

Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
June 2024 Volume XXXV Issue 10

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President's Message

John Erickson

In the Orchid Room we have over 350 orchids, many of which are in pots or baskets containing organic mediums which break down over time requiring frequent repotting.

In order to save time and money, we are beginning to repot with an inorganic mixture similar to what Pam Waters described at our October 2023 meeting. It contains the following.

4 parts Charcoal*: Charcoal is a porous material that helps absorb excess moisture and prevents root rot. Purchase “**Royal Oak 100% All-Natural Hardwood Lump Charcoal.**” This needs to be broken into small nuggets.

3 parts Rubber Nuggets: This can be purchased at Lowes or Home Depot and does not decompose like organic material.

1 part Perlite*: Perlite is a lightweight volcanic rock that is often used to improve aeration and drainage. It helps prevent compaction and promotes healthy root growth.

1 part Clay Pellets: These are porous, round pellets made from baked clay. They retain some moisture.

1 part Lava Rock*: Lava Rock is porous and provides excellent drainage and aeration. This inorganic medium requires more frequent watering but resists decomposition and helps prevent issues like root rot.

Inorganic mediums offer stability, preventing plants from tipping over and allowing better control over moisture levels. However, they may require more frequent watering, and they oftentimes lack nutrients, necessitating frequent fertilization. Finally, choosing the right inorganic medium and mastering its usage may involve a learning curve.

***Rinse dust off.** You can drill holes in the bottom of a 5-gallon container and use it to wash away dust.

Enjoy your summer!



1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfeld

This summer heat is unbearable! Hope you all are staying hydrated when outside caring for your orchids.



We have a busy June coming up. First, we have AOS Senior Judge Judy Bailey who will give a special presentation on streamlining and improving our orchid show. This will also entail orchid show registration and classification and preparation of our orchids for the show. The meeting will be on June 10th at 12:30, and lunch will be served for all who are interested in attending. Please call me or email if interested.

This presentation will not replace our June 17th general meeting. For our general meeting, we will have a noon class given by Diana Lenartiene which will be a PowerPoint presentation on how to care for your orchids in the summer heat. We will have our usual luncheon with donations of food accepted. The menu will be lasagna.

The 1:30 pm speaker at our general meeting will be Candace Klee from C.R. Orchids. She will have orchids to sell.

Remember June is our last general meeting as we will have a summer recess in July and August. August 19th is our field trip to R&R Orchids. Details will be given at our June 17th meeting.

Orchid Pun for June is: “Orchids make every day petal-perfect.”

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

PSLOS June Meeting - Monday, June 17, 2024

12:00 Noon: Orchids in the Summer Heat Speaker: Diana Lenartiene



Having trouble with your orchids due to this heat? Have questions on how to protect your orchids when temperatures are hot?

Diana will provide suggestions on how to protect your orchids from heat damage and how to help avoid heat stress.



1:00 pm: Orchid Species Speaker: Candice Klee, C.R. Orchids



C.R. Orchids is a small shadehouse nursery located in Loxahatchee, Fl. They are fellow orchid addicts dedicated to feeding the addiction we know you have (you know it too.) They specialize in Cattleya Hybrids and Species but grow many other genera like Dendrobium, Intergeneric Oncidiums, Paphs, Phrags, Bulbophyllum and Vanda among others.

They are committed to scouring the planet to bring you the most exciting new hybrids and most genetically advanced species from around the world. They are also in the beginning stages of their own hybridizing program as well and are very excited about the future.

Candice will be speaking about various orchid species, and she will have orchids for sale!

REMEMBER THE ORCHID EXCHANGE: The Orchid Exchange is a great opportunity to expand your orchid collection!

PSLOS MEETINGS

July/August 2024
Summer Break

September 16, 2024
Florida Orchid House

October 21, 2024
PSLOS Auction
(Start getting your orchids ready!)

November 18, 2024
J&J Orchids

December 2024
Holiday Party

FIELD TRIP TO R&R ORCHIDS

August 19, 2024

Details will be provided at
our June 17th meeting.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Central Florida Orchid Society's
"iSpy an Orchid"
June 1 - 2, 2024
Florida National Guard Armory,
2809 S Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS



You are invited to attend this free educational and informative event!

Wishing to improve your show?
Looking to streamline and simplify?
Want to explore new show ideas?

The Port Saint Lucie Orchid Society is hosting an
Orchid Show WORKSHOP
with AOS Senior Judge Judy Bailey

on Monday
June 10th at 12:30 pm
at the
Port Saint Lucie Botanical Garden
rsvp to **Andrea Heitfeld by June 5th**
772-528-1955

Lunch will be served.



Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Presents
Enchanted Orchid Fairy Tales

Saturday April 5 - 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.
Sunday, April 6 - 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.

