

Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society

December 2024 Volume XXXVI Issue 4

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President's Message

John Erickson

Because of the auction last month, I couldn't share a joke with you. I'll make up for that by sharing one of my favorite stories ever!

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Walmart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5,10,15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss and I am sorry and am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear."

"Yes sir, I understand your concern and I will try harder."

Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, "I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning late so often?"

The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled. He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin, "They usually saluted and said, 'Good morning Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?'"

See page 7 for the continuation of this story.



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfeld

December is a busy month for all of our members. We have our Recognition Luncheon on Monday, December 6, 2024, at Gator Trace. Please remember we are collecting donations for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program and are having a couple of Bingo games.

Our speaker in January is John Burdee, and his presentation will be on Paphiopedilum care. I am very excited about this presentation. Our speaker for February is Serena Roman (Lady Vanda), and, of course, her presentation will be on Vandas.

We need orchids for the Fort Pierce show December 7th and 8th. Please email me the names and photos of any orchids you wish to place in our display. I need this info by 5 pm on Wednesday. If you have a NOID orchid, you may enter that as well. Remember all orchids you enter in our display must be in bloom and healthy.

You can either bring your orchids to the show location on Friday the 6th at 9:00 am or you can drop them off at the Botanical Gardens between 9-9:30 am. To pick up your orchids, please be at the Botanical Gardens at 3:30 on Sunday the 8th. If picking up your orchids yourself from the show location, you must be at the show location at 2 pm. The FPOS show time on Sunday is now 7 am to 2 pm. You must use Seaway Drive to Indian River Drive to get to the River Walk Center due to the Fort Pierce Christmas parade on Sunday. Thank you all for sharing the beauty of your plants and supporting our society.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me tazzette55@gmail.com or call me at 772-528-1955.

Thank you all.
Christmas wishes orchid growers



MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon

December 9, 2024 -- 12:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to our Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon at Gator Trace Golf and Country Club, 4302 Gator Trace Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34982.

Attendance at the luncheon is limited to members and their guests who have already signed up and paid in advance. Unfortunately, we are not able to allow walk-ins. Only members who have paid for the luncheon will receive orchids.

We ask that you bring an unwrapped children's gift to be donated to the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, remember to bring a wrapped gift, value \$10.00 or less. We also will be playing two games of bingo.

The recognition luncheon is the time each year when the Board recognizes those who have maintained continuous membership for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. This year we will present our first 30-year membership award! Members who will receive pins and certificates this year are identified on page 6. If you are one of the honorees and you will not be attending the luncheon, your award will be available at the January meeting.

In addition, installation of our Board Members for calendar year 2025 will occur at the recognition luncheon.

*Seasons Greetings to you and your families from the
Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Board.*



MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

Start planning now. We will need your orchids for an award-winning display!



NLT 5 pm Wednesday, December 4 -

Email Andrea (tazzette55@gmail.com) the names and photos of any orchids (to include NOID orchids) you wish to place in the display. All orchids must be in bloom and healthy.

Friday, December 6 - Bring your orchids to the show location by 9:00 am or drop them off at the Botanical Gardens between 9-9:30 am. (If you will be dropping them off at the Botanical Gardens, let Andrea know beforehand.)

Sunday, December 8 - To pick up your orchids at the Botanical Gardens, please be there at 3:30. OR If picking up your orchids from the show location, you must be there at 2 pm. (The FPOS show time on Sunday is now 7 am to 2 pm.)

On Sunday you must use Seaway Drive to Indian River Drive to get to the River Walk Center due to the Fort Pierce Christmas parade on Sunday. Thank you all for sharing the beauty of your plants and supporting our society.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me tazzette55@gmail.com or call me at 772-528-1955.

PSLOS MEETINGS

January 20, 2025
John Burdee, Paphiopedilum Care

February 17, 2025
Serena Roman - Vanda Lady

March 17, 2025 - TBD

April 5-6, 2025
PSLOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale
Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

January 4-5, 2025
Sarasota Orchid Society's
"Orchid Delirium"
801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

January 10-12, 2025
Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society's
"Orchid Renaissance"
601 City Center Blvd, Pembroke Pines

January 17-19, 2025
Miami Orchid Society's
"Tamiami International Orchid Festival"
10901 SW 24 St, Miami

NOVEMBER MEETING

Lessons Learned

John Erickson's noon workshop covered a variety of common issues to include

- what to look for when buying an orchid;
- when and how to repot;
- what kind of medium and pots to use and why;
- how much water, fertilizer, and sun do orchids need;
- how to recognize and control bugs and other such icky things, etc.



