

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.

Loving orchids since 1951

Volume 75

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FLOS.org

Presidents Message: A Record-Setting Auction



I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all members and volunteers who made this year's auction a truly record-setting success! The evening was filled with enthusiasm, friendly bidding, and a

wonderful sense of community spirit.

This was our best auction to date, smoothly organized, well-attended, and remarkably successful in every way. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a record amount of funds to support our society's educational programs, community outreach, and upcoming events.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the many members who donated plants. The member-grown orchids are always the stars of the show, and this year's selection, from stunning specimen plants to rare and unusual varieties, was nothing short of spectacular.

Equally important were the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it all happen, setting up, organizing, registering bidders, recording sales, and keeping the evening running without a hitch. Your teamwork and dedication ensured the auction flowed effortlessly from start to finish.

To everyone who donated, bid, volunteered, or simply came to share in the fun—thank you. You made this auction a stand-out success and set a new bar for future events!

– **Luanne Betz**

November Speaker: Rich Ackerman “What’s in a Name?”

Our November 10th speaker is Rich Ackerman, who has lived in Fort Lauderdale for almost forty years. Rich grows a wide variety of plants mostly consisting of Florida native orchids. He caught the orchid bug attending the World Orchid Conference in Miami in 2008.

Rich works closely with UF/IFAS Extension, Broward County, where he is a Florida Master Gardener Volunteer, serves on the Urban Horticulture Advisory Board, and is leader of the Broward County Native Orchid Project. Through a partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, they are restoring native orchids in the urban environment, installing several thousand orchids every year. He also runs browardnativeorchids.com.

He is former President of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and retired

from Broward College in 2018. His work career focused on software



research and development, along with project management in computer and library information sciences.

This introductory talk will help you understand the basics of orchid naming. From the tag in a pot you can tell whether the orchid is a species or a hybrid, and a whole lot more. See you at the meeting.

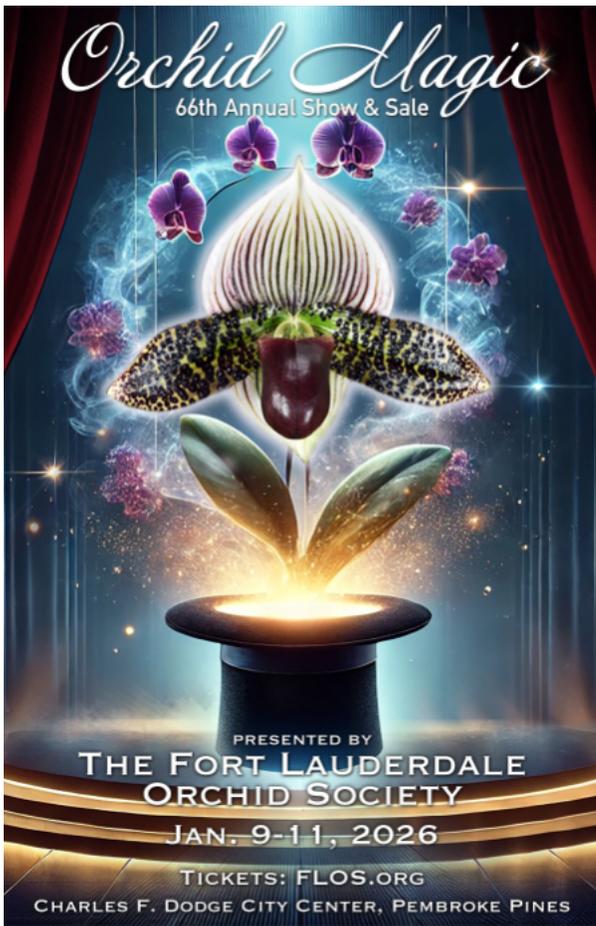
– **Len Emory**
Program Chair

We appreciate our auction donors

Please see the vendors and members that donated plants for the auction. We really tried not to leave anyone out, let us know if we accidentally missed you!

Maui Orchid	Mickey's Orchids	Jim-n-I Orchids	OFE
Whisperer	Allen Black	Olivier Turina	Greenbarn Orchid
Springwater	Quest Orchids	Larry Cox	Supplies
Orchids	Soroa	Redhawk Orchids	Keith London
RF Orchids	Sherrie & Mark	Canaima Orchids	Hung Tran
David Sweeten &	Smith	Les Corbin	Orchid Hangers
Traci Slusher	Claire Garrett	Doreen	Broward Orchid
Dan & Margie	Greenhouse	Christensen	Supply
Chuck Asche	Orchids	Luanne Betz	Lori Parrish
Valerie Smith	Francisco Miranda	Mac's Orchids	
David Thomspson	Rich Ackerman	Dr. Juraj Kojs	

INSIDE: AOS Judging at “Orchid Magic” Pg. 2; Buying Orchids with Olivier Pg. 3; Holiday Party Pg. 4; Keiki update Pg. 5



“Orchid Magic” volunteer opportunities

Did you know that when you volunteer at “Orchid Magic” you receive a free orchid?

