

Orchidelirium!



Newsletter of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society
February 2026, Volume XXXVI Issue 6

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Visit us on the Web at: www.pslos.org — Join our FaceBook group!
Email: pslorchidsociety@gmail.com



PSLOS GENERAL MEETING -- FEBRUARY 16, 2026

12:00 Noon Workshop: The Vanilla Story Speaker: Nan Rothschild



Please come to my February class at 12 noon! I will be presenting "The Vanilla Story!" I will talk about the history of the Vanilla Orchid and demonstrate how to make vanilla paste.



For \$6.00 you can get a small bottle of it and a raffle ticket for a free plant (assorted kinds) or vanilla sugar! There are many winners! There will be free cookie samples to taste, and recipes will be available!



Our Program Speaker: Jeanne Thompson, Odoms Orchids The History of Orchids



Jeanne Thompson grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, and graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

She bought her first four orchids at an orchid show in Shreveport in 1996, and she still has one of those four, proving how durable they are. She was a volunteer at the Dallas Judging Center in the early 2000s serving as the orchid awards photographer.

Jeanne works at Odoms Orchids in Fort Pierce. With over 90,000 square feet of greenhouses, Odom's Orchids is one of the largest retail growers and shippers of orchids in the United States. They specialize in Cattleya orchids, but also grow quite a few other varieties, including Vandas, Phalaenopsis, Lady Slippers, Oncidiums, and many species from different genera. Unlike many other orchid growers, most of their orchids are mature, blooming size plants, so you won't have to wait years for them to bloom.

On her own time, Jeanne takes care of her personal orchid collection and creates ceramic pots specifically designed for orchids.

Jeanne will be bringing orchids to the meeting for sale.

REMEMBER:

THE ORCHID EXCHANGE! The Orchid Exchange is a great opportunity to expand your orchid collection. For further information, talk to Dana DeMarco.

RAFFLE SALE. Of course, don't forget our raffle sale. An easy and inexpensive way to add to your orchid collection.

SHOW & TELL! We love to see how your orchids grow!

PSLOS MEETINGS

March 16, 2026
Judy Bailey, AOS Judge
"Show Info & Hints"

April 11-12, 2026
PSLOS Show & Sale

April 20, 2026
PSLOS Annual Retreat

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS



Port St. Lucie Orchid Society

**ORCHIDS AND LADYBUGS
HARMONY IN NATURE**

Saturday, April 11, 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, April 12, 10:00am to 4:00pm

- Orchid Vendors
- Free Classes
- Beautiful Raffle Baskets
- Orchid Raffles
- Spectacular Orchid Displays

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 further information, contact
Andrea Heitfeld, Show Chair,
tazette55@gmail.com

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, and gift certificates (our biggest fundraiser!)
- ◇ Sell raffle tickets (Saturday and Sunday)
- ◇ Be a trophy sponsor
- ◇ Create a niche arrangement
- ◇ Create a Lady Bug Habitat or a Lady Bug Creation



Show time will be here sooner than we realize so be thinking about how you can volunteer. Remember to sign up at the February meeting. See page 4 for more information.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, & SHOWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7 - 8, 2026
Venice Area Orchid Society Show & Sale
Venice Community Center, Venice, FL

February 13-15, 2026
Greater Orlando Orchid Society's "Hearts in Bloom"
Orlando Garden Club, Orlando, FL

February 14-15, 2026
Boca Raton Orchid Society's "In Love With... Orchids"
Safe Schools Institute, Boca Raton

February 20 - 22, 2026
Naples Orchid Society's "Orchid Rodeo"
Naples Botanical Garden, Naples, FL

Quality Vendors
Plants
Flowers
Orchids
Trees
Pottery
Furniture
Garden Art
Native Plants

Great Raffle Prizes!
...no need to be present to win!
Great Food and Youth Activities!

Nature's Finest Marketplace
Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, Feb. 8, 9 am - 4 pm
Free Admission and Parking

Rain or Shine
Bring your wagon

Riverside Park in Vero Beach 3260 Riverside Park Drive...Off Rt. 60, Beachside

See you there!
Check our web site for more information & directions...
www.gardenclubofire.org
Presented by Garden Club of Indian River County, Inc.

Martin County Orchid Society Catasetum Workshop with Mark Margolis

2:00 pm

February 21, ~~11:00 am~~

Location: Pinelake Gardens Community Hall, 6854 SE Morningside Drive, Stuart

Cost: \$60 (\$50 for additional plants)

Mark will bring all potting material, the same medium he uses (leca rock, small round rocks, sphagnum moss), pots for growing hydroponically, 2 fertilizers, and assorted plants all in the Ctsm family.