He also presented an interesting video about using aloe juice on orchids. See page 8 for more info on this topic.

John's workshop can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn00Baf83gY>

Unique Orchids

Members really enjoyed John Melicio's presentation which included a lot of great hints and info as well as lots of humor.



With thousands of orchids to care for, John says he doesn't have time to babysit them (unlike what many of us do). His orchids are outside -- no greenhouse -- on metal shelving three to four shelves high. His orchids are in full sun -- with the orchids that can take more sun on the top shelf and orchids that take less sun on lower shelves. All his orchids are treated basically the same: watered 2 to 3 times a week and fertilized once a month with 20-20-20. He was quick to point out that everyone has their own style -- and this is his style.

He introduced us to a number of unique orchids from Latin American countries, most of the orchids having wonderful smells. An interesting fact that he shared with us is that in many Latin American countries orchids are the national flowers. He also shared a story about one of his friends in Columbia who has over 600 cattleyas growing around her house in the ground! (Try doing that!!!) Unlike Florida's sandy soil, her soil is volcanic rock which the orchids love.

For more info and stories, see John's presentation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-r0GCUJO3k>

PSLOS OUTREACH

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Holiday Festival

The Holiday Festival was a big success. Vendors offered a wide selection of arts, crafts, and plants. John, Andrea, Dana, and Laurie represented our society by providing information about our society to attendees as well as selling orchids and orchid supplies.

A big thanks to John, Andrea, Dana, and Laurie for representing the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society at these outreach events.



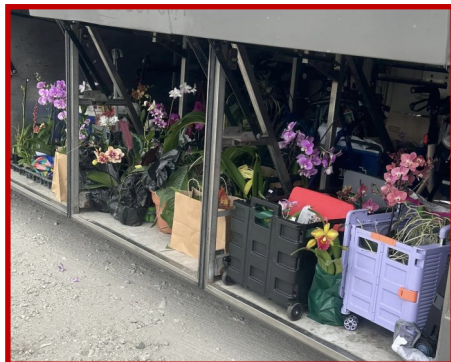
PSLOS FIELD TRIP



Members enjoyed the field trip to the Apopka International Fall Orchid Festival where they saw (and purchased) orchids from top quality vendors.

They also made a side trip to Orchids in Bloom where they were treated to a lunch and were met with more orchids! Thank you Orchids in Bloom!

Thanks to Laurie for organizing this trip, and thanks to the many members who made the trip a great day!



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Anne Menassian
Membership Chairperson
P O Box 8421
Port St Lucie, FL 34985
pslosmembers@gmail.com



Happy Holidays Members! Can you believe this is the final issue of the newsletter for 2024??!! And Port Saint Lucie Orchid Society is still growing!! The November 2024 General Meeting had excellent membership attendance with 63 members in attendance. And new membership applications were equally impressive with 6 new memberships (7 new members) added this month. We are thrilled to add the following individuals to our membership roster and wish them great success in their orchid adventures:

Sharon Rudd-Boulanger
Ruby Blattstein
Zoe Wells

Sharon Baron
George and Candy Schmidt
Karen Henry

This brings our membership total to 141 orchid lovers! New members receive a “New Member Goodie Bag” filled with helpful orchid materials and information at the time of membership payment. With such a great new membership response this month, we ran one bag short which will be provided to Karen Henry at our January meeting.

The December Recognition Luncheon is the time each year when the Board recognizes those who have maintained continuous membership for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years. This year we will present our first 30-year membership award. These members will receive pins and certificates this year:

5-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 2019

Ellie Conn	Linda Druck	Gilda Gomez
Andrea Heitfeld	Susan Hilowitz	Jennifer Margolis
Dawn Reich	Pam Segal	Beverly Webb

10-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 2014

Veronica Crawford	Carol Farmer	Barbara Hazard
Maureen Kerr		

15-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 2009

Illona Christie	Elsie Freiheit	Sonia Manning and Bill Manning
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20-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 2004

NONE awarded this year

25-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 1999

Janet Warren

30-year award: Those who have been members continuously since 1994

Barbara Robinson

If you are one of the honorees and you will not be attending the luncheon, your award will be available at the January meeting. Please let us know if you have any questions.

