

Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
April 2025, Volume XXXV Issue 7

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President's Message

John Erickson
Your President



"Thriving in the Growing Season!"

April is here, and with it comes the prime growing season for many orchids! As temperatures rise and days grow longer, it's the perfect time to nurture your orchids toward vigorous growth and stunning blooms. Let's dive into this month's tips and highlights.

April Orchid Care Checklist:

- **Fertilize for Growth:** Orchids are waking up from their winter rest. Use a balanced fertilizer (e.g., 20-20-20) diluted to half strength every 2-3 weeks to support healthy roots, leaves, and spikes.
- **Temperature Adjustments:** Keep an eye on nighttime temperatures. Most orchids prefer nights above 55°F (13°C). If growing outdoors, bring them in during chilly evenings.
- **Pest Patrol:** Warmer weather can bring pests like aphids and spider mites. Inspect leaves and flowers regularly, and treat any infestations with insecticidal soap or neem oil.

Spotlight Orchid of the Month:

Cattleya (The Queen of Orchids)

Known for their fragrant, show-stopping flowers, *Cattleyas* thrive in bright light and well-draining medium. This is a great time to divide and repot mature plants, ensuring robust blooms in the months ahead.

Ask the Expert:

Q: My orchid hasn't bloomed in over a year—what can I do?

A: Check your light levels. Most orchids need bright, indirect light to bloom. For stubborn plants, try a mild temperature drop at night to trigger flowering.



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield
1st Vice President



It's Show Time! Set up is Friday April 4th. Bring your orchids for judging, raffle prizes, niches, fairy habitat gardens, and fairy headdresses between the hours of 9 am to 2:30 pm. Doors open on Saturday April 5th at 9 am and Saturday at 10 am. Morning volunteers and clerks must arrive by 8:30 am on Saturday and Sunday at 9:45 am. Please report to the front desk for your volunteer badges, and please return badges to the front desk when your volunteer time is finished.

We still are in need of food items for the show. We need snack items such as cookies, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, and desserts such as brownies, etc. On Friday we need coleslaw and toss salad. On Saturday we need dessert items. On Sunday we need some strawberries, dinner rolls, salads, and desserts.

Most importantly I would like to extend a huge thank you for continuing unwavering support of our society. This show would not be possible without your sponsor donations, volunteering, and food donations. I am so proud to be a part of this society. We have the BEST members!

April is also picnic time. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be furnished. We are accepting other food donations such as chips, salads, etc.

Our May speaker is Jim-I-Orchids, and they will be bringing orchids to sell. I am not yet sure about the noon class in May but will notify you of the workshop topic and speaker. Jamie is conducting the noon class in June, and Jett has the 1:15 pm class. They will also bring orchids to sell.

See you all at the show, and thank you all for all you do for our club!

PSLOS ANNUAL SHOW -- APRIL 5 & 6



Show time is here!

Remember to visit our fantastic vendors during the show:

- Ecuagenera Orchids
- Odom's Orchids
- The Orchid Den
- Vina Planters
- Jim-N-I Orchids
- J&J Unique Orchids
- Orchids in Bloom
- Florida Orchid House
- Lady Vanda Orchids
- Koke Moss
- Jim's Orchid Supplies

Workshop Schedule

Saturday

10:00 Repotting Orchids
12:00 Vanilla Orchid Story
2:00 Repotting Orchids

Sunday

12:00 Vanilla Orchid Story
2:00 Repotting Orchids

Schedule for Show at the Polish-American Social Club

Wednesday, April 2:

If you are bringing orchids for judging, call or email Andrea by Wednesday, April 2, with the name and color of your orchid (tazzette55@gmail.com or 772-528-1955).

Friday, April 4, 9:00–2:30:

Fairy Gardens/Headdresses, Raffle Prizes, Orchid niches, and all orchids you are entering for judging must be delivered to the show no later than 2:30.

Saturday, April 5, 8:30:

Clerks and all morning volunteers check in by 8:30. All other volunteers check in by the times you signed up for.

Sunday, April 6, 9:45:

All morning volunteers check in by 9:45. All other volunteers check in by the times you signed up for.

Sunday, April 6, 4:00:

Fairy Gardens/headdresses, Orchid niches, and all orchids entered for judging must be picked up at 4:00. Take down starts immediately at the end of the show.

ALL VOLUNTEERS: Please report to the front desk for your volunteer badges, and please return badges to the front desk when your volunteer time is finished.

Judging: AOS judging will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Saturday.

Judging for niches and fairy gardens/headdresses will be conducted on Saturday at 10:00 am.

GENERAL MEETING -- APRIL 21



We will have our annual retreat at the Veteran's Memorial Park Rivergate (Rivergate Marina).

Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Drinks will also be furnished. Members are asked to bring other food donations such as chips, salads, desserts, etc.

It will be a time for relaxation and comradery -- and games!

**Don't miss our
"Picnic in the Park."**

FIELD TRIP TO REDLAND ORCHID SHOW

PSLOS has obtained a quote from Coastal Bus Lines to go to the Redland Orchid show Saturday, October 18, 2025. This show is a BIG DEAL!

