

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

April 2026



President's Message

I hope we're all settled in the new meeting space after our make-up March meeting. We did look at a lot of different places to meet but the Martin Anderson Senior Center looks perfect. We have paved parking and plenty of it. The room is spacious and has Wi-Fi for our meetings. The Senior Center staff is very gracious and have provided space for our video screen and forum rack. We don't have to set up and tear down tables and chairs. And the price is just right. Thanks to the members that suggested places to consider, to Charis and Carolyn who inspected various locations and to Dottie Maher of the Senior Center who was so accommodating.

The 2026 Orchid Show is fast approaching, and I know everyone is getting excited. Please make sure you sign up for some volunteer duties, even if for only one day and time. We need all hands-on deck. There are two new volunteer opportunities for this year's show. One, if you can't work a shift, please consider bringing food to feed the vendors and volunteers during the Show. Janet Scenna will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting with particular items needed. Two, we are setting up a potting table with the outside vendors and will need volunteers to work two-hour shifts. If you want to learn potting, helping a more experience member is a good way for hands-on learning.

Every year we have three local orchid societies participate in our Show by doing society exhibit tables. We return the favor to Volusia County Orchid Society and the Central Florida Orchid Society by doing a PCOS Society Table at their orchid shows. We always need volunteers for plants and help to set up our table. It's another chance to enter your flowering orchids for judging because both shows are AOS judged. The Volusia show is the weekend after ours, May 9-10, 2026, and Margaret Croucher is the lead on that so see her if you can help. The Central Florida Orchid Show is three weeks after our show, May 23-24, 2026, and you can see me if you want to volunteer as lead for the PCOS society exhibit.

Lots of things going on right now. So EXCITING!!!

Laura

CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, April 8th, 6pm.
Board Meeting.

Wednesday, April 8th, 7pm.
General Meeting.

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3.
PCOS Orchid Show.

SUNSHINE

Wishes for a speedy and full recovery to the following PCOS Members:

- Julie Howard, on her Knee surgery and recovery from her fall. So sorry!
- Mike Gigler, Congratulations on your hip replacement. See you both soon!

Hello fellow Orchid enthusiasts. We all know of someone that can use a kind word or is struggling with health issues or life in general.

If this is you or someone you know, please let me know. On behalf of PCOS they will receive some sunshine. Don't we all need some sunshine sometime?

Please don't share specific details without the persons permission. Thanks to you all My contact info is Mary Ellen Jelen maryellenjelen@gmail.com 330-715-2874 .

Express your “Wild” and creative side!

There are only six niches available for our show and only a couple still available!

They are one of the most talked about venues of our annual show. **You don't need experience** and you don't need to be an expert orchid grower! Actually, most of our past winners have been “first timers.”

The niches are small table top displays (32” x 24”x 36”) that showcase a variety of orchids in an arrangement that incorporates the show's theme in a small way. They can be done by an individual or team.

Sign up at our next meeting!

We will also have a niche demonstration at our April meeting

Here are last year's fabulous niches! Three of these were first timers!!!

For more information contact Karen Chandler at kchander01@bellsouth.net



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SHOW JUDGING CLERKS

It's show time again and we need 12-16 volunteers for the critical job of clerking which means helping the AOS judges at our May orchid show.

Qualifications are simple: Come in on Friday May 1st at 8:15am and be able to walk around the Show exhibit area with your clerking team, head clerk and the assigned AOS judges for about 2 to 2 ½ hours.

Clerking tasks include locating plants entered for judging, recording ribbon awards, and placing ribbons on the awarded plants.

No knowledge of orchid judging is required, but for the beginner or the long-time orchid grower, this is an excellent opportunity to learn what the judges look for, hear what they discuss while judging and observe why they like and select particular flowers and plants for awards.

I will have a sign-up sheet at our upcoming general meetings and show meetings.

This is a small commitment of your time and a great way to participate in our wonderful show and meet other club members.

For more information, contact Margaret Croucher at mpcroucher@att.net.

Plant forum

MARCH 25th





Margaret and Patti

A Special April Birthday

By Margaret Croucher

One of our members with an April birthday is Patti Scholes. Patti and I became friends as young girls just out of high school at Miami-Dade College. We later were roommates for a term at the University of Florida just before we graduated. We both eventually returned to Miami and were married. She was a busy school teacher and I was a busy CPA, raising our young children at the same time. Our families always found time for fun activities and we shared lots of great times.

