

Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhizome

February 2026

President's Message

The first meeting of the new year we always have the installation of a new PCOS Board. While the officers are elected for one-year terms, they can be elected to the same position for two years running. That is why I'm again President, Tom Dixon is Vice President, Tammy Cheng is Secretary and Charis Gaines is Treasurer. We have four Directors which serve alternating (even vs. odd year elections) two-year terms. Ann Wade and Lois Fletcher have one more year in their positions. Two Directors will be leaving and I want to thank both Carolyn Anderson and Phyllis Gatreaux for their service this past year. As they exit the Board, we have two new incoming Directors: Karen Chandler and Bruce Tatje. I'm really looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

I hope each member will get to know all four Directors. They are the easiest connection to the governing body of our society because they are sitting next to you at our meetings. If you have any issues, suggestions, or complaints about PCOS please be sure to let them know and they will bring your concerns to the full Board for consideration.

Betty Adamson has conducted our installation ceremony for as long as I can remember. She does a magnificent job outlining the duties and expectations of each position, while eliciting a promise from each of us to serve with honesty, integrity and dedicated service to the Society. Betty goes even further preparing the orchids given to each Board member with ribbons representing the essence of each position. Thank you, Betty for such a beautiful ceremony.

Now last, but not least, thanks go to Margaret Croucher, who serves as Immediate Past President on the Board. She was responsible for the beautiful and very tasty cake that was served. Yum, yum!

So, as we begin a new year, I hope everyone takes advantage of all the Society has to offer. Not only meetings, speakers, picnics, orchid sales, raffles and parties, but also participation in our annual orchid show. This is the most important money-making project we have and earns enough to keep your annual dues low and provide the wonderful speakers we have at our meetings. Please volunteer to serve in some capacity, be it niches, setting up/tearing down, raffle booth, clerking, or any of the other areas where help is needed. We especially need members finding sponsors who provide the gift cards, raffle items, and award money for 'best' orchids. If you are uncomfortable asking for donations, make one yourself. Several of our members are 'sponsors' by contributing funds that can be used for the awards, or buying items for door prizes and raffle baskets. Do your part, whatever that may be, to make our annual Orchid Show the best it can be.

See you February 11th!

Laura



Dendrobium blooming in spite of cold—Betty A.

CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

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

Wednesday, February 11th, 7pm. General Meeting. Topic: Paphiopedilum Culture and Maintenance.

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

SUNSHINE

Expecting Jodi Kiddleson back soon. She missed most of last year with illness.

Sharon Walters is still recuperating from shoulder surgery and hopes to be back before the Show.

Thoughts go out to Ed Kidder and his partner, Jed Orcutt, who has had another surgery and hopes to start a trial program soon.

Glad to see some of our ailing members return this year.

Hopefully everyone will stay healthy and warm while keeping those plants cozy!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Keith and Dina Emig from Winter Haven Orchids will pay us another visit in February. The topic of the lecture will be “Paphiopedilums, Culture and Maintenance”.

Keith and Dina grow, hybridize, and register specimens from numerous species in the orchid world. They have received 45 AOS awards so far including nine for their original crosses. Keith's original interest in orchids started with a visit to his dentist where he learned that he was a hobbyist that grew multiflora Phalaenopsis. What resulted for Keith was an interest in obtaining information and as many plants as possible and experimenting with combining and cross pollinating with only his imagination to guide him. A flasking case was built and has been part of their kitchen for a decade and is the subject of another lecture they offer and could be in our club's future. They have flasked more than 1,000 seed pods which only leads to the excitement over the next new cross and award. Orchid fever is infectious and there is no substitute for the company of other enthusiasts with whom to share this fever.

Keith is a member of Ridge Orchid Society in Lakeland. He's been on board of directors for more than a decade and president of the society at least seven times. He is also the author of an article “Luck of the Draw” in the March 2017 AOS magazine. Contact Betty Adamson as to the availability of this certain copy if you're interested in following this story.

Tom Dixon PCOS.



Hello from Krull-Smith!

We had a great afternoon at Krull-Smith's winter festival. We hand delivered 500 show cards to our multiple vendors who were at the show.

Several beautiful plants later we headed over to Orchids in Bloom to deliver more cards for her to pass out. We may have bought a few plants there too. Pam was a lovely hostess and fed us a bowl of homemade soup.

Tammy Mount



INSTALLATION OF 2026 OFFICERS



2026 board, right to left: President Laura Blackmom, vice Tom Dixon, secretary Tammy Cheng, treasurer Charis Gaines, directors Lois Fletcher, Bruce Tatje, and Karen Chandler, and Past Pres. Margaret Croucher. Missing is director Ann Wade.

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

Plant forum



JANUARY



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!!

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!!

Laura will be emailing out Sponsor sheets to all the members. If you don't get the form by email, she will have it at the February meeting.

We expect everyone to get at least one sponsor. More is better!!

FEBRUARY

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

If you would like to order one of our PCOS embroidered shirts, please bring the shirt(s) of your choice to the next member meeting, along with \$11.00 for each shirt that you bring. This will cover the cost of the embroidery + tax.

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!!!

Wednesday, April 29th: Society Set-up

Thursday, 30th: Vendor Set-up

Friday-Sunday, May 1st, 2nd, 3rd: SHOW TIME!!!!

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Biondi
Valerie Daugherty
Clive Gay
Bill Jelen
Larry Larabee
Carl Lufkin
Fletcher Macdonald
Al Valentine
Jo Waits



Rhyncholaeliacattleya Liou Hope 'Red in Snow'
(Rlc Cheng Mary X Rlc Mount Hood).

After multiple dried sheaths finally got two blooms! While the flowers were beautiful and fragrant they didn't supinate (turn) so their presentation was very bad. Just proves orchids will do it their way!

Betty A.

AOS Monthly Checklist for January and February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescent sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossum-type Oncidiums

These cool-growing orchids once classified as Odontoglossums are now considered part of the genus *Oncidium*. These orchids and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard Paphiopedilum insigne-derived hybrids, which are called "bulldogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.



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

Venice Area Orchid Show and Sale, February 7-8, 2026 at the Venice Community Center.

Naples Orchid Society "Orchid Rodeo", February 20-22, 2026 at Naples Botanical Garden.

Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival, April 10-12, 2026 at Krull Smith Nursery in Apopka



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 (2026-27)

Bruce Tatje (2026-27)

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Croucher

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Scott Anderson

REFRESHMENTS

Erin Boden

SHOW CHAIRMAN

Carolyn Anderson

Website:

PlatinumCoastOrchidSociety.org