

# Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
February 2025, Volume XXXV Issue 6

Co-Editors: Diane Bryant, email: pslosdiane@gmail.com  
Anne Menassian, email: amorchidnews@gmail.com

Visit us on the Web at: [www.pslos.org](http://www.pslos.org) — Join our FaceBook group!



## President's Message

John Erickson  
Your President



### Preparing for Spring Growth

February is a pivotal month for orchid enthusiasts. With winter winding down, now is the time to focus on strengthening your orchids for the upcoming growing season. This month's newsletter includes practical advice to help your orchids thrive as they transition into spring.

**Assessing Orchid Health:** Before the growth season kicks into high gear, take time to inspect your orchids. Check roots for firmness and a healthy green or white color. Trim any dead or mushy roots, and ensure your potting medium is still in good condition. If the media is breaking down or compacted, it's time to repot.

**Fine-Tuning Light and Watering:** With days gradually getting longer, some orchids may need a slight adjustment in placement to maximize exposure to bright, indirect light. Keep an eye on watering frequency—while winter still calls for caution against overwatering, orchids waking up from dormancy may begin to need more moisture.

**Spotlight Orchid: *Cattleya Hybrids*.** Known for their showy blooms, many *Cattleya* hybrids begin preparing for spring flowering around this time. Ensure they receive adequate light and a light feeding with a balanced fertilizer to encourage strong pseudobulb development.

**Upcoming Tasks:** Start fertilizing dormant orchids with a weak solution to prepare them for active growth. Plan for early spring repotting sessions—having fresh supplies on hand ensures you're ready when your orchids are.

February is about laying the groundwork for success. Careful monitoring and proactive adjustments will set your orchids up for a season of strong growth and vibrant blooms!



## 1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield  
1st Vice President



Hi Folks,

February is here! The next three months are very busy for our Society.

Our February speaker is Lady Vanda, and of course, her presentation is on Vanda care. She will bring orchids to sell. The noon workshop will be given by Diana Lenartiene on protecting your orchids from the cold weather.

In March we will have a noon workshop given by Lee Stradley on Niche arrangements (in preparation for our show). We will have three different sizes of Niche boxes this year: mini 8 inch, small 12 inch, and large 18 inch. In March we will also have a workshop "Mounting on Cork." The cork is a \$6.00 charge to all participants, and we (PSLOS) will furnish moss and wire. The general meeting time in March will be 1:15, and the mounting workshop will follow after the general meeting.

And then our show "Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales" is April 5-6!

We will be collecting \$22 for the show shirts this month for all interested. The February meeting will be the last opportunity to order one. Also, sign up sheets will be available at the February and March meetings for volunteering at our PSLOS show, e.g., food service, clerking, etc.

Orchid quote for February: "Orchids are a reminder to always seek beauty in your surroundings"



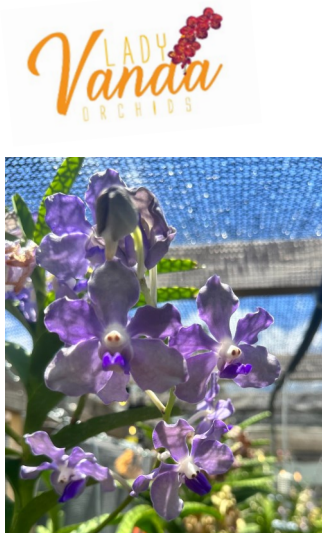
# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

## PSLOS February Meeting— February 17



### Noon Class: How Cold is Too Cold?

It's that time of the year when some of our orchids need special attention. Diana Lenartiene will discuss cold tolerance of orchids and explain how you can protect your orchids to include using insulating wraps, such as frost cloth, blankets, or burlap.



### 1:00 Presentation: Lady Vanda

Like most growers, I started out as a hobbyist just like you. The name Lady Vanda started with my grandma. Once my collection got a bit out of hand, she started calling me 'Señorita Vanda' and 'Señorita de las Orquideas'. The latter is quite the mouthful, so I decided to translate 'Señorita Vanda', thus Lady Vanda was born.