I got Patti interested and involved in orchids after we took a beginning orchid culture class in the early 90's. Charlie built her a greenhouse, and he also got interested and became the master grower he is today. Patti now likes watching and supporting Charlie growing orchids.

Patti and Charlie moved from Miami to North Carolina for a few years and then back to Florida and Merritt Island in the 2000's. Patti and Charlie convinced Bill & I to join PCOS in 2010, even though we were only in Merritt Island part time and my orchid collection was still in Miami.

Always a hard-working member of PCOS, Patti just recently passed the Newsletter editor position duties to Elizabeth - after 16 years! Over the years Patti has been Vice President, Secretary, substitute Treasurer and Show Chair, not to mention all the other behind the scenes jobs she has volunteered to do. So, this month we say Happy Birthday! to Patti and Thank You! for all these years

AMAZING THAILAND RAINBOW ORCHID INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL BUS TRIP

Carolyn Anderson

I want to thank everyone that joined us for our recent bus trip down to Homestead to the Wat Buddarengsi Buddhist Temple. I would also like to thank Pam Waters of Orchids in Bloom for her kind invitation and sponsorship to the event.

We were greeted right away by Pam and given wrists bands for our entrance into the festival and she also gave us our tickets for lunch, which by the way was delicious!!

We could not have asked for a better day, the weather was perfect!! The vendors were all set up on the grounds of the Temple under the shade of beautiful oak trees. We got to see numerous new vendors and a couple of our old "friends" which is always nice and I even got to introduce myself to a new vendor that will be participating at our show this year!

In the center of the venue was a large tent with a few non orchid vendors and a stage with live entertainment. You had the opportunity to watch authentic Thai dancers. When they were finished you could even have a photo taken with them.

For an added treat, we even had the privilege of going inside the Buddhist Temple. It was beautiful and peaceful. I hope everyone that went took the time to go inside and take a moment to reflect.

The one comment that I get about these bus trips is; I'm not taking a 3- or 4-hour bus ride there and back!! Well, the one thing that all of us that go say is..... I can't believe we're already here!! That was so fast!! That is because we have fun, we socialize and get to know each other a little bit better or we take a nap.

The point is, the time FLIES by!! So, join us next time, won't you??

Photos by Erin Boden





Photos by Erin Boden



2026 Orchid Show

“Wild About Orchids”

We're here!! April is our final meeting before the show.

It's been kind of exciting around here lately, not to worry, we are right on schedule for another beautiful show!

We will have a couple of new orchid vendors inside for you to meet and some additional outside vendors as well!!

I hope all of our members are thinking about what areas they would like to volunteer to help at. Please see one of our Show Chairs if you have questions.

Below is a brief schedule of what lies ahead:

APRIL

We will have our Niche display demonstration at our member meeting.

We will have an explanation of the registration process for members submitting plants for judging at our member meeting.

VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS!! We will continue to sign up volunteers for the show.

MAY

IT'S SHOW TIME!!!

Wednesday, April 29th: Society Set-up

Doors open for PCOS members at 12pm

Anyone and everyone can help set-up!!

Thursday, 30th: Vendor Set-up

Doors open for PCOS members at 8am

Friday, May 1st, 9am - 5pm

Doors open for PCOS members at 8am

Saturday, May 2nd, 9am – 5pm

Doors open for PCOS members at 8am

Sunday, May 3rd, 9am – 4pm

Doors open for PCOS members at 8am

Sunday, May 3rd, 4pm -??

ALL HANDS-ON DECK!! Pack-up, Clean-up, Sweep-up!!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED!!!

Orchid Show Preparation

Information to get you started. We'll go over this at the April Meeting

1. Timing the Bloom

- Aim to have your orchid in **peak bloom** on show day—fully open, fresh flowers (not buds or fading blooms).
- Avoid moving or repotting once spikes are developing—orchids can “blast” buds if stressed. If needed, adjust light/temperature slightly ahead of time to slow or speed blooming.

