



An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

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

VOLUME 73

ISSUE 5

MAY 2023



Researching orchids

May's meeting features Brian Spittler, who will be speaking about how to research orchid backgrounds in order to recreate the best environment to help plants thrive. In addition, we will also get some of his tips on dendrobium culture. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. May 8.

Brian, who is past president of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and an American Orchid Society judge, has been growing orchids for more than 25 years in diverse climates, including California's hot, dry deserts coastal climates and the Midwest. He holds a Computer Science degree and works in the IT industry.

As an American Orchid Society judge, he has visited many regional and international shows. At the GCOS, he facilitated marketing and educational endeavors which included its website and payment systems. He also initiated and led the Beginners Group, and a two weekend educational and society promotion at the local Home and Garden Show. He also led the creation of the restricted speakers fund targeted at financing expensive expert presenters, which he feels are vital to the future of societies.

Having international orchid grower friends and visiting many growing facilities, Brian has developed knowledge of the commercial and hobbyist market. His travels to Sweden, Brazil, Costa Rica, Japan and Colombia have helped him understand orchid growth in native conditions and he brings that extensive knowledge to us.

— **LUANNE BETZ**
Program Chair

Our show is a go!

We are excited to announce that our 64th Annual Orchid Show and Sale, "Orchid Jungle," will make a comeback on Jan. 5-7.

Show Chair Sara Singer will need lots of help from FLOS members to stage this fantastic event at the Dodge Center in Pembroke Pines. Stay tuned for more info.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
presents
Orchid Jungle

Orchid Show and Sale
January 5, 6, & 7, 2024
Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Blvd.
Pembroke Pines
FLOS.org



April Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>C. Diamond Girl</i>	Rod Lewis	Blue
<i>Chiloschista parishii</i>	Steve Turowski	Blue
<i>Cleisostoma arietinum</i>	Rich Bellas	Blue
<i>Den. densiflorum</i>	Elly Meisler	Blue
<i>Den. lindleyi</i>	S C Perez	Blue
<i>Den. Nestor</i>	Brow/Lindsay	Blue
<i>Den. Pixie Charm</i>	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>Den. Pixie Charm</i>	Norma Jeanne Flack	Blue
<i>E. bractescens</i>	Rich Bellas	Blue
<i>E. configera</i> var. <i>rosea</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
<i>Lc. Firedance 'Blanche'</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Lc. Ronnie Vonn 'Classic'</i>	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>Paph. philippinense</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka'</i>	Steve Turowski	Blue
<i>Phal. American Red Beauty</i>	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>Phal. I-Hsin Spot Leopard</i>	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>Seidenfadenia mitrata</i>	S C Perez	Blue
<i>Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Spoty'</i>	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>V. ampullacea</i>	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>V. Somthawil</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
Bio Dome	Vicki Hallock	Cultural
<i>Brassia Rex</i>	Paul/Francisco	Cultural
<i>Encyclia maderoi</i>	Charlie Rowell	Cultural
<i>Maxillaria variabilis 'Gold Country'</i>	Jill Smith	Cultural
<i>Paraphadenia Juraj Kojs</i>	Olivier Turina	Cultural
<i>Phal. Chia E Yenlin 'variegata'</i>	Paul Gumos	Cultural
<i>Pot. William Farrell x C. Horace</i>	Sara Singer	Cultural
<i>Ascocentrum miniatum</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Red
<i>Cma. Why Not</i>	Doreen Christenson	Red
<i>Den. officinale</i>	S C Perez	Red
<i>Laeliocatanthe Newberry Lava Burst</i>	Brown/Lindsay	Red
<i>Vandachostylis Motes Quantum</i>	Gretchen Denton	Red



Cleisostoma arietinum
Rick Bellas



V. Somthawil
Olivier Turina



Den. densiflorum
Elly Meisler



Phal. Chia E Yenlin 'variegata'
Paul Gumos



Encyclia configera var. *rosea*
Mary Jo Frick



Phalaenopsis I-Hsin Spot Leopard
Paul Gumos



Encyclia bractescens
Rick Bellas



Paraphadenia Juraj Kojs
Olivier Turina



Phal. American Red Beauty 'Candy Apple'
Paul Gumos



Vanda ampullacea
Les Corbin



Ascocentrum miniatum
Mary Jo Frick



Seidenfadenia mitrata
SC Perez



Den. officinale
SC Perez



Den. lindleyi
SC Perez



Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Spoty'
Paul Gumos

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Select warm-growing Coelogynes

I have had a *Coelogyne rochussenii* for a few years, but only recently started acquiring more plants from this beautiful genus hailing from Asia. I wanted to share my limited experience with you as I hear from several of our members that they too like this genus and they have become more available at shows, too.



