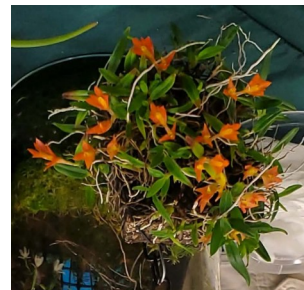


# *Platinum Coast Orchid Society*

## *The Rhizome*

### *October 2026*



#### President's Message

Ah, Fall is here! Yes, it is! For those of you who maybe don't recognize the changing of seasons in Florida, Fall is, by far, the easiest to see. The oak trees are dropping acorns. The maple tree leaves are turning dark red. The bald cypress needles are starting to turn a copper-orange color and will fall, leaving the trees bare until the beautiful lime green flush of needles in the spring. Nighttime temperatures are in the 60's and daytime temps are upper 80's. Usually, the humidity drops and far-off sounds, like airplanes in the sky, are more distinct. The angle of the sun is greater and southern windows begin getting direct sunlight. The sunlight is also softer, not the brash harshness of summertime. There are also changes in the way we grow orchids, as you'll see in the AOS article later in this newsletter. Take time to enjoy all the changes around you and pray we don't get the hard freezes we had last winter. I'm still cleaning out dead tree limbs and bushes, just enjoying being outside when it's not raining!

We have a lot of upcoming business to take care of in October and November. At the October General Meeting we will be voting on an amendment to the bylaws which could change the name of our orchid society. Remember, to vote YES for the amendment will change our name to Space Coast Orchid Society. To vote NO means no change to the bylaws and we will continue to be as known Platinum Coast Orchid Society. Also, you must be in attendance at the meeting to vote. Our bylaws are specific about "a vote of the members present."

October is also the month of our annual picnic. It is held under the pavilion at Cocoa Beach Country Club, right next to the swimming pool. It's a fun time in a beautiful setting. One year we even saw manatees swimming in the area! The meat, usually pulled pork and chicken, is provided by the Society. Appetizers, side dishes and desserts are brought by the members. So, it's great food and great fun playing BINGO 4 Orchids. Make sure you mark Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

In November we have the election of 4 officers and 2 (of the 4) directors to serve on the 2027 Board for our society. Although we have a slate of officers, nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting in November. See the blurb posted later in this newsletter for more details.

That's all for now. See you October 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

**Wednesday, October 14th,**  
6 p.m. Board Meeting.

**Wednesday, October 14th.**  
7 p.m. General Meeting.

**October 18th.** PCOS Picnic.  
Noon. Cocoa Beach Country Club.

**Wednesday, November 11th,**  
6 p.m. Board Meeting.

**Wednesday, November 11th.**  
7 p.m. General Meeting.

**December 9th.** PCOS Holiday  
Party.

#### *SUNSHINE*

We all would like to send condolences and our Sympathy to Barbara Chapman in the loss of her Mother in early September.

Karen Andreas is doing very well since her hand surgery. She has returned to her other passion of riding her horse. Congratulations on your speedy and healthy recovery. Bring on the next surgery!!

Violet Smith has had her knee replacement and has recently started her Physical Therapy on Merritt Island. She has been getting support and help from her husband and neighbors. Violet, we wish you continued improvement and ease of mobility. Hope to see you all at the October Meeting.

We wish any member not mentioned a healthy and speedy recovery. Please let me know what we can do to support you.

Please contact Mary Ellen Jelen at 330-715-2874 if you or another PCOS member is in need of some sunshine. Please do not disclose any personal information that the person has not granted permission to give

## OCTOBER SPEAKER

This month's speaker is Mike Sands, Certified Horticulturist & Master Naturalist for the city of Wellington in Palm Beach County and owner of Tangled Roots Orchid Nursery in Loxahatchee Florida. He is an experienced orchid specialist with a passion for helping growers succeed.



Mike specializes in bifoliate cattleyas often referred to as the misunderstood cattleya. In this presentation, Mike will cover essential chemical care for orchids, addressing common challenges such as pests and fungal issues. He'll discuss the use of both organic and synthetic chemicals, as well as best practices for fertilization, highlighting important do's and don'ts. Whether you're a novice or an experienced orchid enthusiast, Mike's expertise will help you nurture healthy, thriving plants.

He will be supplying orchids for our club raffle, and also plants to sell to club members during the meeting.

### Proposed Bylaw Change Vote in October 2026

As recorded in the minutes of the General Membership meeting on June 10, 2026, a motion was made and passed to start the process needed for a name change of our society. A request was made for name submittals which was placed on the July 8<sup>th</sup> agenda. After a discussion on the pros and cons of changing the name, a vote on the name to consider was postponed to the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. In September a motion was made and passed by majority vote to move forward with the name Space Coast Orchid Society.

To make a name change official, the Society bylaws, Article 1, Section 1, must be amended. At the October 14, 2026 General Membership meeting, a decision on the proposed name change will be voted on by those in attendance, "provided one-fourth of the membership is present" (Article IX, Section 1). Mail-in voting is not permitted by the Society bylaws.

