

Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
September 2025, Volume XXXVI Issue 1

Editor: Diane Bryant, email: pslosdiane@gmail.com

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President's Message

John Erickson
Your President

September Orchid Care

September in Southeast Florida is hot, humid, and often rainy—ideal conditions for many orchids but also for pests and fungal diseases. As hurricane season peaks, secure your orchids in a sheltered but well-ventilated location. Ensure good drainage in all pots or mounts to prevent root rot from heavy rains.

With warm temperatures still present, most orchids are in active growth. Continue watering regularly but adjust based on rainfall and humidity—too much water can be just as harmful as too little. Feed your orchids every two weeks with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or similar) diluted to half strength.

Watch for fungal spots on leaves and pseudobulbs. If spotted, remove infected areas and treat with a fungicide suitable for orchids, such as Physan 20. Keep leaves dry by watering early in the day.

This is a great time to repot orchids that have finished blooming or outgrown their containers, especially Cattleyas and Oncidiums. Use fresh orchid bark or a well-draining mix appropriate to the species. Pam Waters medium mixture is 55% charcoal, 15% hydroton, 5% perlite, and 20% rubber mulch.

Keep an eye out for mealybugs, scale, and spider mites. Use insecticidal soap or neem oil early if infestations appear.

If growing outdoors, ensure plants receive bright, indirect light but not direct midday sun, which can scorch leaves.

Lastly, start preparing for cooler weather in the coming months by planning indoor space or cold protection for temperature-sensitive varieties. In the orchid room, we use septic tank cloth which can be purchased at Home Depot.

With proper care, your orchids will stay healthy and reward you with beautiful blooms well into winter.



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield
1st Vice President

It's hard to believe that September is right around the corner. I for one am looking forward to cooler weather after this brutal summer we have had.

At our September meeting we will have a noon class and Jessica Benford will give a presentation on the Sobralia orchid, a genus of a terrestrial orchid native to Mexico and Central and South America.

At our 1:15 class we will welcome Ti and Henry and Baby Kim (Florida Orchid House). The topic of their presentation will be Cattleya Bifoliate. They also will bring orchids to sell.

Of course, we will have orchids to raffle and a potluck lunch. We will have BBQ sandwiches and will ask for donation of side items.

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Orchid quote for September:
"Orchids remind us that beauty can thrive in the most unexpected places."



MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS

PSLOS MEETING -- SEPTEMBER 15

**12:00 PM: Jessica Benford
Sobralia Orchid**



According to AOS, the Sobralia orchid is a genus of about 95 species ranging from Mexico to Bolivia.

Jessica will provide us with care and culture tips for this beautiful orchid to include how to pot it, watering and fertilizing practices, sunlight requirements, etc.

Be sure to join Jessica for a great session!

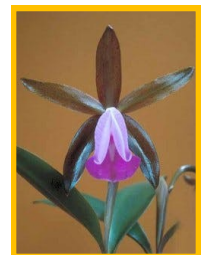


**1:15 PM: Florida Orchid House
Cattleya Bifoliate**



We are a certified nursery located in Central Florida with focal points set on distinctive, uncommon species and new hybrids -- Cattleya, Dendrobium, Cymbidium, Bulbophiles, Phalaenopsis, and more! We founded Florida Orchid House Nursery with a goal in mind - growing exotic beautiful plants and providing a reliable way to make our plants accessible to hobbyists and growers across the States. Our passion has driven from the beginning and continues to drive us into the future. We know that every plant counts and strive to make your entire shopping experience as rewarding as possible.

Our presentation will be on Cattleya Bifoliate culture and care. We also will have orchids to sell.



REMEMBER THE ORCHID EXCHANGE! The Orchid Exchange is a great opportunity to expand your orchid collection. For further information, talk to Maureen Kerr.

REMEMBER SHOW & TELL! We love to see how your orchids grow!

PSLOS MEETINGS

October 20
Bill Nunez

What's in a Name? Orchid Nomenclature

November 15
Judy Bailey, AOS Judge

December
Annual Recognition Luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13-14
Ridge Orchid Society's "Orchid Jungle"
1515 Williamsburg Square
Lakeland, FL 33803

**FIELD TRIP TO
REDLAND ORCHID SHOW**
Saturday, October 18

See page 5 for further info.



MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS

Fort Pierce Orchid Society ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW AND SALE

**"How The Grinch
Stole
Orchids"**

**DECEMBER
13 & 14, 2025**

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday 9 am to 4 pm

Admission \$4

At the River Walk Center
600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL

Text Rita at 772-418-7426 or
email at rita2zfp@gmail.com



GET READY! PSLOS ORCHID AUCTION January 19, 2026

Our annual auction is only five months away.
Start getting your divisions ready
for the auction.
(Note: Date of auction has been changed.)



THE FIRST ANNUAL RARE & EXOTIC ORCHID EXHIBITION AND SALE

McKee Botanical Garden

Saturday, September 6, 9:00-4:00

Sunday, September 7, 9:00-3:00

For more info: <https://mckeedgarden.org/special-events/>

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY Webinars

Check them
out!

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY www.aos.org/webinars

Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.

Register now and view on your time schedule.

Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Sept. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 23, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 13, 2025 Monday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.	AOS Awards— The Honor of Cultural Excellence Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing tips.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i>	The World of Phragmipediums, What Nature Can Teach Us The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Sandra Svoboda AOS Judge and AOS Past President	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Frank Cervera Biologist, well established in the Phrag community



Webinar announcements are posted on the AOS website,
on Facebook and Instagram,
and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Use the
WEBINAR
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Filter

JUNE 16 GENERAL MEETING

Great meeting and another great attendance to include a number of new members!

We had a great double-header at our June meeting. Jamie and Jett joined together to provide our members entertainment and education!



Jamie kicked the meeting off at noon by discussing three unusual genera (Chysis, Zygopetila, and Catasetina hybrids) and how they can add variety and beauty to one's collection. He also told members where to get them, how to grow them, and his experiences with them. Jamie also offered these orchids for sale.



Jett demonstrated a number of growing techniques that she uses which can be helpful to many of us. Techniques included deciding whether to unpot or repot, easy methods in removing orchids from containers, how to clean and prepare orchids for repotting or mounting, various details on potting (choosing size, drilling holes, stabilizing orchids), and watering and fertilizing practices. She also had a terrific handout available to members which depicted the supplies and tools she uses in growing and maintaining her collection (see pages 10-11). Jett also offered numerous orchids for sale.



Jamie and Jett livened the day up by having free raffle drawings throughout their presentations. Look at all those members checking out their raffle tickets!



Thanks to Eileen and Jessica for welcoming our members and our guests.

Again, a big thanks to Gracita and Illona for organizing a wonderful lunch AND AN ICE CREAM BAR! YUM, YUM!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Laurie Wade
Treasurer



Wow, August is over, and we are back to monthly meetings starting in September! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

Our current balance is \$15,441.19. Income includes additional money received for our Redland bus trip, a net profit of \$80 for the June meeting orchid raffle, \$145 in dues, and \$208.54 at the Taste of the Tropics event at the Botanical Gardens in July.

Expenses include 2 months of storage \$246, trophies for next year's show \$141, and three months of expenses for our orchid room \$85.



Eileen Storck
Membership Chairperson
pslosmemberships@gmail.com



Welcome back to the 2024-2025 season of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society. This hot summer has just flown by, and I hope everyone's orchids have survived.

Our membership going into the fall is 147!

If you joined at our May meeting, your name badge will be available at our upcoming meeting. If you're returning from up north, you can renew your membership upon your return. Individual memberships are still \$20, and family memberships are \$25.

Starting a new season, don't forget you can always bring a friend or a family member to join in the fun.

See you at the September meeting!

TRIP TO REDLAND ORCHID SHOW

Saturday, October 18

The time is FINALLY growing near! October 18 is the day!

We have 52 paid attendees. If you would like to go and have not signed up, I can put your name on a wait list in case someone can't attend.

The bus leaves from the Botanical Gardens at 7:30 am SHARP from the parking lot we left from last year when we went to Apopka. It's the grass/dirt parking lot before you go around the big bend entering the Gardens.

The price of your bus ticket includes admission and a discount coupon to be used at one of the participating vendors.

I will discuss the trip in more detail at our September meeting and in an email to all who are going on the trip.



Laurie Wade

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by
Nan Rothschild
2nd Vice President

ARE THERE BLUE ORCHIDS?