Lady Vanda started from my passion for orchids and nature in general. But I love to help others find their green thumb, even when they don't think they have one. I saw an opportunity to cater to the new generation of orchidists. Most people find orchids intimidating and hard to care for. I want everyone of all age groups to be interested in orchids. I want to help everyone start and grow their orchid collection.

With Lady Vanda I plan to spread my knowledge of orchids and other exotic plants with everyone. My goal is to help everyone dip their toes and feel supported through their journey with plants. You can find me on a number of orchid and houseplant groups as a mentor. I aim to bring my customers a variety of plants from all over the world.

**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

March 17, 2025	Noon - Creating Niches for the Show 1:00 - Mounting Orchids on Cork
April 4-5, 2025	PSLOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale "Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales"
April 21, 2025	1:00 - Catasetums & Other Unusual Orchids & Laughs Galore
May 19, 2025	PSLOS Annual Picnic Veterans Memorial Park Rivergate
June 16, 2025	TBD
July/August	Summer Break

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Venice Area Orchid Society Show & Sale February 1-2, 2025 326 S Nokomis Ave, Venice
Boca Raton Orchid Society Show "In Love With... Orchids" February 8-9, 2025 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton
Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show February 14-16, 2025 710 East Rollins Street, Orlando
Naples Orchid Society "Orchids in the Garden" February 21-23, 2025



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

## PSLOS Meeting— March 17

The March meeting will feature a workshop on mounting orchids on cork.



If you wish to participate in the workshop, you must sign up at the February meeting to reserve a piece of mounting cork (3"x6"). The cork is available for purchase/donation for \$6.00. The cork must be reserved at the February meeting as there are only fifty (50) pieces available. First come, first serve.



Wire and moss will be provided to participants.

You must bring your own orchid to mount!

It will be fun!



The Jensen Beach Garden Club, Inc.  
Presents  
**JENSEN BEACH GARDEN EXPO**  
Saturday, February 24, 2024  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Indian Riverside Park**  
(in front of Dockside Pavilion)  
1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach



Scan for Schedule of Educational Presentations  
or visit our website:  
[jensenbeachgardenclub.com](http://jensenbeachgardenclub.com)

Enjoy our Food Trucks!  
FREE ADMISSION • Even MORE Parking



Join us for the 46th Annual  
**Martin County Orchid Society  
Orchid Show & Sale**

*Orchid Sea Cruise*

MARTIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
February 28th - Noon to 4 PM  
March 1st & 2nd - 9 AM to 4PM

PSLOS Members,

Be prepared to bring your orchids to this event for:

- for judging, and
- to help create a fantastic PSLOS display!

PSLOS had 23 orchids earning ribbons at the 2024 show!

Instructions for entering orchids will be provided at a later date.



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

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

# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

**Port St. Lucie Orchid Society**  
**Annual Orchid Show & Sale**  
**Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales**

Saturday, April 5 - 9am to 5pm  
Sunday, April 6 - 10am to 4pm

- Spectacular Orchid Displays
- Orchid Vendors
- Orchid Supplies
- Free Workshops
- Miniature Fairy Gardens
- Raffle Baskets Galore!

Admission \$4.00 per person  
**\$1.00 off with this coupon**

Location: Polish-American Social Club  
343 NW Prima Vista Blvd, Port St. Lucie

For more info, visit us at <http://pslos.org/>  
Or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PSLOS>

The show will be here sooner than you think!

Share this flyer with friends and family!



Be thinking about how you can volunteer! Sign-ups will start at February 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.



# PSLOS ANNUAL SHOW



## Clerking



Serving as a clerk is a very rewarding opportunity for members to learn not only more about orchids in general but also what makes a ribbon-winning orchid! Clerks support judges in the judging of orchids by helping keep records of judges' decisions and placing ribbons on winning orchids.



## 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. The sponsor's name will appear on one of the many certificates that are awarded to ribbon winners.

This year we will offer four levels of Sponsorship:

Trophy	\$35	Silver	\$75
Bronze	\$50	Gold	\$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.

## PSLOS Show Tee Shirts



If you would like a new Society shirt to wear at our show, you must sign up for one at the February meeting.

They are available in sizes: S M L XL XXL.

The cost is \$22.00.

## 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 two categories: Mini and Small.

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 will explain the mechanics of creating orchid niche arrangements at our March meeting.

