

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

October 2013 Edition

The Rhyzome



Hope you had a great time at the picnic. Unfortunately I was out of the area and unable to attend. It's always a lot of fun. We have an interesting agenda for the next two meetings. Charlie will share some of his growing insight and humor with us at the October 9th meeting. This will be enlightening for both new and experienced growers. The nominating committee will report the slate for the November election. Please bring your blooming plants for Betty's Show & Tell at the October meeting as this will be our last for the year. The Show Theme and poster contest is open until November 1st. Submit your entry to Patti not later than October 30th for inclusion on the ballot. Jim Adamson will offer a fabulous plant sale for us at the November meeting at the Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club. If you, or someone you know, have not paid 2013 dues they are payable at the meeting to participate in the voting and sale.

Happy Growing, Dennis

Thank you, Sally, for the September program and for bringing this beautiful array of fall colored cattleyas.

Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Oct. 9th Board Meeting

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Speaker: Charlie Scholes on practical orchid care

Oct. 30th—Last chance to submit theme for show

Nov. 13th Plant sale (For members only)

Elections of new officers

Dec. 14th—Holiday Party—reservations required.

If you have an idea for a Show Theme for our 2014 show, send it with your name to Patti (newsletter editor) by Oct. 30th. Suggestions will be published in the November Rhyzome and voted on at the November meeting.

SUNSHINE

Ginny Oliphant was hospitalized for a week but recovered in time to attend the picnic. We admire your spirit!

We miss having JoAnn Amos at our gatherings, she continues to assist her ill mother but hopes to be back home in a short while.

Lois Hicks is improved, we send her best wishes and hope she is able to come meet with us soon.

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PCOS Embroidered Shirts

Platinum Coast Orchid Society with flower in the center.

Available at :

Robin's Nest Embroidery

1314 Clearlake Rd., Ste. 4

Cocoa, FL

Phone: 321-636-4320

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. Check out the great articles in this month’s edition.
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.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct. 11-13 South Florida Orchid Society Show

Bank United Center, Univ. of Miami

Coral Gables, FL

www.sforchid.com

Oct. 25-27 East Everglades Orchid Society Show

In the Garden of R.F. Orchids

Homestead, FL

Oct. 26-27 Brevard County Orchid Society Show

THE MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM

625 E. Hibiscus Blvd , Melbourne, FL

www.thebcos.org

Raffle Fun

Every current member who wears a nametag to the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for an orchid drawing.

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There’s an abundance of information on the AOS website. For the last few months, a selection of the articles available on the AOS website have been featured in our newsletter. Please visit www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Check out the Orchid magazine at our meetings, so you can see the benefits of being an American Orchid Society member.

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

AOS CORNER

Plans are complete for the AOS Members and Trustees meeting being held in Coral Gables, Florida, November 14-16, 2013. Registration is open for the show and sale at www.aos.org; Reservations for the hotel may be made directly through the Courtyard Miami Coconut Grove hotel site (CourtyardMiamiCoconutGrove.com). Be sure to mention American Orchid Society to get the special rates (if still available). Speakers will be Dr. Kait W. Tan, CEO, Gardens by the Bay Singapore; Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids and Mr. Munekazu Ejiri, Director & Judge of Japan Orchid Growers Association (JOGA). All of the lectures, the show and most of the meetings will be held on the premises of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. Entrance to the Gardens will be part of the registration cost.

Fall Show season is gearing up. Just a reminder that AOS offers liability insurance to affiliated societies which on an annual basis can cover multiple shows a society may have during the course of the year. For more information, contact AOS headquarters at TheAOS.org and an application form can be sent to you. In addition, there are AOS documents available on the website for use at the shows: cultural information, uniform show schedule, judging request form and AOS membership forms (in color or black and white). These documents are available to download and print out to use at your shows and meetings. The members' only section of the website has more detailed cultural information as well. AOS also provides a free listing on their calendar of all AOS society events if you provide the information with enough lead time.

Call for Nominations: Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society. AOS is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Trustees. Members may nominate any member in good standing, including themselves. All nominations will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee and a slate will be mailed, in accordance with the by-laws, prior to the election at the Members' Meeting in the spring of 2013. If you are interested in pursuing a nomination, see the website for more information regarding qualifications, expertise they are looking for and requirements and forward the nomination (with biography) to Nominating_Committee@aos.org. You may also mail it into headquarters.