He will explain the concept via a short talk, and then attendees will pick, by lottery, their plants and pots.

There will be stations set up. 1) Putting rocks in the pots. 2) Sphagnum and potting plant in the pot. 3) Putting 2 fertilizers in the pot.

REGISTRATION:

RSVP Annette Smith via a call or txt to 772-214-8974

Deadline is February 14, 2026

DISCOVER YOUR ORCHID PASSION
Heathcote's Orchids Series
Join us for a three-part educational series on beautiful orchids.
\$75 PER PERSON
HEATHCOTE MEMBERS \$50

Orchids & You
CLASSES DATES:
JANUARY 27, 2026 - TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2026 - TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2026 - TUESDAY
CLASSES BEGINS AT 1:00 PM
LOCATION: BONSAI PAVILION
210 SAVANNAH RD FORT PIERCE FL
Register now at:
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Heathcote's Orchid Class

\$50.00 - \$75.00

Orchids and You is a three-part educational orchid series covering Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums & Oncidiums. Learn proven growing techniques from AOS Senior Judge Judy Bailey in a fun, garden-based setting.

- 3 classes | 1 PM
- \$75 total | One registration for Heathcote members cost is \$50.
- Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34982

No refunds for missed classes or inability to attend.

Options

SKU: N/A

Categories: Garden workshops/classes, workshop

Tags: Heathcote orchid class, Learn about Orchids, orchid class at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, orchid class in Florida, Orchids and You



The Jensen Beach Garden Club, Inc.
Presents
GARDEN EXPO
Saturday, March 7, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
— NEW LOCATION! —
Memorial Park in Stuart
300 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart

Scan for Schedule of Educational Presentations
or visit our website:
jensenbeachgardenclub.com

Over 40 Plant & Garden-themed Vendors!
FREE ADMISSION • FOOD TRUCKS

Martin County Orchid Society
Presents
Orchids at The Disco
47th Orchid Show and Sale

Martin County Fairgrounds
2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart FL 34996
March 6 - Noon - 4 pm
March 7th & 8th 9am - 4 pm



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 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.

New this year: \$100 gift card to one of our vendors will be awarded to the PSLOS member who brings in the highest \$\$ amount of show sponsorship!

PSLOS Shirts



If you would like a Society/Show shirt to wear at our show, you must order one no later than the February meeting. Cost is \$23.

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

Lady Bug Habitats/Lady Bug Creations

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 other lady bug 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 three categories: Mini, Small, and Large

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.

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.



Remember to sign up at the February meeting.



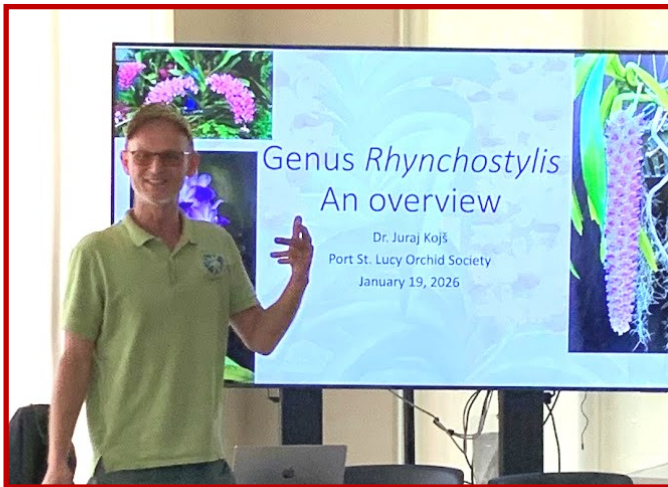
JANUARY GENERAL MEETING



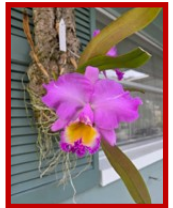
First, what a great meeting!!! And what a great attendance! Thanks to all the members who attend our meetings. We actually had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate the attendees. Fantastic!



And wasn't it a great idea to have two separate tables for attendance sign-in and membership sign-ups? Really made the process go so much more smoothly and eliminated the back-up at the front door!

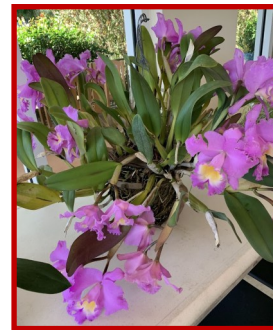


The 12:00 noon was a great opportunity for members to learn or refresh their knowledge on how to mount orchids. Based on questions and comments, many members have had good success in mounting orchids.



