Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

October 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe it's October already! Has the rain really stopped? Is the humidity down as well as the daytime temperatures? It's a miracle and we've survived! Here's hoping my less water-needy orchids have made it too.

I want to give a "shout out" to both Erin Boden and Elizabeth Bishop. Erin has volunteered to be in charge of the refreshments at our monthly meetings. Her first time at the helm was in September and there appeared to be plenty of goodies for everyone. However, she is relying on members to bring items to share so be sure to sign up for future meetings and don't forget to attend. You will get an extra raffle ticket for your support.

Elizabeth Bishop has volunteered to be editor of the PCOS monthly newsletter. She has experience doing several newsletters and is familiar with the software Patti was using. She will not be ***writing*** the newsletter, so it is important for members to provide her with information of interest to the Society. I know you will see a few changes in this October newsletter so let her know how she's doing and if there are some items of interest you would like for her to consider including in future newsletters.

I'd also like to acknowledge Susan Pietrasko for her generous donation of used exhibit panels to the Society. Susan is an accomplished artist (did you know we have several in our organization?) who has decided she no longer needs the panels for large exhibits. We can certainly use them for our Orchid Show so Tom Dixon is now re-evaluating how many additional panels we will need to purchase. As a result, the large expenditure approved at last month's meeting will decrease. Thank you so much Susan for thinking about us!

I hope everyone is planning on attending the picnic on Sunday, October 12th. Lots of fun, food and BINGO! We also have the Redlands trip, so things will be hopping next month for us.

Laura

CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, October 8th, 6pm. Board meeting

Wednesday, October 8th, 7pm . Meeting.

Sunday, October 12th. Picnic at Cocoa Beach Pavilion at the Country Club. Sign up at the meeting. (See page 2)

Saturday, October 18th—Bus Trip (see page 6)

Wednesday, December 10th, 6pm Christmas Party

SUNSHINE

Hurrah for Elizabeth, our new newsletter editor. Remember to thank Patti for all her years in the job.

We are appreciative also for Erin our new Hospitality Chairman and remember to thank Kathy for all the years she served in the position.

Thanks to Jennifer for keeping an up-to-date membership roster.

Bill is always there to ensure our speakers have what is needed for their presentation.

Jo Ann is great at selling those raffle tickets.

Thanks to Sally for her generous plant donations.

It takes "an army to run a railroad" so pitch in to help whenever you can!!

Betty

OCTOBER SPEAKER

BY TOM DIXON

The speaker for October is Jim Davison. The topic is “Conversations with my Orchids.

Operated by Jim and Melana Davison, Jim-N-I Orchids provides quality orchids for the novice to the advanced collector. Specializing in a diverse selection of exotic and showy genera, including Cattleya, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Bulbophyllum and Catasetum.

Plants for the novice are selected for ease of culture while plants for the advanced grower focus on the collectable species and contemporary hybrids. Jim and Melana are both accredited American Orchid Society judges, have garnered multiple awards for their personal collection, have a combined sixty years of orchid growing experience, and are always eager to share their wealth of knowledge to assure success.

2026 Slate of Officers

The nominating committee has completed their selections for the 2026 Slate of Officers.

2026 Officers: The current Officers will all run for a 2nd year term.

2025/2026 Directors: ***(Directors have a two-year term)***

Ann Wade will complete the 2nd year of her 2-year term.

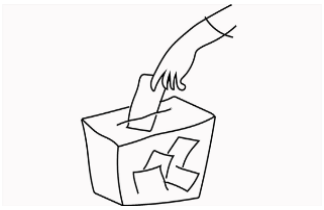
Phyllis Gautreaux is resigning after one year of her two-year term.

Lois Fletcher will move from her one-year 2025 position (vacated by Tom Dixon) to fulfill the remaining one-year term vacated by Phyllis thus completing her two-year term as director. Lois’ director term will now end in 2026.

2026/2027 Directors:

Our two Director positions need to be filled for the years 2026/2027. The nominating committee has selected two candidates.

The committee will present the complete Slate of Officers at our October General Meeting.



