

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

January 2026

President's Message

Well, 2025 has come and gone in a flash. Is it my imagination or is time passing faster now than when I was younger? The months seem to have a beginning and end but the middle has disappeared altogether. I know the days are shorter (especially since we changed back from daylight savings time) because it gets dark by 5 pm and looks like midnight by six o'clock. Oh well (sigh).

It looked like everyone had a good time at the Holiday Party. Maybe we all ate too much and were happy and content. If you missed the gathering then you missed a good one. I want to especially thank Tammy Cheng for her extraordinary talent in putting the event together. Special appreciation goes to Sally and Peter Pancoast for donating the bulk of the orchids given out to all the members. Margaret Croucher and Clive Gay also donated plants to the cause. Volunteers that made the party such a hit are mentioned with the party pictures located in this newsletter. And we can't forget all those who brought food to the event. What a feast! Thank you everyone.

And, so we begin a new year. If you were born in the middle of the last century then you probably never thought about welcoming in 2026. Well, it's here and so too we have a new year beginning for PCOS.

As you know, February through April we'll be preparing for The Show in May. We have a really good theme, "Wild About Orchids", and some interesting decorating planned for the event. If you've never done a niche, think about volunteering to do one this year. It's a great way to learn about how to 'show' orchids and a fun experience with ribbons for prizes. This year I hope everyone can get at least one sponsor for the show. The gift cards, certificates and money they donate is used to pay for door prizes, raffle baskets and award money for best of show orchids. If you can't get a sponsor, think about donating \$25 and be identified as an award sponsor.

Volunteering to work the show is always important. Even if you can only work one time slot, it gives others a break from working all day. This event is the only fundraiser we have and with costs continuing to rise, raising money to support our Society is crucial. Besides, it's the best activity you can be involved in to meet fellow members and learn about growing orchids. It's a lot of work, but in the end, we always have a great time.

So, welcome 2026 as the new year with lots of promise. I hope you had a good holiday season and I'll see you January 14th.

Laura



RLC Three Suns (RLC Green Fantasy X RLC Mem Helen Brown) Photo by Betty.

CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, January 14th, 6pm.
Board Meeting.

Wednesday, January 14th, 7pm.
Installation of Officers.

Wednesday, February 11th, 6pm.
Board Meeting.

Wednesday, February 11th, 7pm.
Paphiopedilum Culture and
Maintenance

SUNSHINE

Deepest sympathy to the family of Helen Bloch. Helen and the late Vern Bloch were devoted orchid growers and owners of Palm Bay Orchid Range.

Speedy get well wishes to Ed O'Connor as he recovers from his hip surgery.

Continuing 'get well' wishes to Karen Andreas.

Special holiday blessings to the families of: Jelen, Kidder, Pancoast, Valentine and Walters.

To all our members happy and successful growing in the New Year! Betty



Above: Lots of great food.

Right: Ugly Sweater Contest Winners: Karen Chandler and Scott Anderson.

Below: PCOS members with Christmas Ornaments.



GOOD FOOD,
CONVERSATION,
AND FELLOWSHIP.

PHOTOS BY PATTI.



Dining with one's friends and beloved family is certainly one of life's primal and most innocent delights, one that is both soul-satisfying and eternal. —

Julia Child



A great time at the Holiday Party!

Laura Blackmon

Thanks to all the following:

- ◆ Bill and Margaret Croucher, Charis Gaines, Karen and Cleve Chandler, Danette Storm, Charlie Scholes, James Rice, Joy Dykes, Wanda Morales, Tom Dixon, Carolyn Anderson, Erin Boden, Phyllis Gautreaux, Tammy, Cooper, and Richard Cheng for helping with set-up and clean-up.
- ◆ Ed Kidder made the punch, which we understand was potent.
- ◆ Joann Amos gave out raffle tickets for the food and toy drive participants.
- ◆ Charis Gaines helped with the ornament exchange.
- ◆ Carolyn Anderson helped facilitate the ugly sweater contest.
- ◆ Sally and Peter Pancoast plus Margaret Croucher and Clive Gay provided the gift orchids for everyone.
- ◆ And Claria, who stopped by the Garden Club and helped set-up for an hour before anyone realized she wasn't supposed to be there.
- ◆ Congratulations to Karen Chandler and Scott Anderson for winning the ugly sweater contest.
- ◆ And THANKS to all who attended and enjoyed themselves. We had more food than we could have ever eaten in one sitting.