At the Polish-American Club
343 NW Prima Vista Blvd.
Port St Lucie, FL 34983

- Orchid Vendors
- Raffle baskets
- Spectacular orchid displays
- Free classes

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

For further information contact
Andrea Heitfeld, Show Chair
tazzette55@gmail.com or 772-528-1955

FIELD TRIP TO R&R ORCHIDS
August 19, 2024

Details will be provided at our June 17th meeting.




GET READY!!

PSLOS ORCHID AUCTION
October 21, 2024

Our annual auction is only four months away.

Start getting your divisions ready for the auction!



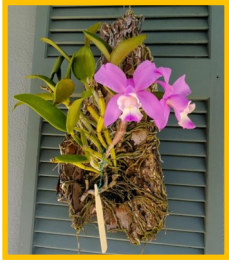

Fort Pierce Orchid Society
Invites You to the

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Orchid Show and Sale
"Gingerbread Orchid House"
December 7 & 8, 2024
At the River Walk Center
600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL

DO YOU WANT TO BE A VENDOR?
Text Rita at 772-418-7426
or email at rita2zfpos@gmail.com

MAY GENERAL MEETING

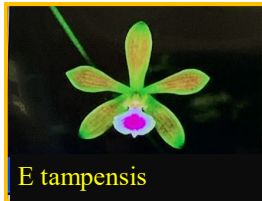


This meeting's education class was on mounting orchids. Diane Bryant presented information on what type of orchids could be mounted, how to take in to consideration the orchid's cold tolerance and light requirements, the importance of daily watering, and how and when to mount.

She also showed a variety of mounts that could be used as well as pictures of mounted orchids.

Bill Nunez gave a great presentation on Encyclias and their hybrids which was really enjoyed by the membership. In addition to describing facts about Encyclias and their habitats, he went over their culture which is worth repeating here for our membership:

- Provide good air movement and filtered light (avoiding mid-day and afternoon sun).
- They do best in temperatures between 60 to 80 degrees.
- If mounted, backing should be avoided.
- Avoid over watering and allow to dry out a little between November and February.
- Repot or remount from spring to early fall, and avoid wet mix if they are potted.



E tampensis

His PowerPoint presentation included a wide pictorial introduction to both Encyclia species and hybrids.

Not only did members enjoy his presentation, they also enjoyed the orchids he brought for sale. (Of course, they did!)



The Taco Bar was a great lunch -- thanks to all the members who brought food.

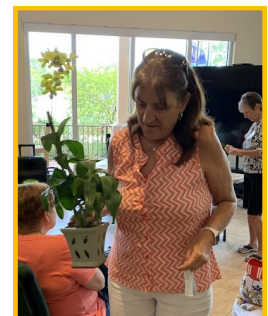


John thanked Andrea and the volunteers for our fantastic show -- which it was!

Anne introduced a number of new members. Welcome to all of you!



The raffle table is always a popular attraction, and winning the raffle and door prizes is always fun!



We were so excited to welcome Nan back to our meetings. She has been missed! And she won a raffle! Congrats!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Anne Menassian
Membership Chairperson
P O Box 8421
Port St Lucie, FL 34985
pslosmembers@gmail.com



Hello Everyone, the summer is fast upon us! I hope you and your orchids are enjoying the sunshine. We have 6 new members for the month of May:

Emme Espinol	Beata Zych	Dianne Weiler
Hanh Marasciula	Janet Diller	Donna Musso

Please welcome them to our group. Our current membership totals 127.

I want to thank all of those who volunteered to help out with newbie bags and badges. Mother and Daughter team, Florence Hoot and Eileen Stork, have kindly taken over the bags, and another member will be making the badges. Thanks so much for stepping forward.

As I mentioned at the May meeting, I now have magnets to secure your name badge, so if you would like to swap out your pin for a magnet, let me know. I will have them at the June meeting. Also, if you need a new badge, send me an email and I will have a new one made for you.



Laurie Wade
Treasurer

Our current balance is \$13,390.01.



I am out of town until May 30th and don't have anything else to report as I wasn't at the May meeting. I will have a full report and also have a YTD summary available at the June meeting.

See you then!

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for June

June Climate Data

Average high 90
Average low: 75.2
Average mean: 82.4
Average rainfall: 8.54"



- With Florida's tropical climate, outdoor plants can get plenty of water from Mother Nature. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.
- 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 with the prophylactic application of Thiophanate Methyl (Cleary's 3336) and Alliette or with Banrot.
- Clean up growing area and plants.
- Remove dead leaves from plants and the ground. Pull weeds.
- Prune trees and shrubs to increase light and air circulation.
- Apply snail bait lightly every two weeks.
- Set air conditioning thermostat at 80 and fan on high.