When it comes to flowers, blue isn't one of nature's favorite colors. "Less than 10% of the 280,000 species of flowering plants produce blue flowers," says David Lee, author of *Nature's Palette: The Science of Plant Color* and a retired professor of Biological Sciences at Florida International University in Miami.

According to Lee, there is no true blue pigment in plants. They lack the gene to secrete delphinidin, the anthocyanidin source of blue pigmentation in flowers. The occasional blue you see is either the product of tedious genetic manipulation, cross-pollination, or the use of dyes or floral paint.

Most blue dendrobiums or Phaleanopsis orchids are fake. They have a vibrant blue dye injected into their flower spike. After the dyed flowers drop off, the next flowers are white. Blue orchids are generally priced higher than white ones, so most people are upset to find out that they actually have a white orchid. The blue dye can shorten the life of the flower and the plant.

Are there any real blue orchids?

According to David Lee, only 10% of flowers are blue. Most of these tend to be light blue or closer to purple than really blue. However, there are several rare true blue orchids. These are some of the ones that are best known:

1. Blue Lady (*Thelymitra crinita*)-a.k.a. Queen Orchid or Lily Orchid. They are native to a small area of Western Australia. They grow in coastal areas, edges of forests, and sometimes swamps. It is considered endangered because that area is so small. They have a single lance-shaped leaf, 2-6 inches long. The stem is 8-30 inches long and holds 2-15 flowers. They range from bright to light blue. The center is blue with a yellow crest. They are difficult to care for. 
2. Blue Vanda (*Vanda coerulea*)-a.k.a. Lord Rothschild's Variety, is found in the Eastern Himalayas, northeast India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Southern China. They are popular and very expensive. They were discovered by Dr. William Griffith in India in 1837, but his specimen died in route to England. Joseph Dalton Hooker brought back some live specimens a few years later. They like to live high up in trees with small leaves so they get lots of sun. The flower is dark blueish-purple with white variegation. They have numerous evergreen leaves that are 3-10 inches long. The plants grow 30-60 inches long and 20 inches wide. They are expensive and hard to grow. 
3. Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra cyanea*)-a.k.a. Veined Orchid, Striped Sun Orchid, Swamp Sun Orchid, is another Sun-loving orchid often found in colonies of 4-20 plants in peat bogs in southeastern Australia and New Zealand. They have long, narrow green leaves. The flowers are usually blue and striped with darker blue. They have 4-6 flowers. They are easier to grow than the other two. 
4. Slender Lady Orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*). Another sun-loving orchid is the most common orchid in Australia and also grows in New Zealand. They are not hard to grow. They have one long leaf and about 12 flowers to a stem. In New Zealand, the flowers are dark blue or mauve. In Australia the flowers are light blue. 

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for September

Fall Climate Data

Average high: 89.0

Average low: 75.7

Average mean: 82.4

Average rainfall: 8.38"



- Careful watering this month often means no watering at all. Water only when truly necessary.
- Space plants amply. Good air circulation is essential across the coming months.
- Re-pot Phals and reset Vandas. Make sure that plants are firmly set in their new abodes.
- Begin or continue a disease prevention program.
- Clean up growing area and plants. Remove dead leaves from plants and the ground. Prune trees and shrubs to increase light and air circulation.
- Apply snail bait lightly early in the month and again lightly mid-month.

(From Dr Martin Motes' monthly newsletter and book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month)

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FRESH MARKET

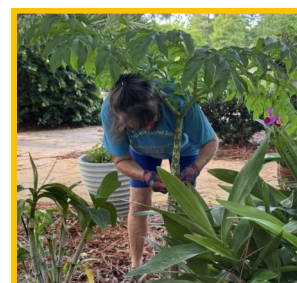


PSLOS received a donation of 27 Phalaenopsis orchids from The Fresh Market. They were offered to members on a first come, first served basis (with donations accepted). A lot of happy members!

What a wonderful donation!



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

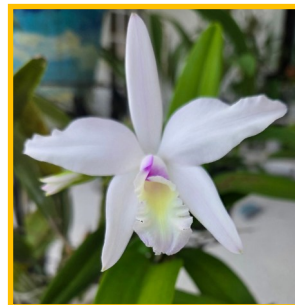
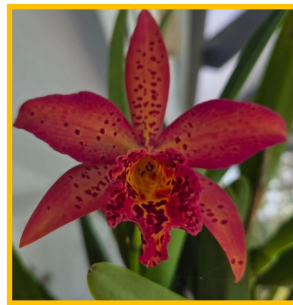


Our Orchid Room grows with a lot of help and hard work from our volunteer members!

