

Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
March 2024, Volume XXXV Issue 7

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



President's Message

John Erickson
Your President



Dear Members,

With the upcoming orchid show on 6/7 April, 2024, I thought it would be appropriate to recommend five of the best orchids to purchase due to their hardiness, adaptability, and stunning beauty.

Phalaenopsis ("Twinkle"): Phalaenopsis are known for their elegant, long-lasting blooms, forgiving nature, and their ability to thrive in various indoor conditions. "Twinkle" varieties are particularly popular for their petite size and abundant blooms.

Brassavola ("Lady of the Knight): These orchids are prized for their fragrant, nocturnal blooms, and high tolerance for varied growing conditions. Their elegant, white blooms add a touch of sophistication to any orchid collection.

Paphiopedilum ("Maudiae"): These orchids are admired for their striking foliage and unique pouch-like blooms. They are well suited to indoor environments, preferring low to moderate light and consistent moisture. They are one of the easiest orchids to grow.

Oncidium ("Sharry Baby"): These orchids are beloved for their chocolate-scented flowers, which bloom in abundance several times each year. They are relatively undemanding, thriving in bright, indirect light, and regular watering.

Miltoniopsis ("Santanaei"): Santanaei is recommended for its stunning and fragrant flowers, reminiscent of pansies. While they require slightly more attention to humidity levels, their beautiful blooms, sweet rose sent, and relatively straightforward care regime make them a rewarding choice for those willing to invest a bit more effort.



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfield
1st Vice President



Our Orchid Show "Orchid Beez's" is approaching fast!

Please consider doing a Niche or Bee habitat or Bee creation; it's a lot of fun, and it challenges you to be creative.

Our March meeting is the last chance for tee shirts and volunteer sign ups. We still need some trophy sponsors and raffle baskets. The donation starts at \$35.00 for trophy sponsors. When you sponsor a trophy, an award certificate is awarded to the winner with your name on it as the sponsor.

If we all pull together, we will have a successful show!

For the March 18th meeting, the guess speaker is Jim-N-I Orchids. His presentation will be on Brassavolas and, of course, he will also bring orchids to sell!

Michael O. will be doing our 12:00 noon class on how to do a niche arrangement for the show.

So at the March meeting we will have a noon class followed by a luncheon of BBQ pork sliders and, of course, sides donated by our members. Jim will do his presentation at 1 pm, and our general meeting will follow.

Hope you all are successful with your orchid you mounted on the Kool Log.

Remember: "Orchids remind us how important it is to bloom."

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

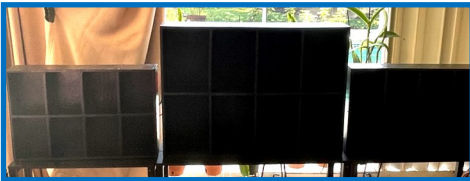
PSLOS March Meeting— March 18

NOTE: Snacks and bottled water will be available. If you would like to bring snacks to share, please call Andrea at 772-528-1955.

12:00 pm: Orchid Niche Arrangement Workshop Workshop Leader: Michael Ortseifer



This year we are excited to have two different niche boxes at our 2024 Orchid Beez's annual show. We will still have our two 8 inch boxes, but we will also have a new 12 inch box.



Michael will demonstrate how to create an orchid niche arrangement. This will be especially helpful for members who have never created a niche arrangement before. Hope everyone will sign up to create a niche this year!

1:00 pm: Growing Brassavola Guest Speaker: Jim-N-I Orchids

We are excited to have Jim-N-I Orchids with us at the meeting.

Operated by Jim and Melana Davison, Jim-N-I Orchids provides quality orchids for the novice to the advanced collector. They specialize in a diverse selection of exotic and showy genera, including Cattleya, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Bulbophyllum, and Catasetum. Plants for the novice are selected for ease of culture while plants for the advanced grower focus on the collectable species and contemporary hybrids. Jim and Melana are both accredited American Orchid Society judges, have garnered multiple awards for their personal collection, have a combined sixty years of orchid growing experience, and are always eager to share their wealth of knowledge to assure success.



Brassavola is a very popular, showy genus and is a must for any collection due to its easy growth habit, flower longevity, and wonderful evening fragrance. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn about their culture and care. Be sure to join us!



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!

Also remember to sign up :

- to volunteer at our Orchid Beez's show and
- to attend the April picnic!