Available positions

Greeters: Welcome guests and set a tone for a fantastic day.

Exit Checkers: Ensure guests have a great takeaway and bid farewell.

Raffle Table: Help manage the excitement and suspense of our raffle draws.

Conservation Table: Share your knowledge and passion for orchid conservation.

Sign up at our next meeting or Contact Roger Triplett to volunteer.

–**ROGER TRIPLETT**
Volunteer Coordinator

AVAILABLE SHIFTS

THURSDAY SET UP

10 AM - 1:30 PM
1:30 PM – 5 PM

SHOW DAYS

FRIDAY

9 AM – Noon
Noon – 3 PM
3 PM – 6 PM

SATURDAY

10 AM – 2 PM
2 PM – 6 PM

SUNDAY

10 AM – 1:30 PM
1:30 PM – 5 PM

Join the VIP Event

Purchase 8 Member Tickets

Purchase your show tickets in advance
– and your VIP entry is free!

Donate to Orchid Magic

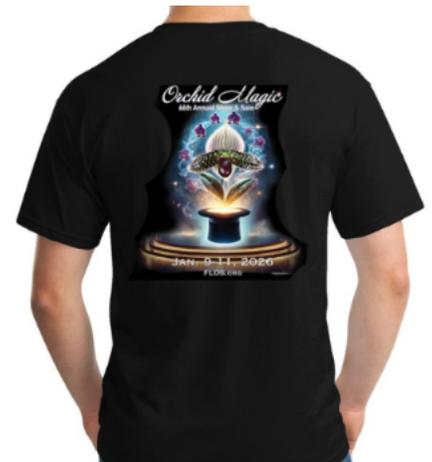
Have a favorite shop or restaurant that you are a regular at? John Soto can provide a form to use for requesting gift certificates, gift cards, and donations for our event. Contact **John Soto Show Committee Donation Outreach** at jayso@aol.com.

Show your FLOS support, order an “Orchid Magic” T-shirt

Limited edition Orchid Magic shirts are available fo order for \$20 on our members page at

Order T-shirt Here

Show your FLOS pride as we commemorate our 66th Annual Orchid Show and Sale. These t-shirts feature unisex sizing, 100% polyester. Shirts can be picked up at meetings. No shipping. Get yours now while supplies last.



AOS Judging at Orchid Magic

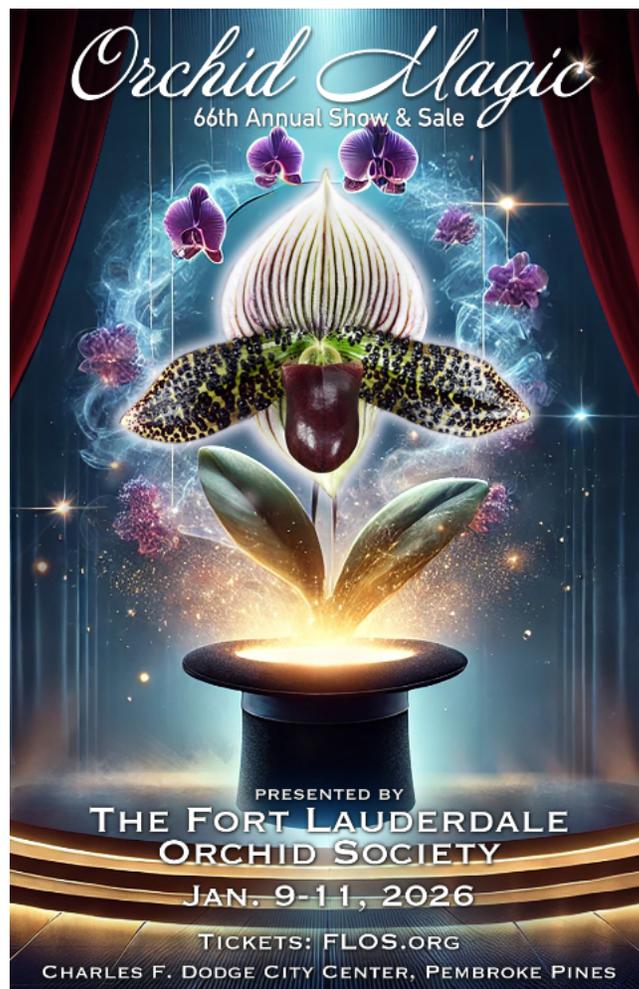
Last year, at the orchid judging during our Orchid Show only 4 cash prizes were available to hobbyist. This year we have opened up almost every category (except 1 and 3) to commercial growers AND hobbyists.