A big THANK YOU to these members!

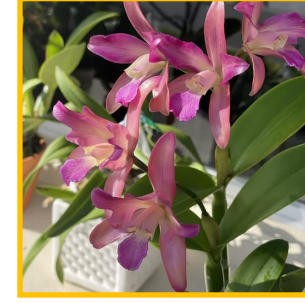


WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS - FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS



Barb Lynn

Laurie Wade



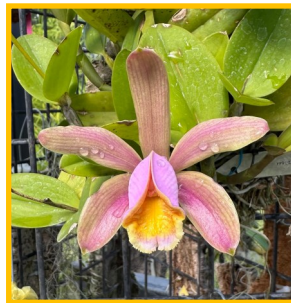
Jennifer Margolis

Tammy Walkoff



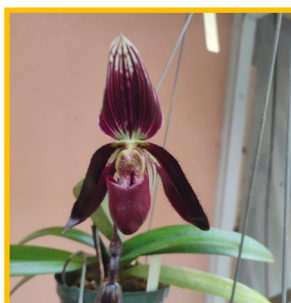
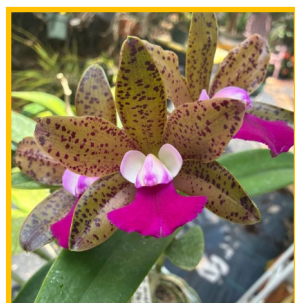
Maureen Kerr

Anita Gagnon



Jet Tanner

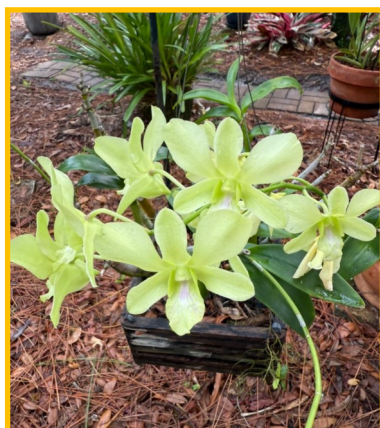
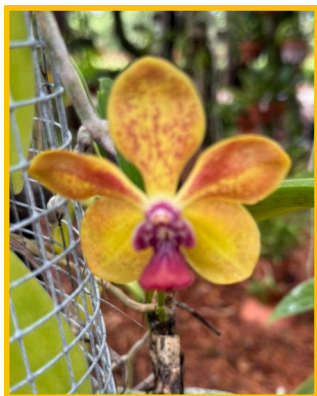
Lynn Mailander



Jaime Lawson

Diane Bryant

PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



A big thanks to the Orchid Room Committee for all their hard work in maintaining our Orchid Room.

To see our members at work, check out page 7.

For further information, contact
John Erickson at
erickson_236@bellsouth.net.



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Jessica Benford - 2026
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Orchid Room - John Erickson
Orchid Exchange - Maureen Kerr
Meeting Lunch Organizer - Jackie Young
Newsletter - Diane Bryant
Website - Diane Bryant
Annual Retreat - Barbara Lynn
Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon - Barbara Lynn

Join us for Monthly Meetings September—June

General Meeting

3rd Monday of the month, 1:00 PM
(Educational Class 12:00 PM)
Port Saint Lucie Botanical Garden
Speakers, Classes, Show and Tell, Raffles,
Orchid Exchange, and more
April, October, and December
Special Meetings
Times & Locations to be Announced

Board Meeting

2nd Monday of the month, 12:30 PM
Port Saint Lucie Botanical Garden



GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

Advertisements in this newsletter are available for \$50/year for 10 issues.

This is a great way for businesses to make their products and services known.

For more information, contact:

PSLOS Newsletter Editor at
pslosdiane@gmail.com
or
PSLOS Treasurer at
mrmush@comcast.net

Important Links for the Orchid Lover


Our Society:
<http://pslos.org/>

Our Facebook Page
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Florida Orchid Growing
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fl.orchid>

American Orchid Society
<http://www.aos.org>

Martin Motes FL Orchid Care Website
<https://www.motesorchids.com>



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