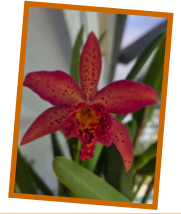


Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
October 2025, Volume XXXVI Issue 2

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

Visit us on the Web at: www.pslos.org — Join our FaceBook group!



President's Message

John Erickson
Your President

Miniature Orchid Care

Miniature orchids, though small in size, have the same needs as their larger relatives but require closer attention due to their delicate nature. These orchids thrive in bright, indirect light, such as an east-facing window or under grow lights, where they receive steady illumination without scorching. They prefer warm, stable temperatures between 65-75°F during the day and slightly cooler at night, with humidity levels of 50-70%. Good air circulation is essential to prevent fungal issues.

Watering should be frequent but light, as their smaller pots or mounts dry out quickly. Use room-temperature, filtered, or rainwater when possible, keeping roots moist but not soggy. In general, water once or twice a week, adjusting based on potting medium and environment. Fertilize weekly at quarter strength with a balanced orchid fertilizer ("weakly, weekly"), and flush with plain water once a month to prevent salt buildup.

Because miniatures grow in small pots or on mounts, they often need repotting more frequently—every one to two years. Repot when roots crowd the container, the medium breaks down, or growth slows. Use fine-grade bark, sphagnum moss or a mix suited to the orchid's natural habitat. Handle gently, as roots are fragile.

With attentive care—light, warmth, humidity, and consistent but careful watering—miniature orchids reward growers with abundant blooms in a compact form, perfect for limited space collections.



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield
1st Vice President

Fall season is upon us; hopefully, it will bring some cooler temps.

Our October speaker is Bill Nunez. His presentation will be "What's in the Name? (Orchid Nomenclature)." Bill also will be selling orchids. We will be serving lunch as usual; donations of sides will be accepted. We also will be conducting a food drive for the Treasure Coast Food Bank in association with the Salvation Army (see page 2 for more info). There will be no noon class at the October meeting.

Judy Bailey, our AOS show chair, will be our speaker for November. The topic of her presentation will be "Species--What do they teach us?" I will let you all know of our noon speaker in our November newsletter.

Our Holiday Luncheon will be at the Botanical Gardens on December 8th from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. The cost for the luncheon is \$22.00. We will start collecting for the luncheon at our October meeting. The \$22.00 will include a BBQ luncheon and an orchid. We will have a sign up sheet for those who wish to create a holiday centerpiece for judging (First, Second and Third place prizes). Of course, we will play Bingo and Trivia for prizes as well. Those who are members and have paid to attend the Holiday Luncheon will receive an orchid.

We also have our 2026 orchid show coming up: "Orchids and Ladybugs -- Harmony in Nature." The dates are April 11th and 12th at the Polish American Club on Prima Vista.

October quote: "Embrace your uniqueness, like orchids, we each have our own beauty to share with the world."

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS

PSLOS MEETING -- OCTOBER 20

No noon workshop today.
11:45 am - Lunch

1:15 PM: Bill Nunez What's In a Name? Orchid Nomenclature

I began growing orchids in the late 60's after several years of tagging along with my father to visit his friend's greenhouses. I received a few back bulbs from some of these folks, and a few of them lived. I was off to the races after that. Having grown up on 1800 acres of family-owned ranch land, I started working on cattle ranches in the 70's and became familiar with Florida cypress swamps. I greatly enjoyed my adventures into these wonderful swamps. They became my refuge, and I always had the sense of traveling back hundreds of years in time when I entered one of these untouched places. It was here that I was able to find many of the Florida orchid species along with native ferns and a variety of wildlife.



I have been growing orchids most of my life, and I get a great pleasure now when I am making new hybrids mostly in the Cattleya alliance. I have been fortunate enough to receive several AOS awards and register several of my hybrids. The greatest satisfaction for me is to have one of my hybrids awarded.