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS



PORT ST. LUCIE ORCHID SOCIETY
**ANNUAL ORCHID
SHOW & SALE**
ORCHID BEEZ'S

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>



To have a great show, we need volunteers! Listed on the next page are some of the show categories available for PSLOS members to participate.

Please show your support by signing up for at least one activity. The sign up sheets will be available at the March General Meeting.



- ◇ Donate raffle prizes, baskets, gift certificates
- ◇ Sell raffle tickets (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◇ Be a trophy sponsor
- ◇ Create a Niche arrangement
- ◇ Create a Bee Habitat or a Bee Creation

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS



As our Orchid Show approaches, we want to let Nan Rothschild know how important she is to our society and also thank her for the essential role she plays in our annual orchid show. We all miss you!



Trophy Sponsors

Please consider sponsoring a trophy to make our show one of the greatest ever. Your 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

You can also pay at the March General Meeting.

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

Bee Habitat/Bee Creation

This has been one of the highlights of our shows. Our members show off their creative skills by creating bee habitats or those cute bee creations.

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--4" wide, 6" deep, 8" tall
Small - 6" wide, 8" deep, 12" tall

Entries will be judged for both categories.

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

Michael Ortseifer will conduct the workshop at our March Meeting on how to create orchid niche arrangements. Instructional sheets will be available.



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.



If you previously signed up but did not indicate a theme, please do so at this meeting.

This is the last opportunity to sign up to volunteer!

To have a great show, we need volunteers!

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

**PORT ST. LUCIE ORCHID SOCIETY
ORCHID SHOW AND SALE
ORCHID BEEZ'S**

April 6 & 7, 2024
Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 10 am to 4 pm

**\$4 Admission
\$1 off with this flyer**

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

The show is next month!



Hope to see you all there!

Share this flyer with your family and friends!

\$1 off admission with this card

PSLOS MEETINGS

April 6-7, 2024
PSLOS Annual Orchid Show & Sale
"Orchid Beez's"

April 15, 2024
PSLOS Annual Picnic

May 20, 2024
Bill Nunez, Broward Native Orchids

June 17, 2024 - TBD

July/August 2024 - Summer Break

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 - 3, 2024
Martin County Orchid Society's
"Oceans of Orchids"
Martin County Fairgrounds

March 9 - 10, 2024
Orchid Society of Coral Gables'
"Fairchild Orchid Festival"
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

March 16 - 17, 2024
Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
Mandarin Garden Club
2892 Loretto Road

March 22 - 24, 2024
Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance
"Fairytale and Orchids"
North Collier Regional Park, Naples

PSLOS Awards Retreat
Monday, April 15

When: Monday, April 15 at Noon

Where: At 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? Still just \$5 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.

FEBRUARY PSLOS MEETING



The Kool-Log Mounting Workshop was a great success!

After a brief video tutorial, members went to work mounting their orchids to the Kool-Logs with a little help from Andra, John, and Dana.

Not only did the participants work hard, they also managed to have a lot of fun.

Check out the video of the meeting:

<https://www.facebook.com/1840068596/videos/426692186459609/>



A big thanks to Andra for presenting the Kool-Log tutorial. Here is the link to the tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCSUNtmrYCs>

Check out some of the finished products!

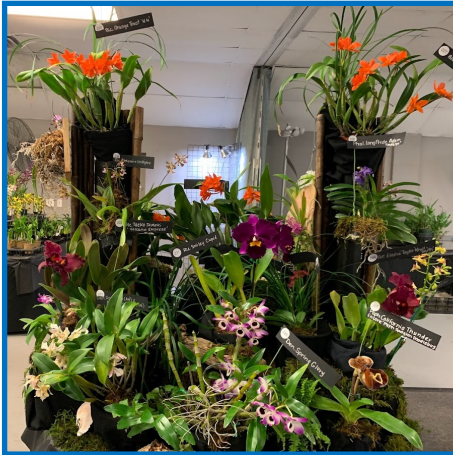
Looking good!

Look at this spread!
Thanks to all the volunteers who make our tummies happy!



MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

Martin County Orchid Society Show – March 1-3



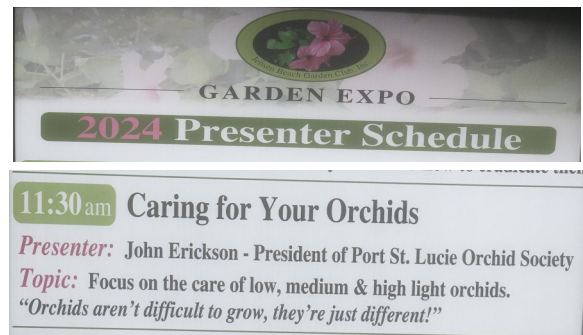
Be sure to check out our beautiful PSLOS orchid display at the Martin County Orchid Society Show.

Another great job thanks to our PSLOS members who built the display and members who contributed orchids.



Be sure to check out the PSLOS display!

OUTREACH



Jensen Beach Garden Expo

The Jensen Beach Garden Club held its specialty garden show on February 24th at the Indian Riverside Park. The show featured local vendors showcasing plants, garden supplies, art and accessories for the garden or patio. The show also included free educational presentations by experts in their field. Our president, John Erickson, gave a presentation on caring for orchids. He included tips on picking out which orchid to buy at a show, lighting requirements for the different types of orchids, how to repot an orchid, watering etc. The \$50 fee he will be paid goes to our orchid room. Great job, John!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



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

Hello Members,

Happy (almost) springtime! The hectic dues season has wrapped up, and the new PSLOS Member List will be sent out shortly. We have 116 members at this time including 6 new members.

John and Judy Phillips

Susan Nevins and Kelly Nevins-Petz

Kathy Wohleber

Janice Hays

Please welcome them if you meet them at the next meeting.



Laurie Wade
Treasurer



Hi members!

Our current balance is \$9,971.06.

We have \$1,630 from show vendors, \$380 in trophy sponsors, and ongoing t shirt sales of \$462.

We renewed our AOS membership for 2 years, \$168. We have several small purchases for the show and rented the picnic pavilion for our April picnic, \$23.

Our March meeting will be the last opportunity to sponsor a show trophy so please help, if you can. We have four levels of sponsorship:

Trophy (\$35)
Silver (\$75)

Bronze (\$50)
Gold (\$100)

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

MOUNTING ORCHIDS

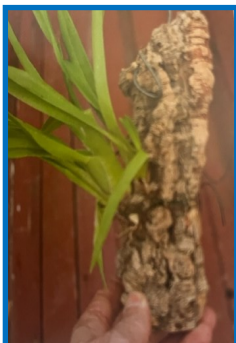
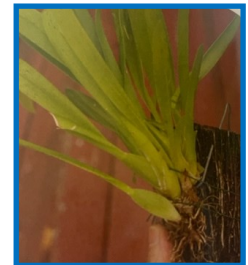
What a fun Kool-Log mounting workshop we had! Here is some additional information about mounting on different media.

Orchids growing naturally will most often be found growing on tree trunks or branches. So mounting orchids provides a natural environment.

- ◆ Best time to mount an orchid - after it has flowered and new roots are appearing at its base.
- ◆ If mounting an orchid that has previously been potted, rinse the roots thoroughly to remove potting medium.

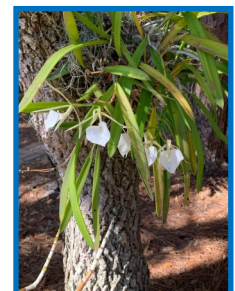
Some mounting media suggestions -

Tree fern slabs - are actually compacted dried roots. They come in a variety of sizes, thicknesses, and densities. They may come with or without wire hooks attached. They drain quickly and don't retain moisture, so they require frequent watering. Once they were over harvested but are now being grown for the marketplace. Create a slight indent where you want to secure the plant. Clear out a little tree fern and secure plant.



Cork slabs - are a renewable resource made of the bark of cork trees which grows back after being harvested. Use the outside to mount the orchid. They come in many sizes. Orchid roots attach well to cork. Cork slabs dry out quickly, so frequent watering is necessary. In rare cases, overwatered cork can become slimy and moldy. If this occurs, cut down on watering, let it dry up and cut or shave it to reveal fresh cork underneath. Use the natural curves and indentations to decide where to position your orchid.

Tree branches and trunks - are a great way to mount orchids if a water source is available. Add a little sphagnum moss to the spot where you want to attach the orchid.



Wooden slat baskets with hangers and plastic mesh net pots - are readily available where orchid supplies are sold. They have increased drainage and air exposure, which is beneficial, but requires frequent watering. They are difficult to repot into another container because roots become intertwined in the openings.

