

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

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Jan. 2026

FLOS.org

## Jan. Presenter: Claire Garrett

### Rio Negro orchid adventure with the Orchid Conservation Alliance



Claire Garrett has been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society since 2011 and has received one FCC (91 points), one HCC, one CCE (92 points) and five CCM awards from the AOS for the orchids that she grows in her backyard in Hollywood. She has an eclectic collection of species and hybrids ranging from the tiny *Dendrobium peguanum* to the oversized *Myrmecophila christinae*. She especially loves fragrant orchids. Claire attended the 2024 World Orchid Conference in Taiwan, and traveled to Papua New Guinea in August 2025 to discover orchids in the wild with the Orchid Conservation Alliance under the leadership of intrepid guide and OCA President Mary Gerritsen. She hopes to return to the Amazon in 2026 for another repeat the Orchid Conservation Alliance's trip on the Rio Negro River in Brazil.

*Continued on next page*

## It's showtime! Orchid Magic is almost here

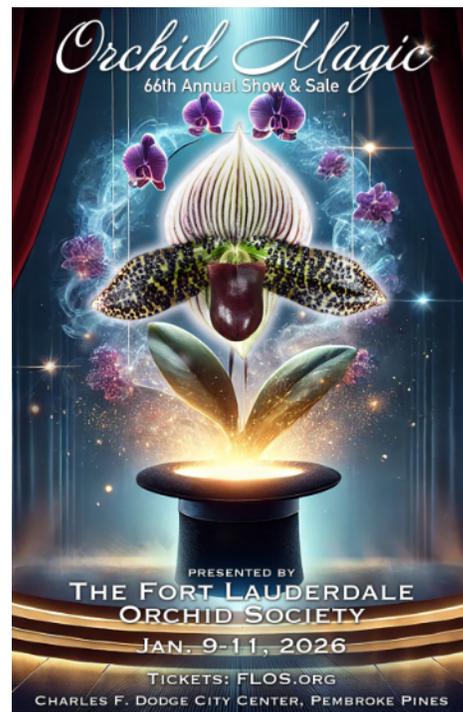
This is the final newsletter before our January Show, and there's a lot to share.

**Show tickets —**  
Deadline: Jan. 2  
Please pay for your show tickets to get **free** entry to our VIP early shopping event at **9 AM on Friday Jan. 9th**, VIP gets a free goodie bag, light refreshments, and first 100 people get a free orchid.

All volunteers will receive a volunteer badge issued by Roger Triplett. Please wear your badge at all times during the show as it helps identify you as part of the Orchid Magic team. If you have an Orchid Magic shirt, this is the day to wear it.

If this is your first time volunteering, you may be asked to assist with a variety of tasks, such as handing out show programs, monitoring exit doors, or helping direct guests. As a volunteer host, please be helpful, friendly, and welcoming.

Volunteer Judging Clerks will be contacted by Olivier and Joan with arrival details.



We hope you have been busy prepping your orchids for judging as there is **\$2,000** available for prizes, available to hobbyists or vendors (whether they are a member of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society or not!)

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

Watch **Olivier's video on how to prepare you orchids for AOS Judging.**

The plants need to be dropped off on **Thursday afternoon from 3 to 7 PM** and you can retrieve them on Sunday at 4 PM.

Thanks to everyone who purchased their show tickets in advance. Let's have fun, enjoy the moment, and be proud of what we have created together. Here is to a fantastic Orchid Magic 2026!

**— LUANNE BETZ**  
President

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# Presidents Message: Looking Back on 2025: A Year of Growth, Learning, and Connection



As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we accomplished together as a society. This past year truly showcased the strength of our

membership, the quality of our programming, and our shared love of orchids and community.

We began the year strong in January with Ron Kaufmann's engaging and humorous presentation, "101 Ways to Kill an Orchid," reminding us that even mistakes are valuable learning tools. Throughout the year, our monthly meetings featured an outstanding lineup of speakers who generously shared their knowledge and passion. Olivier Turnina kicked off our spring programs with an informative presentation on orchids of the Catasetum alliance, sharing both their fascinating biology and practical guidance on how to grow them successfully. From Carlos Cahiz's hands-on tips for South Florida orchid cultivation, to Serena Roman (Lady Vanda) opening our eyes to the stunning world of Vandas, and Dr. Courtney Hackney guiding us through the art of re-blooming orchids, each program offered something meaningful for growers at every level.

Our educational journey continued through the summer and fall with Rafael Romero's deep dive into Brassavola hybrids, Juraj Kojs's thoughtful approach to developing a personalized orchid collection, and Rich Ackerman's fascinating exploration of orchid names and their

histories. Even our mid-summer break turned into something special, as members gathered for a lively potluck and a brand-new favorite, Orchid Bingo, proving that learning and laughter go hand in hand.

Beyond our meetings, 2025 was a year of memorable experiences. Our overnight Spring Bus Ramble, added at the request of our members, was a highlight of the year. Traveling north together, sharing stories, and immersing ourselves in orchids made it clear just how special this group truly is. It wasn't just a trip, it was an adventure, and we had a blast.

Our Annual Auction in October once again demonstrated the generosity and enthusiasm of our members, serving as both a fun-filled evening and an essential fundraiser for our nonprofit society. In December, we closed the year in style with our Holiday Party at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club, celebrating friendships, accomplishments, and the joy of being together.

This year also marked continued progress beyond our regular events. We proudly participated in two Jazz Brunch events in downtown Fort Lauderdale, expanding our outreach and promoting both our society and our



The FLOS board planning out fun activities for the organization.