This is Anne’s last newsletter article as your Membership Chairperson. It has been a pleasure watching the PSLOS grow over the past few years into the consistently largest orchid society on the Treasure Coast.

(continued on next page)

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

(continued from previous page)

A REMINDER: For current members needing to renew their annual membership, fees for FY 2025 can be paid at the January general meeting and should be paid no later than the February meeting. Cash, check, or credit card* are accepted.

Individual dues are \$20.00/yr

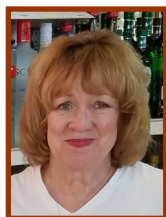
Family dues are \$25.00/yr

*There is a small fee for using your credit card.

Eileen Stork was elected as the new Membership Chairperson and will be sworn in with the rest of the Board at the Recognition Luncheon. Florence Hoot will be assisting with membership duties at our general meetings and Laurie McCarty will be assisting with badges.

Anyone else interested is encouraged to reach out to Eileen. Texting is the best way to contact her. Check the membership list for her cell phone number.

Anne Menassian, PSLOS Membership Chairperson
Eileen Storck, PSLOS Membership Chairperson-Elect



Laurie Wade
Treasurer

Hi members!



Here we are, the holiday season is upon us. Where did the year go?

Here's the summary of our finances for the month.

- Our current balance is \$13,366.51.
- We have 60 signed up for the holiday recognition luncheon for a total of \$2,100. Our orchids, which are handed out to each membership attending, will cost the club \$1,300.
- The bus trip income was \$1,435.29 and cost \$1,700 with a net cost to the club \$264.71.
- Our speaker fee was \$150. Raffle income was \$96, and cost of orchids was \$46 for a net of \$50. We also received \$44 in donations to help offset the cost of our luncheon.
- At the Botanical Gardens holiday plant event, we received \$200 for the orchid room, \$100 for our scholarship fund (to be awarded in 2025), and \$75 for the PSLOS general fund.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Gator Trace December 9th!

Continued from
page 1



A thank you to our veterans for serving our country and protecting our freedoms. Today and every day we are grateful for your sacrifices.

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by
Nan Rothschild
2nd Vice President

ALOE & ORCHIDS

After John Erickson's presentation at our November meeting, I was curious to find out more about the connection between aloe and orchids. I watched quite a few YouTube videos from "Happy Garden". Here are some tips from their videos:

Techniques:

1. Remove dead, damaged, and diseased leaves and roots from your orchid.
2. Wash -- sometimes they used just water and sometimes they used an aloe and water mixture.
3. Hang in a cool place for 2 hours.
4. There are 2 ways they made aloe juice:
 - a. Cut open the aloe leaf. Remove and save the gel layer for later. Cut the remaining part of the leaf into small pieces and add 500 ml water. Process in a blender. Strain out the residue.
 - Put 3 spoonfuls (size of spoon wasn't specified) of rice in 50 ml water. Leave for 2 hours. Strain out and keep the water. Mix rice water with the aloe water.
 - Rub the reserved aloe gel over the leaves. Put the orchid in a clear plastic cup.
 - Soak the plant in the water mixture for 30 minutes.
 - Then**, get a large, clear plastic tray (with a lid). Put in a layer of styrofoam with a tall stick, a layer of charcoal, the plant, and then secure with sphagnum moss. Water once a week. Keep covered with lid. In a month, you should see new roots and maybe a new leaf or two.
 - b. In another YouTube video, a whole leaf was blended with water. Some of the juice was used to wash the leaves.
5. In another YouTube video, leaves were rubbed (quite vigorously, I thought) with aloe leaves that had been sliced open. Two months later, growth was noticed.
6. In yet another YouTube video, they posted that the aloe gel contained **vitamin B12 and axit folic (folate)**. When sprayed on flower buds, the buds opened the next day. This got me interested because I have seen some professional growers use axit.

So does it really work? Or is it a myth?

Some growers believe it has the ability to moisturize, heal, and root. However, an article on Reddit suggests that the evidence is anecdotal, much like tea baths or banana mash. How do you separate the effect of growers giving increased attention to their orchids as a result of whatever they are using as a treatment or regime from the actual thing that they are using? In other words, there were no double blind, very large, multi-genera, clonal plant, control factor studies.

As for me, I'm going to try it soon on some keikis....because what do I have to lose?

