

# Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
November 2023 Volume XXXV Issue 4

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

The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens (PSLBG) formally opened on March 6, 2010. The original Gardens design plans included only two gardens: the Orchid Room and the Bromeliad Garden. The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society (PSLOS) started the Orchid Room with two volunteers attaching donated orchids to the trees. Routine maintenance included hand watering on an as needed basis and fertilizing weekly.

Fast forward to today, our Orchid Room committee has seven members, five of whom meet each Tuesday on a rotating basis and spend 2-3 hours maintaining the Orchid Room. Tasks include hand watering and fertilizing 350+ orchids, potting new orchids, and repotting existing orchids. The result has been the development of a first-rate garden that visitors enjoy and appreciate.

The PSLBG has developed proposed new signage that reads: "The Orchid Room has become one of our visitors' favorite garden rooms. As you walk through this garden, you will see that there are many creative ways that you can display orchids from an orchid in a hanging basket to one tied to a tree or a piece of driftwood, or even a living wall of orchids."

The PSLBG and the PSLOS have established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows the PSLOS to hold meetings at the Gardens' Pavilion in exchange for maintaining the Orchid Room. These meetings are held gratis on the second and third Mondays of the month, excluding the months of July and August. The current MOU expires September 2025.



## 1st Vice President Message

**Andrea Heitfield**  
1st Vice President

Hope all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Looking forward to our Christmas luncheon, December 11th. Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy for Angel Tree (Salvation Army) and a wrapped gift for our gift exchange. Hope you all like Bingo!

January we have Tony Millett speaking on the care of smaller cattleyas. He is a very vibrant speaker, and we all will thoroughly enjoy his presentation. At that meeting, we also will be collecting \$8.00 for the kool logs that we will be using for our February meeting.

The Fort Pierce Orchid Society is having their show December 9th and 10th, and we need member orchids for our display! Please call me 772-528-1955 for any info. If you need me to transport your orchids, I will be at the Botanical Gardens at 9 am on Friday the 8th.



Merry Christmas!

Remember Plant, Grow, and Bloom.

Andrea



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

## Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon

December 11, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

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

Attendance at the December 11 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. Orchid gifts are for paid members only.

Please remember the \$5 wrapped gift exchange, and if you can, bring an unwrapped children's gift for the Salvation Army's Toy Drive.

We will also play bingo at \$1.00 a card for nice prizes.

For further info, call Barb at 772-579-6390.

Start planning ahead. We will need your orchids to build an award-winning display!

### Fort Pierce Orchid Society Annual **ORCHID SHOW AND SALE**

*"Orchid Holiday Celebration"*

**December 9 & 10, 2023**

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday 9 am to 4 pm

**\$4 ADMISSION**

**\$1 Off with this flyer**

River Walk Center

600 N. Indian River Dr., Fort Pierce, FL

Rita2zfp@gmail.com



**NLT 12:00 Noon Thursday, Dec 7**

E-mail the name of your orchid to Andrea Heitfeld (tazzette55@gmail.com).

**Friday, Dec 8** Take your blooming orchid to the River Walk Center, 600 N. Indian River Drive, by 1:00 p.m. for set up.

**OR**

Meet Andrea at 9:00 a.m. at the Botanical Gardens, and she will take your orchid to the Center. Let Andrea know beforehand that you are coming.

**Sunday, Dec 10** You will need to pick up your orchid at the end of the show on Sunday at 4:00.

# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

**PORT ST. LUCIE ORCHID SOCIETY**

## ORCHID BEEZ'S Annual Orchid Show & Sale

Saturday, April 6, 9am to 5pm  
Sunday, April 7, 10am to 4pm

- Spectacular Orchid Displays
- Orchid Growers & Vendors
- Orchid Supplies
- Free Workshops
- Raffles Galore!

**\$4 Admission**

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

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

## PSLOS MEETINGS

December 11, 2023  
Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon

January 15, 2024  
Tony Millett, AOS Judge

February 19, 2024  
Kool Log & Mounting Workshop

## ORCHID BEEZ

Remember we need your help for our show!



