

# Orchidelirium!

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

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## President's Message

John Erickson  
Your President



### "Preparing Orchids for New Growth"

March marks the arrival of spring, a critical time for orchid enthusiasts to gear up for the active growing season. Warmer temperatures and longer days mean it's time to shift your orchid care routine. This month, I'll focus on maximizing growth and bloom potential as your orchids awaken from winter dormancy.

### Reviving Orchids After Winter:

With increased sunlight, adjust your orchids' placement to provide bright, indirect light without scorching leaves. Gradually increase watering frequency as temperatures rise, ensuring the potting media dries slightly between waterings.

### Spring Cleaning

Now is the perfect time to clean up your collection. Inspect leaves for pests like scale or spider mites, trim dead roots, and remove any old, decayed pseudobulbs. Consider repotting orchids that have outgrown their pots or have degrading media.

### Spotlight Orchid: *Oncidium Orchids*

Nicknamed "Dancing Ladies," *Oncidium*s are spring favorites. Known for their abundant sprays of blooms, these orchids thrive with increased light and regular fertilizing during the growing season. Be sure to keep their roots aerated and avoid soggy media.

### Seasonal Tips:

- Start feeding orchids with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) at half strength every two weeks.
- Increase humidity levels indoors if necessary.
- Plan ahead for local orchid shows or plant sales this season—Our April 5-6 Orchid Show is the perfect time to expand your collection!



## 1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield  
1st Vice President



Wow! It is hard to believe that we are one month away from our show. There is a year of planning that goes into the show.

Now is the time I am asking our members to volunteer by being show sponsors (\$35, \$50 or \$100), donating raffle baskets, and volunteering for the show. We need members to be involved to have a successful show. We are a large membership, maybe the largest on the Treasure Coast, so we have to make that presence shown to our community. Without your support, this will not be possible!

There have been many changes this year to our show, for example. a wooded raffle booth, a large niche category, an educational display, a fairy theme display, and a popcorn machine. A NOID (orchids without a name that are in bloom) table will be added as well as a vendor bulk table for vendors who wish not to do a display. Please participate to help us have a great show!

In preparation for our show, Lee Stradley and Laurie McCarty will give a presentation at 12:00 noon at next month's meeting on how to create a niche and the requirements of each size box. This niche display is a WOW factor of our show with the addition of the large 18-inch box.

The meeting's presentation at 1:15 will be our cork mounting class. The fee is \$6.00 for the cork mounts, and you bring your own orchid to mount. We will provide the moss and wire. We still have some cork mounts available (see p. 7). If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Quote for March," Orchids are the Crown Jewels of the Botanical World."

# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

## PSLOS March Meeting— March 17

12:00 pm: Orchid Niche Arrangement Workshop  
Workshop Leaders: Lee Stradley & Laurie McCarty



This year we are excited to have three different size niche boxes at our 2025 annual show. We will still have our two 8 inch boxes and our one 12 inch box, but we will also have a new 18 inch box. Entries will be judged for each category

Lee and Laurie will discuss the mechanics on how to create a niche arrangement and will also demonstrate creating an arrangement. This will be especially helpful for members who have never created one before. Hope everyone will sign up to create a niche arrangement this year!

## 1:15 Cork Mounting Workshop

The March meeting will feature a workshop on mounting orchids on cork. Cork is a fantastic way to grow and show off your orchids.



If you wish to participate in the workshop, there are still cork mounts remaining for the workshop. It will be first come, first served for those who haven't paid \$6.00. Alternatively, you can contact Laurie Wade at mrmush@comcast.net if you want one set aside for you. Cash or check only please, and don't forget to bring an orchid to mount.



Remember to bring your own orchid to mount.

**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

- April 4-5 PSLOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale  
"Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales"
- April 21 PSLOS Annual Picnic  
Veterans Memorial Park Rivergate
- May 19 1:00 - Jim-N-I Orchids, Chemicals  
and Orchids
- June 16 1:00 - Catasetums & Other Unusual  
Orchids & Laughs Galore
- July/August Summer Break

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Martin County Orchid Society  
Feb 28 - March 2, "Orchid Sea Cruise"  
Martin County Fairgrounds
- Tampa Bay Orchid Society  
March 1 - 2, 2025  
Sons of Italy Hall, Tampa
- Coral Gables Orchid Society  
March 8-9, "Fairchild Orchid Festival"  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
- Jacksonville Orchid Society Show  
March 15 - 16  
Mandarin Garden Club, Jacksonville
- The Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance  
March 21-23, 'Rockin' and Rollin' with Orchids"  
North Collier Regional Park, Naples

