

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

November 2019



Betty's vanda at the Oct. orchid forum

We hope to see everyone at the November meeting, since we will have elections and a special speaker:

Daryl Venables of Tezula Plants will speak to us about Tolumnias, formerly called Equitant Oncidiums. In addition to a large selection of Tolumnias, Tezula Plants features other tropical plants like anthuriums, alocosia and Calathes. Daryl will give us some key advice on successfully growing these beautiful mini orchids. Check out his website to see some of his beautiful plants. We have asked Daryl to bring plants for sale and for the raffle.

October's *Orchids* magazine has a great equitant article on the last page, and Sue Bottom wrote about fall in the orchid house, which nicely accompanies the article in this newsletter.

Since our December meeting will be our holiday party, we will also send around a sign up sheet for side dishes. For new members, this, like the picnic is a great opportunity to get to know one another better. We like to have it on our regular meeting night, so as not to interfere with other events, but there will be no meeting. The society provides the main dish and our members bring side dishes and desserts. Decorated round tables, a little music and perhaps a game or two make this a fun event. As with the picnic, family members are welcome.

We are still looking for someone to be the chairman, taking charge of getting the main dish and paper products. Members will help decorate the club on the day of the event, but we have all the decorations. Please sign up if you can help with that and also be sure to sign up for your side dish at the November meeting.



Thanks to all who organized the book sale at the last meeting and brought orchids to sell.

CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 13—6pm Board Meeting

Wed., Nov. 13—7pm Regular Meeting

Speaker Daryl Venables of Tezula Plants in Miami will speak on Equitant Oncidiums (now called Tolumnias).

Wed., Dec. 11—6 pm Party

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR THE 2020 BOARD ELECTION TAKES PLACE IN NOVEMBER

President	Mike Ellis
Vice President	Ed Kidder
Treasurer	Margaret Croucher
Secretary	Carolyn Anderson
Directors:	Donna Morris and Bert Forbush
Returning Directors:	Kathy Jacobson and Laura Blackmon

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

UPCOMING FLORIDA SHOWS

Nov. 9-10 Ft. Pierce Orchid Society Show

Riverwalk Center, Ft. Pierce

Nov. 16-17 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show

Safe Schools Institute, Boca Raton

Monthly Checklist for Nov. and Dec.

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.



**Great
Food &
Fun**



Picnic



Thank you, Kathy, for taking charge.



***Speedy Bingo with orchids as prizes.
Thank you to our special callers.***

2019 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Peter Pancoast

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Patty Williams

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

DIRECTORS

Laura Blackmon (2019-2020)

Julie Howard (2018-2019)

Ed Kidder (2018-2019)

Kathy Jacobson (2019-2020)

Jodi Kittleson (Past President)

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Croucher

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Patti Scholes

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

GREETER

Maureen Malone

PROGRAMS

Margaret Croucher

PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlie Scholes

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

JoAnn Amos

WEBMASTER

Dennis Gollehon

AUDIO

Mike Ellis

REFRESHMENTS and PICNIC

Kathy Jacobson

SHOW CHAIR

Laura Blackmon

PARTY CHAIR

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MONTHLY CHECKLIST CONT.

Cool Growing Orchids:

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While *paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *paphiopedilums*, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

Cont. on next page

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

From www.aos.org Thanks to Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

POTTING 101

For those of you who are new to potting your own orchids, several members have offered to do potting demonstrations in the spring. Of course, each person will probably have their own method, so it is always good to experience several different ones. AOS has some great potting demonstrations online that you can view, and it might be a good idea to look at those while waiting for spring.

With December fast approaching, you might want to ask for a special gift—a potting tool box. That way, you will be ready when it's time. Programs and forums at the meetings will let you know what kinds of mediums members and growers like to use for different types of orchids. Listening and taking notes will help you decide for your collection, but during the demonstrations you will receive a list of what each member is using.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ORCHID POTTING TOOLBOX

1 or 2 pairs of clippers

A small torch for sterilizing the clippers after each use

5 gal. bucket for soaking prior to repotting. (Fill it with water and 1t. of fertilizer or fungicide, then put the orchid plant in it to soak for an hours or 2.)

Cinnamon for open cuts on the plant

Clips or stakes to stabilize plant once repotted