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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dawn Brady
Elaine Chambers
Dave Colchin
Bert Forbush
Laya Huang
Witha Lacuesta
Chris McDonnell
Donna Padget
Bertrice Vasconi

ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic is to be held on October 12th. It will be at the Cocoa Beach Country Club pavilion next to the tennis courts. The address is 5000 Tom Warriner Blvd

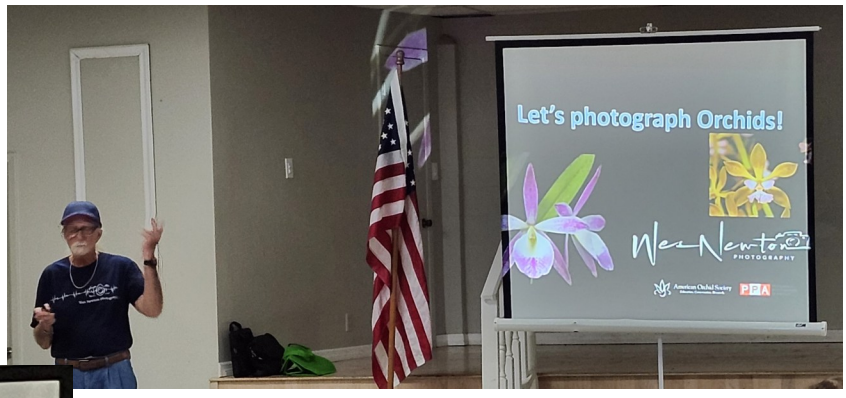
The club provides the drinks and meat and members bring a side dish to share.

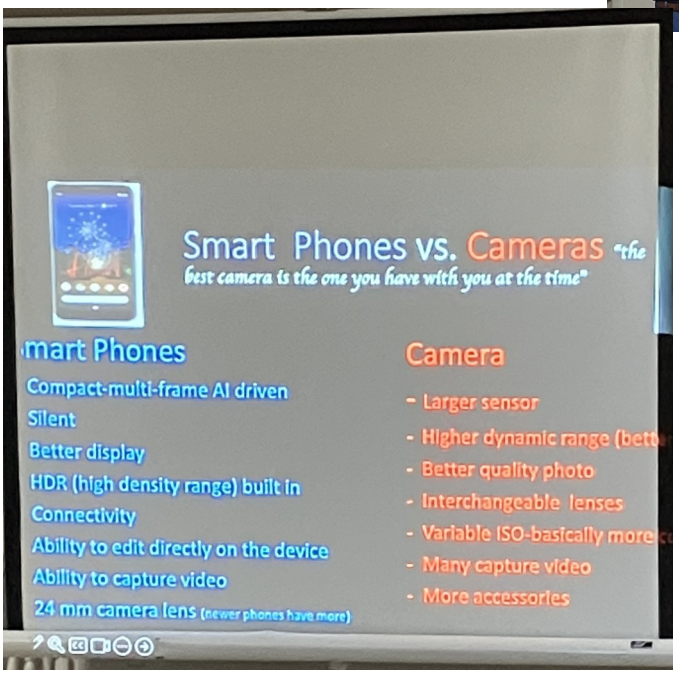
Set up is at 11:30 and begins at 12:00 noon.

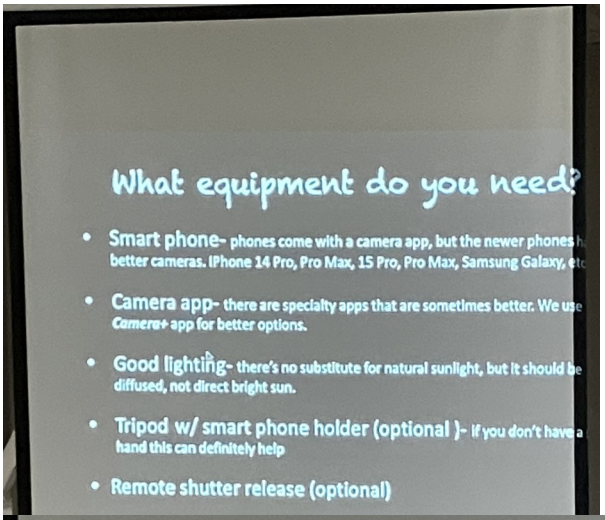
There will be good food and bingo with lots of orchids as prizes.

