

# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

The purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest, provide education and enable exchange of information among those interested in the culture of orchids in all its aspects.

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 9  
SEPTEMBER 2016



## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER: THANH NGUYEN



Thanh Nguyen is the owner-operator of *Springwater Orchids* (Melbourne, FL). He is an engineer by trade, but has been collecting and growing orchids for over 30 years. His orchid business began in 2001, mainly selling on the internet but in recent years has gradually moved to orchid shows.

Thanh loves orchid species and although he grows and sells all orchids genera, his forte has always been the genus of *Paphiopedilum*. He collects fine plants which he grows, sells and breeds. He also enjoys sharing his experiences with customers and colleagues.

Thanh's passion in paphs has resulted in numerous award winning plants and an on-going breeding program using local lab work and a local growing environment.

Thanh's goals are to bring the excellence of a paphs' breeding program back to America, and augment the enthusiasm of paphs' growing. He is accomplishing this by sharing his growing experiences as educational programs at shows and society meetings. In this lecture he will cover a range of information from easy growing/flowering plants to state of the art breeding catered to most difficult collectors' interest. He will also address the conservation of breeding species, improving color and shape, exploring growing conditions to make growing paphs a joy, not aggravation!



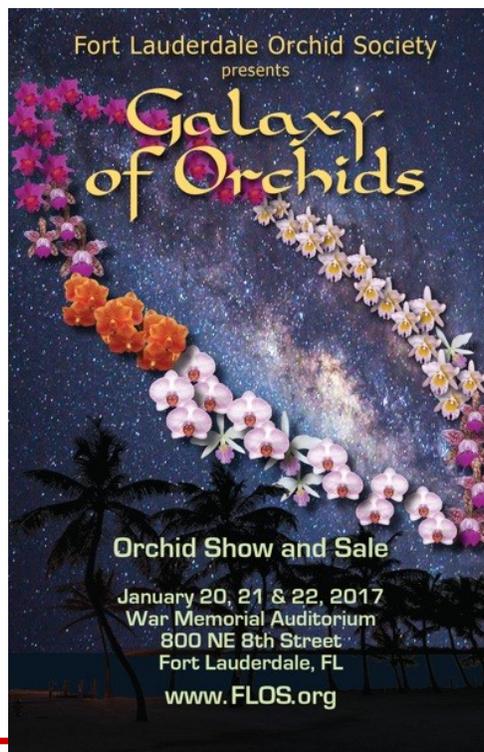
Give it a try, - buy a paph seedling!

### Members' orchids in August



## Mark Your Calendar

- September 12:** Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids – *Paphiopedilum* culture
- October 10:** FLOS Annual Auction – Do not bring refreshments. FLOS will supply Krispy Kreme glazed donuts and coffee. (see announcement on page 3)
- November 14:** Brian Monk from Blu Llama Orchids - Warm Growing Cymbidiums
- December 11:** FLOS Holiday Party at the Tower Club
- January 9:** Jose Esposito from Soroa Orchids speak on *Cattelya* culture.
- January 20, 21 & 22:** Annual FLOS Show & Sale (see the poster above)
- February 12:** Mike Owen, Wildlife Ranger at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve - Florida State Park. Mike will update us on the Cuban orchid re-introduction project FLOS is helping to sponsor.
- March 13:** Tom Bajza—growing cool orchids in south Florida



September Speaker

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Mark Your Calendar

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# MOVIE NIGHT: NOVA'S ORCHID HUNTER

August Movie Night

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AOS: "Rev Up" Your Plants

Movie night was a hit. Nova's *The Orchid Hunter* took us into the heart and minds of the orchid hunter, grower and collector in hopes of answering why orchids are so coveted. Unlike other flowers orchids are designed to be efficient, drawing their pollinators, and humans to them. The movie expelled the myth that orchid hunting was and is a debonair and romantic profession. Showing that historically, orchid hunting was highly competitive. Hunters were dangerous to each other and the environment, often using cutthroat tactics that destroyed habitat. Like their forefathers, amateur botanist, Tom Hart Dyke and his crew of amateur orchid hunters plucked orchids from their habitat, in hopes of discovering a new species. Tom's crew took several specimens to The Kew Botanical Gardens for identification. In the end, Tom had no luck with finding a new orchid to name after his Grand Mum "Crack".



To further demonstrate the value of naming a new unknown species, Nova brought us back stateside. In 2001, the world famous Kovachii orchid was discovered and named through Marie Selby Gardens. Selby's recollections of the day conveyed the sense of urgency to document the most breathtaking orchid discovered in nearly 100 years.