The price is \$40 for PSLOS members, \$45 for non-members and includes travel to and from Fruit and Spice Park in Redland, a \$5 voucher to be used at any of the orchid vendors at the show, and admission.

The bus will depart from the Botanical Gardens at 7:30 am sharp and return around 5:00 pm. We have 31 signed up so far and need 45 to break even on the cost of the bus.

Please sign up as soon as you can, and I will collect payment starting at the April picnic and the May and June meetings. As before, once you pay I cannot refund your money but will work with you to find someone to pay for your seat. Cash and check are preferred, credit card will be charged an extra dollar to cover fees. Please email Laurie Wade at mrmush@comcast.net or call/text (772)342-3306 if you are interested in going.



PSLOS MEETINGS

May 19 1:00 - Jim-N-I Orchids,
Chemicals and Orchids
June 16 12:00 - Catasetums Workshop
1:00 - Jet Tanner Topic TBD
July/August Summer Break

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival
April 11 - 13 at Krull-Smith
2800 W Ponkan Rd, Apopka
Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Show
April 19 - 20 at the Flamingo Gardens
3750 S Flamingo Rd, Davie
Vero Beach Orchid Society's "Carnival of Orchids"
April 26 - 27 at the Riverside Park
3001 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach

MARCH 17th GENERAL MEETING

Wow, what a meeting! It was jammed packed with members and events! In addition to the terrific workshop on Orchid Niches presented by Lee and Laurie, we had raffle sales, sign ups for the October bus trip, sign ups for the April picnic retreat, sign ups for our "Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales" show, distribution of show t-shirts, a terrific lunch, show-and-tell, and orchid exchange. Then to top it off, we had a workshop on mounting orchids on cork!



Thank you Lee and Laurie for the niche workshop!



Show & Tell is always fun!



The mounting workshop was lots of fun! Once again, John and Andrea were there to help our members.



The lunch spread was terrific. Thank you, Jackie and helpers.



PSLOS OUTREACH



Members of PSLOS represented our society at the Gardens 15 year celebration on March 15. Pictured are some of the volunteers.

John Erickson also taught a workshop on repotting orchids.

Thank you members for representing our society!



MARTIN COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW



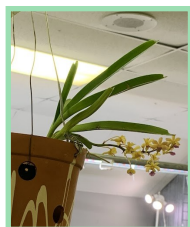
Look at all those ribbons! Good job, PSLOS members! You came through with ribbon-winning orchids. Also, a special thanks to Andrea, John, and all the members who helped construct the display.

We won "Best Society Display"!

MARTIN COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Here are the PSLOS members who received ribbons at the Martin County Orchid Society show and pictures of a few of the ribbon-winning orchids. All members are encouraged to participate in these orchid shows. It is so rewarding earning ribbons for your orchids.

CONGRATS to all our ribbon winners!



Andrea Heitfeld

1st Place: Blc. Chunyeah 'Tzen-Wen' AM/AOS

1st Place: Rth. Psycho Bride

1st Place: Den. Red Emperor Prince

2nd Place: Ctt. Busy Bev. Blue Jewel AM/AOS

3rd Place: Den. Royal Chip



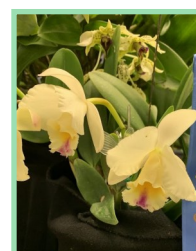
Ann Mygatt

1st Place: Den. Little Atro

1st Place: Blc. Star of Siam

2nd Place: Ctt. Gold Digger 'Orglade's Mandarin'

3rd Place: Den. Royal Chip



Diane Lenartiene

1st Place: Rby. (Gold Tag x Richard Muller) 'STK'

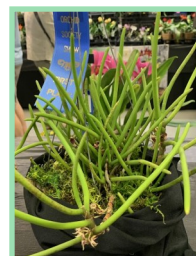
1st Place: Pot. Naomi's Delight #78



Diane Bryant

1st Place: Shk. Memoria Bob Hill 'Whitish'

2nd Place: Ctsm. FDK After Dark 'SVO' 'Black Pearl' FCC/AOS



Amanda Dier-Huth

1st Place: Blc. Yellow Bird

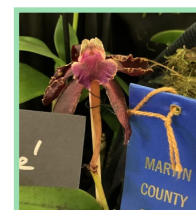
2nd Place: Tolu. Jairak Flyer 'Red Cherry'

3rd Place: Den. Spring Glory



PSLOS

1st Place: Phal. Sogo Yukidan



Jackie Young

1st Place: V. Thianol x V. Michael Dean



Barbara Lynn

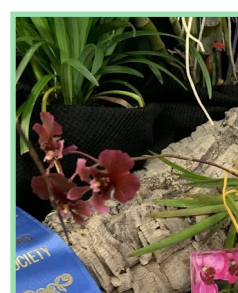
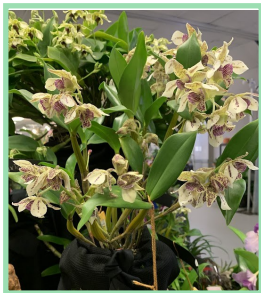
1st Place: Lsa. Zollingeri



Dana DeMarco

2nd Place: Den. Chocolate Chip

3rd Place: Lc. Busy Bee 'Blue Jewel' AM/AOS



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Laurie Wade
Treasurer



Our current balance is \$14,490.72.