This means that this year there are **\$2,000** available for prizes, available to hobbyists as well!

This means LOTS more opportunity to win prizes and we encourage our members to bring plants to the show for judging.

The plants need to be dropped off on Thursday afternoon from 3 to 7 pm or Friday morning 7:30 am to 8:30 am and you can retrieve them on Sunday at 4 pm.

1. \$50 award may be awarded to the most outstanding exhibit of orchids regardless of class, judged solely on artistic merit
2. \$200 award may be given to the Grand Champion Flower (**Hobbyist**) in show.
3. \$100 award may be given to a FLOS **Hobbyist** member for the best quality flower from any genus
4. \$100 award may be given to the best species or hybrid Cattleya flower 10 cm (4") or larger.
5. \$100 award may be given to the best species or hybrid Cattleya flower smaller than 10 cm (4").
6. \$100 award may be given to the best species or hybrid Vanda flower (including syn. Ascocentrum), 7 cm (2.75") or larger.
7. \$100 award may be given to the best species or hybrid Vanda flower (including syn. Ascocentrum), smaller than 7 cm (2.75").
8. \$100 award may be given to the best Phalaenopsis species or hybrid 7 cm (2.75") or larger.
9. \$100 award may be given to the best Phalaenopsis species or hybrid smaller than 7 cm (2.75").
10. \$100 award may be given to the best species or hybrid flower in the Vanda alliance other than Vanda, (including syn. Ascocentrum) or Phalaenopsis.
11. \$100 award may be given to the best Oncidinae species or hybrid.
12. \$100 award may be given to the best Epidendrum, Encyclia or Prosthechea species or hybrid.
13. \$100 award may be given to the best Dendrobium species or hybrid.
14. \$100 award may be given to the best Bulbophyllum species or hybrid.
15. \$100 award may be given to the best Brassavola species or hybrid.
16. A \$100 award may be given to the best Paphiopedilum species or hybrid
17. \$100 award may be given to the best specimen plant in the show (any genus).
18. \$100 award may be given to the best Miscellaneous genus orchid



19. \$100 award may be given to the best Education display in show

20. The Oliver C. Munson Award (\$50) may be awarded to the best Vanda species or hybrid entered by a Hobby grower

– OLIVIER TURINA
Show Committee



Recent AOS awards

Next time you see Doreen Christensen (left) be sure to congratulate her on her first HCC from the American Orchid Society West Palm Beach Judging Center for her Den. Yaya Victoria 'Doreen's Delight.' Also wish congratulations to David Sweeten one of the few AOS awards awarded at the Redland Orchid Festival for Bc. Jairak Hope 'Mary Slusher' (right). Good growing!



How to select and buy orchids

Growing Orchids With Olivier

The season of Orchid Shows is about to start and that includes our own wonderful “Orchid Magic” Show which will be held from 1/9 until 1/11 early next year.

When you buy an orchid online, you are pretty much stuck with what you are being sent. Good vendors will likely agree to exchange a plant if you have issues with what you have received but that is not guaranteed.

While buying online is convenient, there is no substitute for in-person buying! When you go to an orchid show or to a local orchid vendor, you have an opportunity to visually select your own plant. When I go to a show and the vendor has 10 identical plants, I will look closely at every single one of them with the intent to buy the “best” one.

What should you be looking for?

Personally I want flowering size plants and if you do too, you surely should not expect that is automatically the case. Unless you see clear evidence of previous spikes, you should ask the vendor as to whether or not the plant is blooming size and if not, how long before it is expected to bloom. Then you can decide if you can live with that.

Beware of the very small sized orchids: they are super cheap but some might be years away from blooming!