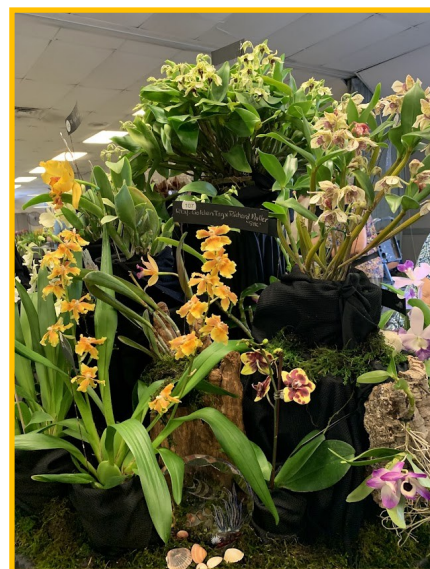


# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS



Hope to see you at this show.

Thank you all for helping to make our society display beautiful by showcasing your good growing.



## PSLOS Awards Retreat Monday, April 21

**When: Monday, April 21 at Noon**

**Where:**  
Veteran's Memorial Park Rivergate  
(Rivergate Marina)

**Menu:**  
Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs.  
Members are asked to sign up to bring all the trimmings!

**How Much?**  
Only \$4 per person in advance.  
We will have sign-up sheets at the March meeting.

**Don't miss this lovely "Picnic in the Park".**

**Be sure to sign up at the meeting.**

PSLOS  
Enchanted Orchid  
Fairy Tales  
April 5-6

Mark your  
Calendars!



Be prepared for the Vero Beach  
Orchid Society's 2025 show:

"Carnival of Orchids"  
April 26-27, 2025  
Under the Riverside Oaks  
Riverside Park



# PSLOS ANNUAL SHOW



Get ready!

Our show is just a little over a month away!!

Share this flyer with friends and family!



Be thinking about how you can volunteer! Sign-ups available at the March meeting.

See the next page for more information.

To have a great show, we need volunteers! Here are some of the show categories available for PSLOS member participation.

- ◇ Clerk (Saturday morning)
- ◇ Greet visitors & collect entrance fees (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◇ Sell society memberships (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◇ Donate raffle prizes, baskets, gift certificates
- ◇ Sell raffle tickets (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◇ Be a trophy sponsor
- ◇ Create a Niche arrangement
- ◇ Create a Fairy Habitat or a Fairy Headdress
- ◇ Help in the kitchen -- both preparation and cleanup
- ◇ Breakdown Sunday afternoon

# PSLOS ANNUAL SHOW



## Trophy Sponsors

Please consider sponsoring a trophy or asking a friend or business you frequent to sponsor a trophy to make our show one of the greatest ever.

This year we will offer three levels of Sponsorship: \$35 \$50 \$100

Send your check to:

Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
P.O. Box 8421  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34985

Members, you can also bring sponsorship checks to the PSLOS General Meetings.

This is a great way to help our Society, especially if you can't attend or help out in person.

## Raffle Baskets/Prizes

Raffles are our primary way to raise money to cover the many expenses of our show. Last year we had 48 raffle prizes. So far we only have 36. Let's beat last year!



**We challenge everyone to donate a raffle basket or prize.** Ask businesses and restaurants you frequent to contribute in the form of gift certificates, raffle prizes, or cash sponsorships. No gift is too small. Gifts are tax deductible!

Add the theme of your donation (for example, Family Game Night, Car Care, Fun in the Sun, etc.) on the sign-up sheet or email your name and raffle prize to Diane at pslosdiane@gmail so that signage can be made.

Three (3) raffle tickets to be used at the show for each raffle prize you donate.

Sign up sheets will be available at the General Meeting!

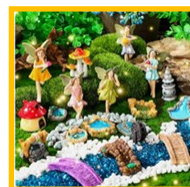
## Fairy Headdresses/Mini-Fairy Habitats

This has been one of the highlights of our shows. Our members show off their creative skills by creating mini-habitats (12" length maximum) or those cute fairy headdresses.

Have fun! Get your creative juices flowing.



Entries will be judged for both categories!



## Orchid Niche Arrangements

Use your imagination and create an orchid niche arrangement! This year we will have three categories: Mini, Small, and Large

Keep your arrangements within the dimensions of the niche:

Mini--6" wide, 4" deep, 8" tall  
Small - 8" wide, 6" deep, 12" tall  
Large - 10" wide, 8" deep, 18" tall

Entries will be judged for each category.

Your container should be plain so as not to distract from the flowers, and only natural foliage can be used.