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

ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

Tasks for JULY

July Climate Data

Average high: 90.9
Average low: 76.5
Average mean: 83.7
Average rainfall: 5.79"



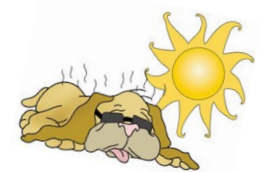
- Enjoy the break in rainfall and let your plants dry “hard.”
- After hard drying, saturate the pots, roots, and media by watering twice two minutes apart.
- Substitute fertilizer for water with a weekly application of a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two tsp. per gallon. Alternate weekly with potassium nitrate and Epson salts.
- Never water before fertilizing. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer, but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants.
- Finish up the repotting of sympodials and the top working of vandas – this is the 11th hour for both!

(per Dr Martin Motes' monthly newsletter and book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month)

Tasks for AUGUST

August Climate Data

Average high: 90.6
Average low: 76.5
Average mean: 83.6
Average rainfall: 8.63"



- Water as early in the morning as possible due to shorter days. If a vanda looks like it needs water, water it. If a cattleya or oncidium looks like it needs water, water tomorrow. If a paph or phal looks like it needs water, you should have watered it yesterday.
- Finish cutting teretes and reed stem epidendrums early in month.
- Reset strap leaf vandas early or not at all.
- Dry hard once or twice.
- Continue anti-fungal spray program.
- Apply snail bate lightly twice ten days apart.

(per Dr Martin Motes' monthly newsletter and book, Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month)

 **Eunice Walker**
May 2, 2015 · 🌐

My orchid hint for this month is about recycling. Spray can tops and yogurt cups make good pots for seedlings and keikis with the addition of some drainage holes. The yogurt cups also make good scoops for potting medium.



05.02.2015

 **Florida Orchid Growing**
Eunice Walker · 3h · 📷

One more gentle persuasion to train that new growth to grow up, not out. Put it into a larger deep pot, temporarily, and it will obey, as it doesn't have a choice! 😊



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ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by
Nan Rothschild
2nd Vice President

SCHOMBURGKIA

Schomburgkia was a genus belonging to the family Orchidaceae, named for Richard Schomburgk.

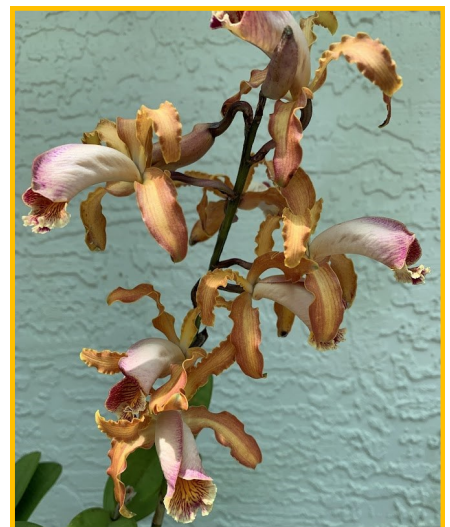
Schomburgkia orchids like humid, warm conditions, full sun, and neutral to acidic soil.

They are native to areas from Mexico down to southern Brazil. They can grow very large -- up to 5 feet tall, bearing 15 flowers. They can be either epiphytic or lithophilic and predominately flower in spring.

Flower colors include white, orange, pink, and red.

The pseudobulbs tend to be dry and wrinkled. If you cut one open, it will probably be hollow. Ants love to store things (food, etc.) in the hollow.

The Schomburgkia genus is no longer recognized because its species were determined to be too different to be in the same genus. The orchids in this genus have been separated into two different genera: *Myrmecophila* and *Laelia*.



WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS -- FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!



Gilda Gomez



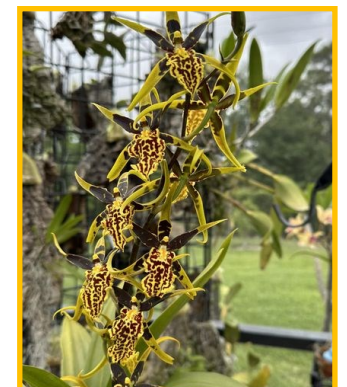
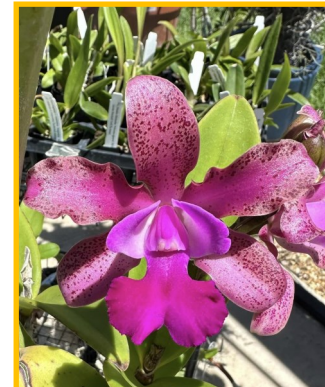
Scott Huff

Gilda Gomez



Diana Lenartiene

Diane Bryant



Jett Tanner

PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



Donated by PSLOS 2024 Show Committee



Thank you, Laurie McCarty, for donating all this orchid potting material! Thank you for your generous gift; you're a valued member of our society.

Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2023 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson
1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfield
2nd Vice President - Nan Rothschild
(Interim VP - Barbara Lynn)
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
(Interim -Jackie Young)
Jessica Benford -2026
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade
2024 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
April, October, & December—Special Meetings
Times to be Announced

Board Meeting

2nd Monday of the month, 12:30 PM
Port Saint Lucie Botanical Garden



Orchid Room

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>



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