Besides the maturity of the plant, I look at:

- Overall aspect of the plant.
- Obviously if one plant has one or two extra bulbs or is larger than others, it should be your initial contender. Then you start investigating further.
- If you get to choose between 2 actively blooming plants, you probably will go for the one that has the most unopened buds as you are likely to have more time to enjoy the blossoms. Obviously multiple spikes are usually better than just one.... That is..... if everything else checks out. So, don't get stuck on instant gratification and dig further! There is more than just current blooms!
- I look at the undersides of the leaves. Any sign of potential pests or disease should make you stay away. Ideally you want clean leaves. Also no leaves that look desiccated or weak.
- I also look at the bulbs themselves (for those orchids who have conspicuous ones). Are they firm, plump with no blemishes?
- If possible at all, the root should also get your attention. Evidence of new roots with green tips is a good sign. The easiest are obviously the Vandas as their roots are usually fully exposed. You want: many roots with green tips, plump thick white roots, large root balls.

Besides the visual observation, another important issue is the temperature requirements for each plant. For us, it makes no sense to buy a cold growing orchid and many intermediate growing ones are also

not suitable for South Florida either, unless you plan on growing them indoors. If you are unsure, google it or ask. Don't assume the vendors at our local orchid shows only carry warm to hot growing orchids! You should automatically stay away from Miltoniopsis, Draculas, Odontoglossum, Masdevallia, most Cymbidiums, etc... that are usually cold growing. These are gorgeous orchids but they simply will not survive in our heat. If you plan on growing them indoors, some may work?

Sometimes there is a plant you really want but if it looks like it is not in good shape, you are just wasting money and are better off waiting for the next good opportunity to purchase a healthy one..... There are millions of orchids waiting to get your attention out there! Good hunting!

Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.



FLOS Holiday party Friday Dec 19th purchase tickets now

Purchase Party Tickets - \$130

Celebrate the festive season at the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Holiday Party on Friday December 19th at the stunning Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale. **Tickets are \$130 per person at FLOS.ORG or sign up at our November monthly meeting** at the membership table. Tickets are limited to the first 80 guests and **deadline for**

registering is December 10th or until we reach our capacity.

After you Valet Park the fun gets started at 6:30pm with cocktails (open bar) and hors d'oeuvres on the veranda overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway followed by dinner and dancing in the renovated Ballroom.



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
Invites you to our Annual
Holiday
Celebration
6:30 -10:30 PM Dec 19th
Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Complimentary valet parking provided
Enjoy cocktails & hors d'oeuvres
Dinner & drinks
Guests receive a blooming/
budding orchid
Send inquiries to **Joe Akin - Holiday Party Chair**
harddrive813@aol.com or 954-325-8036

Choose one Entree

Chicken Marsala Seared chicken breast with Wild Mushroom in Marsala Sauce;
Pan Seared Mahi topped with Red and Yellow Tomatoes, Ragout, finished with a Lemon Basil Blanc;
6 Oz. Filet Mignon Pan seared topped with Haystack onion Curls, Cabernet Compound Butter Sauce;
Chef inspired **vegetarian dish**

All Entrees are served with a Greek Salad, whipped potatoes and steamed asparagus with carrots. German chocolate cake with coffee will round out your culinary journey.

Dress in your favorite Holiday attire and enjoy the entertainment and lighting provided by Nu sound productions which will keep the evening lively.

The Best part - Each attendee takes home a large beautiful blooming or in bud Orchid from Krull Smith Orchids – That alone is worth the price of admission.

– JOE AKIN
Holiday Party chair



Every one gets a large blooming or budding orchid!



Keiki Club visits garden paradise

We don't often get to witness pure joy and amazement, but that's what occurred when Keiki Club visited Lori Parrish's grand garden in October. As each person entered, the look on their faces said it all. Eyes lit up and the explorer in each visitor was hard to contain. There was so much to absorb and Lori was an engaging tour guide, explaining the various areas of her landscape and answering many questions about how she created such a magnificent oasis. This meeting will certainly live in the

hearts and memories of those who joined us. Thank you Lori for creating such a beautiful garden and sharing it with the FLOS Keiki members, it is truly breathtaking!

In addition, we had our usual Keiki activities: Board member introductions, announcements of upcoming FLOS activities, our raffle with Dendrobium anosmum as the prizes and great snacks. Thank you to all who brought food and beverages to share, it was much appreciated.

– KAREN FLEISHER
Keiki Club Chair



Volunteers needed

We will be having a **FLOS membership drive** at Equality Garden Club's A Tropical Plant Fair, Wilton Manors largest plant festival and sale. Please contact Luanne Betz at LuanneBetz@gmail.com to attend the FLOS Booth. You can stay for more than one shift if you prefer.

