

# Platinum Coast Orchid Society

## The Rhizome

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

October 2023

I was successfully growing Dendrobiums, Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis at our home in South Florida for many years. I wasn't familiar with other genera, and then we moved to Merritt Island and I joined PCOS! Meeting other orchid enthusiasts and working at our show introduced me to many more varieties that I just had to have. Vandas were one of the new genera that I have since been growing and enjoying. Our September speaker Cindy Christie's presentation on Vandas was excellent with many great tips for growing Vandas locally in Brevard. I hope our members took lots of notes like I did.

Our October meeting speaker, Maria Pechenkina, will give a presentation on "Mounting Orchids". Most orchids are epiphytes and naturally grow on something other than in pots with our expensive potting media. I recommend we all try some of Maria's ideas and mount an orchid of any kind and bring it in to a future meeting. It will be fun to see the results of everyone's mounting experiments.

I really hope to see everyone at our Picnic on October 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be Bingo fun, orchids and lots of good food. This is a great time to meet and get to know your fellow PCOS members.

*Margaret*

### CALENDAR

**Sun., Oct. 8th, Noon Picnic**

**Cocoa Beach Pavilion**

**See info below**

**Wed., Oct. 11th, 6pm Board Meeting**

**Wed., Oct. 11th, 7pm General Meeting at Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club at 1493 Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955**

**Speaker: Maria Pechenkina will present a program on mounting orchids.**

### PICNIC INFORMATION

Our annual picnic will be held at the Cocoa Beach Pavilion on Sunday, Oct. 8th at noon. The main dish and drinks will be provided by the society. As usual, a fun BINGO game will be played with orchids as prizes. Members may bring family and their favorite potluck item for the picnic. If you did not sign up at the September meeting but would like to attend, please send an email to the newsletter editor noting both the number of attendees and the dish you will bring. Reservations will be taken by the newsletter editor up until Wednesday, October 4th.

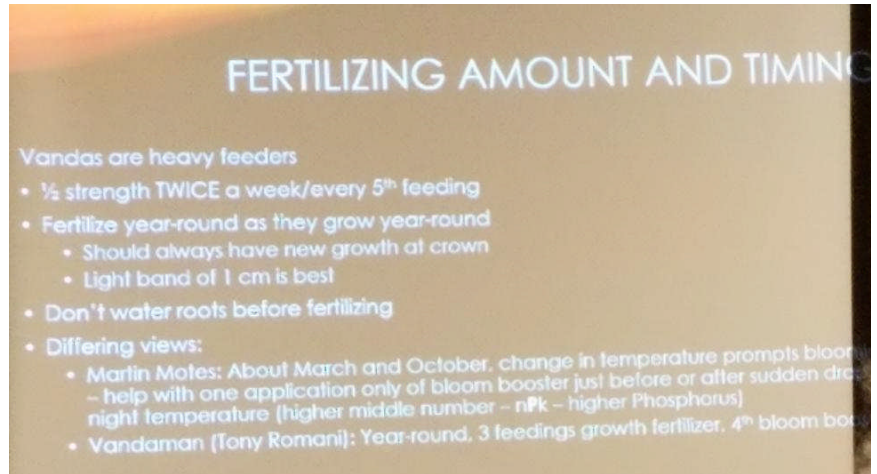
**DIRECTIONS:** From A1A, turn west onto Minuteman Causeway in Cocoa Beach. After passing Cocoa Beach High School on the left, make a left turn just after the water towers. When you reach the Cocoa Beach Country Club parking lot, make a left and park at the end next to the pavilion and pool.



# SEPTEMBER MEETING



Cindy Christie, the Vanda Lady, kept us entertained at the September meeting.



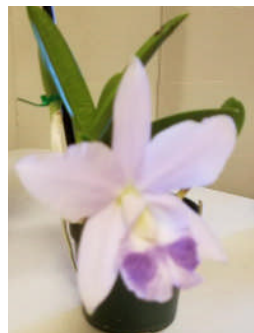
## ORCHID FORUM ENTRIES



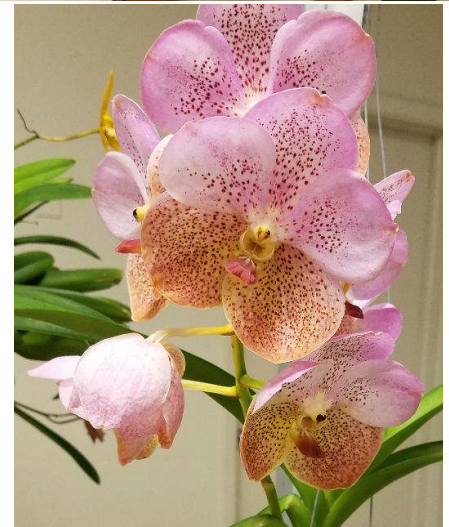
V. Lou Sheary (V. falcata 'kokakuden' x Rhy. coelestis 'Ching Hua Blue')  
 Grower Witha Lacuesta  
 Bought in 2020. Two spikes this year



Lc. Lais Phoenix 'Angel'  
 Ed Kidder has been growing this for 5 years.