The first thing to keep in mind is that *Coelogyne* is basically split up in two groups: warm growers and cold

growers. Obviously if you grow your orchids outdoors, the only ones that will work here are warm growers but most of the cold growers actually need cold nights year-round which means that even indoors growing for those is not realistic for us. So, you must research ahead of time to make sure you are buying a suitable plant. *Coel. flaccida* e.g. is often seen in the trade and quite lovely but not suitable.

In general, many of the species need plenty of water. These orchids usually don't like repotting and they can sulk for 2 to 3 years after repotting.

Light levels vary from species to species and you need to research this information when you buy one of those plants.

The attraction though is the beauty of the flowers. This genus offers quite an array of gorgeous flowers!

“Orchid Digest” from Quarter 4 in 2022 has a special on *Coelogynes* and distinguishes 22 “sections” (group of orchids that are more closely related within the genus).

Among the warm-growing species, I have noticed to be most available:

Coelogyne rochussenii, right, is the most available, but prices have gone up and I see them sold for over \$100 on a regular basis. The plant is spectacular with a profusion of flower spikes that are heavily scented (to me it smells like a pine tree). A mature plant is a traffic stopper but the plant is quite large. The spikes hang straight down and basket growing/hanging is recommended.

The plant is a fast grower and blooms in winter typically. It should never be allowed to dry out and needs water year-round. It needs moderate bright light.

Coelogyne usitana is much smaller and can flower year-round but it makes one flower at a time and the spike blooms sequentially. The flower faces downward and the spike is pendent and can be quite long. The spike emerges from a developing new growth and the new bulb does not mature fully and roots start growing until flowering has stopped. So,



the plant lives off the previous year's growth. It needs bright light.

Coelogyne pandurata has quite a striking flower: green with a black and white lip. This is another large plant which grows very fast. The flowers are fragrant and short lived.

Coelogyne lawrenceana grows in less light and should be kept drier in winter.

While hybrids among *Coelogyne* species exist, I have yet to find one for sale. They might be a good way to deal with the temperature issue.

Give them a try.

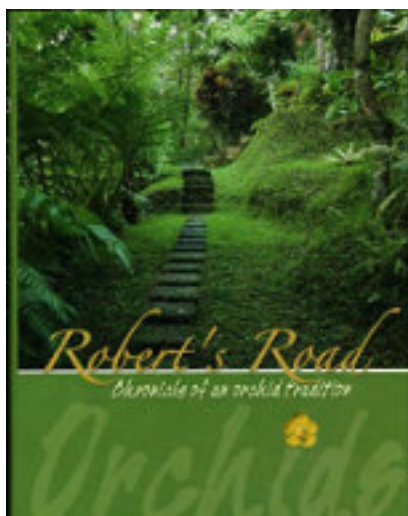
Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Find Olivier's tips on growing orchids at [Orchid House - Fort Lauderdale, Florida](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) on YouTube.com.

Welcome wagon

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Denise Addison, Phillip Alford, Kim Alonso, William Battaglia, Alisha Brown, Roma and John Caraher, Gaye Claggett, George and Heidi Coggeshall, Jennifer Duncan, James Fetterman, Ludwig Frick, Neal Ganem, Sorona Georgescu, John Gillen, Iedefonso Gonzalez-Rivera, Tana Hacken, Jan Johnson, Hejung Kim, Mark Loeser, Frank Matwa, Jeffrey McGowan, Bobbi Muscara, Sergio Perez, Christine Rettmann, Omar Rodriguez, Robert and Astrid Romani, Seth Shealer, Coralie Teraiefa, Christopher Vinson, Jenifer Walters, Susan Yao

– OLIVIER TURINA
Membership Chair



Book of the month

“Robert's Road: Chronicle of an Orchid Tradition” by Flora Murphy

Don't miss out on the history of Bob Fuchs, founder of R.F. Orchids, and his family. In our Library just for our members.