We are asking for your help in donating 4-ply yellow, white, and black yarn and polyester fiberfill for the BEEZ. A collection box will be at our next meeting.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Fort Pierce Orchid Society  
"Orchid Holiday Celebration"  
December 9-10  
River Walk Center

Sarasota Orchid Society's  
"Orchids in Paradise"  
January 6 - 7, 2024  
801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Florida West Coast Orchid Society's  
"The Art of Orchids"  
January 27 - 28, 2024  
9100 113th Street N, Seminole

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society's  
"Orchid Jungle"  
January 5 - 7, 2024  
601 City Center Blvd, Pembroke Pines

Miami Orchid Society's  
"Tamiami International Orchid Festival"  
January 12 - 14, 2024  
Dade County Fairgrounds Expo Center  
10901 Coral Way (SW 24 St.), Miami

# NOVEMBER 20th MEETING—AUCTION TIME



Look at all those orchids!



Our paddles are ready!



The auction was a tremendous success. Thanks to all the members who participated — to include those who brought orchids to be auctioned and those who brought money to spend!!



A BIG thanks to all those members who helped make the auction a success!



# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Anne Menassian  
Membership Chairperson  
[pslosmember@gmail.com](mailto:pslosmember@gmail.com)  
772-497-4371 (for texts only)

Each year we recognize members who have maintained continuous membership for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 years. This year we are recognizing those who have been members of PSLOS continuously since 2018 (5 yrs), 2013 (10 yrs), and 2008(15 yrs). We have no members who joined in the years 2003, 1998, or 1995 and are still members.

C  
O  
N  
G  
R  
A  
T  
U  
L  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N  
S

The 5 year honorees are: Diana Frye, Lana and John Gavreau, Mary Estelle Hamden, Nancy Lyman, and Anne Mygatt.

The 10 year honorees are Diana Lenartiene and John Erickson.

The 15 year honorees are Elsi Arnell, Gail Bird, Eva Grant, Carol Heisey, and Jackie and Jamie Lawson.

We will be presenting pins and certificates to those honorees present at the Holiday Luncheon. Please congratulate your fellow members.

We have 6 more new members! Please welcome Janet Warren, Michaela Marin, Jerry & Angelica Havins, and Jennifer Wilkes & Scott Huff. We now have a total membership of 135!

On another note, PSLOS annual dues are payable at the January meeting. If you won't be attending the meeting, you can send a check payable to PSLOS to the PSLOS PO Box below.

Individual Dues \$20      Family Dues \$25

Port Saint Lucie Orchid Society  
PO Box 8421  
Port St Lucie, FL 34985



Laurie Wade  
Treasurer



Hello all!

Our current bank balance is \$11,132.72 which includes money for the Holiday luncheon and auction proceeds.

We had 6 auction sellers and made \$89 for Smile Train with the sale of Jamie Lawson's 'lightening round' orchids.

Also at the November Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Holiday Arts & Crafts and Plants Sale event, we sold \$232 in orchids and supplies for the Orchid Room and \$177 in raffle ticket sales.

We spent \$75 in supplies and an orchid for our orchid garden.

## ORCHID BEEZ

Your help is appreciated!

Don't forget we need your help for the 2024 BEEZ show awards.



Until Nan returns, Elly Conn has volunteered to crochet the BEEZ for our show. We are asking for your help in donating 4- ply yellow, white, and black yarn and polyester fiberfill for the BEEZ.

A collection box will be at our next meeting.

A big thanks to Elly Conn for volunteering to crochet the BEEZ for our show!



# ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



## Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by  
Nan Rothschild  
2nd Vice President

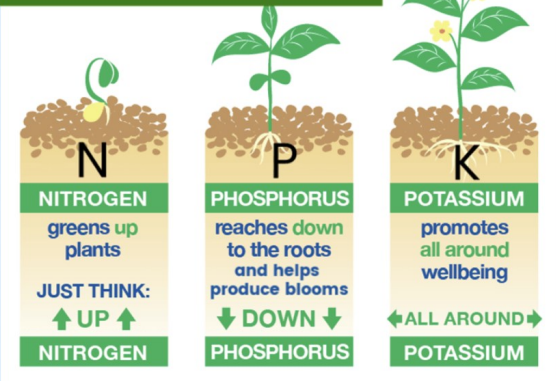
## TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH FERTILIZING

**Fertilizing** - means systematically feeding your orchids

How often? The general advice is “**weakly, weekly.**”



What do the numbers on fertilizer mean?