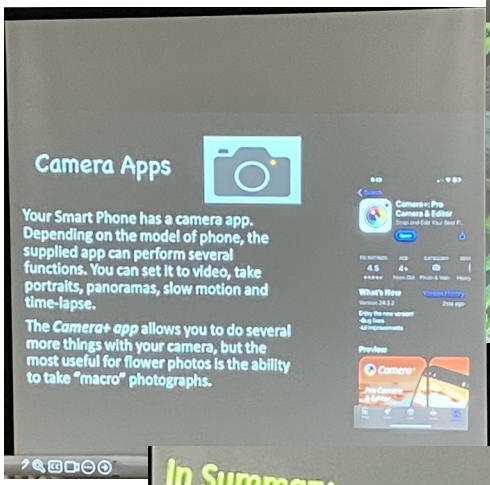
Sign up at the October 8th meeting, or contact Margaret Croucher at mpcroucher@att.net

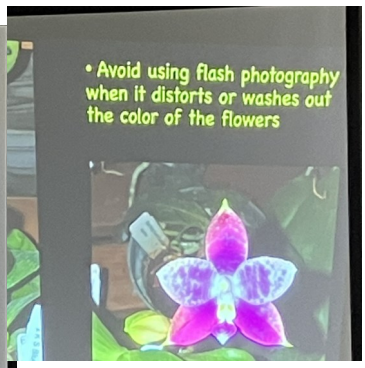
September's Meeting—
Wes Newton

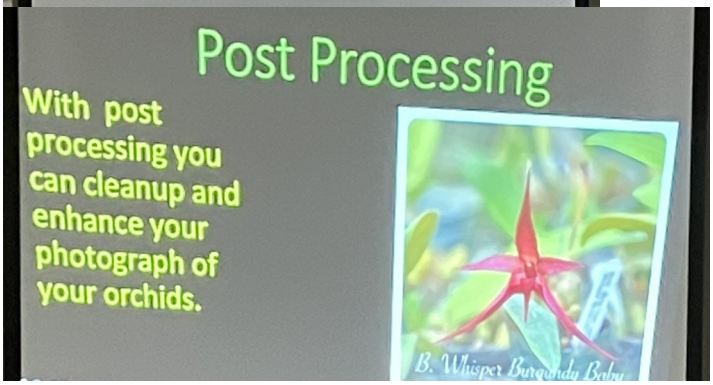


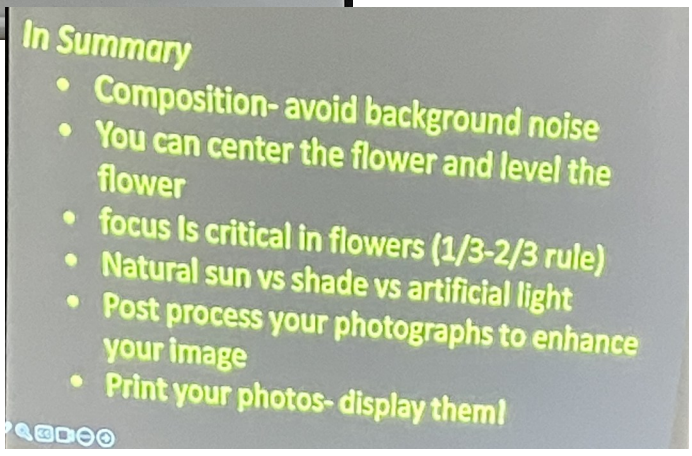












plant forum

SEPTEMBER

AOS MONTHLY CARE FOR ORCHIDS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Cattleya
Despite the shortening days and lowering angle of the sun, September can still be one of the hottest months. Water and fertilizer need to be in balance with heat and light. The alert grower will notice, however, that his or her plants are beginning to slow down a bit. Growths are maturing, and the sheaths are giving the promise of the next six-months' bloom.

