

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

September 2018 Edition



Happy September!

A hearty thank you to Charlie and Patti for welcoming members into their home to view their orchids. I hope many of you made it to the ramble on the 21st. Our next meeting is September 12th at 7pm. We will be welcoming Maria Pechenkina who will be speaking about mounting orchids. Please bring in your blooming orchids for the plant forum.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Happy growing!

Jodi

Laelia Cattleya G.C. Roebling 'Beechview'—There is a novice cattleya culture sheet from aos.org on the last page of the newsletter. This is a good example of what a cattleya looks like, so you can identify and label each of your cattleyas. Use June and July's newsletter to identify your phals and dens. Since the program in August was on identifying your plants and many new members were unable to attend, we will continue helping new members label their plants during the forum.



Many thanks to Patti and Charlie for hosting the ramble in August. For those who received orchids from Charlie's collection, the photos on page 2 will show you what to expect. He should have more for the September meeting.

CALENDAR

Wed., September 12th, 6pm Board Meeting

Wed., September 12th, 7pm Business meeting and program by Maria Pechenkin on mounting orchids.

Wed., October 10th, 6pm Board Meeting

Wed., October 10th, 7pm Business meeting and program by Joe Bryson.

Sun., October 14th, noon Picnic



Annual Picnic

Oct. 14th at Noon
Cocoa Beach Pavilion at
Cocoa Beach Country Club.

Bring your favorite side dish. The club will provide the main dish and drinks. Please sign up at the Sept. or Oct. meeting.

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 for check out.
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.

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



Blc Copper Queen



Blc. Rustic Spots 'H & R'



C. Bactia 'Grapewax'



Blc. Hawaii Stars 'Paradise'

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President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

TREASURER

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Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

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Cattleyas are among the most beautiful of orchid flowers. Often used in corsages and wedding bouquets their blooms can last several weeks to a month or more. Miniature cattleyas have increased in popularity because of their ease in growing on windowsills in the home.

Water

Cattleyas store water in both their pseudobulbs and their roots. Miniature catts and seedlings need more frequent watering than the larger standard Catts because they store less water. Potted in a bark mix (finer bark for the smaller catts and seedlings) the mix should be allowed to dry out before re-watering. Summer months and active growth periods will require more frequent watering. After a few watering, you will be able to tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is time to water again. If in doubt, wait a day. Generally, watering once a week to ten days is sufficient for large cattleyas; seedlings and miniatures need water every five to seven days.

When watering, place the plant in the sink and use tepid water. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Let the water run through the plant for a minute or so. Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

This is a good time to look closely at your plant for any sign of insects or disease.

Light

Catts belong to the 'high' light group of orchids. The bright light of an east or west window is ideal; south windows can also be used if shaded with a sheer curtain. The leaves should be medium green. If your plant is not blooming for you try increasing the light. Without sufficient light a cattleya will not bloom.

Temperature

Catts generally enjoy warm temperatures; ideally, 55-60F at night and 70-85F during the day. Mature plants do well with a 15-20 degree difference in day and night temperatures. Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature.

Fertilizer

Any balanced orchid fertilizer (look at the numbers on the container, 20-20-20, etc.) can be used to fertilize your orchid. Feed weakly (¼ strength) weekly works well for catts. Once a month use clear water to flush any accumulated salts from the potting mix. Increase the fertilizer to ½ strength when the plants are in active growth.

Tips

Use a shallow tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity around your plants. Be sure the pot does not sit in water as this will rot the roots.

Give your plants room for air to circulate around them. Crowding of plants can lead to problems with insect infestations and fungus. A small fan will help provide good air circulation around your plants.

When the blooms are finished, remove them from the plant. Continue watering and fertilizing and within a year it will begin the blooming cycle again! Cattleyas should generally be repotted every two to three years either after flowering or in the spring.