Our speaker for the afternoon presentation, Dr. Juraj Kojš, was wonderful. His knowledge of and passion for the *Rhynchostylis* orchid was very evident. We learned a lot from his presentation, and many members took advantage of the bare root orchids he offered for sale.

This meeting was also the kick-off for volunteer sign-ups for our annual orchid show, "Orchids and Ladybugs -- Harmony in Nature," to be held in April. If you did not sign up at the January meeting, be sure to do so at the February meeting. The success of the show is dependent upon volunteers!



Once again, our members show what great growers they are. Thanks for sharing:
James & Maureen McGill, Dana Demarco, John Erickson, and Shelley Hunsberger.



And last, but not least, hats off to our members who always make the luncheon sooooo good!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Eileen Storck
Membership Chairperson
pslosmemberships@gmail.com



As February approaches, we are reaching a crucial deadline: this is your final opportunity to renew your PSLOS Membership for the 2026 year. At our recent January General Meeting, we were pleased to see our renewal count rise to 99 paid members. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership!

Our total membership now stands at 170, thanks to the addition of three Individual members and three Families who joined us at the January meeting. Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

JR and Barbara Blanton (Family)
Judy Walker (Family)
Jay Sisselman (Individual)

Joel and Sandy Ekey (Family)
Debra J Manale (Individual)
Rafael Ubiles III (Individual)

Renewal Reminders and Payment Information

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please look for an email from pslosmemberships@gmail.com before the next General Meeting. We encourage you to renew at the February meeting—cash, check, or credit card payments will be accepted so we can finalize our starting membership count for this year.

The dues remain unchanged: Individual memberships are \$20.00 per year, and Family memberships are \$25.00 per year.

Please remember, PSLOS membership is valid annually from January through December of the current year, regardless of when you joined.

Checks should be made payable to PSLOS and can also be mailed, provided they are received before the end of the month. Please send your payment to:

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

Wishing everyone a love-filled Valentine's Day!



Laurie Wade
Treasurer

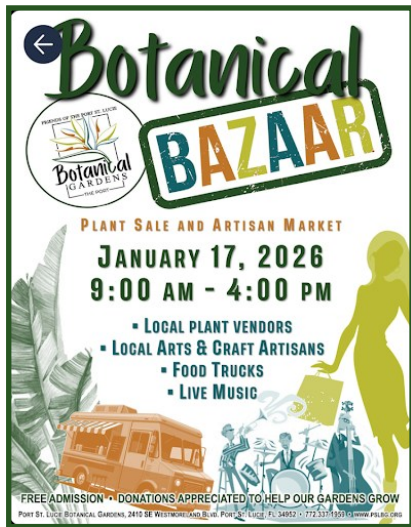


Hi all, our current bank balance is \$9,778.77. We took in \$405 in trophy sponsorship, and t-shirt sales were \$115. We netted a profit of \$151.00 at the raffle table. The Botanical Gardens held an event in January, and we participated, raffling an orchid basket; our profit was \$213.76. I don't have up-to-date membership totals for January but will report that at the February meeting.

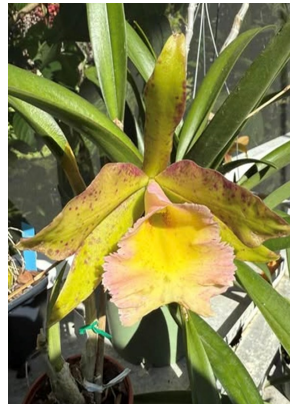
Our expenses include \$61.25 for our annual Sunbiz state fee, \$140 for storage, \$400 for our speaker, \$176 for two years of American Orchid Society membership, and \$228.78 for the orchid garden.

If you purchase a show t-shirt by credit card (\$23), there is an extra \$1 charge to help offset credit card fees we pay. We buy them tax exempt but have to pay sales tax to the State because we are selling them to you. I don't charge extra for memberships if a credit card is used. Thank you for your understanding.

OTHER ORCHID NEWS



There was a large attendance at this year's Botanical Bazaar. Our thanks to members John Erickson, Andrea Heitfeld, and Jessie Benford for manning the PSLOS table at the Bazaar. In addition to providing information to attendees about orchids and their care, an orchid basket was raffled.



During the January workshop, a question came up about a workshop Jamie Lawson conducted in February 2023 at which he provided seedlings to attendees with the promise that the first successful grower would have the honor of naming the orchid. Who was the successful grower?

Thanks to Lynn Fort who provided the picture and following information: "We originally knew it as #309, but it was first bloomed by Lee Stradley, and he had the honor of naming it. It is a cross between Rcv. Jimminey Cricket and Rlc. Boh Perry. It is now known as Rhynchobrassoleya (abbreviated Rby.) Merlin's Revenge XOXO."

