

# ORCHIDELIRIUM!

Newsletter of The Port St. Lucie Orchid Society  
February 2010 Volume XXII Issue 6

Editor: Diana Kulaga Email: diandfrank@bellsouth.net Tel: (772) 873-0663

Editorial Assistant: Donna Cobb Swift Email: donnacobbswift@aol.com Tel: 344-1622

Visit us on the Web at: [www.pslos.org](http://www.pslos.org)

## President's Message

Hello PSLOS Members and Friends,

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

2010 is moving along, and our March show is quickly approaching. We are very excited and looking forward to another spectacular event. Hellen and Michael are asking for volunteers, so contact them for more information.

Some of our members have been attending the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden meetings. They are very excited and would like to become involved. Michael is considering putting up an arbor or using trees to place orchids. We need to have a committee to keep in touch with the members and maintain the orchids. It sounds like a big job but once it is organized it should be a breeze. Anyone interested please give me a call.

Web site for the Garden:  
[www.pslbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.pslbotanicalgardens.org)

We will also have a stall at the Botanical Garden on Arbor Day, Feb 13. There will be a basket to raffle and information on the Society. Raffle proceeds will go to our scholarship. Feel free to come and join us. We did this last year, and had lots of fun while educating the public about orchids.

Jessica Benford  
President

## Society Shirts

How about those nifty shirts with our logo on them? You can get one for yourself. Take a shirt of your choosing to Burns Embroidery, 1970 SW Bayshore Blvd. in Port St. Lucie. The phone number there is 807-5775.

Michelle Burns will embroider our logo on your shirt for only \$12.00. What a great idea! Go get one today!

## February Meeting

With our show just around the corner, there will be a demonstration on how to design a tabletop arrangement. Please, bring plants in bloom so that we have enough variety. Don't worry if your plant doesn't have a name. What we need is ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS!

And, if you haven't yet signed on to help with the show, do it soon. This is a great team effort, and loads of fun. Don't miss out!

## Minutes of the January 2010 General Meeting

Jessica Benford convened the meeting at 1:00. Laurie Hart introduced new members; she also urged members to bring flowering orchids to the February meeting for use in a demonstration of table top design.

Diana Kulaga spoke about the recognition awards that were presented to long term members in December. She also talked about the field trip to the Tamiami Orchid Festival. Hellen Wagner and Michael Ortseifer addressed our March show and asked members to volunteer for various aspects of the show.

Shelley Hunsberger is assembling an educational Power Point presentation on the orchid environments in which our members grow. She will present this in April. Shay Morton gave the Treasurer's report. Shirley Melachrinoudis talked about a group cruise that members may avail themselves of.

Our speaker was Jo Lutrell of the PSL Garden Club. She showed us how to assemble a niche display.

After show & tell, door prizes and raffle, Jessica adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Renee Skalet  
Recording Secretary

## Coming Events Coming Events

February 2010

- 6th-7th: Venice Area OS Show; Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave, Venice. Barbara Wagner, (941) 923-7706 or barbjwagner@comcast.net.
- 13th-14th: Boca Raton OS Show; Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton. Jackie Wood, (561) 703-0278 or bocaorchidlady@aol.com.
- 26th-28th: Miami International Orchid Show, Doubletree Hotel & Convention Center, 777 NW 72nd Ave, Miami. Robert Fuchs, (305) 245-4570 or info@rforchids.com.

March 2010

- 12th-14th: Port St. Lucie Orchid Society Show, PSL Community Center, Airoso Blvd, Port St. Lucie. Hellen Wagner, (772) 879-0401 or hellenrwagner@aol.com.

### *Sunshine Corner*

Hellen Wagner was hospitalized in January. We are happy to note that she is now fine.

Olga Johnson has been experiencing health problems recently. Our very best thoughts stay with her.

### *Love to Cruise?*

The Society's Board has been looking into putting together a cruise, and we have some great information! Shirley Melachrinoudis, of CruiseOne, has a seven day package for us, and it sounds fantastic.

We are looking at the Carnival ship Valor, sailing from Miami on April 25th. From Miami we will go to Grand Cayman, on to an exciting new port, Isla Rowatan in Honduras, and then to Belize and Cozumel.

If we have enough people, we can hire a small bus to take us to and from Miami; if not, we can work out car pooling.