Happy New Year everyone!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Everyone is busy with the holidays and January is fast approaching. The January meeting doesn't have a guest speaker as **2026 officers** will be installed. As part of our tradition, a celebratory cake will be served.

Laura Blackmon, President
Tom Dixon, Vice President
Tammy Cheng, Secretary
Charis Gaines, Treasurer
Margaret Croucher, Past President
Lois Fletcher, Director 2026
Ann Wade, Director 2026
Karen Chandler, Director 2026-2027
Bruce Tatje, Director 2026-2027

The first of our show meetings will have taken place, so there will be a show update, as well as other pertinent information to get the new year rolling. We will have plenty of time for the Plant Forum so bring your blooming plants to show us all.

Next comes February and back by popular demand, Keith and Dina Emig will be giving a lecture on "Paphiopedilum Culture and Maintenance ". They will be supplying our club raffle plants and also bringing plants for sale to our club members. I'm not sure if they plan on doing it again but at their last visit they even conducted their own plant raffle during the lecture. They were very entertaining and knowledgeable and all members had a terrific time.

To all members have a safe and happy holiday season. Season's Greetings and Happy New Year.

See you in 2026
Tom Dixon PCOS

2026 Orchid Show

“Wild About Orchids”

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is fully rested and ready to jump into SHOW SEASON!! Below is a brief schedule of what lies ahead:

JANUARY

We will have our first show meeting of the year for all show chairs on Monday, January 5th at 6pm at the Merritt Island Library.

If any members know of someone that would like to be an outside vendor, please reach out to Carolyn at 321-917-3531 or cjane.anderson@gmail.com. We have plenty of space!!

Laura will be emailing out Sponsor sheets to all the members. We expect everyone to get at least one sponsor. More is better!!

FEBRUARY

If you would like to order one of our PCOS embroidered shirts, you will need to bring your shirt(s) and “cash” to the February meeting. (amount TBD)

MARCH

VOUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS. We start signing up volunteers for the show.

Posters and cards will be passed to the members to hand out

“COMPLETED” Sponsor forms are due back to Laura by the March member meeting.

APRIL

We will have our Niche display demonstration.

We will have an explanation of the registration process for members submitting plants for judging.

MAY

IT'S SHOW TIME!!!

UPDATING DATABASE

As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain accurate records, we are currently updating our database. To ensure that we have the correct information on file, we kindly ask for your assistance in verifying your email address, phone number, birth month, and AOS Membership status. We extend our gratitude to those who took the time to verify and update their details during the October meeting. If you have not yet done so, we kindly request that you confirm your information by sending it to our dedicated membership email address: pcos.membership.2025@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued membership.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026

Annual Membership Dues are due January 1st, and become delinquent February 15th.

Individual Membership is \$20

Dual Membership is \$30

Credit Cards and Cash are only accepted at the meetings while Checks can be mailed to the following address

PCOS

Attn: Membership

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JoAnn Amos
Scott Anderson
Laura Blackmon
Louise Cettina
Charis Gaines
Bryon Gardner
Julie Howard
Mary Ellen Jelen
Becky Kenyon
Ed Kidder
Mercedes Millette
Wanda Morales
James Rice
David Shores
Jennifer Starr
Sharon Shaw-Walters
Sharon Wheeler
Lisa Whitaker





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

UPCOMING SHOWS

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society "Orchid Magic." Charles F. Dodge City Center, 601 City Center Blvd, Pembroke Pines, FL. January 9-11, 2026.

Sarasota Orchid Society and Sale. Municipal Auditorium, Sarasota, FL. January 10-11, 2026

FL West Coast Orchid Society "A Rainbow of Orchids" Seminole Rec Center, 9100 113th St N, Seminole, FL. January 31-February 1.

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>



2026 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIMEN

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dixon

TREASURER

Tammy Cheng

SECRETARY

Charis Gaines

DIRECTORS

Lois Fletcher (2026)

Ann Wade (2026)

Karen Chandler (2025-26)

Bruce Tate (2025-26)

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

PCOS Mailing Address:

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elizabeth Bishop

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

GREETERS

Margaret Smith & Jennifer Starr

AOS LIAISON

Betty Adamson

RAFFLE

JoAnn Amos

WEBMASTER

Bill Jelen

AUDIO

Scott Anderson

REFRESHMENTS

Erin Boden

SHOW CHAIRMAN

Carolyn Anderson

Website:

PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org