

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

March 2026

President's Message

Well, I hope, for my orchid's sake, that we've had the last of the cold weather. I'm exhausted from bringing them in and out and in and out and... ! I hope all your plants have survived this really cold winter. Unfortunately, it will probably be the same next year.

Let me say a quick word about dues. They are due in January and the by-laws state are delinquent by February 15th and you will be dropped from membership by March 1. This year we will hold off until the meeting on March 11th. After that, anyone not having paid will be dropped from membership and taken off the newsletter distribution list. So, please "get 'er done". We don't want to lose anyone.

We've have scheduled this year's bus trip for March 27th to the Amazing Thailand Rainbow Orchid International Festival in Homestead FL. This is a great deal for \$35. At this point we only have about half the bus filled so we need for you to sign up and pay if you want to go. You can bring a guest (for \$35) and we're also inviting BCOS members to go as well. We will not schedule another bus trip until January 2027 which will be the Tamiami International Orchid Festival.

We now begin intense preparations for our orchid show in May. Even if you don't plan to enter a plant (you should!) or do a niche (you should also do that!), there is a lot to learn about orchids at our next two meetings. Classifications, displaying orchids (do you know your color wheel?), how to maintain your orchids for their best appearance, etc. We also need volunteers to sign up and sponsor sheets turned in. So much going on and it's really exciting with all the planning and member interaction. Be a part of it! Yes, it's work, but it's FUN work and very rewarding as an orchid enthusiast.

See you on the 11th,

Laura



CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

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

Wednesday, March 11th, 7pm.
General Meeting.

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

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

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

Saturday, August 1. Ramble.

SUNSHINE

Deepest sympathy to Sally and Peter Pancoast on the loss of their beloved son-in-law.

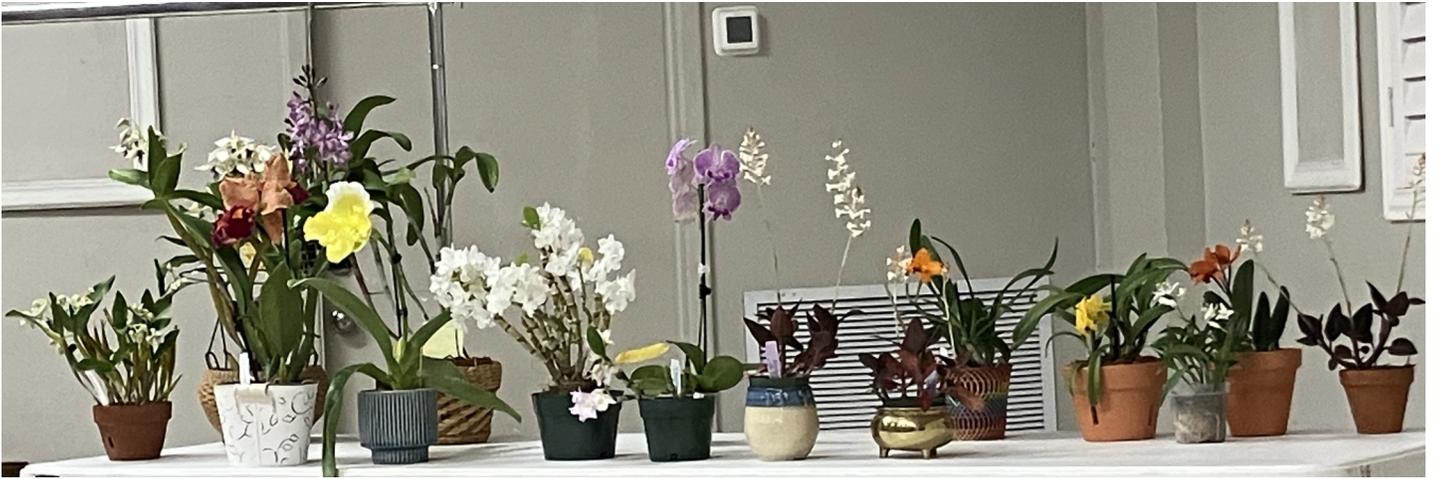
Speedy get well wishes to Bill Croucher as he recovers from his surgery.

