

# Orchidelirium!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
November 2024 Volume XXXVI Issue 3

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## President's Message

John Erickson

As part of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, the PSLOS maintains over 350 orchids in the Orchid Room.

Many of these orchids are potted in an organic medium of fir bark or sphagnum moss which require frequent maintenance as they need replenishing periodically as they break down over time.

Because of that, we have gone to an inorganic medium consisting of 40% Royal Oak 100% hardwood lump charcoal which has to be broken down into smaller chips, 30% rubber nuggets, 10% perlite, 10% clay pellets, and 10% lava rock. Note: The dust on the lava rock and charcoal chips needs to be rinsed off before being used.

This inorganic medium provides excellent aeration and drainage, preventing root rot by allowing excess water to flow away. Inorganic mediums also resist decomposition, reducing the frequency of repotting and allowing for better control over moisture levels. Additionally, inorganic mediums discourage pests and fungal growth, promoting healthier root systems. However, they may require more frequent watering, and they lack nutrients, necessitating regular fertilization to sustain plant growth.

Choosing the right inorganic medium and mastering its usage can involve a learning curve for novice orchid enthusiasts.



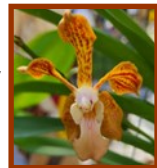
## 1st Vice President Message

Andrea Heitfeld

I am so happy fall is here and am looking forward to some cooler weather.

I hope all who came to our auction are very happy with their purchases. I want to extend a big thank you to Jamie and Patrick for a job well done auctioneering.

Heading into our November meeting, we will have a noon class given by John Erickson, and our speaker will be John from J&J Unique Orchids. His presentation will be on unique orchids. We will have a lunch at our November meeting and will accept food donations. The menu will be meatloaf and, I believe, mashed potatoes.



December 9th is our holiday party, and Barbara Lynn will be collecting monies. The cost is \$35 which includes the meal and an orchid. We will be collecting toy donations for Angel Tree (Salvation Army) and playing two games of Bingo. We also will have a gift exchange (not to exceed \$10) for those who wish to participate.

November quote: "An Orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if no one is around to appreciate it."

**FIELD TRIP TO  
KRULL-SMITH**  
November 1, 2024

It's going to be a  
great time!



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS

PSLOS General Meeting - November 18, 2024

## Noon Workshop: Lessons Learned!



John Erickson will present our noon workshop on "lessons learned."

His presentation will cover a variety of issues common to all of us orchid growers such as

- what to look for when buying an orchid;
- when and how to repot;
- what kind of medium and pots to use and why;
- how much water, fertilizer, and sun do orchids need;
- how to recognize and control bugs and other such icky things, etc.

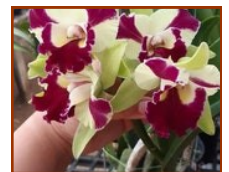


## 1:00 Presentation: Unique Orchids

John Melecio, from J&J Unique Orchids, will be our featured speaker. John is originally from Puerto Rico where his mother owned a flower shop; consequently, he grew up surrounded by flowers.

He moved to the United States twenty years ago where he created several businesses. When he opened up his business in Fort Lauderdale, he met John Romano who introduced him to the amazing world of orchids, and since then he has been growing and selling orchids and doing orchid shows.

He especially enjoys growing orchids from Latin America and any that have a fragrance. Based out of Miami Shores, he has orchids of every type and color imaginable!



**ORCHID SALE:** Since our speaker will be selling orchids, members are not allowed to bring orchids to sell.

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

## PSLOS MEETINGS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**December 9, 2024 - 12:00 Noon  
Holiday Party**

**See page 3 for all the details.  
Hope to see you all there!**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

November 1, 2024  
Apopka International Fall Orchid Festival  
2800 W Ponkan Rd, Apopka, FL

November 16, 2024  
Deerfield Orchid Society's  
"Orchid Obsession"  
1790 NW Spanish River Blvd.  
Boca Raton, FL 33431



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SHOWS



## PSLOS Annual Holiday Luncheon

December 9, 2024— 12:00 p.m.  
Gator Trace Golf and County Club

Please join us for our Annual Holiday Luncheon.

The price is \$35.00 which includes your meal, tax, gratuity, and an orchid. (NOTE: Only paid members will receive orchids.)

We ask that you bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the Salvation Army.

Also, if you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift, value \$10.00 or less, for the gift exchange.

Sign up sheets will be available at the November meeting.

Deadline to sign up is November 18.





# OCTOBER MEETING -- PSLOS AUCTION

The auction was a great time for all! Happy buyers and happy sellers!



Our volunteers, some of who are pictured here as well those who somehow managed to evade the camera's reach, also helped to make the day a success.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time!

Last, but not least, a special thanks to Jamie and Patrick, our great auctioneers!



\$3,423.62 gross proceeds -- sellers made a total of \$2,705.40 -- WOW!

## PSL Botanical Garden - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM



Due to the horrendous weather Florida and our neighboring states to the north experienced this month, many of our members and our neighbors faced losses ranging from minor to very significant. Our hearts and thoughts go out to those who suffered losses.

Like those of many of our members, the orchids in our Orchid Room had to be protected from the storms. Again, thanks to our volunteers, once the weather passed, the Orchid Room was restored. We want to thank John, Dana, Andrea, Lynn, Diane, and Ann for helping with this task.



*We love*  
OUR  
*Volunteers*

# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Anne Menassian  
Membership Chairperson  
P O Box 8421  
Port St Lucie, FL 34985  
[pslosmembers@gmail.com](mailto:pslosmembers@gmail.com)



Hello members, hope you enjoyed Halloween and all the candy!!