– OLIVIER TURINA
Library Chair



Claire's Quick Tip

Winning trophies and ribbons at shows

By Claire Garrett

Winning recognition for our orchids at shows can be a reinforcing pat on the back signaling that we must be doing something right.

It is unfortunate that more hobby growers do not bring their orchids for judging, as it makes for bigger and better exhibitions with more for the curious and admiring public to see.

It is not as hard to win something as some people may think. I have won dozens of show trophies and ribbons (see a few of them in the above photo) by following these tips:

- It helps to start with good quality plants from respected nurseries, although even hand-me-down rescues can sometimes make you proud.
- Have patience to grow plants to mature specimen size.
- Keep track of show schedules so you don't miss submission deadlines.
- If your inflorescences will require staking, do it early.
- Protect flowers from damaging elements, iguanas and pollinators.
- Plants must be pest and disease free.

- Make sure the name is correct.
- Take time to groom them to perfection. Diluted neem oil works well for cleaning and imparts a natural luster to the leaves. Trim damaged leaves and remove dead and dying flowers.
- Hide unsightly pots in an outer pot or basket, and landscape with live Spanish Moss.
- Bring your own pedestal or hanging rack if it is essential for proper display.
- Make sure there are more open flowers than buds.
- As in all things, timing is everything. If your orchid peaks before or after the show – well, there is always next year!
- Sometimes there are few competitors in your orchid's class so you could win a ribbon practically by default. Don't be shy to submit your orchids for judging – you have to be in it to win it!

To win AOS awards, additional criteria apply – a topic for another column.

Claire Garrett has been a FLOS member since 2011 and has received one FCC (91 points), one HCC and five CCM awards from the AOS, and many Show Trophies and Ribbons. Send questions to clairegarr@aol.com

Keiki Club News

Shopping for orchids

In April, 28 FLOS Keikis gathered at Sara Singer's home in Weston to enjoy a beautiful morning perusing her gardens and multiple growing areas where her hundreds of orchids thrive and bloom. Duly impressed, the beginners group were able to ask questions and get new ideas for growing their own collections. When the meeting was called to order, Keiki Co-Chair, Karen Fleisher delivered an excellent presentation on ways to expand orchid collections and how to shop for orchids wisely.

Karen included explanations and examples of orchids beyond phalaenopsis plants that we typically start out with. They're easy to come by and the flowers last a long time but as new hobbyists, Keikis need to learn how to grow other orchids such as cattleyas and dendrobiums, easy to grow and perfect for the South Florida climate. Karen explained the commitment involved in growing vandas because of their heavy watering needs and she also touched on slipper orchids and bulbophyllums and why they seem to be a little trickier to grow here. Some of the more experienced Keikis were able to add suggestions for other orchids they like to grow as well.

With the Redland show coming up in May, Karen talked about the importance of talking to vendors about plants they might be considering buying, inquiring about the growing requirements and even possibly asking to check out the root system. Of course, not all vendors are enthusiastic about dragging a plant out of the medium but most are happy to share their knowledge and help new orchid growers select plants that are appropriate and that will bring them success. Vendors do want repeat customers and also rely on word of mouth of their customers to maintain a good reputation.

Thanks to Bob Brach and Roma and John Caraher for their refreshment contributions. And special thanks to Sara for her gracious hospitality. The Keikis will be meeting on May 6th at Mac's Orchids in Southwest Ranches. Mac is excited about welcoming the group and everyone will be able to continue shopping to add to their collections. See you thee!

Raffle contributions are always welcome! Let us know if you have anything to donate — plants or orchid supplies!

– JILL SMITH,
Keiki Club Chair

Plant judging rules

Ever wonder about the rules for plant judging at our monthly meetings?