Saturday	9AM - Noon
	Noon - 3 PM
	3PM - 5PM
Sunday	9AM - Noon
	Noon - 3 PM

EGC
EQUALITY GARDEN CLUB

12TH ANNUAL

A TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY NOV 8TH | 9 AM - 5 PM
SUNDAY NOV 9TH | 9 AM - 3 PM

RICHARDSON PARK & NATURE PRESERVE
1937 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

Free admission for children under 12
\$5 Two-day admission

Free parking & shuttle from Wilton City Hall

Enjoy a diverse selection of orchids, aroids, hoyas, native and exotic plants, herbs, gifts, bromeliads, bamboo, flowering shrubs and trees, succulents and fruit trees

Presented by
Equality Garden Club
www.equalitygardenclub.com

Renew your membership for 2026

For many years, the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society has enjoyed the benefits of reasonable dues. As everyone is aware costs and prices have increased in almost every area of our lives, and FLOS has also felt the pinch. The Board of Trustees voted to increase the yearly dues for membership starting January 2026 which is the first increase since 2023.

Existing Members

Single membership will be \$30
Dual memberships \$35.

New members

Single membership will be \$35
Dual Membership \$45.

We feel this is a nominal increase for the quality of our membership. Membership renewals are due by January 2026. Emails to renew memberships, will go out in November.

Check your inbox or, go to FLOS.org, and click Membership, and Renew It's that simple.

There are numerous perks for members from our informative newsletter via email with orchid insights and growing

tips, monthly meetings where you can meet other orchid lovers, enjoy snacks, hear a great presentation, participate in wonderful plant raffles, bring your favorite orchids in for plant judging and peruse our free library full of wonderful orchid-related books!

If you already renewed your membership before November 1, this will not affect you. Anyone joining for the first-time during October, November, December your membership is good through the next calendar year. Please note, memberships that have not been renewed by the end of March will be archived, so please get your renewal in ASAP.

If you need assistance renewing online, stop by the membership table at the monthly meeting and someone will assist you. If you have questions, please contact Joe Akin harddrive813@aol.com

– **JOE AKIN**
Membership Chair

FLOS member advantages

FLOS is more than a club, it's a community of orchid lovers, from beginners to award-winning growers. Renewing your membership keeps you part of that network of friends, mentors, and enthusiasts who share your passion for orchids.

Your dues help fund community education, conservation efforts, and orchid shows that raise awareness of orchid preservation.

Monthly Events

- Keiki Club (first 2 years only)
- Featured guest presentations
- Monthly Raffles
- Orchid Judging
- Plant sales

Member Benefits

- Discounts from select orchid vendors
- VIP entry to the annual orchid Show
- Fun volunteer opportunities
- The monthly FLOS Newsletter, packed with advice, photos, and event updates
- Our Annual Holiday Party
- Greenhouse tours and rambles

– **GRETCHEN DENTON**
Newsletter Editor

DEERFIELD BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY
presents

ORCHID Obsession

13th Annual Orchid Show & Sale



November 15, 2025 ~ 10 am - 5 pm
November 16, 2025 ~ 10 am - 4 pm

Admission \$5.00
Children under 12 Free

Safe Schools Institute
1790 Spanish River Boulevard
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.deerfieldbeachorchidsociety.org
deerfieldorchids@gmail.com



Welcome New Member

Gail Keys

2026 Spring ramble

Planning is underway for the next FLOS Spring Ramble – Homestead edition. Never been on a FLOS Ramble before? We charter a bus and visit multiple orchid growers. It's always a fun and flower-filled day.

Stay tuned for more details.



AOS CORNER

Using discounts and vouchers for AOS members

Brought to you by the American Orchid Society

Orchid Marketplace Partners provide a minimum of 5% discount on purchases to AOS members subject to the vendors' unique terms and conditions (for example: not combining with other promotions, applicable only to domestic shipping, online purchases only, etc.)

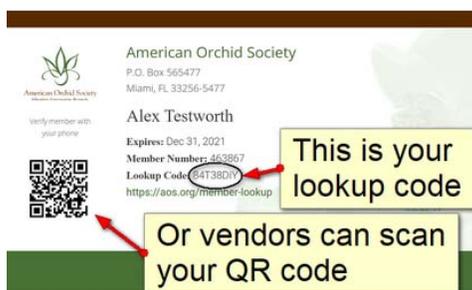
Two-year members also receive vouchers worth \$30 from each Elite marketplace partner on purchases of \$100 or more.