Do you understand your plant tags? Have you often wondered how orchid names are derived and why they change? And who comes up with the names? In today's session I hope to clear up some of the mystery behind orchid nomenclature. I will also be bringing 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!

We are conducting a food drive at the October meeting for the Treasure Coast Food Bank in association with the Salvation Army.

TREASURE COAST 
FOOD BANK

Their shelves are currently empty, and they need our help. Please open your hearts and bring nonperishable food items to our meeting to donate. Canned goods, dry goods, cereal, and any other nonperishable food items are welcome.

The goal of the Food Bank is to alleviate hunger by obtaining and distributing food and other essentials. Let's help them in this endeavor!

FIELD TRIP TO REDLAND ORCHID SHOW Saturday, October 18



The bus is FULL!

An email covering the specifics was sent out to everyone who signed up. If you did not receive it, PLEASE email Laurie right away at mrmush@comcast.net, and she will get it out to you.

PSLOS MEETINGS

November 17
Judy Bailey, AOS Judge
"Species--What Do They Teach Us"

December 8
Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS

PSLOS Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon

December 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

Please join us for our Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon.

The price is \$22.00 which includes your meal, gratuity, and an orchid. NOTE: Only members who signed up and paid will receive orchids.

If you wish to sign up, we ask that you be prepared to pay at the October meeting. Cash, check made out to PSLOS, or credit card (with a \$1 surcharge to cover cc fees) are acceptable forms of payment.

- ♦ If you are unable to attend our October meeting but wish to attend the luncheon, email Laurie (mrmush@comcast.net) as soon as possible. She will provide you instructions for payment.
- ♦ Although attendance is limited to 60 people, you may be able to sign up and pay at the November meeting if space is available. Only cash or check made out to PSLOS will be accepted.

We will have a Holiday Centerpiece Competition (first, second, and third place prizes). We also will play Bingo and Trivia for prizes.

Also, don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the Salvation Army.

Hope to see you at the luncheon!



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 rita2zfpos@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tampa Orchid Club Expo
October 4 - 5, 2025

Northdale Recreation Center, Tampa, FL

Redland International Orchid Festival
October 17 - 19, 2025
Redland Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead, FL

Gainesville Orchid Society
"Orchids in the Garden"
October 25, 2025
Knapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Laurie Wade
Treasurer



Meetings are back! It was nice having a couple of months off, but we have an action-packed couple of months coming up. Our bus trip is October 18, and the bus is FULL! I sent an email covering specifics to everyone who signed up. If you did not receive it, PLEASE email me at mrmush@comcast.net right away, and I'll get it out to you.

Our Holiday Party cost is \$22, and I will be collecting at the October meeting. If you want to sign up, please be prepared to pay in October as I won't be at the November meeting. Cash, check made out to PSLOS, or credit card (with a \$1 surcharge to cover cc fees) are acceptable forms of payment. See page 3 for more information.

Our current balance is \$14,917.28. Since August 1 the highlights of income and expenditures are as follows: Our meeting raffle took in \$144 and the orchids cost \$110 so our net profit was \$34. There was \$66 donated to cover the cost of luncheon supplies (THANK YOU) and \$106 in new memberships. Our expenditures were \$246 for two months of storage, \$416 for trophies and ribbons for next year's orchid show, and \$265 in the orchid room.



Eileen Storck
Membership Chairperson
pslosmemberships@gmail.com



Happy Fall PSLOS members! Can you believe it's officially "Fall"? Our new 2025-2026 season is in full swing, and although I was unable to attend the first meeting of the new season (Alaska was amazing!), I had great back-up to assist with the monthly meeting membership duties. I'd like to thank Jessica Benford, Tammy Walkoff, and Dianne Jenkins, who all assisted in one way or another during my absence. Five new membership applications were received at the September meeting. That's fantastic! Join me in welcoming the following new members:

Individual Membership: Pauleen Donohue Kathy Jilg Ann Rogak

Family Membership: Margaret Cox plus one Emilio Martinez plus one

Our total membership is now 154!