Today, most well-known species, especially popular orchids like Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums and Cattleyas are mass-produced. Kerry Herndon, from Kerry's Nursery, made a cameo appearance and showed-off his fully automated orchid production line that resembled a factory more than a nursery, which wowed the crowd.

## "Rev Up" Your Plants by Ray Barkalow

**Orchids** August 2016 [www.AOS.org](http://www.AOS.org)

We in the orchid world are second only to cannabis growers in the search for that "holy grail" product that will make our plants grow better. As my professional career was in the chemical industry, that bias may make me one of the best (worst?) examples of that. We experiment with fertilizer formulas, stimulants, inoculants, grain alcohol, worm teas — anything — that anyone, anywhere, has even *suggested* might be beneficial. What we often fail to recognize, however, is that all those things, as beneficial as they may be, are merely supplements to a far more basic, essential parameter — water.

Water is to a plant as air is to a car engine. When we step on the gas, we are not controlling the fuel pump, but are actually increasing the flow of air into the engine so that more fuel can be burned. Applying more fuel without that extra air is "flooding" the engine, which is counterproductive.

During photosynthesis, water is broken down into hydrogen and oxygen. There is an enzyme within the plant that can either bind to that oxygen, or to carbon dioxide that has been taken in through leaf stomata. If the enzyme binds the CO<sub>2</sub>, then carbon is "fixed," and plant growth occurs. If that enzyme binds to oxygen, however, no carbon is assimilated, and the binding energy used to a significant decrease in plant growth. That is where the roots and water supply come in.

If the roots of the plant are unstressed and the water supply is substantial, hormonal signals are sent from the roots to the leaves, and the stomata open, allowing the plant to expel oxygen accumulated during photosynthesis, and to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide. As the oxygen concentration within the leaf decreases and CO<sub>2</sub> increases, the probability of the enzyme binding to CO<sub>2</sub> increases, so carbon is assimilated at a greater rate, and the plant grows. If the water supply is insufficient, the stomata stay closed, less carbon is assimilated, and growth is reduced. To provide some sense of scale, consider that in general, plants are 85 percent water, 14 percent carbon,

and that remaining 1 percent is everything else, including all of the fertilizer minerals. With the use of those percentages and some conversion chemistry, in order for a plant to reach a weight of 1 pound (2.2 kg), it will need to absorb and process about 25 gallons (about 95 L) of water, and less than a teaspoon (5 ml) of fertilizer.

Consider what this means to our selection of potting media: If we use media that stay open and airy, even when saturated, then we have no fear of root suffocation, death and rot, so we can be very generous with our watering regimen, opening up the throttle" on plant growth. If on the other hand, we use a potting medium that can be waterlogged for a time, then we must wait for it to dry out before we water again, and during that time, when the available water supply is limited, we are actually slowing down the growth of our plants. Not only that, but if our potting medium and watering habits conspire to damage the root system, then the ability of the plant to take in water for growth is also stifled. Going back to my own chemical industry "roots" for a moment, those root growth stimulants can still play a significant role, as a bigger, more developed root system can absorb more water than a less developed one — sort of like upgrading from a two- to a four-barrel carburetor on your car. — *Ray Barkalow*, First Rays Orchids (email: [raybark@firstrays.com](mailto:raybark@firstrays.com)) (August 2016 [www.AOS.org](http://www.AOS.org))



*Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat 'Ty's..Rutgers Triumph', CCE/AOS 92pts. Grower: Ty Triplett; photographer: Maurice Marietti

## Welcome to our new members:

Robert H. Miller joined at 8/8/16 meeting

Monthly Ribbon Winners will return in September.

### Members' orchids in August



### Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society on Facebook

Share your orchid blooms at Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society on Facebook! Have that special plant that did not cooperate and bloom for our monthly meeting? Share your photo on our Facebook page! And remember, our page is also a great place to ask fellow members for advice, culture information and plant identification.

# MEMBERS' PAGE

## Keiki Club News

Last month the Keikis gathered in Lauderdale by the Sea for a stroll on Commercial Blvd. to observe and learn about grafting plants onto trees. Tony Millet led the group and showed us how the root and leaves had progressed from several months ago when he and other FLOS members mounted orchids to the trees bordering the street. Tony always provides tons of information and the Keikis left with lots of growing tips.