At the October 14, 2026 meeting a vote to "amend Article 1, Section 1, Sentence 1 of the Society bylaws to read "The organization is to be known as the Space Coast Orchid Society" will be on the agenda under Old Business.

An affirmation vote – **YES**- will amend the bylaws and change our name to Space Coast Orchid Society

A negative vote – **No**- will defeat the amendment as proposed and our name will remain Platinum Coast Orchid Society

Please contact Laura Blackmon ([leblackmon@bledsoe.net](mailto:leblackmon@bledsoe.net)) if you have any questions.

## SEPTEMBER 9TH MEETING



Photos by Jennifer Starr

## 2026 PCOS PICNIC

Our annual picnic is set for Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cocoa Beach Country Club Pavilion starting at Noon. Set up for those who can come a little early to help will start around 11:00.

The Society provides the meat, rolls and drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish, an appetizer or a dessert to share. We play Bingo and every family will go home with an orchid.

If you have not already signed up, you can sign up at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Society meeting, or you can notify Margaret Croucher by email that you plan to attend, the number in your family, and what you are bringing. Margaret's email is [mpcroucher@att.net](mailto:mpcroucher@att.net)

Come and enjoy good food, Bingo, and take home an orchid as a prize. It's also a great opportunity to get to know some of your fellow Society members better.



## Upcoming Board Election in November

At the September meeting, Mary Ellen Jelen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers and directors for the 2027 Board. Special thanks to Mary Ellen, Jennifer Starr and Charis Gaines for serving on the committee.

President: Carolyn Anderson

Vice President: Mike Starr

Secretary: Lois Fletcher

Treasurer: Bill Jelen

Directors: Wanda Morales (serving first year of 2027-2028 term)  
Marie Barber (2027-2028)

Per our bylaws, at the regular November meeting, nominations may be made from the floor in addition to the names presented by the Nominating Committee. The election shall be by ballot and a simple majority shall elect. If no additional nominations are made from the floor for an elected position and there is only one candidate for an elected position, the presiding officer may declare the candidate elected by acclamation.

# **Tamiami International Orchid Festival**

## **Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center (Fuchs Pavilion) Miami, FL**

**Date:**

Friday, January 15, 2027

**Pick-up Location:**

Martin Andersen Senior Center, Rockledge, FL

**Departure Time:**

7:00am sharp

**2<sup>nd</sup> Pick-up Location:**

Eau Gallie & John Rhodes Blvd. (Perimeter Parking Lot), Melbourne, FL

**Departure Time:**

7:30am

**Departure Time From Miami:**

4:00pm-5pm(ish)

**Cost:**

\$40.00 per person

**The details are as follows:**

**Admission:** Festival admission is included with your bus fare.

**Travel & Refreshments:** Drive time is approximately 4 hours each way. We will provide donuts and water for the trip down, and light snacks for the return journey.

**Meals:** Please feel free to purchase a meal from one of the many vendors at the show to eat on the ride home, as we will not be stopping for dinner.

**Storage:** There is plenty of storage room under the bus for your purchases. Please ensure you bring a storage container clearly marked with your name for your items.

**RSVP:** Please email or text me by **December 1, 2026**, or you can sign up at our member meetings:

- **Email:** [cjane.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:cjane.anderson@gmail.com)

- **Phone:** 321-917-3531

- **Payment:** Payments can be made at the October, November, and December member meetings, or you can mail your check to the following:

PCOS

ATTN: Bus Trip

PO Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

**All payments must be received by December 31, 2026**

## Excerpts from AOS Orchid Cultural Calendar

### Things to Do in Florida October - December

The cool nights and shorter days of autumn seem to be just what is needed to get the best out of your plants. By October, the relentless heat and humidity of the summer months have abated and plants will show marked refreshment. Shading, heating and protective cover: Watch for too much shading; orchids want light at all times and unless you're careful, you will have less blooms because of too much shade.

**Watering:** Keep humidity as high as possible, but do not over-water. Try to keep water from the leaves of paphiopedilums and phragmipediums, as the newly forming buds tend to rot when water stands in the leaf axils.

**Feeding:** The safest bet is to discontinue all feeding during the coldest months. If your orchids are under controlled heat, this does not apply and you can continue to fertilize through the fall and winter.

**Insecticides:** There is little need for preventive sprays this month; spray or treat only where damage is noted.

This season should be a pleasant one—no potting except in emergencies. Cattleyas and Dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrids make a wonderful splash of color all over the place. Cattleyas really show off in the cool weather; winter blooms are almost always superior to summer blooms. Phalaenopsis are all in spike. Mormodes are just finishing their sometimes-weird blooms. For those who like to putter—and for those who know how busy potting they will be in a few months, this month is a time to clean the growing area.

Hygiene is critical this time of the year in controlling fungal diseases. Clean all old or dead leaves out of your area and be sure the areas under the benches have no dead or decaying material to encourage fungus and rot. If you re-use pots, now is the time to wash and sterilize them. Cut off all dead pseudobulbs and yellowing leaves.

