobulbs and leaves.

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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

GREAT PLACES FOR MEMBERS TO FIND INFORMATION ON ORCHIDS:

1. Programs—August speaker, Ken Russ, provided us with great information for backyard orchidists. I hope everyone took notes. (See some on the last page.)
2. AOS Magazine articles. Wasn't it amazing that Ken showed us several tricks that he had learned from "Orchids". (Elmer's glue and cinnamon mix when you make a cut on the plant) Also, don't forget to check out the great article in the recent "Orchids" on bugs. The magazines are available at every meeting. Just ask.
4. Internet sites—www.aos.org—This AOS site has the answer to almost any question.

UPCOMING SHOWS

- Sept 14-15 Ridge Orchid Society
Lake Mirror Center, 122 S. Lake Ave.,
Lakeland, FL
- Oct. 11-13 South Florida Orchid Society Show
Bank United Center, Univ. of Miami
Coral Gables, FL
www.sforchid.com
- Oct. 25-27 East Everglades Orchid Society Show
Garden of R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL
- Oct. 26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show
THE MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd , Melbourne, FL
www.thebcos.org

Raffle Fun

Every current member who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing.



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 www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

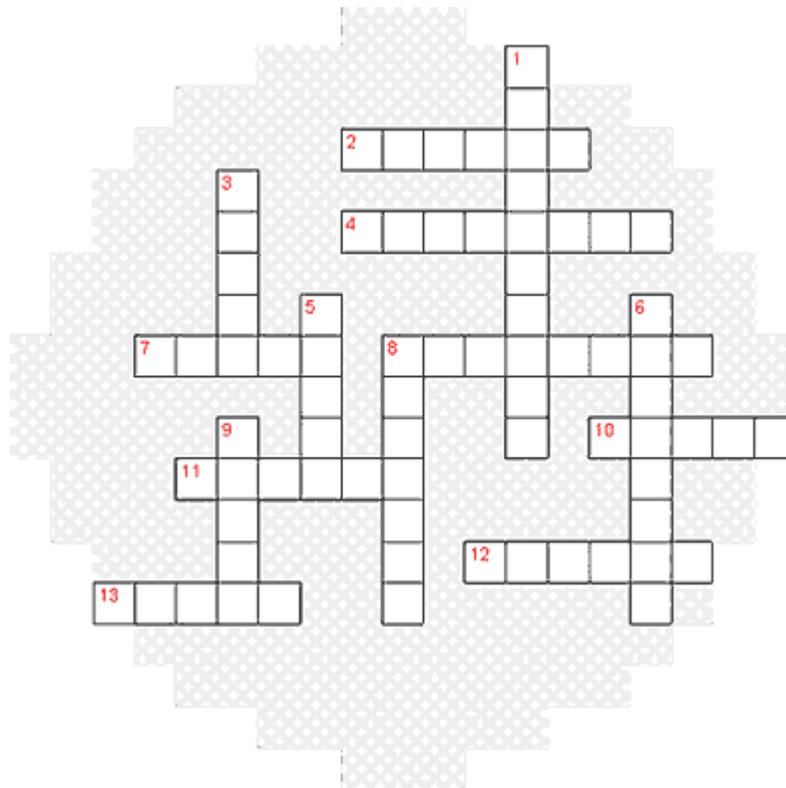
Check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member.

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

TEASER



ACROSS	DOWN
2. flower destroyer 4. a potting media 7. nasty infestation 8. New Guinea Dens 10. causes abnormal flowers 11. deciduous Den 12. a disease	1. rock-growing 3. monopodial orchid 5. off-shoot 6. syn. Den. phalaenopsis 8. small yellow Cat 9. sterilization tool
Looking for the answers? You can find them below provided by the American Orchid Society	

American Orchid Society

Crossword Puzzle Answers provided by AOS

Across: 2. thrips 4. charcoal 7. scale 8. latourra 10. virus 11. noble
 12. fungus 13 light
 Down: 1. ruplicolous 3. vanda 5. keiki 6. bigibbum 8. luteola
 9. torch



SPEAKER KEN RUSS REMINDED US THAT ORCHID GROWING IS VERY PERSONAL. IT DEPENDS ON YOUR BACKYARD, YOUR CHOICE OF MEDIUM AND YOUR CHOICE OF POTS. THAT'S WHY EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT ANSWER. HIS REGIMEN:

Balanced fertilizer every 2 wks.
Every 4th wk., substitute Bloom Booster
2 times a mo., Maxicrop Seaweed 4T/gal. water
4 times a yr. Epsom Salts 2T./gal. water
In winter cut back on fertilizer 1/2

He uses Harp 'N Tek or Employ fertilizer, which he buys in bulk.

Plastic sheeting and Polylock for winter protection can protect your collection from cold.

You can reach Ken from his site www.puddlepottery.com

Notes from the August meeting

Ken and Judy have a variety of microclimates created at their home for their different types of orchids. Some are grown on their screened patio, some in shade houses, and some on trees in their yard:

Use butane powered "Mr. Heater" for his g/h and SunTuff for the top(Home Depot).

Irrigation in g/h every 3rd day.

Outdoor fan installed for circulation

Uses a "polylock system" with plastic cover purchased in C. Fl. To protect from cold

Every week for 3 wks use a 18-18-18 or 20-20-20 fertilizer (Harp-N-Tek fertilizer -is hard to find & expensive but very good. It helps resist fungal, bacterial & viral diseases);

On the 4th week Spray (1X mo) with Bloom Booster;

Use Maxicrop Seaweed on Vandas 2 X mo (2 tblsp per gallon – 1oz)

4 x yr use Epsom Salts – 2 tsp/gallon

In winter cut fertilizing back one half.

Main bugs are:

Thrips - use Orthene 1 tsp/gallon

Mealy bugs – alcohol

Mites – kitchen hand soap & alcohol spray

Aphids & Scale – Rose Pride &/or Lemon juice to clean

For crown rot use hydrogen peroxide

For fungus use Thiomyl or Bayers Rose Systemic

For ants use a ant trap in a vented cream cheese container (keeps the traps dry during irrigation)

During dividing or cutting the plants use ½ Elmer's glue; ½ cinnamon.

To make "S" hooks or pot clips use 12 gauge wire (Home Depot-hung ceiling wire). Use notched PVC (4-5 inch) to shape hooks.

Use small gauge clear tubing over the 12 gauge wire to hang Vanda (so the wire doesn't burn the plant).

Spath - 1/3 Coco chips

1/3 Alifor

1/3 Sphagnum (use panty house to hold the sphagnum).