Speedy get well wishes to Sharon Nelson as she recovers from her ankle injury.

Betty

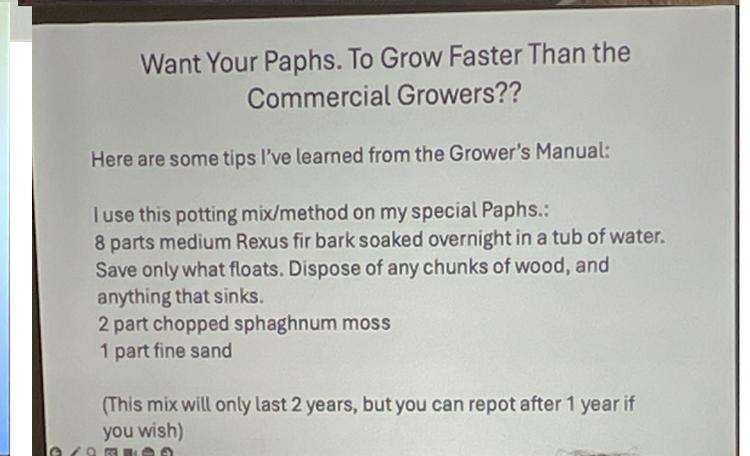
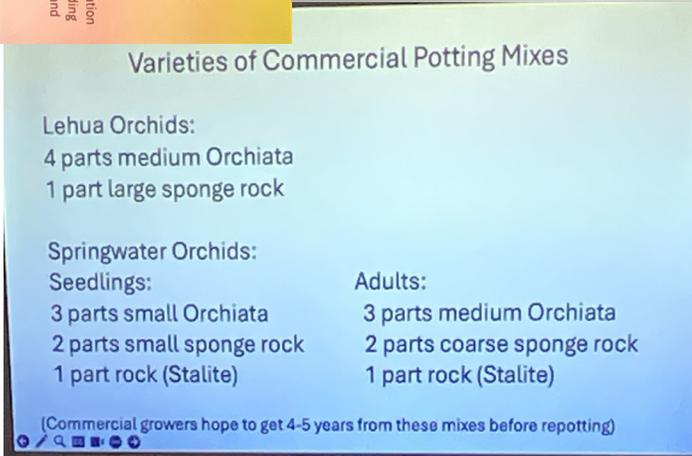
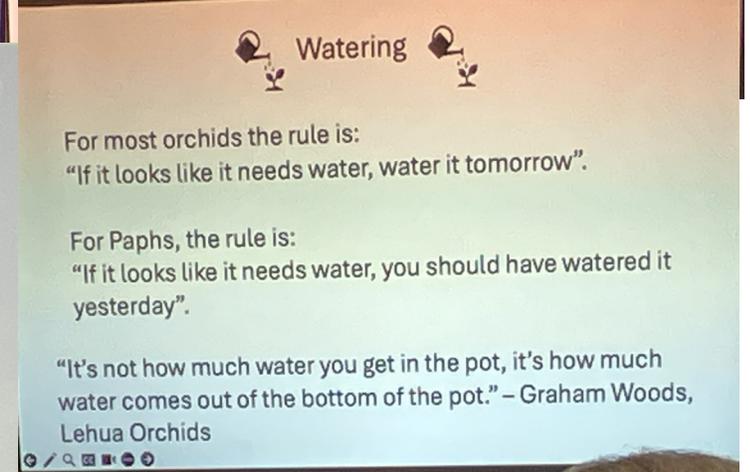
