

*Platinum Coast Orchid Society  
Brevard County, Florida*

# *The Rhyzome*

*February 2011 Edition*



## **President's Message**

Hi Folks,

I hope you all agree that the Rhyzome this month is a superb effort. It's always great, but this month it is special!

We are now in the new year and coming into the busy season for the society. We will be working on preliminary plans for the spring show as early as next week. I trust that each of you who can will make yourself available to help with the big event.

In case you aren't aware of it, I was a vendor in the Ft. Lauderdale show and therefore not on the bus trip. It was indeed a real treat to see members of our Society show up at the show. I only wish more could have taken advantage of the opportunity. Now that we have made a trip, hopefully, even more will be able to go along next time.

I hope to see you at the meeting and above all, enjoy the newsletter.

Glenda Titler  
(far right)  
installed our  
new officers  
at the January  
meeting.



## **January's Back to Basics**

Those in attendance at January's Back to Basics meeting enjoyed Rich Walton's film "The Judge, the Hunter, the Thief, and the Black Orchid". Entered last year in the Sarasota Fringe Film Festival, the film gives a glimpse into the past and present world of orchid lovers and the lengths they would go to find the world's "newest" orchid.

Thank you to the library for lending us their equipment, which provided excellent viewing. Thank you to Joyce Schofield for setting everything up for us.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**February 9th 6:15 pm**

**Board Meeting  
Kiwanis Park**

**February 9th 7:00 pm**

**Business Mtg & Program  
Kiwanis Park**

**Program: Workshop on  
registration and classifi-  
cation of plants to be  
entered in a show.**

**February 23rd 6:30 pm**

**Cocoa Beach Library  
Back to Basics Meeting**



### **Membership Renewal**



Joyce Schofield is now collecting membership dues for 2011. Please fill out the membership form attached, so your information can be updated. See Joyce at a meeting or mail your form and dues to:



Joyce Schofield  
118 Chipola Road  
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931



(New members who joined at the 2010 PCOS Show, do not owe dues at this time.)



New and returning officers (l-r) Joan Lehnert, John Hicks, JoAnn Amos, Nadine Kern, Karen Snee, Joyce Schofield, and Dennis Gollehon



### **SURVEY**

Remember to fill out and return the survey at the next meeting.

## **2011 PCOS OFFICERS AND CHAIRS**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Jim Adamson**  
321-632-2847  
jadamson1@cfl.rr.com

### **AOS REPRESENTATIVE**

**Betty Adamson**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Joyce Schofield**

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**John Hicks**  
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**Sally Pancoast**

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**Patti Scholes**

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**Glenda Titler**

### **SECRETARY**

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### **PLANT TABLE HOST**

**Steve DeSorbo**

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

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**Joan Lehnert**  
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**Karen Snee**  
321-453-1862

# Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helping

## Part 7. R/O Water

Water cleaned and purified by Reverse Osmosis, R/O, is becoming more common with the advent of small, self-contained systems. In fact, some orchid and plant supply companies have started marketing low output R/O units specifically for the purpose of irrigating sensitive plants. Some advertisements claim this to be the ideal source of water for the orchid hobbyist.

Reverse Osmosis uses pressure to literally push water through a membrane. The holes in the membrane are so small, dissolved salts and minerals are stripped from the water on the molecular level and filtered out. The concentrated minerals are flushed from the unit and discarded, leaving only very clean water.

But, while very “clean” water means no *harmful* salts or minerals, it also means there are no *beneficial* salts or minerals, either. The R/O system essentially removes everything! Orchids have to have nutrients and some minerals, called trace elements, in order to thrive. They might survive without enough trace elements, but they will never grow to their potential if they do not receive completely balanced nutrition. To correct for this situation, special orchid fertilizers are marketed for use with R/O water sources.

If the problem of balanced nutrition is solved, there are other problems with R/O that must be addressed. Cost is the obvious first consideration. There is the initial cost of the R/O unit, but there are also recurring costs for replacement membranes and even possibly de-scaling chemicals that may be needed to cleanse the nanofilter, depending on the quality of the source water used. If you are buying your source water, from a municipality for instance, that cost has to be added when considering the complete expense. Fertilizers formulated for use with R/O water tend to be more expensive; they have to contain more constituents. Finally, small R/O systems take time to produce the pure water, need some way to store the water, typically make relatively small quantities of water each day, and a spray tank or pump system must be used to irrigate your orchids.

### Editor's Note

The Rhizome appreciates the series written by Craig Helping on “Water Quality and Orchids”. With such a variety of water choices in Brevard County, there was something for every member. As this is the last article, we hope that other knowledgeable members offer their expertise and contribute to our newsletter. Many thanks to Craig!!

