

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

August 2023

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

All those who ventured out into the July heat had a nice visit at Orchid Trail. Thank you owners and PCOS members Mark and Sharon for hosting us again. I really enjoyed looking at all the different orchids in the nursery, and Mark has some interesting ways to mount his orchids. Bill and I also enjoyed the opportunity to chat with some of our newer members who attended.

At our August meeting we will be showing an AOS video about dendrobiums, called "Demystifying Dendrobiums". There are so many different classes of dendrobiums, and it is important to know what kinds you have in order to adjust for their particular cultural needs. If you have a dendrobium you want to identify, or any orchid for that matter, bring it to the meeting and let our members help you.

See you on August 9th.

Margaret



Charlie's C. Bactia "Grapewax"

Charlie is dividing his orchids. If you know how to pot, just let him know that you are interested in one of his divisions, by responding to Patti, the newsletter editor. She will call you when one is ready. If you miss one opportunity, no worries, as he has several to divide.

Calendar

Aug. 9th 6pm Board Meeting

Aug. 9th 7pm General Meeting

Video "Demystifying Dendrobiums"



Novice Dendrobium Culture Sheet

Continued on page 5

den-DROH-bee-um

Dendrobium is a diverse genus of orchids with different cultural needs. This culture information is for the phalenopsis-type dendrobiums pictured above. They are evergreen with thin, tall stems (pseudobulbs).

July's

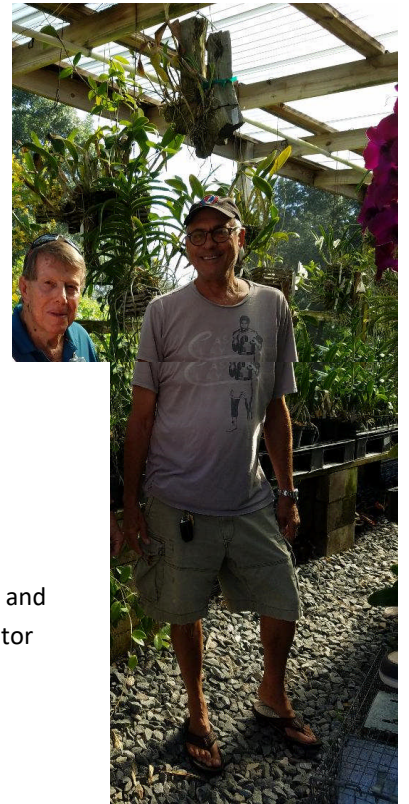


Malcolm joined at the 2023 show.



Margaret, Mark, and Julie

Ramble

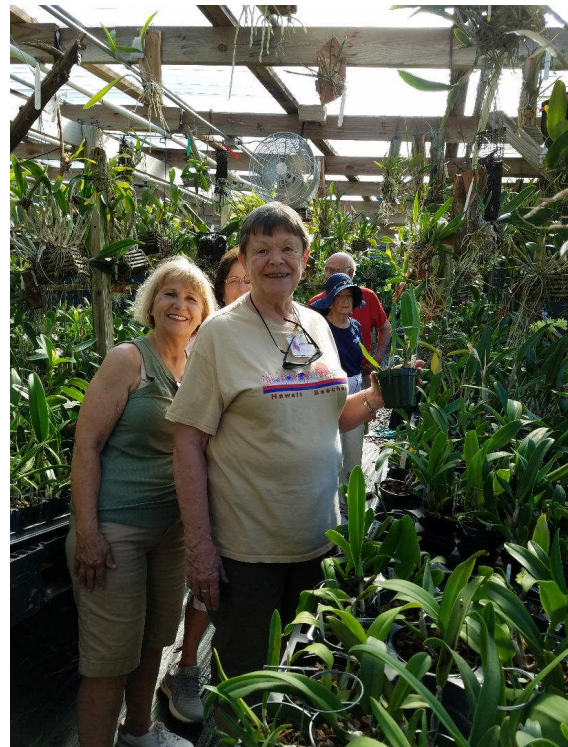


Bill and visitor

It was great to see so many new members at the July ramble at Orchid Trail. A big thank you to Mark and Sharon of Orchid Trail for hosting this event. A lovely seating area under the trees was a wonderful way for new and old members to meet and enjoy each other's company.

Note from Mark and Sharon:

Sharon and I would like to say thank you to everyone who visited us at the ramble. We do really appreciate your continued support of Orchid Trail. It is a blessing to have friends like you.



Karen and Eivor, who joined at the 2023 show. Margaret, Bertrice and John also enjoyed the ramble.

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 for check out.
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.
5. Rambles at members’ homes to help you identify how others in your area grow their orchids.

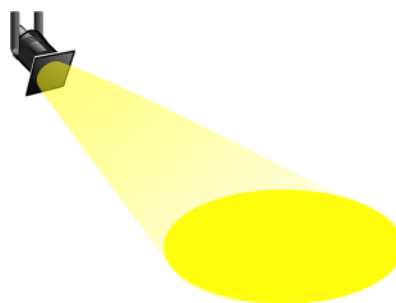
PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There’s an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

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

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](#) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](#). Each allows you to post photographs and ask questions about your orchids. The group is the most active of the two, and group members usually respond quickly to posts. The page is parallel to the AOS Instagram account. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839> <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety>



New Member Spotlight



Rick joined PCOS at our show last year and has clerked for the judges during the past two shows. He recently completed the requirements for consideration as an AOS Student Judge and has been attending the Orlando/Clermont Judging Center.

Rick is already an accredited bromeliad judge for the Bromeliad Society International and has held many positions both at the local club level and currently serves as a Florida Director. He enjoys growing both orchids and bromeliads, along with other interesting plants on his spacious property in Grant Valkaria.

2023 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN BE PART OF THE TEAM!

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Anna Palermo (2023-2024)

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Water Water your orchids in the morning so that the leaves are dry before night. How often to water depends on the potting media used, the type of pot (plastic or clay), and the size of the pot. Dendrobiums like to be in small pots and are usually much taller than the pot is wide. Because they are usually large plants in relatively small pots, watering twice a week is about average. They like to be almost dry before re-watering.

When watering, place the plant in the sink and use tepid water. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Let the water run through the plant for a minute or so. Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

This is a good time to look closely at your plant for any sign of insects or disease.

Light Dendrobiums need lots of light, but not direct sun. A lightly shaded south window is best. East or west facing windows are satisfactory if bright (avoid direct sun except at the beginning or end of the day).

Temperature Dendrobiums can withstand hot weather if adequate ventilation and humidity are provided. They are best grown when the temperature is between 65°F and 75°F in the day and between 55°F to 60°F at night.

Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature.

Fertilizer Any balanced orchid fertilizer (look at the numbers on the container, 20-20-20, etc.) can be used to fertilize your orchid. Feed weakly (1/4 strength) weekly works well for dendrobiums. Once a month use clear water to flush any accumulated salts from the potting mix.

Tips Use a shallow tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity around your plants. Be sure the pot does not sit in water as this will rot the roots.

Give your plants room for air to circulate around them. Crowding of plants can lead to problems with insect infestations and fungus. A small fan will help provide good air circulation around your plants.

When your plant has finished blooming, you can cut the flowering stem at the point where it came out of the tall thin pseudobulbs. Do not cut off the tall thin stem because the new flower stem will grow from there. Continue watering and fertilizing and within a year a new growth will spike to begin the blooming cycle again!

When re-potting, use a small pot; using a large pot will slow growth and reduces flowering significantly. Re-pot every two to three years.

From the “All About Orchids” section of the American Orchid Society website—www.aos.org