Lee Stradley and Laurie McCarty will explain the mechanics of creating orchid niche arrangements at our March meeting. (See page 2)

## Food Donations & Kitchen Help

We need food donations for breakfast and lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as we feed our participating vendors and our PSLOS volunteers who work so hard. (For some reason, they think they need nourishment!!!)

Sign up at our March meeting to help us out!

Three (3) raffle tickets to be used at the show for each day you bring food donations.

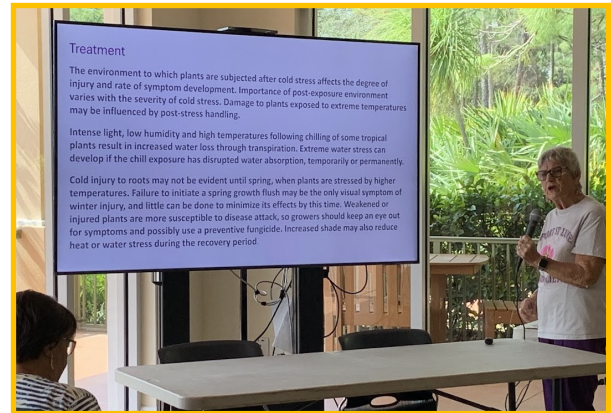




# FEBRUARY 17TH PSLOS MEETING



The first ladies to greet our members as they enter through the front doors: Eileen and Anne. They welcomed five new members at today's meeting (see page 7).



Diana gave a great noon workshop on the cold tolerance of orchids and how to protect orchids from that nasty cold weather! Now if she could only figure out how to prevent that cold weather from visiting us!



A fantastic presentation from Lady Vanda! Not only did she give us great information about how to care for our vandas, she also gave valuable tips that can be used to care for all of our orchids. A lot of notes were being taken by members of our society. Also, a great selection of orchids were available to tempt out members!



A record attendance today!



A lot of activity at this month's meeting. In addition to the raffle, there were sign ups for next month's cork mounting, the April picnic, and our show sponsorships and volunteer activities.



Once again, the lunch crew did a fantastic job! They really know how to keep members happy!

# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Laurie Wade  
Treasurer



Our current balance is \$13,603.58.

Our January/February income includes \$1,825 from show vendors, \$1,940 in show sponsors, \$835 t-shirt sales, \$98 for our April picnic, \$50 newsletter advertising, \$84 in cork mounts for our March mounting class, and \$166 at the January Botanical Gardens event.

Our expenses include \$123 for our monthly storage, \$250 for cork mounts for our March class, \$250 speaker fee, \$137 for meeting supplies, \$269 for membership brochures, \$134 for miscellaneous show items, \$100 for orchid room supplies, and \$16.33 to rent the pavilion for our April picnic.

There are cork mounts remaining for our March mounting class. It will be first come, first served for those who haven't paid \$6.00. Alternatively, you can contact me at mrmush@[comcast.net](mailto:mrmush@comcast.net) if you want one set aside for you. Cash or check only please and don't forget to bring an orchid to mount.



Eileen Storck  
Membership Chairperson  
[pslosmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:pslosmemberships@gmail.com)



Spring is just around the corner! Can't you just feel it? Our orchids will continue to bloom and our membership is growing right alongside them!

There are a total of 118 paid/renewed members for 2025 as of the February meeting. This includes Honorary Members (past PSLOS Presidents) and any new members who joined in February. More membership renewals may be coming through the mail up until the end of February and will be added at that time. An updated Member Directory will be provided before the March meeting.

We enthusiastically welcome the following new members who joined at the February meeting and wish them much success with their new orchid endeavors:

- Kathleen Dean
- Sandra Caputo
- Walter Nygard
- Linda Rocco
- Jennifer McDaniel

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and feel free to bring a friend as a guest. The more the merrier! With each other's support, our orchids will "Thrive in 2025"!



April 5 & 6  
Our Annual Orchid Show & Sale:  
**ENCHANTED ORCHID FAIRY TALES**  
Be sure to sign up to volunteer at  
the March meeting!





# ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

## Tasks for March



- Average high: 80.7
- Average low: 64
- Average mean: 72.4
- Average rainfall: 2.56"
- Repot cattleyas and other sympodials that finished blooming over the winter if you haven't already done so and the hard cane dendrobiums that need it (remember they don't like to be disturbed and like their roots crowded).
- Replant genera which are breaking out of dormancy (e.g., catasetums, mormodes, etc.)
- Apply slow release fertilizer to last the season (Dynamite is the best) and regular 15-5-15 fertilizer weekly thereafter.
- Slowly acclimatize sun-loving plants that have been in the shade to full sun.
- 'Tis the season for THRIPS! Orthene is the chemical of choice. Liquid dish soap (2 oz per gallon of water) is a non-chemical solution and should be applied thoroughly (water your plants the day before applying soap).