2. Grooming the Plant

- **Clean the leaves:** Gently wipe with a soft cloth and water (or a tiny drop of milk for shine).
- Remove **dead sheaths, old spikes, or yellowing leaves.**
- Trim off any **spent flowers.** Check for pests—no bugs allowed on the show table!

3. Pot & Media Check

- Make sure the plant is in a **clean pot** (wipe it down or slip it into a decorative outer pot). Top off with **fresh media** if the surface looks messy—but don't fully repot right before a show.

4. Staking & Positioning

- Stake flower spikes neatly using clips.
- Position blooms so they **face forward and display evenly.** Keep the presentation natural—don't over-manipulate.

5. Watering & Feeding

- Water a day or two before the show so the plant looks hydrated but **not dripping wet.** Avoid fertilizer right before the show—it can leave residue.

6. Final Cleaning (Day Before or Morning Of)

- Remove dust, water spots, or debris.
 - Use a soft brush (like a makeup brush) to gently clean flowers.
- Make sure there's **no residue, spotting, or damage** on petals.

7. Transport Carefully

- Protect blooms with sleeves or boxes so they don't get bumped. Keep temperature stable—no hot cars or cold drafts.

8. Labeling & Paperwork

- Ensure correct plant name (genus, species/hybrid). Double-check entry forms and class placement.

Bonus Tips

- Symmetry and overall condition matter a lot in judging.
- Judges look for **flawless flowers, healthy foliage, and good culture.**
- Even a common orchid can win if it's perfectly presented.



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.
Affiliated Society

PCOS is an affiliate of the **American Orchid Society (AOS)**. There's an abundance of information on the AOS website. Please visit www.aos.org for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Ask Betty Adamson for an application if you're interested in joining.

For all current members, remember that your renewal notice will arrive in the Orchid Magazine prior to your month of renewal.

www.aos.org

FOR AOS MEMBERS: The AOS also has a presence on Facebook. There is a [group](#) with close to 65,000 members, and a [page](#). Each allows you to post photographs and ask questions about your orchids. The group is the most active of the two, and group members usually respond quickly to posts. The page is parallel to the AOS Instagram account. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839> <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOrchidSociety>

UPCOMING SHOWS

Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival, April 10- 12, 2006 at Krull Smith Nursery in Apopka.

Vero Beach Orchid Society. "Art of Orchids" April 25-26, 2026. Riverside Park, Vero Beach.

Platinum Coast Orchid Society. "Wild About Orchids Show. May 1-3, Kiwanis Park, Merritt Island.

Volusia County Orchid Society. Mother's Day Orchid Show and Sale. May 9-19, 2026. Volusia County Fairgrounds. DeLand.

Central Florida Orchid Society. "Bewitched by Orchids" May 22-23, 2026. FL National Guard Armory. Orlando.

Volusia County Orchid Show

PCOS will be setting up a display at the Volusia County Orchid Society's show which takes place on Mother's Day weekend. Our team can use extra help from our members. We need lots of blooming orchids, and one nice plant can make a big difference in overall quality of the display. We bring our own plants and borrow plants from other members too. Arranging and displaying orchids needs an artistic touch which I don't have, so other ideas are helpful.

Our PCOS display at Volusia last year won an AOS Award. Our display at the Central Florida Show in June was awarded a first-place ribbon among society displays. Competition is tough between Jacksonville, Gainesville, Central Florida and Volusia, and no matter how we place, the joy comes from being around like-minded orchid lovers and seeing the amazing flowers and displays at each show.

The show theme is "Orchids Under the Big Top". Our team always enjoys creating interesting props to recognize the theme, and we have received several "Best Theme" awards too.

Setup for Volusia will be Friday May 8th at 9:00 AM at the Hester Building at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. Takedown of the display is on Sunday May 10th at 4:00 PM. Mileage will be reimbursed for our team members. This is a great way to increase your knowledge of orchids, so please contact me if you are interested in participating and for additional information contact Margaret Croucher at mpcroucher@att.net.

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dixon

TREASURER

Tammy Cheng

SECRETARY

Charis Gaines

DIRECTORS

Lois Fletcher (2026)

Wanda Morales (2026)

Karen Chandler (2026-27)

Bruce Tatje (2026-27)

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

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