Some suggested fastening materials: raffia, floral wire, string, fishing line, or "old" pantyhose

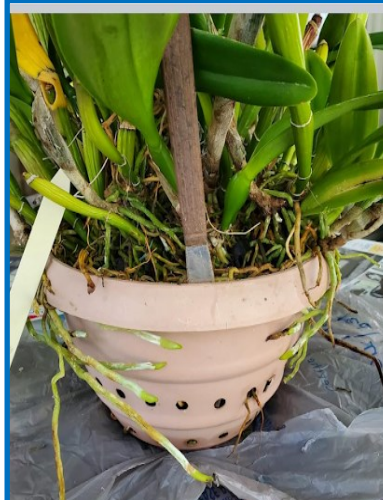
ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

REPOTTING LARGE CATTLEYS

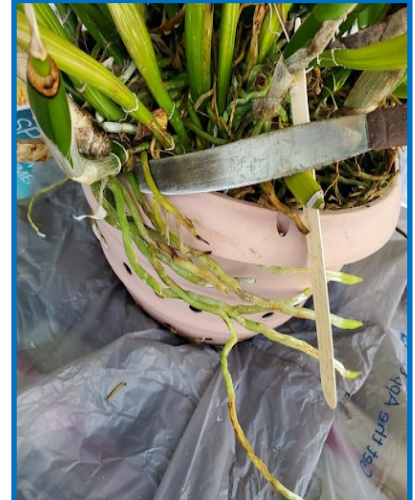
Dr. Motes advises that we should now start repotting cattleyas and other sympodial that finished blooming over the winter if we haven't already done so. Here is a great tutorial on repotting large cattleyas provided by Eunice Walker on the Florida Orchid Growing FB site.



First she's soaking in a container of water to loosen it up and make the roots pliable



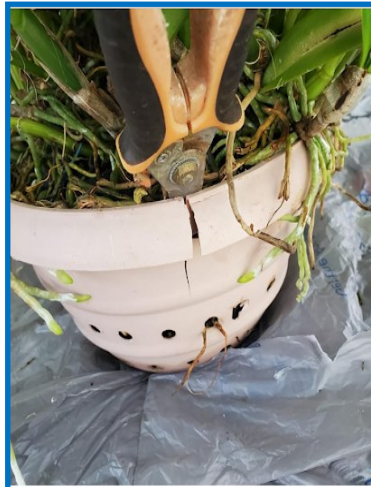
After draining thoroughly I used a table knife to loosen roots from the pot



Also to loosen roots growing outside which is easy to do when they are wet and pliable



Then a pair of shears is used to pry it up out of the pot



Whoops, the 4 year old plastic pot cracked as it was still firmly attached 😬



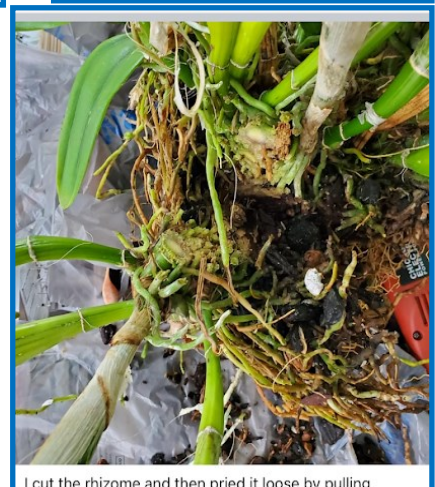
So off it comes



Now to start dividing



Using a small electric saw I started around the edge finding natural divisions of 3 to 5 pseudobulbs each



I cut the rhizome and then pried it loose by pulling

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

REPOTTING LARGE CATTLEYS (continued)



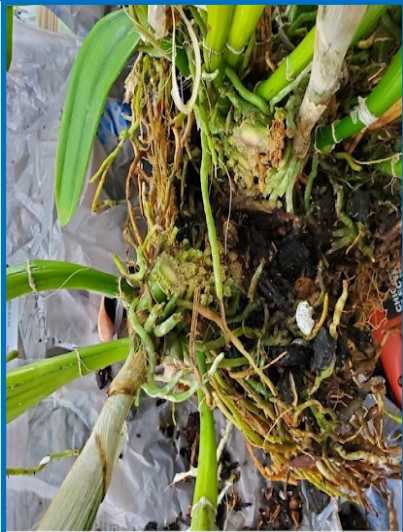
A larger cut and more prying to pull the roots apart



Two divisions here set aside for more dividing



This looks like another good place to cut and pry



Another nice division



Then I mix up a little dithane and thiomyl powders together in a pill bottle cap.