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for December

December Climate Data

- Average high: 77.5
- Average low: 62.2
- Average mean: 69.9
- Average rainfall: 2.18"

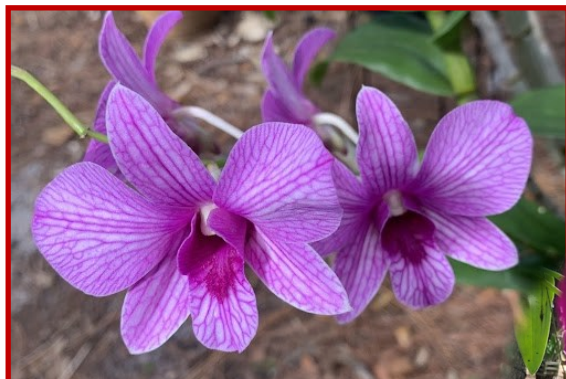


1. Water judiciously - early in the day so plants have as many hours as possible to dry and allow longer intervals between watering to dry plants thoroughly.
2. Reduce fertilizer as most sympodial orchids are resting in December. Provide extra potassium and magnesium. Biweekly or even monthly applications of a balanced fertilizer or 15-5-15 are still desirable.
4. Segregate dormant genera in bright dry area.
5. Keep those vandas, phalaenopsis, and hard cane dendrobiums as warm as you can.

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

For further information specific to different orchid genera, go to <http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/november-december-checklist.aspx>

BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



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



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

WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS -- FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!



Claudia Young



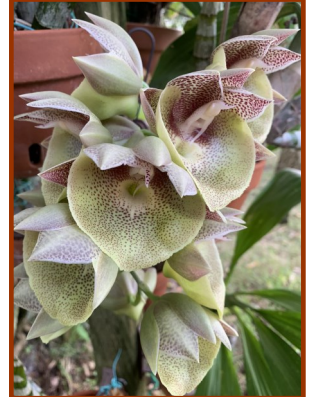
Maureen Kerr



Diana Lenartiene



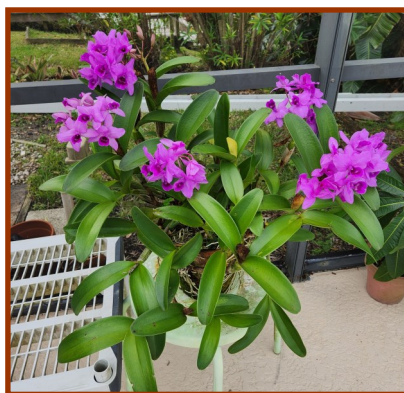
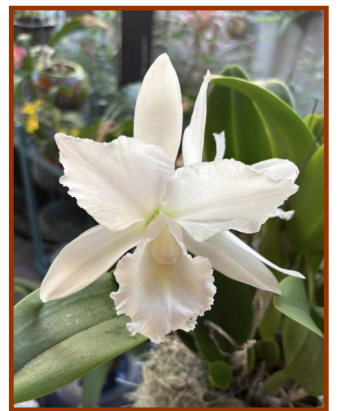
Diane Bryant



Andrea Heitfeld



Gilda Gomez



Barb Lynn



John Phillips

Email pictures of your blooming orchids to pslosdiane@gmail.com so we can share them with our members.

Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2024 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson
1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfield
2nd Vice President - Nan Rothschild
Recording Secretary - Diana Lenartiene
Corresponding Secretary - Dana DeMarco
Treasurer - Laurie Wade
Membership - Anne Menassian
Immediate Past President - Pam Scholey
Trustee - Diane Bryant - 2024
Barbara Lynn - 2025
Jessica Benford - 2026
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade
2024 Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfield & John Erickson
Orchid Room - John Erickson
Orchid Exchange - Maureen Kerr
Meeting Lunch Organizer - Jackie Young
Newsletter - Diane Bryant & Anne Menassian
Website - Diane Bryant (Primary)
Diana Lenartiene (Alternate)
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 St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
Speakers, Classes, Show and Tell, Raffles,
Orchid Exchange, and more
April, October, & December—Special Meetings
Times to be Announced

Board Meeting

2nd Monday of the month, 12:30 pm
Port Saint Lucie Botanical Gardens



Orchid Room

Important Links for the Orchid Lover

Our Society:
www.pslos.org/

Our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/groups/PSLOS

Florida Orchid Growing
www.facebook.com/groups/fl.orchid

American Orchid Society
www.aos.org



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