The prices are terrific: A balcony cabin is \$754 per person; ocean view cabins are \$624 pp; and inside cabins are \$524. We will be talking more about this in the coming months. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss the details and/or book the cruise, contact Shirley:

Shirley Melachrinoudis, CruiseOne  
Direct: (772) 530-2001 Business: (772) 878-8801  
Toll Free: (877) 818-8803  
cruiseoneshirley@yahoo.com www.cruiseoneshirley.com

### *Ask Dr. Laurie!*

**Dear Dr. Laurie:** How long can I keep my *Dendrobiums* and *Phalaneopsis* on my dining room table during these cold spells?

**Dear Reader:** *Dendrobium Phalenopsis* (a type of *Dendrobium*), or hard cane *dendrobiums*, is evergreen and cold sensitive; they do not like temperatures below 60 F. This is a tropical plant and will develop bud blast and leaf drop at lower temperatures. They do require bright light, good air circulation and high humidity. The *Nobile* type *Dendrobiums* need cool temperatures and a rest period before spring.

The *Phalenopsis* is the most popular house plant in the USA. We in Florida generally grow them on our patios and/or porches. They adjust to the dining room easily as long as we maintain good air circulation. If they are potted in plastic pots, we do not need to worry about humidity.

The main thing both types of orchids would be missing on the dining room table would be sufficient light. Luckily, our cold spells usually only last a couple of days and not months.

**Dear Dr. Laurie:** When my *Vandas* were in bloom, they had brown areas on the blooms and sometimes the buds just feel off before blooming. What is the problem?

**Dear Reader:** Thrips love Florida in the summer, and one of their favorite foods is *Vandas*. They are too small to be seen without a hand lens so they leave us wondering about what is wrong the plant.

To treat the problem you can use a soap spray of 1 Tsp of soap( do not use one with a degreaser in it) to 1 quart water. The plant must be completely sprayed including all the leaves. Spray in the morning so the spray will be dry before mid day sun. The treatment must be repeated once weekly for a total of three applications.

You can also use Malathion or Orthene to treat the problem. Remember when using these chemicals that the label is the law. Follow the directions and protect yourself and animals.

*"Dr." Laurie Hart*

### *Welcome a New Member!*

June S. Andrews  
206 Beach Avenue  
Port St. Lucie, 34952  
(772) 878-3131

*One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people!*



*Editor's Note: I came across this press release, and while it will not suit everyone, I hope it is of interest to some. It sounds like a fantastic day!*

**Friends of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, Inc.**

Striving to Preserve our Unique Ecology, "The Home of the Ghost Orchid"

P O Box 35, Everglades City, FL, 34139  
website: friendsoffakahatchee.org email:

DISCOVER THE FAKAHATCHEE ON A SIGNATURE SAFARI  
The Friends of Fakahatchee have released details of their signature event in the Fakahatchee Discovery Series, the "Safari" on Saturday, February 27. Here's an opportunity to explore nature in congenial company and enjoy the wonders of our Southwest Florida environment – it isn't all condos and malls! The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve has a unique ecology with myriad rare plants and animals. You might not see the mysterious Ghost Orchid or elusive Florida Panther during the Safari but guides will point out the flora and fauna that are so typical of this area.

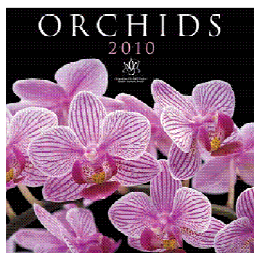
The Safari takes place from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. near the State Park ranger station off Janes Scenic Drive in Copeland (SR-29 about 3 miles north of US-41). Activities include: Scenic Tram Rides, Naturalist-guided Swamp Walks, Nature Walks at an easy level, Birding Walks, Wildlife Exhibits, Demonstration of a Prescribed Burn, Florida Photo Gallery, Professional Photography Hands-On Class, "Answer-Man Biologist" Info Booth, all culminating in a Sunset Bonfire. An optional activity will be a Swamp Buggy Rides.

The highlight of the Safari is a "Cracker Dinner" featuring a spit-roast whole hog and accompanied by unusual Olde Florida delicacies. Complimentary wine will be served.