A few members asked about annual membership dues at the last meeting so I would like to clarify when your membership fees are due. If you're a seasonal member and returning for the first time this season, you are free to renew your membership at the October meeting. All other members' fees should be good until December 2025. Annual membership renewal fees will be due from all members no later than January 31, 2026. If you are unsure, please ask for clarification if you attend the October meeting, or email me at pslosmemberships@gmail.com.

Individual dues are still an affordable \$20.00/yr

Family dues are \$25.00/yr

We have 7 meetings remaining for the season (this excludes our Annual Holiday Recognition Luncheon in December, our Orchid Show month, and our summer time-off in July and August). It's ideal to have 2 members, plus myself, to get all members checked in at every meeting in an efficient and timely manner. If you are interested in assisting in this capacity, please reach out to me at your earliest convenience. It's an easy and fun way to meet and greet your fellow PSLOS members! I look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Fall! Time to break out the Pumpkin Spice everything!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTION

The Bylaws of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society require that the election of officers be held at the November meeting. If you wish to serve as an Officer or wish to nominate someone to serve, please forward your name or the name of your nominee to **Jeff Rothschild, the Nominating Committee Chairperson** (jeflex@gmail.com). If you nominate someone to serve, please insure that your nominee has agreed in advance to run for office. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the October meeting. Nominations must be received before the November meeting.

Each Officer's term is for one year, except for Trustees which is for three years. Description of the positions and their duties can be found on our website (<https://pslos.org/pslos-bylaws>).

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



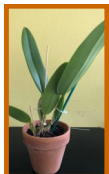
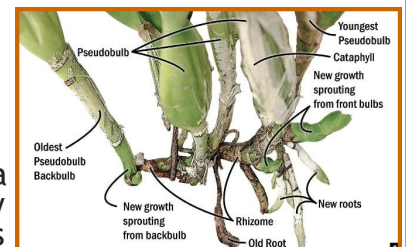
Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by
Nan Rothschild
2nd Vice President

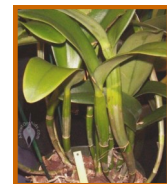
A REFRESHER ON CATTLEYAS

The Cattleya is among the most widely grown orchid. It is often referred to as the “Corsage Orchid” because of its use in bouquets and corsages.

Cattleyas are epiphytes, air plants, so they should be potted in a porous, free-draining medium. They have large, fleshy roots. New growths come from eyes, a bud near the base of the previous growth. The growth is attached to the rhizome, a thick, horizontal stem. The growths become pseudobulbs, well-developed water and nutrient storage organs.



There are two leaf patterns in the Cattleya family. Unifoliate Cattleyas have one leaf per pseudobulb and bifoliate varieties which have two or more leaves.



Potting should be done every 2 to 3 years. If the plant is otherwise healthy, it may not need to be divided. Soaking the plant will make it easier to remove from the pot. If it won't come out, you can cut away a plastic pot or carefully break a clay pot. Some people have even put a whole smaller pot into a larger one and backfilled the medium. As we were recently told, if part of the orchid is growing out of the pot, you can put it next to another pot with medium, and it may grow into that pot and then you can divide it.

Most growers recommend repotting just before new roots sprout from the rhizome, after flowering, or in the spring. However, if the medium is badly broken down, it may be better to risk repotting a flowering orchid.

A division should have at least three viable pseudobulbs. Discard the old medium. Clean and trim the roots. Discard shriveled pseudobulbs. Treat the plant if there are any signs of pests, fungus, or bacteria. Use cinnamon on cut areas.

Roots and rhizomes don't like to be constantly wet. They like good air circulation.