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

# ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



## **Orchid-abulary**

Brought to you by  
Nan Rothschild  
2nd Vice President

## **Hybridizing Orchids**

Species - a naturally occurring interbreeding group within a genus

Hybrid - the offspring produced when 2 or more different species, or hybrids, are cross pollinated

So what are hybridizers looking to achieve when they make a cross? These are some of the things that I found: (Not prioritized)

1. The acquisition of worthy breeding plants and an understanding of how to unlock their potential in hybrids
2. Important dominant traits
3. To improve the form- such as creating wider petals, ruffled lips or petals, fuller lips
4. To intensify color, such as making darker lips, or to get sunset colors
5. To improve flower size
6. To reduce the plant to miniature stature while keeping its best qualities, such as intense color
7. To get a velvety texture
8. To get flares
9. To reduce plant size and flatten flower form
10. To get higher counts of shapely flowers
11. To get well supported flowers, sturdy stems
12. To get contrasting lips
13. To get larger flowers on smaller plants
14. To get plants that bloom multiple times during the year

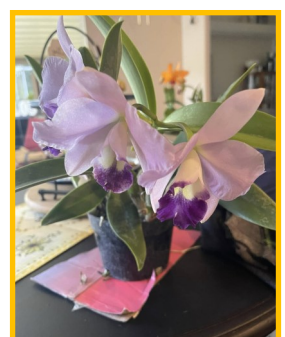
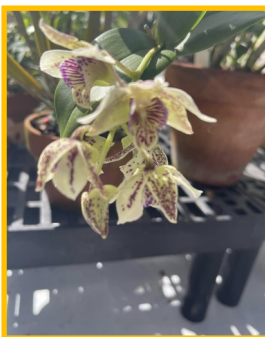
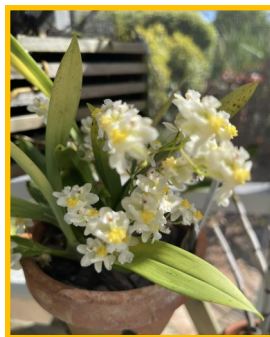


# WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS—FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!

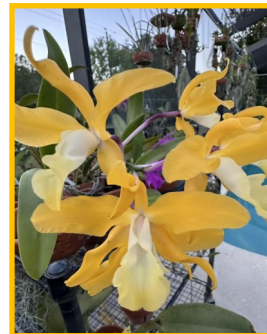
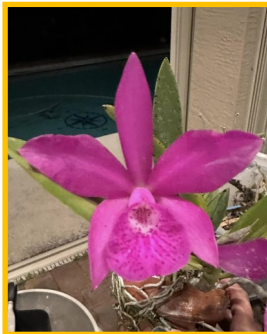


Diane Bryant

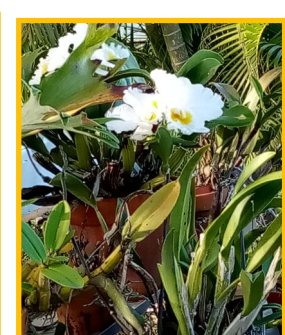
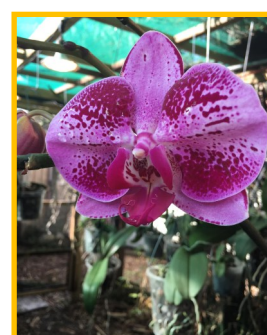
Diana Lenartiene



Andrea Heitfeld



Jet Tanner



Laurie McCarty

John Phillips

Michael Ortseifer

We love to see our members' orchids,  
especially if you can't bring them to "Show and Tell".  
Send pictures to [pslosdiane@gmail.com](mailto:pslosdiane@gmail.com) or post them on our FB page.



## PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



For further information about the Orchid Room, contact  
John Erickson at [erickson\\_236@bellsouth.net](mailto:erickson_236@bellsouth.net).



## Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2023 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson  
 1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfield  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



COMPLETE CARE  
HOME WATCH

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Absentee Home Owners**

info@completecarehomewatch.com

**772-208-3216**

**completecarehomewatch.com**

## 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>



### 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](mailto:pslosdiane@gmail.com)  
 or  
 PSLOS Treasurer at  
[mrmush@comcast.net](mailto:mrmush@comcast.net)