OBTAINING A DISCOUNT

When requesting a discount from a partner, you will need to present your AOS membership card or the lookup code on your card in order to validate your membership status and ensure eligibility.

When you are signed into the AOS website, you can [view, print, and download your membership card here](#).

Simply show your card upon in person purchase, email it, or provide the "Lookup Code" found on your card.



Partners can either scan your QR code or they check your lookup code using the AOS provided member verification process.

Please note that partners generally need to check your lookup code manually (unless otherwise specified), so you may not be able to redeem your discount immediately when ordering online.

Always reach out to partners before redeeming your discount in case they have specific instructions.

REDEEMING A VOUCHER/COUPON

Over 20 Orchid Marketplace Elite Partners offer a one-time \$30 discount off purchases of \$100 or more to two-year AOS members.

It's always best to check with the partner first to find out their process for redeeming the vouchers. The process can vary depending on whether you are placing your order in person, through the mail, at their nursery, or at a show.

To access your vouchers, sign into the AOS website and [click the View / Print Vendor Vouchers/Coupons link](#) in the user menu in the upper-right of the AOS website. **Remember, you must be a current two-year member to see this link.**

Then select the vendor name/voucher you want to redeem from the dropdown list.

Vouchers expire annually when your Orchid Marketplace partnership is up for renewal or when the member's membership expires, whichever comes first. The voucher expiration resets once you renew your partnership and the member's membership has not yet expired, or when you both renew.

Your voucher will look like this:



If you pull this voucher up on your smartphone, a vendor can easily scan the QR code to quickly redeem your voucher. This is the quickest and most preferred method but physical copies of the voucher will be accepted.

Voucher/coupons are not transferable and the AOS can track where coupons have been duplicated and used more than once. Please do not share coupons with friends. They are not valid for more than one use.

November AOS Webinars

8:30 PM EDT Tues. Nov 4th, 2025
Greenhouse Chat Ron McHatton - AOS Chief Education and Science officer
Answers to your questions about all things orchid.

8:30 PM EDT Wed. Nov 12th, 2025
Greenhouse Culture and Greenhouse Technology
Greenhouse growing is a popular subject with Orchid Enthusiasts.

The importance of sanitation in orchid growing

Good sanitation is one of the most overlooked, yet most important aspects of successful orchid growing. Orchids are highly sensitive to bacteria, fungi, and viruses that can spread easily from one plant to another through contaminated tools, pots, and even hands. Maintaining a clean growing environment helps prevent these pathogens from taking hold and ensures your plants stay healthy and vigorous.

Always sterilize cutting tools before trimming roots or dividing plants, using a flame, bleach solution, or alcohol. Avoid reusing old potting media, and clean pots thoroughly before repotting. Remove dead leaves and spent flowers promptly to reduce the risk of mold and pests. Keeping your growing area free of standing water and debris can make a big difference.

A few minutes of good sanitation can save years of growing effort and keep your orchids thriving.

– **GRETCHEN DENTON**
Newsletter Editor

Advertisers



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PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL



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Tel 954.462.7760
Fax 954.462.7761
DWC@dianawaterouscentorino.com

We appreciate you

Special thanks goes out to Mick Randich who did a fantastic job helping with refreshments at our Annual Auction.

While we love our furry friends, Christ Lutheran church has requested that dogs are not permitted at our general meetings. Thank you for understanding and helping us maintain a good relationship with our venue.



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See your ad here
Contact a FLOS board member for your business here.



Maui Orchid Whisperer
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On facebook
@themauiorchidwhisperer



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
P.O. Box 4677
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338
www.flos.org

Meeting Info

When - 2nd Mon. of each month.
🕒 Time - 7:30 - 9:30PM
📍 Location - Christ Lutheran Church
Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
[Google Map](#)

FLOS Officers

President - Luanne Betz (show co-chair)
1st Vice President - Len Emory (Programs)
2nd Vice President - Joe Akin (Membership & show co-chair)
Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski
Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen
Treasurer - Mary Jo Frick
Past President - Joan Connors

Board of Trustees

1 year Trustee - Roger Triplett
1 year Trustee - Justine Vishnesky
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2 year Trustee - Gretchen Denton
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3 year Trustee - Karen Fleisher

AOS Representative - Joan Connors
Parliamentarian - Keith London
Newsletter Editor - Gretchen Denton
Social Media - Gretchen Denton
Plant Raffle Table - Francisco Lambert and Paul Gebrian
Webmaster - Luanne Betz

For a full list of FLOS Committees and Bios go to our website - [Committees List](#)