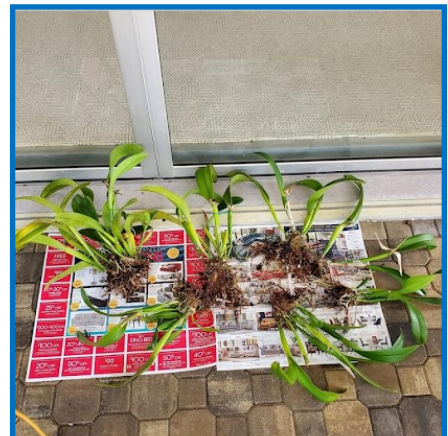
Adding a little water to make a paste



Using a toothpick, I broke the tip off for a blunted surface to hold the paste. I then anointed all the cut pseudobulbs to kind of seal them off from any pathogens and begin their healing process

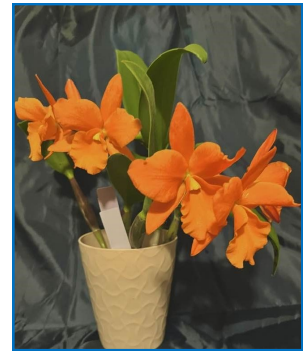
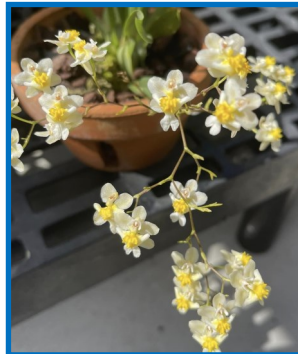
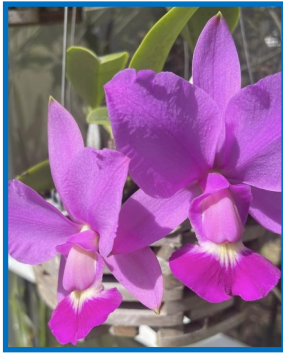


This is a small division of just 3 pseudobulbs I will probably mount



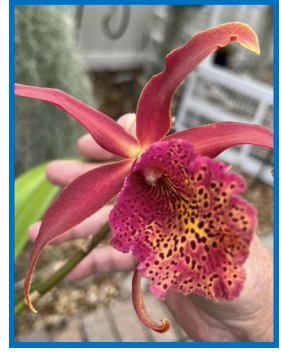
Now I'll leave them here to dry out good before potting or mounting in a few days. Another large division is out of the picture.

WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS—FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!

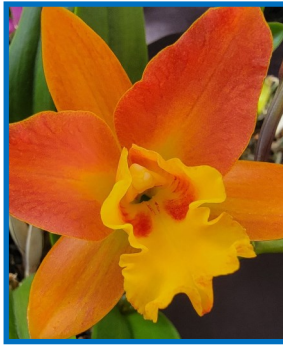


Andrea Heitfeld

Claudia Young

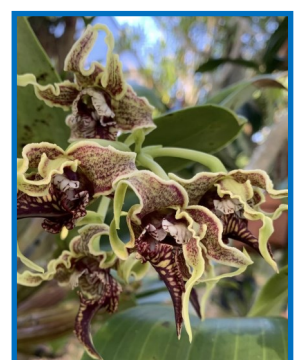
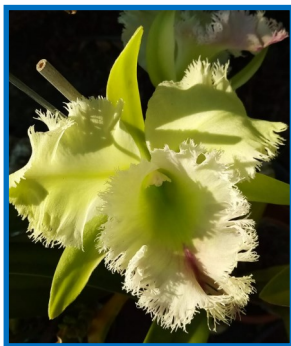


Gilda Gomez



Scott Huff

Laurie McCarty



Michael Ortseifer

Diane Bryant

We love to see our members' orchids, especially if you can't bring them to "Show and Tell". Send pictures to pslosdiane@gmail.com.

Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2023 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson
1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfield
2nd Vice President - Nan Rothschild
(Barbara Lynn - interim 2nd VP)
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
(Jackie Young - interim Trustee)
Jessica Benford - 2026
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade
2023 Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfeld & 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>



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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.