Platinum Coast Orchid Society

The Rhyzome

December 2025

President's Message

Each January we look ahead to an entire year - twelve months – of another chapter in our lives. By the end of it we wonder where did the time go? It seems we're moving at such a fast pace and our lives are so full that we almost miss the time passing. As John Lennon wrote, "Another year over, and new one just begun." Yes, but the main question he asks is "and what have you done?"

I know for me this has been a year of loss and a year of wonderful memories. Of course I have other commitments, but PCOS has been a truly enjoyable experience since I joined almost 10 years ago. Being president has sometimes this year been a "heavier" experience than one might wish for, but I enjoy our meeting and activities, talking and learning about orchids and being in the company of our members. Yes, the speakers are great and being at picnics and parties, on bus trips, and putting on the annual orchid show are exciting. But the real joy is being with people of like-mind, sharing part of their lives (even if only a little bit) and collecting memories to keep for the rest of our lives.

So, I hope next year each and every one of you continue to put time and effort into this organization for the benefit it gives you personally. We are only as strong as our least involved or dissatisfied member, so let's make the most of it.

(I forgot to mention that buying orchids is also a thrill!)

Some people may not know that John Lennon is really talking about peace and war. I'm just talking about living your life and enjoying each day even though you know hard times can be just around the corner. So, to everyone, have…

"A very merry Christmas

And a happy New Year

Let's hope it's a good one."

PEACE,

Laura

CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, December 10th, 6pm
Holiday Party.

2026

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

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

SUNSHINE

Blessings and best wishes to the Jelen Family.

Please remember Karen Andreas who recently had complicated leg surgery.

I said a Holiday Prayer for all of us. Treasure the season and all stay strong.

Happy growing in the New Year, value those orchids even when they don't bloom! Betty

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- ⇒ Gloria Aurand
- ⇒ Dennis Biondi
- ⇒ Thomas Brown
- ⇒ Tom Chaffee
- ⇒ Bill Croucher
- ⇒ Margaret Croucher
- ⇒ Marla Glover
- ⇒ Beatrice Hart
- ⇒ Scott Millette
- ⇒ Susan Pietrasko

RSVP FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Hi PCOS members. It's our Annual Holiday Party!

Tammy needs RSVP's by December 3rd.

Also include in the RSVP the number of guests coming and the dish you are bringing.

You can email Tammy at salonbellerouge@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone December 10th at 6pm.

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

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.

2026 ORCHID SHOW MEETINGS

"Wild About Orchids"

For all those chairing a position for the 2026 Orchid show, our monthly meetings will start in January.

We will meet at the Merritt Island Public Library on the first Monday of the month from 6pm – 7:30pm. The library is located at 1195 N Courtney Pkwy.

The complete list of dates for the meetings is:

- January 5th, 6pm-7:30pm
- February 2nd, 6pm-7:30pm
- March 2nd, 6pm-7:30pm
- April 6th, 6pm-7:30pm
- May – ORCHID SHOW!!
- June 1st, 6pm—7:30pm (post show meeting)

If you are not a chair but would like to be involved with the show, you are welcome to attend. Please reach out to Carolyn at cjane.anderson@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Flowers... are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty out values all the utilities of the world.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

plant forum DECEMBER

Photos by Patti

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Some Background...

- Genus endemic to the Greater Antilles & Bahamas in the Caribbean
- Named by Robert Brown (of Brownian Motion fame) in 1813
- Named in honor of little known botanist Arthur Broughton
  - Received first breadfruit trees from botanist of William Bligh's 2nd voyage (HMS Providence)

Broughtonia Species

- Two original species in genus
  - *Broughtonia sanguinea*
  - *Broughtonia negrilensis*
- Both endemic to Jamaica
- Found in hot, sometimes arid areas growing epiphytically (on trees) or lithophytically (on rocks, in leaf litter)

Broughtonia sanguinea

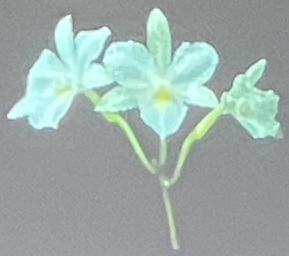
- Type species for genus
- Named for red color
- Shorter, greener leaf
- Flower (2 types)
  - North coast
    - Darker red
    - Flat, rounder, fuller form

Improvements through Breeding

Bro. sanguinea 'Pink Fairy'

Bro. sanguinea 'Xavier Hamilton' AM/AOS

Improvements through Breeding



Bro. sanguinea var. alba

Bro. sanguinea var. alba 'Mem. Claude H. Hamilton' AM/AOS

Environment

- Warm to hot
- Medium to high light – similar to Cattleya's (~50% shade or 2,500-3,500 fc)
- Very good air circulation
- NOT tolerant of over-watering, keep them dry
- Species like their roots exposed
- Main pests are: scale, mealybug and mites

Pesticides

- In general, not tolerant of the systemic pesticides Diazinon or Dimethoate (Cygon 2E).
- Instead, systemic insecticide Imidocloprid is recommended.
- For small/light infestations Isopropyl alcohol and a toothbrush is recommended
- Must repeat treatment at 1-week intervals for at least 3 weeks!

Potting

- Media
  - Species grow best on slabs of tree fern root, cork, driftwood or coconut husk.
    - Galvanized wire, plastic coated wire, panty hose to secure plant against slab VERY SECURELY (should not shift).
  - Hybrids may be grown in pots in mixes containing bark, shredded tree fern and charcoal.
  - Before mounting species, trim ALL roots right back to rhizome.

Broughtonia Hybrids

- Relative of Cattleya family
- Hybrids first produced in Hawaii during the 1950's by late W.W.G. Moir
  - First hybrid was Ctna. Rosy Jewel
    - *C. bowringiana* x *Bro. sanguinea*
    - Registered in 1956
- Popular for:
  - Strong red colors
  - Frequent flowering
  - Early bloomers (often in 2" pots)
  - Compact growth
  - Full round shape (from *Bro. sanguinea*)

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

2025

Ft. Pierce Orchid Society Show and Sale
December 13-14, 2025

2026

Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society "Orchid Magic"
January 9-11, 2026.

Sarasota Orchid Society and Sale
January 10-11, 2026

FL West Coast Orchid Society "A Rainbow of Orchids" (Seminole, FL)
January 31-February 1

2025 PCOS OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

PRESIDENT

Laura Blackmon

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Dixon

TREASURER

Charis Gaines

SECRETARY

Tammy Cheng

DIRECTORS

Carolyn Anderson (2025)

Lois Fletcher (2025)

Ann Wade (2025-26)

Phyllis Gautreaux (2025-26)

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

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