Keikis! Mark your calendars! Sandi Jones of Broward Orchid Supply will be hosting our monthly meeting on September 25th at 2 PM. In addition to tending the orchid collection at the Bonnet House, Sandi is a long time hobbyist with a yard full of wonderful plants and she is eager to fill us in on her secrets to growing beautiful, healthy orchids. Get ready to take notes and learn more about cultivating strong, blooming specimens. Also, she will have all of her professional orchid supplies for purchase, so if you need anything to make your growing, potting, fertilizing, pest control and blooming easier and more productive, make a list! Sandi lives at 2411 Garfield St. in Hollywood, FL 33020. We hope to see you there!

Tony Millet [axxmillet@gmail.com](mailto:axxmillet@gmail.com) (954-531-2079)  
Jill Smith [jsmith8146@comcast.net](mailto:jsmith8146@comcast.net) (954-462-0477)



## Opportunities To Get Involved

-Want a free raffle ticket? Members are needed to assist the House Committee in setting up the room for the meetings. This involves moving the chairs and tables from how we find them to how we need them to be for our meetings and then after the meetings, replacing them. Members John and Ann Bernard have been volunteering for over 2 years and we need to let them move on to other responsibilities in FLOS. If we get 5-6 people the job is very easy and quick. It doesn't have to be every month; it can be every other month if we can attract a few good members. It is fun and there are laughs. Please contact Michael Schaberl ([michaelschaberl@comcast.net](mailto:michaelschaberl@comcast.net)) with your availability and we can get you on the schedule. Or arrive by 6:00 to help and get a free raffle ticket.

-For the Newsletter, we are looking for 2-3 individuals who enjoy writing. Initially you would have the opportunity to summarize the talk of our monthly speaker and have your "by line" in the newsletter. It is a great way to share the information with members who were unable to attend the meeting in person. Again, it can be every month for a while, or every other month depending on your availability and how many "Hemingways" we have in the society. Please contact Ginny Salus ([ginny@salus.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ginny@salus.onmicrosoft.com)) for more information and to get started!

-We also need photographers to help with taking photos of the monthly member orchids for use in the newsletter and posting on the FLOS website. Please contact Ginny Salus ([ginny@salus.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ginny@salus.onmicrosoft.com)).



Fort Lauderdale  
Orchid Society's  
**Annual Orchid Auction**

**Monday**  
**October 10, 2016**  
Preview at 6:30 pm  
Auction starts at 7:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall  
1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

[www.FLOS.org](http://www.FLOS.org)  
Like us on Facebook

It is not too late to divide plants and select a few for the October 10<sup>th</sup> auction. Dividing and sharing parts of your coveted collection creates connections between yourself and other members. All moneys raised help supplement members cost at FLOS functions.

Please support our advertisers. They help pay for the expense of this newsletter.

# MARKETPLACE

Market Place

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Address/Directions



## Green Barn Orchid Supplies

Everything you need to grow beautiful orchids

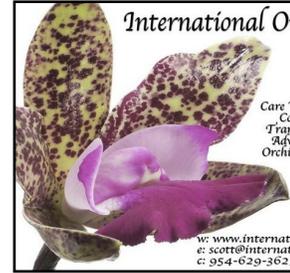
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www.internationalorchidservices.com  
e: [scott@internationalorchidservices.com](mailto:scott@internationalorchidservices.com)  
c: 954-629-3627



## Carmela Orchids

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DIANA WATEROUS CENTORINO  
ATTORNEY AT LAW



DIANA WATEROUS CENTORINO  
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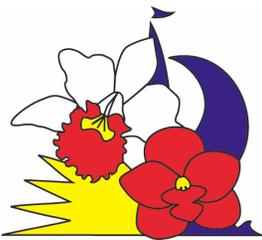
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TurinaRussell Network

Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso.

Movie night refreshments were provided by FLOS



## Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

P.O. Box 4677

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall

1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Label here

Directions: From I 95 take East Oakland Park Blvd. for 2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave. Or take US -1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park Blvd. west for two blocks, turn north on NE 20th Ave. Park in the rear of the church which is on the NW corner of Oakland Park Blvd. and NE 20th Ave.

President: Joan Connors

1st Vice President: Gigi Granger

2nd Vice President: Rich Ackerman

Recording Sec.: Zoe Bejar

Corresponding Sec.: Les Corbin

Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Newsletter: Ginny Salus, Editor - 954-532-7637

Website: [www.FLOS.org](http://www.FLOS.org)