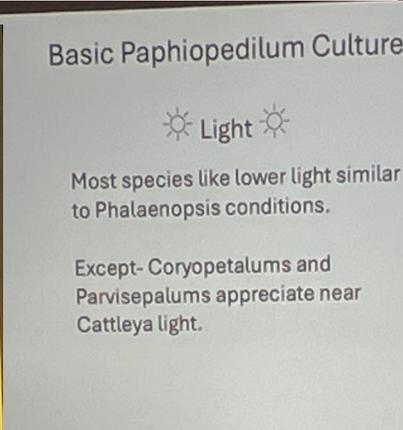
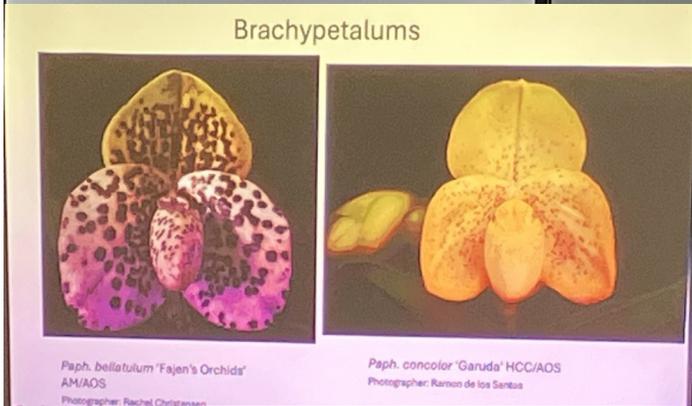
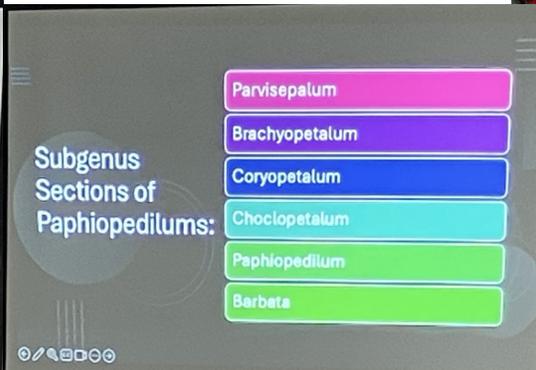
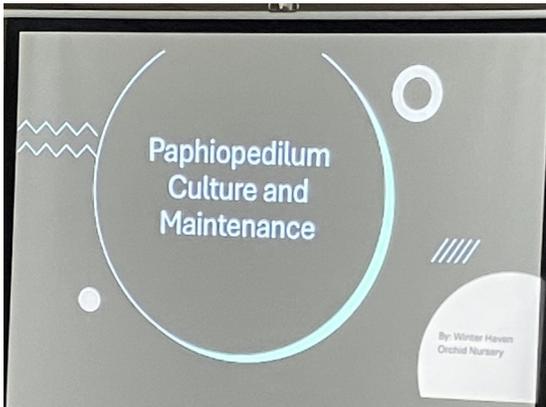
Plant forum

