

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society, Brevard County, Florida

## The Rhyzome

**November, 2010 Edition**

Editor: Patti Scholes



Bc. Maikai

Grower: Nadine Kern

### SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The annual picnic was a tremendous success. It was a beautiful fall afternoon and those who attended are still raving about the scrumptious food and the great bingo prizes....orchids, of course! Some were lucky enough to win the pumpkin centerpieces, cleverly decorated by Denise. A special thank you to Denise Baumann and her committee of Betty Adamson, JoAnn Amos, LeeAnn McCullough, Patti Scholes, and Joyce Schofield for hosting a great get together for all.

The next special event will be the Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 18th at the Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club.

### November Meeting Place

This month, we will be meeting at 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd., Merritt Island. **DIRECTIONS:** From I-95 or US1, take SR520 east. Just east of Sykes Creek Pkwy., turn left, at the light, into Kiwanis Park. The building is immediately on the left at the boat ramp. Park in the lot OR on the right hand side of the road. Look for this building:



## Sunshine

Deepest sympathy to former member, Beverly Houser, on the passing of her daughter-in-law, Claudine Houser.

Congratulations to Gale Morgan on the arrival of her granddaughter.

The Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club members appreciate the donations from Flossie Staton and Glenda Titler for their annual rummage sale.

### EQUITANT ONCIDIUMS

For those who attended the October meeting and need more information on Equitants, you can visit <http://orchidlady.com/pages/orchidGarden/equitants.html> Thanks to Sally Pancoast for this reference and her presentation of the interesting program.

# Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helping

## Part 4. Pond & Lake Water

Modern subdivisions in our state often include one or more lakes. Besides the obvious marketing motivation of offering “waterfront lots”, there are more practical reasons for finding so many lakes in planned residential neighborhoods.

First, many land parcels are not high enough to build on. They could experience flooding if left at their natural elevation, in violation of local land planning regulations. To correct that problem, fill dirt is needed to raise the land. Developers often dig lakes and ponds to obtain their own fill to build up the lots and minimize the flooding potential.

To further minimize the flooding potential and offsite water pollution, land development regulations also require developers to manage storm water. The same ponds and lakes dug as borrow pits for the fill dirt, often conveniently serve the storm water retention needs of the development.

Since they are designed to receive storm water, it’s logical to conclude that the ponds and lakes contain very fresh water. That would then mean the water would be a safe and good alternative for watering orchids. But, whether pond and lake water in a subdivision is actually ideal for orchids depends on a few factors.

Most retention ponds are semi-closed systems. They are designed to receive and hold most of the rainfall runoff, allowing it to percolate into the ground or evaporate. Overflows are provided to off-site systems by design to minimize flooding inside the neighborhood, and work only during high rain periods. This means that the lakes and ponds do not get ‘flushed out’ very often. Even when they do, the typical overflow system removes the waters flowing near the surface, not the water stored at depth.

Storm water entering neighborhood retention ponds comes from land and street runoff, which means it can carry a multitude of contaminants with it. Fertilizer nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, oils, and organic constituents can all be carried into the ponds and lakes. Many of these contaminants undergo change within the ponds, subject to natural chemical and biological processes. However, over time, the amount of total dissolved solids can increase in these relatively closed ponds. The salts and minerals have a tendency to concentrate, left behind by evaporation and percolation. The pond water may not really be as ‘fresh’ as rain water, especially if the neighborhood has existed for some time. Before using pond water on your orchids, go see the Ag Agent with a sample. Be sure the water is actually as clean as you thought, or at least within an acceptable range.

## Holiday Party Invitation

**When:** Sat., December 18th  
Punch and social 5:30 pm  
Dinner 6:00 pm

**Where:** Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club  
1493 S. Fiske Blvd.  
Rockledge

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**RSVP:** JoAnn Amos 259-8585  
Make checks payable to PCOS



Below:  
Blc. Elaine Spotted Star X  
Lc Island Breeze

Grower: Ginny Oliphant



# PICNIC



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**AOS CORNER**  
by Lynn Fuller

By the time you read this, the AOS Meeting being held in conjunction with the Merritt Huntington Symposium the end of October will be over. The Affiliated Societies Committee will be meeting and discussing methods to increase communications with our affiliated societies, as well as possible ways we can offer more value to the societies' AOS membership. In addition, the Affiliated Societies Committee also will be hosting our traditional Affiliated Societies Breakfast. Hopefully some of you attended some of those meetings. The breakfast is held to provide the societies an opportunity to mingle with fellow society members and some members of the AOS Board of Trustees and other national volunteers. Next month's AOS Corner will be a brief report on the AOS meetings. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank those Societies who have returned their 'AOS Cares' surveys. Responses are still coming in and I hope that your Society will be among those who have responded. There was no deadline for the responses, but it would be helpful to the Membership and Affiliated Societies Committees if we got them before the end of November. During the upcoming AOS meeting, the two committees will hold a joint meeting during part of their schedule to discuss, in part, the preliminary results of those surveys.

The next meeting of the AOS will be held in Shreveport, LA on April 27 - May 1, 2011. As plans for those meeting solidify, I will pass them along to you or you can follow their progress at [www.shreveportorchidsociety.com](http://www.shreveportorchidsociety.com).

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society Slate of Officers for 2011

The following slate of officers for 2011 was presented at the October Business meeting and was approved. The election will take place at the November 10th 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

Beallara Patricia McCulley "Princess."  
Grower: Dennis Gollehon



## ***Surfing for Orchids***

***By Lee Ann McCullough***

The first web site, <http://myorchidcare.com>, is sister site to the last site I reviewed <http://www.repotme.com/orchid-care-videos/index.html>. This site is really great for basic orchid care. The left side of the page has links to basic information. I found the orchid care calendar valuable. The calendar describes in seasonal sections what orchids need, what care and when. There is a link to your first orchid, which most of us have passed. However, after reading the page, it serves as a great reminder that any orchid you acquire is living at your home for the first time and what you can do to help it adjust to the new conditions. For example, if you travel and buy an orchid from a greenhouse in Oregon, then it will need some help adjusting to growing in Florida under your oak tree. Other information includes some frequently asked questions regarding understanding orchids. This is a really great website and will also link you to the videos from last issue.

The second web site is <http://everything-orchids.com>. This site has some good links on the left side of the page. These links can take you to basic orchid care such air movement and fertilizers. Also below these are some links to 19 different types of orchids. Each page has some good information. There are links to pages on growing orchids both indoors and out. The page regarding orchid disease is not very informative. One interesting page is Orchid Destinations. There are only three named, but they sure look like fun. The few that remain are helpful to browse through. Overall, this site is definitely worth the stop. Happy surfing and more importantly Happy Growing! See you at the meetings.



Photo: Wilton Oulifery



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## Color Your World

### Orchid Show and Sale

November 19–21, 2010 10 am–4 pm

#### Featuring

Orchid Displays and Sales  
 Art \* Jewelry \* Gifts \* Orchid Supplies  
 Educational Lectures \* Repotting Service  
 AOS Judging \* Free Parking \* Food

#### Admission

General — \$10  
 AOS and Garden Members — \$5  
 Children under 12 — Free

AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden \* 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446 next to the Morikami Museum  
 For more information visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) or call 561-404-2031

## Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Nov. 10th—6:15pm, Board Meeting  
 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd., Merritt Island

Wed., Nov. 10th—7:00pm, General Meeting  
 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd., Merritt Island

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

### THIS WEEKEND

**BREVARD COUNTY  
 ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW**  
 Oct. 30-31st 9 am—5 pm  
 Melbourne Auditorium  
 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.  
 Melbourne, FL

### Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

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