## Raffle Baskets/Prizes

Raffles are our primary way to raise money to cover the many expenses of our show.

**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 so that signage can be made.



Sign up sheets will be available at the General Meeting!

# JANUARY 20TH PSLOS MEETING



January's meeting started with the noon workshop on catasetums. Diane did her best to encourage members to try growing this interesting orchid.



John Burdee gave a fantastic presentation on Paphiopedilums. Not only did he discuss their care, but he also showed a multitude of photos of this gorgeous orchid.

One interesting point he made which probably applies to all orchids: When you purchase an orchid from a vendor, find out how that orchid has been grown by the vendor. It is important to continue that same type of care initially so as not to shock (and kill) the orchid.

Here's some of our members who keep our meetings going!

Andrea and John who share with us the latest and greatest!



Barb and the two Lauries who are always ready to sell you raffle tickets for orchids!



Our membership team: Florence, Eileen, and Anne.



Dana and Maureen: The Orchid Exchange is the greatest way to grow your orchid garden!



Jackie and her helpers know how to keep us happy! Always organize the best of lunches.



Looks like these members are getting ready for our show: "Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales"!



# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Laurie Wade  
Treasurer



Our current balance is \$11,542.39.

Our income includes \$1,115 in dues, \$51 net profit for the raffle (\$151 raffle sales, \$100 raffle orchid cost), \$166 at the Botanical Gardens event for the raffle, and \$320 show fee.

Our expenses include \$61 for our annual State of Florida Sunbiz registration, \$123 storage, \$250 speaker fee, \$500 deposit for our orchid show venue, and \$256 in trophies and ribbons.

See everyone at the February meeting!



Eileen Storck  
Membership Chairperson  
pslosmemberships@gmail.com



Hello Orchid Lovers!

## *IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!*

Membership Renewal Fees will continue to be collected through the PSLOS's PO Box and in person at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cash and checks are accepted. Credit cards are also accepted with a \$1.00 service fee added. Membership dues are valid for the 2025 Calendar year and are still very reasonably priced at \$20.00 for Individual Membership and \$25.00 for a Family Membership (member plus one). February 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to receive all mailed payments and accept in-person payments. An updated Membership Directory will be sent to all members once the February renewals are all processed and updated.

There are a total of 69 paid/renewed members for 2025 as of the January meeting. This includes Honorary Members (past PSLOS Presidents) and any new members who joined in January. Along with the current Individual Memberships, there are 8 Honorary Members and 8 family memberships (16 members).

We had visitors to our PSLOS booth at the recent Plant and Art Sale held at the Garden who applied to be new members! Those new members will be recognized at the February meeting and added to the Directory at that time. Great Job and Thank You to all the current members who represented the Society and manned our table.

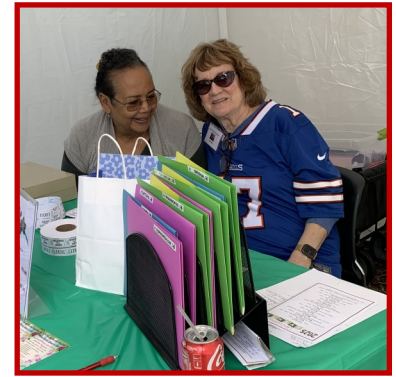
Finally, as the new 2025 membership chair, I look forward to connecting more names with faces while maintaining the exemplary practices and processes Ann Menassian took such great care of over the past two years. But I'm not doing this alone! The membership "team" currently includes Laurie McCarty, who expertly creates all of the new member name badges and will be happy to replace a member's lost name tag. And then there's Florence Hoot (a.k.a. - Mom...) who assists with filling our new member gift bags with all the wonderful orchid-related goodies the Society provides for our newest orchid enthusiasts. We invite any interested society member to join us in our ongoing efforts to increase membership and assist with all the associated tasks membership requires.

*I'm Confident our Orchids will Thrive in 2025!*





# PSL BG PLANT SALE



A big thanks to those members who volunteered to man the PSLOS booth at the plant sale on January 25-26 -- thanks to Andrea Heitfeld, John Erickson, Laurie Wade, Jessica Benford, Laurie McCarty, Barbara Lynn, Tammy Walkoff, Anita Shelman, and Dana DeMarco.