Lynn Fuller, Chair

At right: *Dendrochilum magnum*, Growers Ed and Joan Lehnert

Below: Blc. Walhalla 'Frog Level' Fort Motte x Blc. Golden Galleon

Grower: Judy Law



Handling Damage

By Susan Jones

The bumps, scrapes, cuts and bruises to your orchid's roots, pseudobulbs, leaves and flowers when mishaps occur — can result in anything from minor scarring and deformities to floral and plant tissues all the way to stunted growth from injured roots that cannot absorb water and nutrients sufficiently. The causes are often related to improper handling, from transporting orchids unprotected to accidental damage inflicted during repotting and even overcrowded growing conditions. In addition to the loss of the investment of time, patience, energy and care in the orchid's growth, the point of injury to the remaining plant tissue has become a weak spot through which virus, fungi and bacteria can enter and further damage the orchid. The harm that occurs during these accidents is permanent; a healthy plant will heal around it, but the affected tissue will remain scarred from its accident. Eventually the impacted area may be removed during repotting and division once sufficient new growth has occurred. In the meantime, the plant will bear the marks of its mishap, which can reduce not only its aesthetic appeal, but its scoring potential — mechanical damage can negatively impact the judges' scoring of the plant or even preclude it from award consideration altogether at AOS judging.

Accidents Most growers have at some point dropped or knocked over a prized plant, marring its formerly perfect foliage, or snapping off that long-awaited inflorescence or new growth. Orchid growers are an acquisitive lot, and collecting orchids has often been compared to eating potato chips — the similarity being that in either case it is difficult to stop at just a few. A basic but often-overlooked aspect of successful cultivation of any orchid collection is a healthy growing area that allows the grower free movement through the plants and ease of watering, fertilizing and pest control. Do not allow plants to become crowded in the growing area — a cluttered growing space is asking for trouble. Not only does overcrowding provide fertile grounds for the spread of pests and diseases, but it also increases the likelihood that plants will be knocked over or on top of one another, suffering and sometimes inflicting injuries.

Removing Tissue If a plant part has become damaged or diseased, sometimes the affected portion must be removed in order to save the rest of the orchid. Common examples of this would include a raggedly torn leaf or an area infected by fungus or bacteria. The compromised tissues must be cut away, and with them a portion of the healthy plant material in order to stop the spread of the rot. This should always be done with a hot, sterile cutting tool in order to cauterize the healthy tissue as the cut is made. The fresh cut should then be covered with a fungicide paste (see Treating Wounds). A weekly fungicide spray during the recovery period helps ensure no opportunistic infections reoccur.

Transporting Plants Pack plants carefully when transporting them home from a nursery or show, to and from judging and orchid society meetings. Plants are better protected in boxes or cartons than loose in the car. Even a newspaper or piece of wrapping paper rolled into a sleeve around the plant and taped closed will help keep it safer during transportation. Take the extra time to carefully situate and protect bloom spikes and flowers against bending and breakage in transit before transporting your plants. When orchid shopping, bring along an extra stash of boxes or bags, plus some lightweight packing materials unlikely to damage your new acquisitions such as polyester batting, finely shredded paper or foam packing peanuts. Most, but not all, sellers will supply some sort of protective materials to keep the plants they sell safe during the trip to their new home, but for those times when a seller is unprepared, has run out, or is simply too busy to wrap your purchases, it helps to have one's own materials on hand.

Repotting and Dividing When repotting, dividing, staking and removing dead sheaths and leaves from plants, use extra caution and go slowly. Make sure there is enough room on the potting bench to work comfortably, and all tools, pots, stakes, clips and other materials are sterilized before coming into contact with each plant. Some growers recommend sterilizing cutting tools between every cut, even on the same plant. Unsterile or improperly sterilized tools and materials are an excellent vector for spreading virus between plants. After unpotting the orchid and removing old media from the roots, dust the roots with fungicide before repotting. When using a commercially prepared fungicide, be sure it is labeled as safe for orchids and follow all dosage recommendations and safety precautions. Sulfur powder also functions as a fungicide and an insecticide. A more environmentally friendly alternative is powdered cinnamon, which has fungicidal properties, but is much safer for use in the home around people and pets.

Wounds A cut in human skin needs to be guarded against infection — likewise, a break in the tissue of an orchid is vulnerable to invasion by virus, bacteria and fungus. Apply a fungicide such as Bordeaux mixture to the open surface of cut plant tissue, such as a divided rhizome or a broken or trimmed leaf. Bordeaux serves as both a fungicide and an insecticide, and is made by mixing copper sulfate, hydrated lime and water. It is available premixed dry or as a paste, or can be made up as a spray by dissolving 2 parts copper sulfate and 3 parts hydrated lime into 26 parts water. Less water will make a paste that can be spread over open cuts in orchid tissue. Bordeaux is most effective when applied while fresh and kept well mixed during use.

References

Bribie Island Orchid Society. "Plant Information: Pests and Diseases". (http://www.bribieislandorchidsociety.com/plant_info/plantinfo_pests_and_diseases.htm).

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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picnic

Great food and fun for all who attended.



Rays of sunshine have made a halo around Joyce Schofield's head since she did such a marvelous job chairing our annual picnic.