MARCH



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Keith and Dina Emig from Winter Haven Orchids gave a presentation on "Paphiopedilums, Culture and Maintenance".



Now Let's Demonstrate Hands-on



After the lecture, Keith demonstrated repotting Paphiopedilums and invited members to get involved. Repotted orchids were raffled.



They also donated orchids to the club raffle and brought many for their sale table.



2026 Orchid Show

“Wild About Orchids”

Things are moving along nicely for this year's show! I hope our members are thinking about what areas they would like to volunteer for!!

Below is a brief schedule of what lies ahead:

ON GOING

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!!

If you would like to order one of our PCOS embroidered shirts, please bring the shirt(s) of your choice to the March member meeting, along with \$13.00 in cash for each shirt that you bring. This will cover the cost of the embroidery + tax.

MARCH

Our March Show Meeting for our show chairs will be held on Monday, March 2nd at the Merritt Island library at 6pm.

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

Our April Show Meeting for our show chairs will be held on Monday, April 6th at the Merritt Island library at 6pm.

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!!!

Wednesday, April 29th: Society Set-up
Please arrive at 12:00

Thursday, 30th: Vendor Set-up
Please arrive at 8:00

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

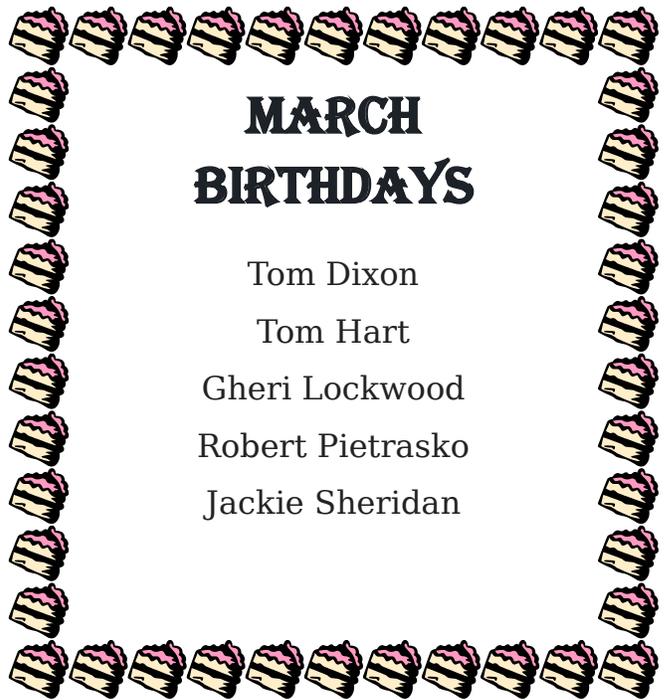


Express your creative side!

One of the most talked about venues of our annual show are the niches. 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. Niches can be done by an individual or team. The orchids you use do not need to be your own. You may "borrow" orchids from other members in the club.

Email Karen Chandler (kchandler01@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in participating or for more information.

There are only 6 niche spots and members signing up first get their selection of available niche location!!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tom Dixon

Tom Hart

Gheri Lockwood

Robert Pietrasko

Jackie Sheridan

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.

Margaret Croucher – Clerking Chair

Winter Orchid Care – Cold Damage

Generally, temperatures between 50–80°F are ideal for orchids, but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100°F or drops even into the upper 30s will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when thinking about how to care for your orchids in winter.

Orchids can handle the cold much easier when they are dry, so to be sure and protect them from rain and adjust your watering schedule so the plants have sufficient time to dry out before the cold.

The degree of cold hardiness is influenced by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant, and the plant's native environment. Some species, such as many *Phalaenopsis*, will always be killed or seriously damaged by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.

Cold damage symptoms usually become visible from hours to days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure.

General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaked lesions, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower than normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

Frost damage occurs when the cells freeze and burst. Freeze damage looks like dark greyish or purplish water-soaked areas that spread a bit over the course of a few hours to days after exposure, and then stop spreading. This damage will be found on the most exposed parts of the plant. There is no recovery from frost damage, as the cells are destroyed, although recovery from chill injury may be possible, so long as the bulk of the plant was protected and there are growth buds to start growing again.

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners (unless it's complete freeze damage). Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, warm the plant slowly, keep the medium moist, and give it a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full complement of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue as normal.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

*Excerpts from an AOS article
by Susan Jones
appearing on-line in 2018*



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

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. "Orchids in Bloom" March 14 -15, 2026. Coral Gables.

Jacksonville Orchid Society. "Orchid Jungle" March 14-15, 2026. Jacksonville.

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.

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.



2026 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dixon

TREASURER

Tammy Cheng

SECRETARY

Charis Gaines

DIRECTORS

Lois Fletcher (2026)

Ann Wade (2026)

Karen Chandler (2026-27)

Bruce Tatje (2026-27)

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

PCOS Mailing Address:

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

Website:

PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

PLANT FORUM

Betty Adamson

MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Smith

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Elizabeth Bishop

SUNSHINE

Betty Adamson

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Margaret Smith & Jennifer Starr

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