

# The Rhyzome

September, 2010 Edition

Editor: Patti Scholes

## Surfing for Orchids

by LeeAnn McCullough

I am out surfing the web again. In this issue we will only look at two sites.

The first web site might sound a bit unusual, but actually turned out to be rather good. The website <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchidaceae> is really fantastic for understanding the orchid family. This website is not the place to get any care information, but if you want to know the orchid tribes, subtribes and genus and how they relate to each other this page is great. The page listed above will link you to other pages. You can link to a tribe and right down to genus groups and from there a species list. Some species have other links, but some do not. Sometimes this can help the hobbyist understand the background of plant by understanding where it is from and how it relates to other plants in the same family. This page is highly recommended for understanding the genealogy and origins of orchids.

The second web site <http://www.repotme.com/orchid-care-videos/index.html> is a video library on how to care for orchids. If you are a beginner this web page can link you to a video with some great instruction on "how to's". One video goes through how to properly remove a phalaenopsis spike after the bloom has faded. Although some may not agree with the details, the good basic information is there. Also it helps some of us to have a visual tool when trying something for the first time. And the fact that you can watch it over and over again is just a bonus. Also while you are here, check out the Orchid Care Corner on the right side of the page. It links to some really great information, like the web page that Jim Adamson presented at a meeting on why an orchid will not bloom. Some very good information on these pages. One disclaimer here- This is a commercial site so the left side of the pages is about product. I simply do not look at these links and so I do not review them. Well, those are the two web pages for this issue. Both have a lot of links so have fun surfing.



*Back to Basics  
raffle winners:  
Cathy Gillam  
Ruth Larson  
LeeAnn  
McCullough*

Lc. Roebling Coerulea "Beechview"  
C. Goskeliana 'Blue Dragon' x L. Purpureola  
Werkhauseri



Above: Ruth Larson shares her  
Cym. Valerta Absolonova at the  
Back to Basics meeting on Aug.  
25th.

Left: PCOS President Jim  
Adamson shares his  
Vanda Tessellate

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM at the Back to Basics Meeting

*OF PRIMARY INTEREST* is a fascinating program giving a glimpse into the world of primary (species x species) hybrids. An AOS Staff production, this will give viewers a new perspective on an increasingly popular group of timeless relevance and rare charm. And, there's not one paph in the group!

This 35 minute slide show will be presented at the Back to Basics meeting on September 22nd at the Co-coa Beach Library.

If you have a slide projector, screen, or microphone we can use in the future, please contact Sally Pancoast.



Above: Craig Helping with his Den. Burana Min Noa



Left: Cathy Gillam shares her Ascocenda

## Water Quality and Orchids

By Craig Helping

### Part 2. Well Water - shallow and deep

In most of the central and southern areas of our county, water wells used strictly for residential irrigation come in two versions: shallow and deep. (Please note that this article does not apply to private wells used for drinking water. That will be addressed separately.) While there is no specific depth used to distinguish between the two, there is one general important difference. A shallow well withdraws water from the surficial, or water table aquifer. A deep well obtains water from one or more zones that are under artesian pressure. Deep wells usually flow some due to the pressure and shallow wells do not. Both use well pumps to provide pressure to a home irrigation system.

Instead of the specific depth, the more important distinction involves the quality of the well water. Again in general terms, shallow wells usually provide less salty water than deep wells. However, shallow wells can contain a lot of iron salts that cause rust-colored staining. Deep wells don't usually have much iron content, but they always contain higher mineral salts and some hydrogen sulfide that produces a rotten egg odor.

For both types of wells the advice is the same. Before using either one to water your orchid collection, take a sample to the Ag Center and have it tested for total salts. Water from some shallow wells may prove to be a good source if the salts are low enough. The water quality from deep wells will invariably be too salty for orchid growing.

## AOS CORNER

Please check the Affiliated Societies Blog, which can be found on the AOS website, and find a copy of the letter from President Chris Rehmann and a short survey attached. AOS would like feedback from every society member.

The next AOS Members and Trustees meeting will be held in conjunction with the Merritt Huntington Symposium, Oct. 28-31, 2010 in Virginia Beach, VA. To register for the symposium, visit the website at [www.mhsymposium.org](http://www.mhsymposium.org).

The Innovative Society Survey that was conducted last spring also has been posted on the AOS website on the Affiliated Societies Blog and the Affiliated Societies' Facebook page. I think you will all agree there are some great ideas in the report that your society will find useful. It can be downloaded from this link [Innovative Societies Survey](#). A special thank you to those who participated in this survey and a big thank you to the Western Pennsylvania Orchid Society for spearheading the project.

# The Orchids in Machu Picchu

Photos by Patti and Charlie Scholes

The Incan sanctuary of Machu Picchu is high in the Peruvian jungle and is home to more than 200 species of orchids. These orchids measure in size from one centimeter to several meters long. The orchids in Machu Picchu have an ideal growing environment and an abundance of wildlife to help them spread their pollen.

Machu Picchu was presented to the world by Hiram Bingham in 1911. While working on his thesis, he searched the Andes for a lost Incan ruin. On the way to his destination, a Peruvian Indian told him that people were living in a ruin high on the mountain and took Hiram Bingham to the location, which was covered in overgrowth. Since that discovery, people from all over the world have visited Machu Picchu (shown below), fascinated by the architecture, the flora, and the fauna.



*Sobralia dichotoma* (above) can be found blooming in Machu Picchu and on the Inca Trail going to the Gate of the Sun almost year round. It is a terrestrial and lithophytic plant that grows to between 4.5 and 6 meters tall. The common name is Azucena de Monte 'Tahua Tahua', because there are 4 flowers on each stalk. (tahua means 2)



(Above) A variety of orchids and bromeliads grow on the walls and stones of Machu Picchu.

Perhaps the most famous orchid of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary is the *Masdevallia Veitchiana*, commonly known as 'Wakanqui' a Quechua word meaning "you will cry". Unfortunately, it was either elusive or not blooming in August. Google the name to see why the Quechuans would call it "you will cry".



*Epidendrum secundum* (at left) is a terrestrial plant that grows up to 45 cm in height. It is found in open spaces with plenty of light at altitudes of 2000 to 3000 meters. Epidendrums can be found growing everywhere, even on a rooftop. The Quechuans call them Winay Wayna, which means forever young, because they bloom year round. There are 21 varieties of epidendrums in the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.

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## Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Sept. 8th—6:15pm, Cocoa Ag Center  
Board Meeting

Wed., Sept. 8th—7:00pm, Cocoa Ag Center  
General Meeting

Wed., Sept. 22nd—6:30pm, Cocoa Beach Library  
Back to Basics Meeting & Program  
Last date for newsletter submissions

## Save the Date

October 3rd—12 Noon Annual Picnic  
The picnic will be held at the Cocoa Beach Pavilion. Thank you to Denise Baumann for volunteering to chair this event. Reserve your place and choose the side dish you would like to bring at the August and September meetings.

December 18th—Holiday Party

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**September 18-19**  
**Ridge Orchid Society Show**  
Lake Mirror Center  
121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland, FL

**October 16-17**  
**Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show**  
Fort Pierce Community Center  
Veterans Memorial Park, Ft Pierce, FL

**October 29-31**  
**Delray Beach Orchid Society Show**  
Old School Square  
51 Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL

**October 30-November 1, 9 am—5 pm**  
**Brevard County Orchid Society**  
Melbourne Auditorium  
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL  
(Visit [www.thebcos.org](http://www.thebcos.org) for details and coupon)

### Platinum Coast Orchid Society 2010 Officers

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