Lc. Love Knot  
 Grower Tom Chaffee  
 has had this orchid  
 for 5 months.

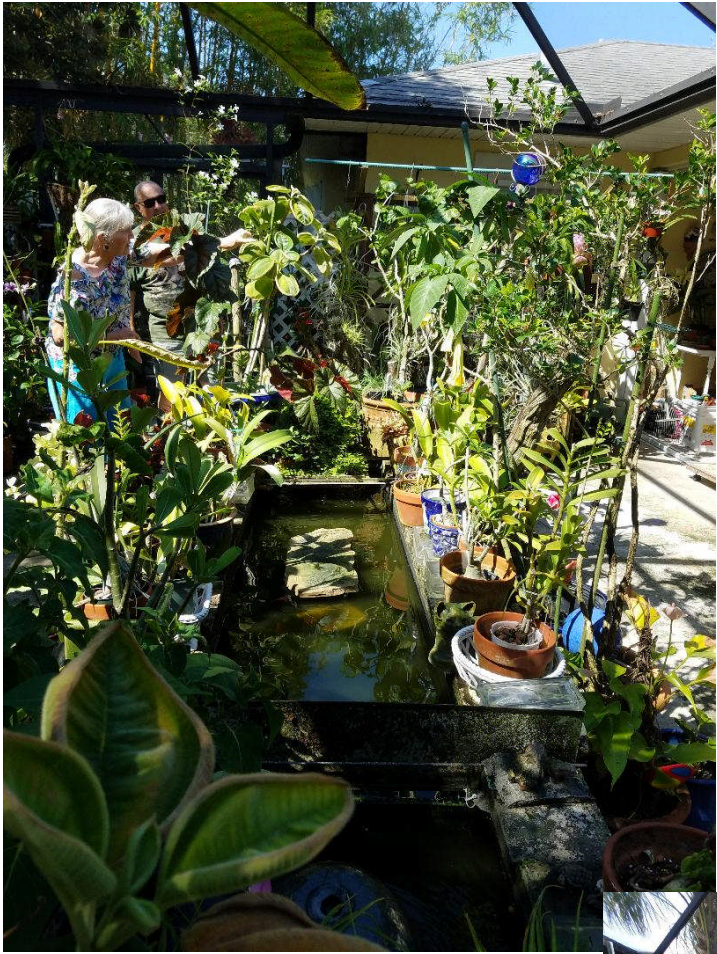


V. Yellow Bird  
 Grower Gheri Lockwood  
 Purchased from Krull Smith at the  
 2023 show.  
 The bloom starts as yellow and  
 gets pinker and pinker until it  
 starts fading.



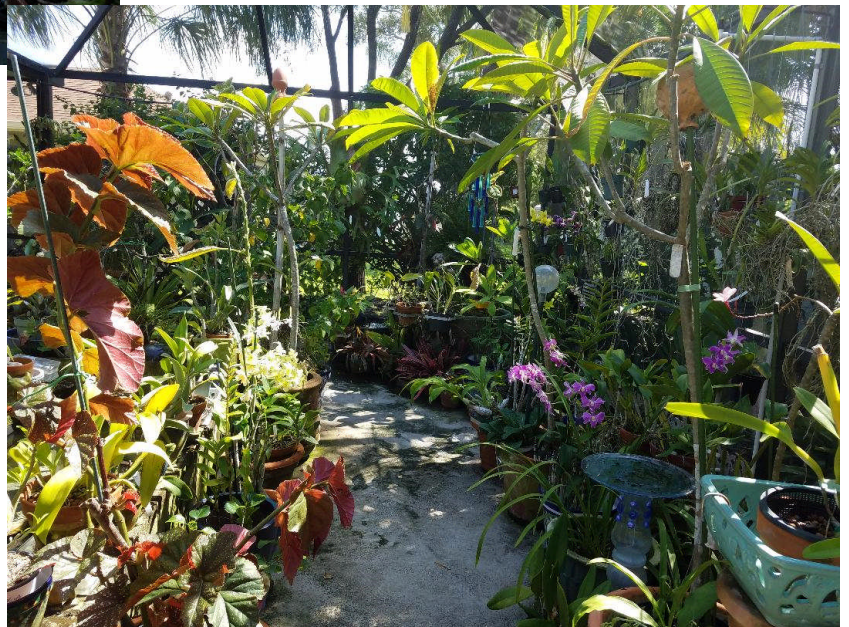
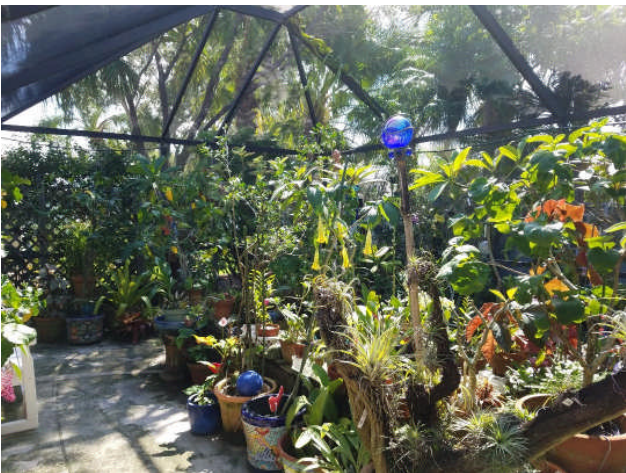
# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Witha Lacuesta frequently brings orchids to the meetings for the forum. Since Betty and others were interested in how she grows her orchids, let's take a look. Most of her orchids live inside a screened porch where there is both sunlight and shade. Water features abound. Several turtles and a parrot also live there. The editor noticed something else that she thinks is the secret to Witha's success:



Witha looks at her orchids everyday. So she catches any problems before they get out of hand. She moves plants to a shady area if it looks like they are getting too much sun. And she waters everyday with rain water that she captures in a rain barrel.

*Mystery solved!*





## 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](http://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.

## COMMUNITY

Charlie represented PCOS when he spoke at the Indian River Colony Club’s Garden Club meeting in September. He was warmly greeted by a group of about 30, and was pleasantly surprised that many in the group already are orchid enthusiasts. They were invited to attend a PCOS meeting and were delighted to know that they have 3 PCOS members who live in the community who can also offer advice.



**American Orchid Society**  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*  
*Affiliated Society*

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](http://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](http://www.aos.org)

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety). 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>

# 2023 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN BE PART OF THE TEAM!

## **PRESIDENT**

**Margaret Croucher**

President@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Ed Kidder**

VP@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

## **TREASURER**

**Mary Ellen Jelen**

Treasurer@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

## **SECRETARY**

**Carolyn Anderson**

Secretary@PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

## **DIRECTORS**

**Tammy Cheng (2023-2024)**

**Anna Palermo (2023-2024)**

**Witha Lacuesta (2022-2023)**

**James Rice (2022-2023)**

**Bert Forbush (2023)**

### **PCOS Mailing Address:**

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

## **PLANT FORUM**

Betty Adamson

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Patti Scholes

## **SUNSHINE**

Betty Adamson

## **GREETER**

Margaret Smith

## **AOS LIAISON**

Betty Adamson

## **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

## **WEBMASTER**

Bill Jelen

## **AUDIO**

Scott Anderson

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Kathy Ballance

## **PICNIC CHAIR**

Kathy Ballance

## **PARTY CHAIR**

## **SHOW CHAIR**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct. 21-22 Gainesville Orchid Society Show

Nov. 11-12 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show



**Kanapaha Botanical Gardens**  
**Fall Open House & Plant Sale**  
*featuring*  
**Gainesville Orchid Society's Annual Show**  
**"Orchids in the Garden"**  
Judging by the American Orchid Society  
Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22, 2023  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
4700 SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, Florida  
*Handicapped Accessible • No Pets • Bring Your Own Plant Cart*

**ORCHID VENDORS**

- Bredren Orchids ● EcuageneraUSA
- Florida Star Nurseries ● Hicks Orchid Supplies
- Odom's Orchids ● Orchids In Bloom
- Ritter Tropic 1 Orchids
- The Orchid Den

**FREE ADMISSION TO SHOW AND GARDENS**

Nov. 4-5 Apopka International Fall Orchid Festival in Apopka



DEERFIELD BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY  
*presents*  
**ORCHID**  
*Obsession*  
**11th Annual Orchid Show & Sale**



**November 11 and 12, 2023**  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Admission \$5.00  
Children under 12 Free

**Safe Schools Institute**  
1790 Spanish River Boulevard  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.deerfieldbeachorchidsociety.org](http://www.deerfieldbeachorchidsociety.org)  
[deerfieldorchids@gmail.com](mailto:deerfieldorchids@gmail.com)  
*Orchid Obsession Orchid Art by Patti Resso*