Check plants for potting needs for the last time this season. Any in dire need should be potted, even some that may be on the cusp, as there is just enough of the growing season left to allow the plants to establish before the days start to get really short and cold.

This is the month for purples derived from *Cattleya labiata* breeding to flower. If you are short on flowers, look into this group. There is nothing that can quite match this type for beauty and fragrance. They are easy to grow, too.

Plants summered outdoors should begin to be prepared to be brought back into the winter growing area. Clean the plants up and be on the lookout for any pests they may have picked up during the summer. Treat as necessary.

Cycnoches
This little-known and under-appreciated genus, which can have male or female flowers, is at its best in the autumn. Two of the spectacular varieties are *Cycnoches loddigesii*, with its large brown flowers resembling a prehistoric bird, and *Cycnoches chlorochilon*, the swan orchid. This last one has large, fragrant green flowers. The biggest problem, culturally, will be red spider mite infestations that require immediate attention. Plants are quite seasonal, requiring heavy watering in the growing season and then a drier dormant winter season.

Cymbidium
Through diligent modern breeding programs, the cymbidium season gets stretched longer and longer. Now we can expect to have flowers open as early as September and October. Stake inflorescences and move the plants to a shadier location to help the flowers develop successfully. Because the plants will have warmth tolerance "built in" genetically, keeping the plants as cool as possible will help prevent bud curl. For the midseason varieties, inflorescences should be initiated by now. Feed plants on a regular schedule with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) and shade the plants lightly.

Dendrobium
This is a good season for hybrids of the *Dendrobiumphalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* types. Both are capable of putting on tremendous shows of long-lasting flowers. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen formula to promote the best flowers. Dendrobium phalaenopsis can get tall and top heavy, suggesting an attractive and heavy container would be appropriate for this type.

Paphiopedilum
Standard, green-leaved paphiopedilums begin to show their bloom sheaths this month. Late-season heat waves can blast these early sheaths, so be observant about proper cooling and air circulation. As with the rest of your plants that may have been summered outdoors, it is time to prepare for their move inside. Clean each plant and implement pest-control practices. Repotting, if necessary, is appropriate.

Phalaenopsis
The bulk of this season's growth is being ripened this month, with growers in cooler climates seeing the first emerging inflorescences. Some night heating may be necessary in the cooler areas. Begin to watch watering more carefully, and reduce feeding proportionately with reduced watering needs. An extra dose of phosphorus and potassium, such as a bloom-booster or high-acid-type fertilizer, is beneficial.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.
Complete article available on AOS.org

American Orchid Society
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UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct. 18	**Bus trip—See info below**
Oct. 25	**Gainesville Orchid Society Show** **Kanapaha Botanical Garden** **Gainesville, FL**

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

REDLAND'S BUS TRIP REMINDER

Departing Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club: 7am sharp. Please car pool if possible. Park in the back area of the parking lot.

Departing Eau Gallie and John Rodes Blvd: 7:30am sharp. Park in front of Na Office Solutions (southeast corner of the parking lot) off of Eau Gallie Blvd.

All Bus Riders:

Wristbands will be handed out on the bus for entry into the festival.

Bring a bin marked with your name for your purchases. Purchases will be stored under the bus.

Donuts and water will be provided in the morning

Small snack, water and wine will be provided for the way home.

Food vendors are at the event, purchase your dinner for the ride home if you want.

We will not be stopping for dinner on the way home

There is a bathroom onboard the bus for your convenience.

Call or email Carolyn Anderson if you have any questions.
321-917-3531 cjane.anderson@gmail.com

2025 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dixon

TREASURER

Charis Gaines

SECRETARY

Tammy Cheng

DIRECTORS

Carolyn Anderson (2025)

Lois Fletcher (2025)

Ann Wade (2025-26)

Phyllis Gautreaux (2025-26)

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

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BE PART OF THE TEAM!

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