

Platinum Coast Orchid Society The Rhyzome



September 2015 Edition

SEPTEMBER BUSINESS ONLY MEETING

All business.....that's what the September meeting will be. Several issues need to be decided concerning the length of next year's show and donations from the proceeds of this year's show. We also need a volunteer to chair the show next year. Please think about these things over the summer and the part you can play as we plan for nominations and committee chairs as well as a vote on the above.

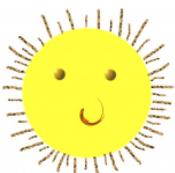
SUNSHINE

Our hearts go out to member John Hicks and his sons, Kenny and Johnny. Our dear Lois passed away this week. The service is on Monday at Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home.

Deepest sympathy to Ginny Oliphant on the passing of her beloved mother.

Our thoughts are with Camille as she recovers from surgery.

We are glad to hear that Jan's son is better.



Many thanks to Jim for the great program in September. One of the orchids he brought in was B. Little Stars, a favorite of many orchid growers.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR/SAVE THE DATE

Wed., Sept 9th, 5:30 Board meeting

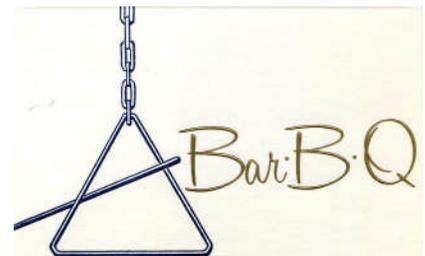
Wed., Sept. 9th, 7pm Business Meeting only.

Wear your nametag for the raffle

Sun., Sept. 20th Noon Annual Picnic in the pavilion at Cocoa Beach Country Club.

Games, prizes and great food. Bring your favorite side dish and your family. Sign up for this event with Joyce Schofield, so we will have an accurate count to order food.

Directions: Take SR520 to A1A and turn right (south). Turn right onto Minuteman Causeway and follow it to the entrance to Cocoa Beach Country Club parking lot. The pavilion is on the east side of the parking lot.



2015 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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Joyce Schofield

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

Many thanks to Cathy for all she has done for PCOS. We wish her and her family many blessings for the future.

SUNSHINE/AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

GREETER

Christina Rovira

PROGRAMS

Judy Law

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Castillo

RAFFLE

Karen Snee

PUBLICITY

Ann Colchin

REFRESHMENTS

September—Betty and Jim Adamson

Thank you to new member, Kathy Jacobson, for offering to take this position permanently starting in October.

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. Check out the great AOS article in this newsletter.
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.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct. 3-4 **FL West Coast Orchid Society Show**
St. Pete Garden Club

500 Sunset Dr. South, St. Petersburg

Oct. 9-11 **South Florida Orchid Society Show**

Bank United Center

1245 Dauer Dr., Coral Gables

Oct. 10-11 **Ft. Pierce Orchid Society Show**

Ft. Pierce Shrine Club

4600 Oeander Ave. , Ft. Pierce

Oct. 16-18 **E. Everglades Orchid Society Show**

R.F. Orchids

28100 S.W. 182 Ave. , Homestead

Oct. 17-18 **Gainesville Orchid Society Show**

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

S.W. 58th Dr., Gainesville

Oct 30-Nov 1 **Delray Beach Orchid Society Show**

Old School Square Gymnasium

51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach



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

August Ramble



Many thanks to Joyce, above next to Charlie, for hosting this ramble. Her charming yard casually incorporates her orchids and makes raising them look effortless. The off and on rain gave members a chance to chat and get to know one another. Thank you to Joyce and other members who provided refreshments.





A garden path leads to a potting area where Joyce keeps her resting orchids, pots and project materials. You can see on the fence at the left darling shelves with a selection of collectibles. Flowering orchids are displayed on the porch or hang under the various pergolas. If you look closely, you can see one hanging in the tree below and on the porch rail.



As you can see, a little rain doesn't deter our members. Luckily, we had no lightning and Joyce and John were gracious enough to open their garden on Sunday to those who didn't make it Saturday. We are so thankful to have such devoted PCOS members.

Black Rot

By Susan Jones

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A danger to orchids any time the weather is rainy or damp for extended periods, black rot can quickly destroy an entire plant if left unchecked. Caused by one or both of the fungi *Pythium ultimum* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, black rot affects a wide variety of orchids. Cattleyas seem to be particularly susceptible.