Our society keeps growing!! We had three new members join during the October meeting!  
Please welcome our new members:

Joyce Schneider of Port St Lucie,  
Donn Kilburg of Stuart  
Tiffany Weisbein of Port St Lucie.

Our society now numbers 137!! Hope to see you all at the Holiday celebration!



Laurie Wade  
Treasurer



Hi everyone!

Wow, here we are in November! Thanks to our auction sellers and buyers, we had a wonderful outcome from our auction. Also, many thanks go to Florida Orchid House for their donation to the PSLOS seller table. We took in \$3,423.62 and mailed seller checks in the amount of \$2,705.40. We do need to pay sales tax on the PSLOS income.

We also collected \$319.96 toward the Holiday party and \$380 toward the November 1 bus trip. Our expenses include our storage space \$104, 2 books of stamps for your favorite Treasurer \$29.20, \$65 for our 2025 show, and \$17.11 for the orchid garden.

## ORCHID CULTURE & CARE

### Tasks for November

#### **November Climate Data**

Average high: 85.4

Average low: 72.2

Average mean: 78.8

Average rainfall: 6.19"

1. Prepare for cold
2. Reduce fertilizer
3. Apply extra Potassium and Magnesium
4. Segregate dormant genera in bright dry area
5. Repot plants after flowering
6. Groom plants and flower spikes for holiday display



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>



# ORCHID CULTURE & CARE



## Orchid-abulary

Brought to you by  
Nan Rothschild  
2nd Vice President

## AQUACULTURE FOR ORCHIDS

Aquaculture consists of having the orchid in a vase with absolutely no orchid medium like moss or bark. The only medium will be water and air.

### Steps:

1. Choose the most appropriate time for the plant. It should be in a period of dormancy.
2. Clean all old medium off the roots. If you just bought the plant, transfer it as soon as the blooms fall off. If it was potted in sphagnum moss, it is especially important to get rid of the moss as it can accumulate mold and bacteria and cause root rot.
3. Cut off all dead and rotting roots. (Can treat ends with cinnamon.)
4. Choose the method:

Aquaculture - orchid will sit in a little water for 5 days and then no water for 2 days. Clean the vase often due to a buildup of mold and bacteria.

Semi aquaculture - fill water 3/4 way roots- almost to the top. Soak for 2 days, dry for 5.

### Some expectations:

1. Old roots will die off since they haven't adapted yet to aquaculture.
2. New roots will grow into the water.
3. Some leaves may die off because they haven't adapted to aquaculture.
4. New roots should be given a weak solution of fertilizer weekly.
5. There is always a risk of the plant dying. This method is best tried first on a less valuable or treasured plant.

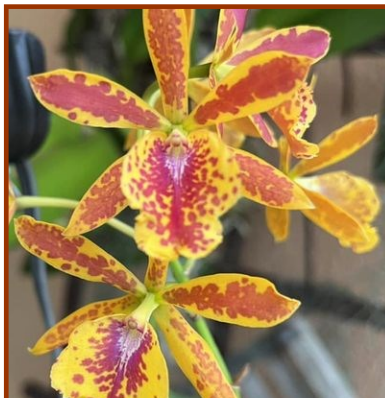




# WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS -- FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS!

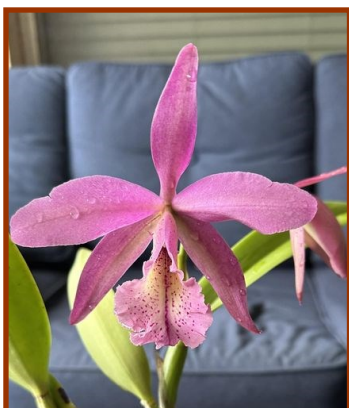


Barbara Lynn



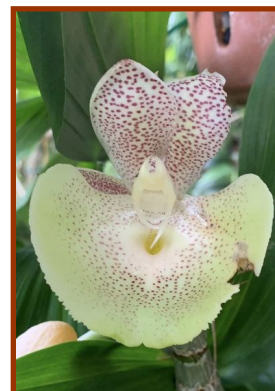
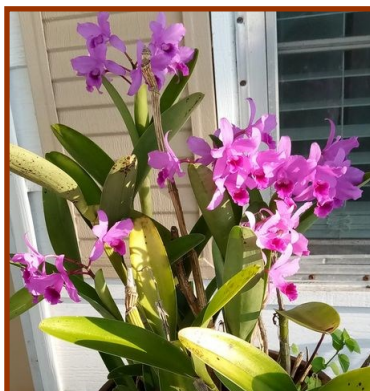
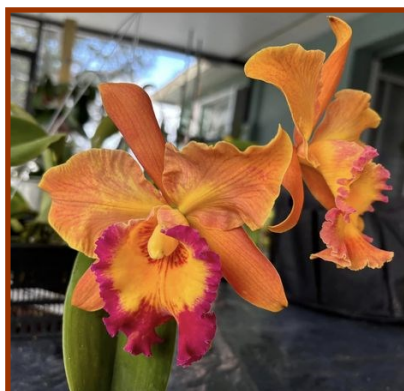
Jennifer Margolis

Gail Mathews



Jet Tanner

Gilda Gomez



Lynn Fort

John Phillips

Michael Ortseifer

Diane Bryant



## Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2024 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  
2024 Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfield & John Erickson  
Orchid Room - John Erickson  
Orchid Exchange - Maureen Kerr  
Meeting Lunch Organizer - Jackie Young  
Newsletter - Diane Bryant & Anne Menassian  
Website - Diane Bryant (Primary)  
Diana Lenartiene (Alternate)  
Annual Retreat - Barbara Lynn  
Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon - Barbara Lynn Lenartiene

## 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>



### GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

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