Our month's income includes: \$2,513 for our show, \$160 for the October bus trip, \$174 for the April picnic, \$204 for cork mounts, a net profit of \$65 for the March orchid raffle and \$879.38 in membership.

Our expenses include \$123 for storage, \$250 for cork mounts, \$723 in various show expenses, \$90 for the Martin County OS display and \$278 for the orchid room.



Eileen Storck
Membership Chairperson
pslosmemberships@gmail.com



Spring is in the air and the orchids love it! There were so many beautiful blooms at show and tell at the March meeting. If that's a glimpse of what's to come, our April show is going to be phenomenal! I am hopeful some of our newest members will be actively involved.

Speaking of new members, March brought in several new members, some with a lot of orchid experience and others just getting their feet wet in their orchid endeavors. The following are our newest members.

Ana Campos
Kirsten DeCook
Jo-Ann Stone
Kathy Wohleber

Joyce Curran-Gousse
Melissa Green
Sandra Swantek

Welcome to our Orchid Family! With these new folks, our membership is now at 130. This includes all individual, family, and honorary memberships. What a great group of orchid enthusiasts!

I am still working on updating our membership roster, aligning it with the Directory Authorization forms. Please click on [this link](#) to access the form and bring it to the Orchid Show if you have not yet submitted one. Much appreciated! (New members - this info is part of our recently updated application, so you have already done this.)

We look forward to seeing everyone, **and your beautiful orchids**, at the upcoming Orchid Show!



ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for April

April Climate Data

Average high: 83.8

Average low: 67.6

Average mean: 75.7

Average rainfall: 3.36"



- Water heavily when you water; then dry hard.
- Fertilizer becomes more crucially important. Apply:
 - 13-13-13 time release (Dynamite more reliable);
 - 15-15-15 at a rate of 2 tsp per gallon every 2 weeks and fertilizer high in phosphorus once or twice.
- Treat plants for thrips and mites.
- Catch up with all your repotting this month.

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

For further information specific to different orchid genera:

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/march-april-checklist.aspx>

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by
Nan Rothschild
2nd Vice President

Mounting Orchids

Just to review mounting orchids after our hands-on class:

Mounting orchids provides a natural environment for the plant. There are several options for mounting orchids:

Tree fern slabs - are pieces of tree trunks, actually compacted dried roots, that can be found in garden centers. They come in a variety of sizes, thicknesses, and densities and may or may not have wire hooks attached to them. They drain water quickly and retain very little moisture. They require more frequent watering than orchids in pots.

Cork slabs - come from the bark of cork trees. Use the outside, or corky side, to mount the orchid. They come in many sizes. Orchid roots attach well to cork. Orchids grown on cork slabs need to be watered frequently. If overwatered, cork can become slimy and moldy. If this happens, cut down on the watering and let the slimy, green stuff dry out and trim it off to reveal fresh cork.

Branches and tree trunks - are a great way to grow orchids. You can use zip ties, pantyhose, or twine to encourage the root to grow onto the tree.

The best time to mount an orchid is after it has flowered and new roots are appearing at the base of the plant.



WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS--FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS



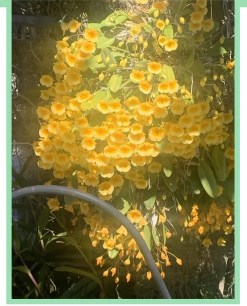
Nancy Lyman



Lynn Mailander



John Phillips



Gail Mathews



Lee Stradley



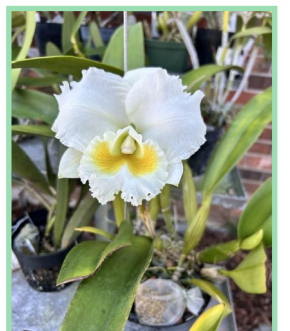
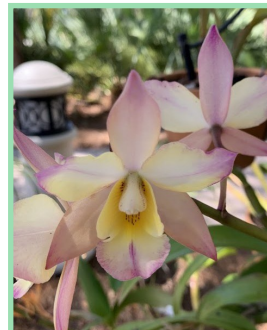
Jet Tanner



Andrea Heitfeld



PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2023 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 - Eileen Storck
Immediate Past President - Pam Scholey
Trustee - Diane Bryant - 2027
Barbara Lynn - 2025
Jessica Benford - 2026
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade
2025 Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfeld & John Erickson
Orchid Room - John Erickson
Orchid Exchange - Maureen Kerr
Meeting Lunch Organizer - Jackie Young
Newsletter - Diane Bryant
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 Saint Lucie Botanical Garden
Speakers, Classes, Show and Tell, Raffles,
Orchid Exchange, and more
April, November, and December
Special Meetings
Times 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
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/PSLOS>

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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