Lee added: It got its name because I was showing the plant at a FPOS meeting telling them how my cat Merlin chewed the leaves. That's when someone yelled out Merlin's revenge and the name stuck.

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

Vegetative Propagation

A little bit about vegetative (asexual) propagation. As our January speaker (Dr. Juraj Kojš) said, it takes about 8 years for an orchid grown from seed (sexual propagation) to flower. Some of us don't want to wait that long.

Vegetative propagation of your orchids is a good idea for several reasons:

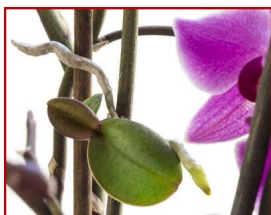
1. If the original plant dies, you may be able to get or already have a clone of it.
2. You can donate a division to an orchid society or sell it at an auction (like ours).*
3. You can have more divisions of your favorite flower.
4. You can experiment with different growing techniques.
5. You can donate a division to a newbie orchid enthusiast.
6. Plants that come from divisions usually flower within a couple of years (not 8).

According to AOS, Vegetative propagation can be accomplished in three ways; that is, by division, back bulbs, and offshoots.



If the plant has but one lead (that is, a new growth) it can be divided by cutting the plant into groups of three or four pseudobulbs. The front group with the lead pseudobulb would be known as a "division." The other group or groups of pseudobulbs without any active lead would be termed back bulbs.

If a plant has several leads it can be divided in such a way that there will be one or more divisions and one or more back bulbs. In other words, a division is a group of pseudobulbs which contains an active lead or new growth after the plant is broken up; whereas, the back bulbs are a group of old pseudobulbs that have no active lead, but on which there are one or more dormant "eyes" which may be forced.



Some types of orchids, such as Dendrobiums, will develop offshoots along the stem. They appear to be, and are, small but individual plants. These may be allowed to grow to maturity and then carefully cut from the parent plant. The young offshoot, or "keiki" as it is often called, can be potted up similarly to a back bulb.

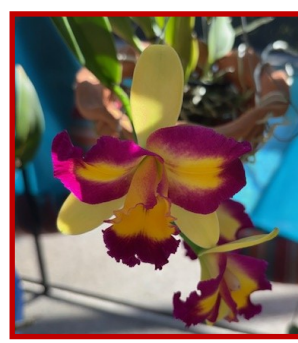
<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-breeding-and-hybridizing/how-are-orchids-propagated>



*Plan ahead!!

The PSLOS auction is November 16.
Start getting those divisions ready!

WE LOVE OUR ORCHIDS - FROM OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS

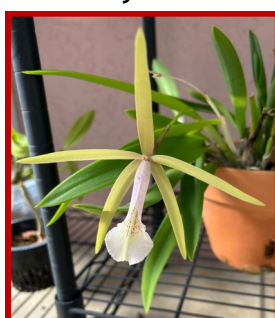


Lynn Fort



Diane Bryant

Jet Tanner



We would love to see your orchids.

Just email a picture to:
pslosdiane@gmail.com

Jennifer Margolis

Diana Lenartiene

PSL BOTANTICAL GARDENS - BLOOMING IN THE ORCHID ROOM

It's been kinda hard to get pictures of our orchids in bloom this month!



January 1



January 18



January 14



January 28



Port St Lucie Orchid Society 2026 Officers and Volunteers:

President - John Erickson
1st Vice President - Andrea Heitfeld
2nd Vice President - Nan Rothschild
Recording Secretary - Diana Lenartiene
Corresponding Secretary - Dana DeMarco
Treasurer - Laurie Wade
Membership - Eileen Storck
Immediate Past President - Pam Scholey
Trustee - Barbara Lynn 2028
 Diane Bryant - 2027
 Jessica Benford - 2026
AOS Representative - Laurie Wade
Show Co-Chairs - Andrea Heitfeld and John Erickson
Orchid Room - John Erickson
Orchid Exchange - Dana DeMarco
Meeting Lunch Organizer - Jackie Young
Newsletter & Website - Diane Bryant
Annual Retreat - Barbara Lynn
Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon - Barbara Lynn

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>

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 Gardens
Speakers, Classes, Show and Tell, Raffles,
Orchid Exchange, and more
April and December
Special Meetings
Times & Locations to be Announced

Board Meeting

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




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
or
PSLOS Treasurer at
mrmush@comcast.net



**Providing Peace of Mind to
Absentee Home Owners**
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completecarehomewatch.com