Black rot moves quickly through a plant and can decimate an orchid collection if not treated

Life Cycle

The fungi that cause black rot in orchids can live only in environments where water is available to them. They consist of spores capable of independent movement, called zoospores, which swim through the water. If that water happens to be sitting on an orchid leaf, the zoospores can penetrate the plant tissue and begin the next stage in their life cycle. At this point, the fungus develops a vegetative part or mycelium consisting of hyphae (thin, thread-like tubes), which spread quickly through the affected plant tissues. Once this occurs, the visible signs of infection - small, watery, translucent spots - expand quickly and change to brown and then black. Left untreated, the affected plant or plants may infect others and will probably die themselves.

Symptoms

When the fungus attacks seedlings, it is usually at the soil line. This can cause the little plants to topple and die, and is referred to as damping off.

In mature plants, the disease can strike at any point on the plant (leaves, pseudobulbs or roots), but often starts in new leaves or growing leads, and progresses downward through the plant until reaching the roots..

As its name implies, black rot shows up as dark blackish spots or lesions on the affected plant part. The black spot or spots enlarge rapidly and can spread throughout the plant. If allowed to reach the crown of a monopodial (single-stemmed) orchid, the rot will kill the plant. Affected leaves may turn yellow around the infected area, and the lesions themselves will be soft and exude water when pressure is applied.

Prevention Unsterilized pots, media or water sources, as well as water splashed from affected plants nearby, are all excellent means of spreading the fungus. In addition, plants that spend time outdoors should be elevated 3 to 4 feet (90 to 120 cm) above the ground to avoid splash contamination. Do not allow your orchids' leaves to remain wet for any extended periods. Good air circulation in the growing area is key, and can help plants dry quickly after watering or rains. The addition of a fan or fans to the growing area can improve the airflow and help prevent rots. At first signs of infection, segregate all affected plants to avoid contaminating healthy plants. Finally, some growers recommend the use of a high-calcium fertilizer in the spring to help avoid black rot in new growth.



Black rot is easily spread by splashing water

Mechanical Treatment To stop the spread of black rot in your orchid, begin with a sterile knife and cut out the diseased portion of the plant. Remove all infected plant material, taking out a small amount of healthy tissue bordering the infected area as a safety precaution. Examine the cut portion carefully. It is sometimes possible, especially in pseudobulbs, to see a brownish discoloration extending into the interior of tissue that appears healthy on the surface. In sympodial (many-stemmed) plants such as a cattleya, it may be necessary to cut below the leaves and into the pseudobulb to stop the spread of the disease. If the plant is badly infected, cut into the rhizome, growth by growth, until you reach healthy tissue. For a monopodial orchid such as a vanda or phalaenopsis, remove the infected portion of the leaf, or the entire leaf if necessary, to halt the spread of the fungus before it reaches the crown. Place the plant in an area that receives good air circulation to allow the cut to dry.

Chemical Treatment Once the infected plant parts have been removed, a fungicide should be applied to protect the remaining healthy tissue. Cinnamon is an excellent fungicide, and ground cinnamon may be applied straight from the spice jar directly to the exposed area where infected portions of the plant have been excised. First Rays Orchids also recommends mixing cinnamon with either casein-based glue (such as Elmer's) or cooking oil to form a thick paste. This paste is fairly waterproof and can be used to cover the wound.

Another poultice that was developed specifically for use on orchids is StopRot. The product contains a Bordeaux mixture in lanolin. The Bordeaux, a mixture of copper sulfate and lime, has fungicidal properties. The lanolin seals the wound to keep moisture out.

Whatever method is chosen, be sure to cover all of the exposed (cut) area with the fungicide or sealant, so that no new infection can be introduced to the open wound.

Drenching the affected plant with fungicide is also an option. Drenches of a protectant fungicide such as Truban or Terra-zole are recommended if the disease is diagnosed early. For more advanced cases, a systemic fungicide such as Aliette or Subdue is more effective. Captan, Dithane M-45 and Physan 20 have also been recommended by some growers for control of black rot.

To protect seedlings against damping off, water with the fungicide of choice (at the dilution rate for seedlings specified in the product's instructions) as soon as they are deflasked and potted in compots. Afterward, treat with a preventive fungicide at two-week intervals.

References

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