What do the numbers on a fertilizer mean? (N-P-K):

- The first number indicates the nitrogen content. A high nitrogen food (example, 12-10-10) is used to promote growth at the start of the growing season.
- The second number indicates the phosphorus content. A higher “P” number fertilizer encourages flowering, often referred to as a bloom booster. ( Example- 0-10-10)
- The third number indicates the potassium content which promotes all around wellbeing.

Many growers prefer a balanced fertilizer, for example an N-P-K of 10-10-10.

Trace elements - There are about 17 micro-nutrients plants need in very small amounts. These include: calcium, magnesium, boron, chlorine, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, sodium and zinc.

Sample label on Peters Professional Bloom Booster (with trace elements):

### Peters Professional Bloom Booster 10-30-20 1 Lb.

Professional grade bloom booster. 1-3-2 ratio of N-P-K. Supports healthy growth & vigorous blooms. No Urea.

#### GUARANTEED ANALYSIS:

Total Nitrogen (N).....	10%	Boron (B).....	0.0125%
5% Ammoniacal Nitrogen		Copper (Cu).....	0.0125%
5% Nitrate Nitrogen		Manganese (Mn) .....	0.025%
Available Phosphate (P2O5)..	30%	Molybdenum (Mo) .....	0.005%
Soluble Potash (K2O).....	20%	Zinc (Zn).....	0.025%
Magnesium (Mg).....	1.3%		

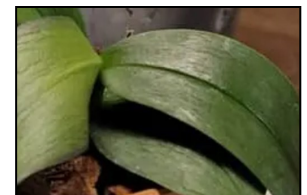


Slow release fertilizer, or granular fertilizer, is sprinkled on the base of the plant; the nutrients are released slowly over time when the plant is watered.



### Signs of overfertilizing

1. A white residue (excess fertilizer from and salts) on the leaves; flush with water and don't fertilize for a month.
2. Normally green root tips are browned and dead-looking.



# 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>

## OUTREACH EVENTS



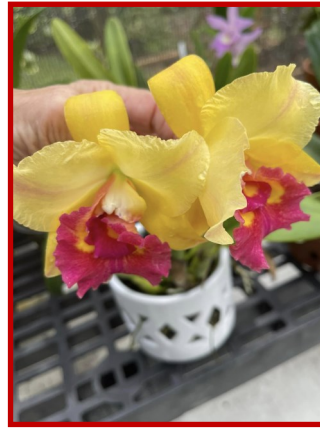
The Botanical Gardens' Holiday Arts & Crafts and Plants Sale was a big success. There were over twenty vendors offering a delightful selection of arts, crafts, plants, and more as well as food and dessert trucks. John, Andrea, Dana, and Laurie represented our society by providing information about our society to attendees as well as selling raffle tickets, orchids, and orchid supplies.

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

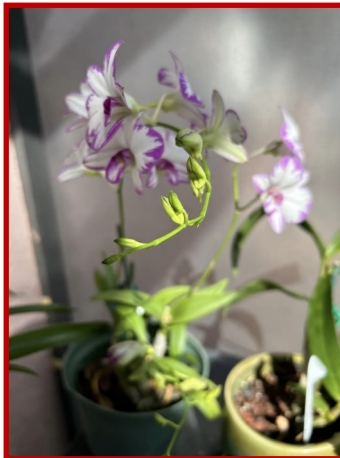


The Master Gardeners held their plant sale on October 21st. Dana and Jessica manned the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society's booth and provided information about our society and meetings to attendees.

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



Andrea Heitfeld



Diana Lenartiene

Diane Bryant



Nancy Lyman

Ronnie Crawford

Jamie Lawson

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).



## PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



Volunteers are always needed Tuesday mornings from about 8-9 am to help with routine chores in the Orchid Room. Tasks include watering and general maintenance such as raking leaves and pine needles.

For further information, contact John Erickson at [erickon\\_236@bellsouth.net](mailto:erickon_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 - Anne Menassian  
Immediate Past President - Pam Scholey  
Trustee - Diane Bryant - 2024  
Barbara Lynn - 2025  
Jessica Benford - 2026  
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade  
2023 Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfield & John Erickson  
Orchid Room - John Erickson  
Orchid Exchange - Maureen Kerr  
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 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



## 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).