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for October

Fall Climate Data

Average high: 89.0

Average low: 75.7

Average mean: 82.4

Average rainfall: 8.38"



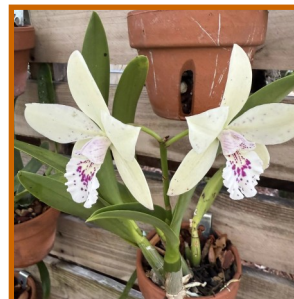
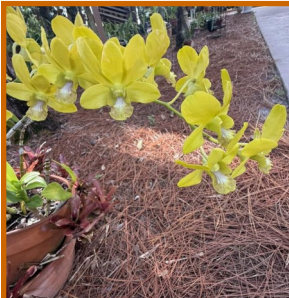
- Careful watering this month often means no watering at all. Water only when truly necessary.
- Space plants amply. Good air circulation is essential across the coming months.
- Re-pot Phals and reset Vandas. Make sure that plants are firmly set in their new abodes.
- Begin or continue a disease prevention 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.

For further information specific to different orchid genera, go to

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/september-october-checklist.aspx>

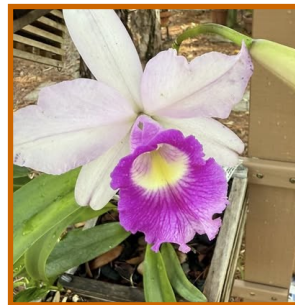
PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



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

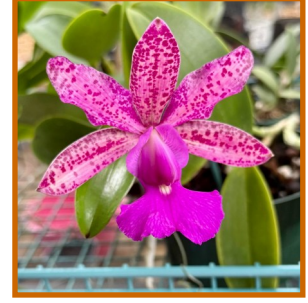
For further information, contact
John Erickson at
erickson_236@bellsouth.net.

WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS - FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS



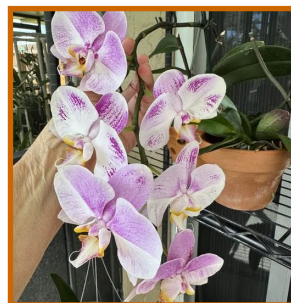
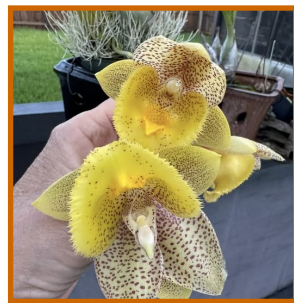
Andrea Heitfeld

Gladys Velez



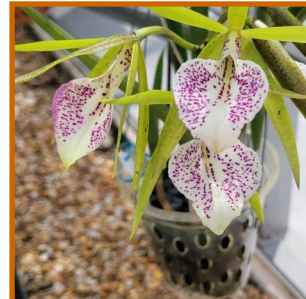
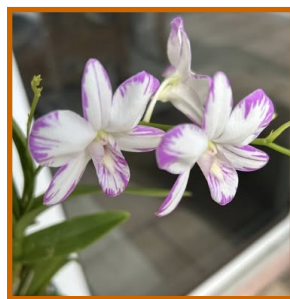
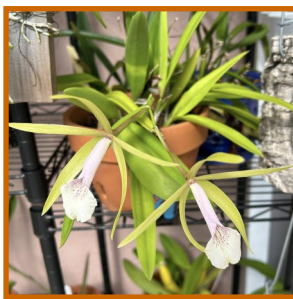
Eileen Storck

Gilda Gomez



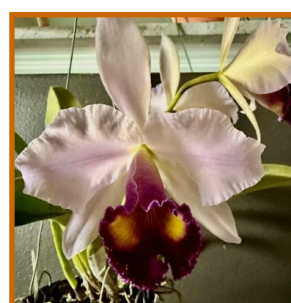
Laurie Wade

Mary Hamden



Diana Lenartiene

Lynn Mailander



Diane Bryant

Claudia Young

Barbara Lynn

Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2025 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson
1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfeld
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
Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfeld and John Erickson
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

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>

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 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



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completecarehomewatch.com