

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society, Brevard County, Florida

## The Rhyzome

**December, 2010 Edition**

Editor: Patti Scholes



Bc Binosa 'Tetraploid' and  
Lc Netrasiri Fireball x Pot. Thiti  
Grower Joyce Schofield

### **Holiday Party**

Our Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 18th, at the Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club, 1493 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge. Punch and appetizers at 5:30 pm with dinner to follow.

If you have not already made your reservation, please call JoAnn Amos at 259-8585 before Dec. 10th. Cost per person is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to PCOS.

The party will be catered by Viera Catering, with a wide selection of choices.

There will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate. The gift should have a value of at least \$12, and be orchid related.

If you would like to have Santa present a gift to a child who is attending, please bring the gift wrapped and tagged.

Of course, expect to see orchids galore.

### **We would like your ideas....**

Our next meeting will be on January 12th, and with the start of a new year, we would like to hear your suggestions and ideas. On the next page is a survey. Please take the time to fill out any areas that are of interest to you and return it by mail to:

Patti Scholes  
1520 Tuna Street  
Merritt Island, FL 32952

If anyone would like to return by e-mail, just write the number of the question with your answer and return it to [orchidpat@aol.com](mailto:orchidpat@aol.com)

You may also give the survey to Patti at the Holiday Party.

Thanks for your continued support in making PCOS fun and informative.

**There will be no meetings during December.  
Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season!**

## **PCOS Questionnaire for 2011**

1. Suggestions for improving attendance at the 2nd Wednesday general meetings?
2. What kinds of refreshments would you like at the general meetings?
3. Do you have any suggestions for the Back to Basics meetings?
4. Are there any books you would like to see in the library?
5. Is there any specific information you would like to see in the Rhyzome?
6. Would you like to write an article or series for the Rhyzome?
7. Would you be willing to open your home and orchid collection to a tour for PCOS members?
8. In what capacity would you like to serve PCOS in the future? (officer, director, plant forum, membership, raffle, librarian, programs, publicity)
9. Please give us your input on Kiwanis Park as a meeting place, especially if you were at the November meeting.
10. Please include any other suggestions here.

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**Our 2011 Show is planned for Apr. 29th—May 1st, 2011**

**Please let Betty Adamson know if you are interested in chairing any of these positions:**

**Show Chairman**

**Staging**

**Society Exhibit**

**Publicity**

**Niche Designs**

**Head Clerk**

**Plant Registration and Classification**

**Potting Table Chair**

**Trophies and Awards**

**Table Covers**

**Show Co-Chairmen**

**Scheduling**

**Tickets and Ticket Sales**

**Sponsors**

**Pedestal Design**

**Hospitality**

**Courtesy Table**

**Set-Up Chair**

**Judges Luncheon**

# Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helpling

## Part 5: Drinking water

In most cases, if the tap water from your faucet is good enough for you to drink, it's good enough for your orchids. That comment and the ones that follow are true if you receive your potable water from a public water utility. (However, one caution: If you have a home water softener, see the article next time on 'Softened Water'.)

Municipal and even privately-owned public water utilities are subject to federal and state rules that apply to the quality of water that can be sold for human consumption. Regardless of the original supply source of that water, the treatment, filtration and disinfection requirements are intended to ensure public health and safety. Drinking water regulations apply to total dissolved solids, pH, hardness, chloride, metals, and a wide range of other parameters. The public utility cannot deliver water to your residence that does not meet all of the applicable standards.

Some people have expressed concern that chlorine used to disinfect drinking water may be harmful to orchids. Actually, chlorine is becoming less common in public water treatment systems. Utilities are opting for other chemical and physical processes, such as UV light disinfection. (If you keep tropical fish, you may know that some chemical processes may be harmful, but that same caution does not apply to plants.) No matter what disinfection method is used, there is very minimal risk, if any, to your orchids.