Participants automatically become members in the Friends of Fakahatchee for a year so they can learn how the Friends help to protect this special area.

The cost is \$125 per person. Places are limited. You can book online at [www.friendsoffakahatchee.org](http://www.friendsoffakahatchee.org) or phone (239) 695-2905.

***The AOS Calendars Have Been Reduced!***



These gorgeous calendars are now available for only \$6.47 + \$2.48 shipping.

To order, call: (561) 404-2062 or (561) 404-2060

***Membership***  
Toby Trapkin, Chairwoman

There were 52 members and 2 guests in attendance at the January meeting. Please remember to wear your name tags to the meetings in order to be eligible for door prizes. If you are interested in becoming a member, email [traptoby@bellsouth.net](mailto:traptoby@bellsouth.net) or call (772)468-0057.

***American Orchid Society Events***

**Orchid Express!**

Trip to the Miami International Orchid Show  
Saturday, February 7th  
Leaves AOS Headquarters in Delray Beach at 8:30 AM  
\$30/AOS members; \$35/non-members  
Call Susan Wayman, (561) 404-2031

**Join other orchid lovers for Wine and Jazz in the Gardens!**

Third Thursday of the month, January through April, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. What better setting for music than the gorgeous gardens of the AOS?



AOS Headquarters.

***AOS Classes for February 2010***

- 2/6: Orchids in Your South Florida Garden  
Nick Ewy
- 2/27: Orchid Design Clinic  
Michael Ortseifer

For Information on the classes:  
(561) 404-2011 or email [swayman@aos.org](mailto:swayman@aos.org).

Visit the fabulous AOS web site! [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

***February Early Class***

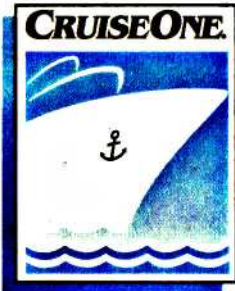
This month we will be discussing Vandas. The class meets at noon in room E, and is open to all without charge. I would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend.

Diana Kulaga  
[diandfrank@bellsouth.net](mailto:diandfrank@bellsouth.net) or 873-0663

***The Library is Open!***

Our library is open! Librarian Lin Smith will have a great selection of material for you to borrow. There are books, videos and more. Visit Lin at the next meeting!

Our library list is now online. Go to [www.pslos.org](http://www.pslos.org) to view it.



#1 In Cruising,  
Nationwide

Port St. Lucie, FL  
Direct: 772-530-2001  
Business: 772-878-8801  
Toll Free 877-818-8803  
cruiseoneshirley@yahoo.com  
www.cruiseoneshirley.com

**Shirley Melachrinoudis**  
PERSONAL CRUISE SPECIALIST



## Robinson's Collection

Orchids & other Exotic  
Plants

**Vivian (Robbie) & Barbara Robinson**

Port St. Lucie (772) 871-2841



February Meetings  
General Meeting

Tuesday, February 9th, 1:00  
Demonstration of a Table Top Design  
Member sale table; door prizes, show & tell  
and raffle  
Early Class, 12:00, Room E  
Vandas

Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16th, 1:00 PM  
at the Police Station next to City Hall  
All members are welcome at Board Meetings

## 2009-2010 Officers

**President:** Jessica Benford  
der1jess2@aol.com 408-0811  
**1st Vice President:** Laurie Hart  
paddy Laurie@bellsouth.net 337-2126  
**2nd Vice President:** Lara Amyx  
lara102@bellsouth.net 337-6377  
**Recording Sec:** Renee Skalet  
fsurenee@bellsouth.net 878-9223  
**Corresponding Sec:** Susan Spring  
spring@bellsouth.net 337-1713  
**Treasurer:** Shay Morton  
Shaymorton@comcast.net 337-6578  
**Membership:** Toby Trapkin  
traptoby@bellsouth.net 468-0057

### Trustees

**Class of 2010:** Diana Kulaga  
diandfrank@bellsouth.net 873-0663  
**Class of 2011:** Barbara Robinson  
Vivian.robinson@comcast.net  
871-2841  
**Class of 2012:** Hellen Wagner  
hellenwagner@aol.com 879-0401



Photo courtesy of Patrick McClintock

*Example of a winning table top display. Come to the February meeting and learn how to do your own!*