Our team encouraged visitors to “get involved” with orchids! As a result, we now have four new members who will be recognized at our February meeting. Culture care handouts and membership brochures were provided to those visitors who are currently growing orchids or those who wanted to learn more.

Our raffle was also a big hit! Our income from the raffle was \$166.

## ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

### Tasks for February

- ◆ Average high: 77.7
- ◆ Average low: 60.7
- ◆ Average mean: 69.1
- ◆ Average rainfall: 2.07"



- Spread snail bait lightly and frequently (every 7-10 days for several applications).
- Morning dew and fog can lead to Botrytis. Spray using Florida recommended fungicides or Bicarbonate of soda (1 tbs. per gallon).
- For reddening of foliage, apply Epson salts (1 tbs. per gallon).
- Many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just starting new growth. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting.
- Treat for mites if necessary.

*From Dr Martin Motes' monthly newsletter and book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month, (<https://www.motesorchids.com/fogblog/2022/2/4/february-in-your-orchid-collection>)*

For further information specific to different orchid genera: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/january-february-checklist.aspx>



# ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



## Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by  
Nan Rothschild  
2nd Vice President

## COLOR FORMS

My article this month was inspired by last month's guest speaker, AOS Judge Tony Millet. Tony referred to "color forms" in Cattleya orchid hybrids. Here are some color related terms.



Alba refers to a plant lacking in color pigments, meaning it will be white or green or yellow in a plant in which the type species has color.

Semi-alba refers to a plant lacking color pigments, but the lip is still colored.



Coerulea refers to blue tone; there is no true blue; usually violet or lavender with a tinge of blue. Bright blue orchids have color injected into them and subsequent flowers are often white.

Aquinii means that there is collation in the petals mimicking that of the lip; also known as flared.



Virginalis means pure white.

Carnea refers to a raspberry or strawberry colored lip.



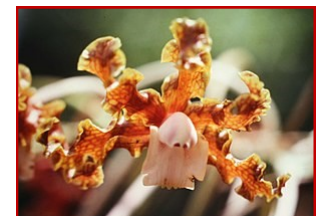
Vincolor, Bordeaux refers to red wine color.

Rubra refers to strongly colored petals and sepals, red lip.



Sanguinea means very dark red.

Marginata refers to a darker color border.



Flamea refers to patches of color that radiate out along the petals and sepals against a lighter background looking like flames

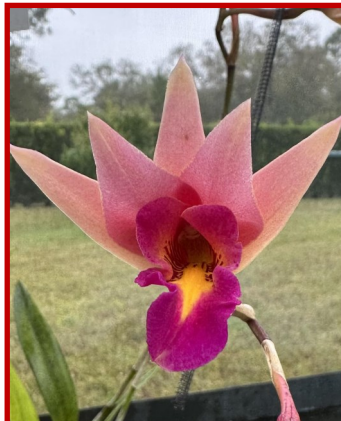
# WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS—FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!



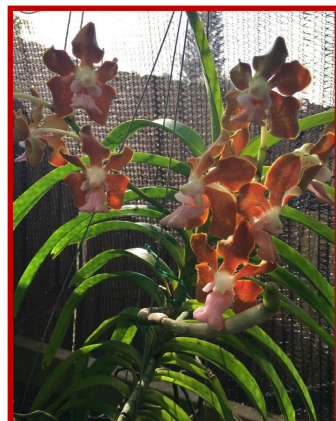
Andrea Heitfeld



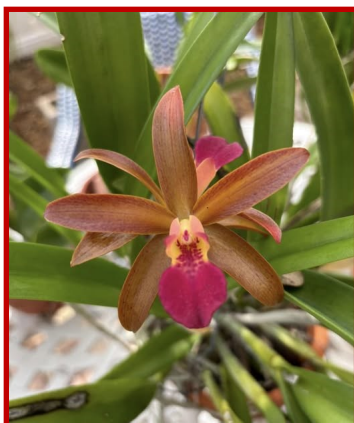
Diana Lenartiene



Jet Tanner



John Phillips



Gilda Gomez

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  
2023 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  
June, 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  
 Providing Peace of Mind to  
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).