If you have a job with our society, but it is not listed on page 2, please let me know at orchidpat@aol.com Please bear with me while I try to change the format of our newsletter.

## Sunshine

Get well wishes to former member Kat Stapf as she continues her treatment at Gainesville. Best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Sally Johnson as she resumes treatment for her medical problems.

Member Ruth Johnson has been hospitalized, and we send speedy recovery wishes to her. Member Louise Loy was released from the hospital. We hope she is rapidly improving. Best wishes to members Marie Williams and Kathy Kennedy as they continue to recuperate.

*If you know of a member who is ill, going in for surgery, etc., please contact Betty Adamson.*

## AOS CORNER

By Susan Taylor

To continue on the various benefits of an AOS membership, one benefit I feel is often overlooked is the Reciprocal Admissions Program which is provided through AOS' affiliation with the American Horticultural Society. As an AOS member you will have access to a wide array of botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories throughout North America offering special admission privileges and many other benefits. For those AOS members who currently use this program, it provides benefits beyond their cost of AOS membership. For more information and a listing of reciprocal locations in your, visit the AHS website at: [http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal\\_events\\_online\\_directory.htm](http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events_online_directory.htm). There is an online directory which has the reciprocal admissions by state. The AHS also provides the following tips on using the Reciprocal Admissions Program:

\* Before visiting any garden check the garden's website or call to verify hours of operation, confirm admission policy, and get the latest updates on programs and other information. For easy access, gardens have links to their web pages in the AHS online directory.

\* Be aware that some special events are not included in the reciprocal benefits of the program. If you have any questions, please contact the garden you plan to visit.

\* Present your current AOS membership card at the admissions counter or gift shop to receive the RAP benefit listed for that garden. Each card will only admit the individual(s) whose name is listed on the card. Some gardens may require a photo ID.

\* Remember that the gardens you visit rely on admissions and donations to maintain their property and gardens for all to enjoy. Please support them by visiting their gift shops and/or making a contribution.

\* The gardens with an asterisk next to their name do not offer reciprocal benefits but encourage you to visit.

I hope you all will explore this AOS membership benefit and support your local reciprocal botanical gardens, arboreta and conservatories soon.

Lynn Fuller, Chair

Affiliated Societies Committee

## Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Show Ramble

From the perspective of Patti Scholes

It was my first ramble and I wasn't quite sure that I wanted to go. We don't have room for anymore orchids, especially with all of the cold weather, but I decided to drag myself out of bed at 6:30 for this PCOS trip.

Everyone was on the bus at 8:00 am, and on the way down, I met many new people and forged friendships with others that I had never had the opportunity to talk to at length. It was interesting to find out how members were dealing with the cold weather and how they housed their orchids. Before I knew it, we had arrived. What a great way to pass the time!!!

The War Memorial Auditorium was beautifully decorated with orchids. Several exhibits were 20 feet high, and the show theme, "Orchids Day and Night", brought out numerous decorative suns of varying composition.

There were many vendors, each with their own collection of favorite varieties for sale. Years ago in Homestead, I had bought a beautiful Lc. Roebing Coerulea 'Beechview' from a new young grower. He happened to be there and remembered me, since I asked him to repot the orchid in a clay pot and ship it to Charlie in North Carolina. What was I thinking? No wonder it took so long to recover. We talked for a while, and I learned some interesting facts about that orchid.

I lived one block from O.F.E. Orchid Supplier in Miami for many years, and bought all of my orchid supplies from them. They remembered me and wondered where I had gone. I have to say that convenience has been replaced by knowing John Hicks who brings supplies to me.

It was especially interesting to see Lc. Joann Amos in one of the displays, since JoAnn is one of our society members.

We all helped and advised one another in our purchases. My best purchase was a gorgeous hand thrown pot with fern leaf shapes cut into the side of the pot. I had never seen anything like it before. Of course, Charlie purchased five orchids, so I guess we really did have more space.

As we loaded our treasures on the bus for the trip home, everyone agreed it was a great day for PCOS in many ways. See the next page for some photos of the trip, and if you weren't on this one, my advice is: Don't miss the next one.

# On the Road Again



Ramble



Above: On the way down to Ft. Lauderdale and arrival at the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Show.  
Left: Lc. Joann Amos (named after one of our members!!)  
Below right: The Adamson Orchids exhibit  
Below left: On the way home with our treasures!



## Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society "Orchids Day and Night"

## Treating Cold Damaged Orchids

The extraordinarily prolonged cold of the last weeks has caused damage to orchids that would not have been affected under more normal circumstances. Cold damage appears on orchids as whitening of the foliage and stems. The white gradually turns to brown as the affected tissue dies. Often this dead tissue simply dries and the damage is limited to the unsightly patches that are left. Frequently, however, the damaged tissue is infected with bacterial rot which can spread in the plant and cause further damage.

Softening of the edges of the cold damaged areas or oozing of brown fluid indicates bacterial infection. Removal of the leaf or stem is a simple but somewhat drastic solution. If one is loath to lose so much of the plant, the most effective treatment for bacterial infection is treatment with cupric hydroxide (Kocide or Champion) which should if possible be combined in equal parts with mancozeb (Manzate or Dithane M45).

This combination is packaged, pre-mixed as Junction. By adding a small amount of water to the chemicals in a jar, one can make a slurry that can be brushed on the lesions. An old toothbrush is efficient in applying this and your dentist will be happy to have it out of your mouth. Any left over slurry can be placed on a high shelf (brush and all) and re-hydrated later. This stuff is also the cure for those soft spots that appear on Phal. leaves in summer.

Be cautious when making the slurry not to inhale any of the dust and never, never, dust these chemicals without wearing a mask.

For large collections, with extensive damage, one tablespoon per gallon of cupric hydroxide and mancozeb can be sprayed. Mix the two and wait an hour or more before spraying. Do not apply this mixture to dendrobiums which are hyper-sensitive to copper or to bromeliads (ditto).

Reprinted with permission from Martin Motes. To purchase Dr. Motes book, go to <http://redlandpress.com/fla-orchid-growing.html>

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Feb. 5-6**  
**Venice Area Orchid Society Show**  
Venice Community Center  
Venice, FL

**Feb. 12-13**  
**Boca Raton Orchid Society Show**  
Safe Schools Institute  
Boca Raton, FL

**Mar. 4-6**  
**Martin County Orchid Society Show**  
Martin County Fairground  
Stuart, FL

**Mar. 11-13**  
**Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show**  
Fairchild Botanical Garden  
Coral Gables, FL

**Mar 12-14**  
**Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show**  
Port St. Lucie Community Center  
Port St. Lucie, FL

**Mar. 19-20**  
**Jacksonville Orchid Society Show**  
Garden Club of Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, FL

**Mar. 25-27**  
**Naples Orchid Society Show**  
First Presbyterian Church  
Naples, FL

**Mar. 25-26**  
**Englewood Area Orchid Society Show**  
Englewood United Methodist Church  
Englewood, FL

## Lost and Found

A pair of sunglasses was left on the bus. If they are yours contact Patti, so she can bring them to the next meeting.



C. Haleahi Serenity  
Growers: Steve and Mary DeSorbo  
This was a gift from a wonderful society member who is a thoughtful friend.

# Members and their orchids

Below:  
Blc. Feeling Love "Yellow Tender"  
Grower: Glenda Titler  
This orchid is from the PCOS Christmas Party '08 and is grown in sphagnum moss.



Above:  
'Twinkle' and Den. Nora Tokunaga  
Grower: Nadine Kern  
Grown in bark in an orchid house shaded with trellis and vines on top.

Pot. Red Crab 'Uncle Wang'  
Growers: Patti and Charlie Scholes  
Grown in a combination of coir, alafior, oyster shell  
Last year when purchased, the bloom was a totally "red" crab, but this year, the petals are orange.  
Any ideas about why this would happen?



Platinum Coast Orchid Society  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for 2011

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ or RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_ (Renewal ONLY no changes in data) \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ No.

THE MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$15.00 PER PERSON FOR REGULAR MEMBERS AND \$3.00 FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS (UNDER 16 YEARS OLD). Please pay by cash or check. Make checks payable to the "Platinum Coast Orchid Society" or "PCOS".

The membership fee is for one calendar year from Jan. 1 thru Dec 31, except for new members who join at the 2011 PCOS Orchid Show or those who join after Oct 1, 2011, who will be members through 12/31/2012.

AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_\_ CASH: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Give or mail this completed form with cash or a check for the MEMBERSHIP FEE stated above to Joyce Schofield, your Membership Chairman, addressed below:

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Joyce Schofield  
118 Chipola Road  
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Home: 321-783-5200, Cell: 321-960-4536

E-mail: [joyceschofield@cfl.rr.com](mailto:joyceschofield@cfl.rr.com)

RECEIVED DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Data Base Entry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address Book Entry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 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, if you have been there.
10. Please include any other suggestions here.