This is covered for new members, but it is worth explaining in detail to encourage you to share what you've grown.

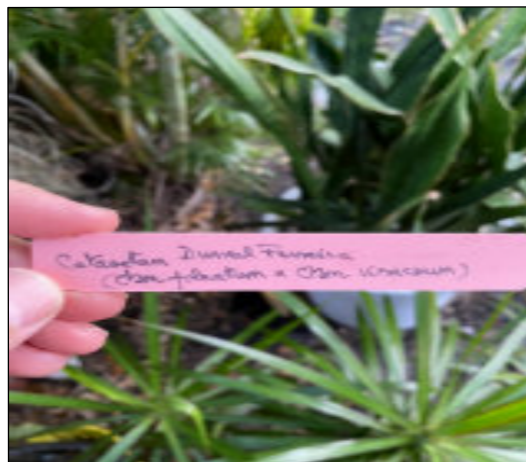
At our monthly meeting, as you enter on the right, you will see several tables set up just waiting for you to add your beautiful plant to the display.

In general, any plant you've owned and raised for at least 6 months that is in bloom is eligible to be judged. You will see many categories and many ages displayed from first bloom hybrids to ancient and awesome specimens.

The most important rule is to be absolutely sure you've thoroughly inspected it for pests and disease. Although viruses are hard to detect without testing, some diseases and bacterial infections are easy to see.

Those plants – although you love them and may have decided not to toss them – must never be brought to the table because they can infect other members' healthy plants. Please observe these rules before you consider bringing your plant out of respect for fellow members.

Always buy your plants with tags. A proper tag lists the name of the plant and (hopefully) should list its parents. Hybrids are different from species plants so you may need help with that. Olivier Turina has written many articles on plant IDs that you



can find in back issues of the newsletter found on FLOS.org. He also has presented classes on the subject and has a YouTube Channel (search [Orchid House - Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#)) that has some great growing tips. You may also bring questions to our American Orchid Society judges before or after the monthly meeting. You can bring a "NOID" plant to the table, but judging is not the same for those plants unless our judges can manage to positively identify them. They can help research them, too.

When you bring your plant to the table, you will find entry forms for you to fill out using the plant tag as a reference.

Fill one out, FOLD UNDER the bottom portion that identifies the owner. We hide names so judges can award plants objectively.

Our member AOS judges Joan Connors, Paul Gumos, Alex Rodriguez and Christine Morales singularly or as a team judge plants using Orchids.org, a database used by certified judges. After judging, they will announce plant names, the owner and awards given with an explanation. It is important to listen to these announcements as you will always

learn something about orchid culture. Joan, our immediate past president, just recently gave a class on the types of awards given by the AOS that was very informative. You can learn more about judging on the AOS website at AOS.org and, if you are not an AOS member, join. It is well worth the investment. Plus you'll be entered in the AOS plant raffle each month.

Now, with these basics in hand, go check your growing area and bring us your beautiful plants. Good luck.

– MARY JO FRICK



Whoops!

Fran Renguso, right, was incorrectly identified in the last issue. No wonder she's covering her eyes! Kathy Homann, left, didn't hear it and Debbie Johnson won't say it, but I apologize for the error.

– DOREEN CHRISTENSEN, Newsletter Editor

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.

Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	April 04, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Tuesday	April 12, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Wednesday	May 11, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Thursday	May 16, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Tuesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <small>Send in your Photos and Questions by April 02</small>	Heirloom Cattleyas <small>Bringing the Past into the Present</small>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <small>Send in your Photos and Questions by May 09</small>	He Came from the Land Down-Under Orchids Australia
Presenter	Ron Middleton <small>Chief Education and Science Officer</small>	David Toyoshima <small>Longtime AOS mem- ber, former chair of AOS Public Relations</small>	Ron Middleton <small>Chief Education and Science Officer</small>	Tom Miranda <small>AOS Orchids Monthly Columnist, Professional Grower</small>

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Thank you for food donations and to our wonderful kitchen volunteers:
Kathy Homann, Debby Johnson and Fran Renguso.

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month.
Time: 7:30 p.m. Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Directions: From I-95 take East Oakland Park Blvd., go
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.

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