**Dendrobiums:** Water should be reduced in November for Dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrids. Do not dry them enough to shrivel the canes. Do not increase watering frequencies until the new leads begin to show—usually January or later depending on the temperature. These plants are very unhappy if allowed to get too cold and night temperatures should always be above 60°F (16°C). By October, they should be in bud and coming into bloom nicely. By December, the blooming season will have largely passed and the plants will need much less water. Dendrobium nobile and its hybrids, all deciduous dendrobiums, Dendrobium lindleyi (aggregatum), Dendrobium jenkinsii, should be moved outside and gradually given almost full morning sun. Prosthechea citrina and Laelia speciosa should also be moved outside. These plants should be given no water other than normal rainfall. These plants need to be given a period of very cool conditions and do not protect them unless nights will actually drop to the freezing point.

**Cycnoches chlorochilon:** is in bud and bloom now. Water these plants sparingly and after they finish blooming, keep a close watch for new buds—if they do not spike by December 15, take them out of the pots, wash the roots, pull—do not cut—the bulbs apart and stand them in empty pots. Water very sparingly and do not repot until new leads show in February, March and April. This same advice holds for **mormodes** and **catasetums**. Old bulbs will sprout new leads but not if the old bulbs are left attached to the most recently matured pseudobulb. In such cases, only the front lead will produce new growth.

**Oncidiums:** Almost all oncidiums go nearly dormant during November and December. Stop fertilizer and water less. If you are growing out of doors or in a shade house, the safest plan is to stop all fertilizing until spring. Water all plants less. By this time, you should make your plans for heating on cold nights. In this type of growing area many genera will blast their buds if the temperature is kept too high. Do not use artificial heat unless the temperature is expected to go below 40°F or move small collections inside on the coldest nights. Keep a close watch for fungi. All plants should have moving air during the winter season, and try not to crowd them.

**Phalaenopsis:** Phalaenopsis should be in spike for their blooming in February and March. Optimally, the difference between day and night temperatures should never exceed 20 degrees. This, of course, is impossible except in controlled greenhouses and on windowsills. To keep bud blast at a minimum, keep night temperatures above 50°F and do not allow abrupt changes in temperature.

Contrary to popular belief, phalaenopsis are easy to grow in Florida. Water carefully; do not waterlog the roots, but never to let the roots dry completely once the plant is in bud. High humidity is a must. High artificial night temperatures will cause bud blast. Stake developing spikes early but loosely enough not to bind the growing spike. Staking early will help to give the spike a better presentation.

**Vandas:** Vandas need sufficient heat, above 60°F, and no repotting and no fertilizer because there is very little root action.

**Epidendrums, Encyclias and Prosthecheas:** Epidendrums require dry roots between waterings. Most of these plants will be showing some root action and new leads. Give them somewhat more water than other plants. When you water, water heavily—then leave them alone for four to five days.



**American Orchid Society**

*Education. Conservation. Research.*

*Affiliated Society*

## UPCOMING

**January 30-31, 2027**, Florida West Coast Orchid Society's "A Rainbow of Orchids", Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg Recreation Center, 7901 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, St Petersburg, FL.

**January 15-17, 2027**, Tamiami International Orchid Show, Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center (Fuchs Pavilion, 10901 SW 24<sup>th</sup> St., Miami, FL.

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](http://www.aos.org) for articles, advice on growing orchids, and lots of free information.

Ask Margaret Croucher 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](http://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>

**AOS Greenhouse Chats: Must register online at [AOS.org/orchids/webinars](http://AOS.org/orchids/webinars)**

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30-9:30 EST

Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9:30 EST

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhouse-chat@aos.org](mailto:greenhouse-chat@aos.org) two days prior to event.

## **2026 PCOS OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** Laura Blackmon

**VICE PRESIDENT** Tom Dixon

**TREASURER** Charis Gaines

**SECRETARY** Tammy Cheng

### **DIRECTORS**

Lois Fletcher (2026)

Wanda Morales (2026)

Karen Chandler (2026-27)

Bruce Tatje (2026-27)

**PAST PRESIDENT** Margaret Croucher

## **BE PART OF THE TEAM**

### **PCOS Mailing Address:**

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

P.O. Box 540991

Merritt Island, FL 32954

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **PLANT FORUM**

Ed Kidder

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Margaret Smith

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Elizabeth Bishop

### **SUNSHINE**

Mary Ellen Jellen

### **GREETERS**

Margaret Smith & Jennifer  
Starr

### **AOS LIAISON**

Margaret Croucher

### **RAFFLE**

JoAnn Amos

### **PUBLICITY**

Erin Boden

### **WEBMASTER**

Bill Jelen

### **AUDIO**

Scott Anderson

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Mike Starr

### **SHOW CHAIRMAN**

Carolyn Anderson

**Website:** <https://PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org/>

**FaceBook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166627883901964>