The only real drawback with using drinking water to irrigate an orchid collection is cost. If your house is also connected to a public wastewater treatment plant, not only do you pay for the water treatment of each gallon of water you use, you also pay for each gallon to be processed by the wastewater treatment plant. That's because the billing for both drinking water and sewer service is based on your water meter readings each month. It does not matter that the water used on your orchids does not enter the sewer system. If the water went through your water meter, you pay for both services.

Drinking water from a public utility is a very good, stable source of irrigation for your orchids. With proper attention to careful watering practices and habits that conserve water, you can keep a healthy collection of orchids without paying an exorbitant cost for irrigation.

## AOS CORNER

The AOS Members Meeting held the end of October in conjunction with the Merritt Huntington Symposium in Virginia Beach was a big success. The speakers were fabulous, AOS Committees met, the Board of Trustees meeting was open to all members, the Affiliated Societies Breakfast was well attended, 'town hall' meeting was held where many of the current AOS topics were discussed, there was a live demonstration of the new upgrade of AQ Plus, a successful auction and banquet were held. It was a busy, wonderful experience and I hope some of you will have the opportunity to attend one of the AOS bi-annual members/trustees meetings.

Are you looking for a special 'orchid' gift this holiday season? Try these AOS products and services:

- [The American Orchid Society's 2011 Calendars](#). To order on line, go to [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) – "Shop." The 2011 calendar is 24 pages long, has 13 color photographs, is shrink-wrapped with heavy card stiffener and measures 11 x 22 inches when open. Orders for shipment within the United States are \$12.50 (includes shipping and handling). For orders shipped to addresses outside the United States, call 561-404-2025 or email [Shop@aos.org](mailto:Shop@aos.org) Order No. CL919N or call 561-404-2025 Monday-Friday 8:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

- [American Orchid Society membership or a gift of renewal](#). Visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) – "Join" where the many benefits and the costs of various memberships are noted. Indicate that it will be a gift membership. You can also find a membership form on the Affiliated Societies Blog at <http://aosaffiliates.blogspot.com>.

- [AQ Plus or AQ Plus Renewal](#). May be ordered on line at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) – Shop – AQ Plus.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy holiday season.

Lynn Fuller



C. Hail Storm c. bowringiana x c. skinneri  
Growers: Steve and Mary DeSorbo

**Patti Scholes**  
 1520 Tuna Street  
 Merritt Island, FL 32952

## Platinum Coast Orchid Society Officers for 2011

The following PCOS officers for 2011 were elected at the November 10th meeting. They will be installed at the January meeting.

President	Jim Adamson
Vice President	John Hicks
Secretary	Nadine Kern
Treasurer	Joyce Schofield
Director	Dennis Gollehon
Director	Karen Snee
Retained Directors:	JoAnn Amos
	Joan Lehnert
Retained Past Pres.	Peter Pancoast

## Mark Your Calendar

**No Back to Basics meeting in November**  
**No Business meeting or Back to Basics**  
**meeting during December.**

**Sat., December 18th—Holiday Party**  
**Rockledge Garden Club**



Blc. Henlen Brown 'Ta-Hsin'  
 Grower: Charlie Scholes

### Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

President	Jim Adamson	jadamson1@cfl.rr.com	632-2847
Vice President	John Hicks	hicksj0430@bellsouth.net	407- 277-0430
Secretary	Patti Scholes	orchidpat@aol.com	459-9327
Treasurer	Joyce Schofield	joyceschofield@cfl.rr.com	783-5200
Membership	Jack Taylor	mjtquest@cfl.rr.com	453-4856
Past President	Peter Pancoast	sallypancoast@cfl.rr.com	459-1996
Directors:	JoAnn Amos	mijo2800@yahoo.com	259-8585
	Rosa Blair	jazziesgold@bellsouth.net	773-3476
	Joan Lehnert	joanlehnert@bellsouth.net	632-7105
	Marsha Lovas		243-2277