## Welcome new members

Victor Butzky  
Steve Richardson  
Linwood Butler

orchid show to the broader community. We remained committed to our conservation program, working to raise awareness, educate the public, and supply native orchids throughout Broward County, an effort that reflects our responsibility to protect and preserve what we love.

Behind the scenes, we strengthened the foundation of our society by reinforcing fiscal responsibility and thoughtful planning. We successfully staged our "Orchid Renaissance" show and laid important groundwork for our upcoming "Orchid Magic" show, ensuring that our future remains just as vibrant as our past.

Most importantly, 2025 was a year of people. We forged strong relationships, welcomed committed new members, deepened existing friendships, and continued to build a society rooted in kindness, collaboration, and shared passion.

Thank you to every member, volunteer, speaker, and supporter who made this year so successful. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward with great excitement to what we will accomplish together next.

– **LUANNE BETZ**

Claire Garrett - Continued from page 1

In May 2023 Claire went for the first time on one of the Orchid Conservation Alliance's many "Orchids in the Wild" Ecotours. This trip took a small group of orchid lovers to the Rio Negro River in the Brazilian Amazon onboard the Otter, a three story riverboat. Several times every day, and also often at night, people climbed into motorized canoes to explore the treetop canopy in search of orchids. This presentation gives an

overview of some of the many orchid species, such as Cattleya violacea and Epidendrum nocturnum that were observed blooming there at that time of the year. Welcome aboard to vicariously experience this trip of a lifetime! In June 2024 Claire returned there once again and saw some additional orchid varieties in bloom at that time.

– **LEN EMORY**  
Programs Chair

## Don't miss out on the fun - renew your FLOS membership for 2026

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership for 2026. Memberships that have not been renewed by the end of March will be archived, so please get your renewal in ASAP. Single membership will be \$30 and dual memberships \$35. For New members single membership will be \$35 and Dual Membership \$45. We feel this is a nominal increase for the quality of FLOS offerings. Membership renewals are due by January 2026. Emails to renew

memberships were sent. Check your inbox or, go to [FLOS.org](https://www.flos.org), and click "Membership", and "Renew" It's that simple.

If you need assistance renewing online, stop by the membership table at the January meeting and we will assist you. If you have questions, please contact Joe Akin at [harddrive813@aol.com](mailto:harddrive813@aol.com)

– **JOE AKIN**  
Membership Chair

## Calling All Jazz Lovers to Volunteer!

This is the last jazz brunch before our show

On the first Sunday of January, FLOS will once again set up an outreach display table at the Riverwalk Jazz Brunch in downtown Fort Lauderdale. We will be located next to the New River, right in front of the History Fort Lauderdale Museum. When we were there in November and December we had fun inviting membership sign-ups and giving away Orchid Magic discount cards to promote our upcoming Orchid Magic Show. If you are available to help out on **January 4, please contact Claire Garrett at [clairegarr@aol.com](mailto:clairegarr@aol.com)** for more info or to signup. Please indicate if you prefer the first shift (9:30 AM - 12:30 PM) or the second shift (12:00 - 2:30 PM).

– **CLAIRE GARRETT**  
Jazz Brunch coordinator

## Let's get ready to Ramble!



Get ready for the FLOS Spring Orchid Ramble happening on **Saturday, March 21, 2026.**

Vendor stops:

- Quest Orchids
- Banjong Orchids
- RF Orchids
- OFE Orchid Supply - Their monthly orchid vendor event is being held on this day and many orchid and plant vendors will be on site.

Contact Grace Boston for more details at [graceboston2010@gmail.com](mailto:graceboston2010@gmail.com).

– **GRACE BOSTON**  
Ramble Coordinator



Zoe Bejar, Luanne Betz, Roger Triplett and Len Emory volunteering at the Riverwalk Jazz Brunch in December.



# Dendrobiums Explained: Culture, Care, and Key Sections - Part 1

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Dendrobiums hail from SE Asia and Australia. Dendrobium is one of two huge genera (alongside Bulbophyllum) and it is tricky, because its orchids have vastly differing growing needs within the genus. Many orchid genera have reasonably similar general growing conditions that apply across the board, not so at all for Dendrobiums

## There are some cultural needs that apply to most Dendrobiums

- They hate being repotted. Do it only when absolutely necessary and only when new roots grow (not when new canes grow). You want them to establish themselves quickly to avoid setting them back too much.
- They need as tight a pot as possible. Mounting is also often a good option especially for those with pendulous canes but not for large plants like most antelope Dendrobiums. Mounting resolves the issue of repotting for the future.
- They are heavy feeders in Summer. Usually they should not be fed - except for a few sections- in the Winter months (December through April)
- You cannot use copper fungicide on them.

## These are the issues you need to focus most on when you consider buying a Dendrobium

- Watering needs: does it need a rest

period in the Winter? Some need no rest at all, while others may need months of limited to no watering.

- Light requirements vary among the genus even if a majority prefers high light.
- Temperature requirements vary tremendously. Do your research as warm and hot growers should be the ones you grow here.

You also need to keep in mind that some Dendrobiums are evergreens while others drop their leaves. In the latter case, they typically grow flowers on leafless canes, but not always! Do not cut off the leafless canes as they are part of the life cycle of the plant!

It is a good idea to learn about "sections" when it comes to Dendrobiums as growing conditions are pretty standard within each section. That might make life easier to understand the optimal growing conditions of a new "baby" you just bought. Sections are available at the website [orchidspecies.com](http://orchidspecies.com)



Dendrobium lindleyi is Section Callista

What are the most popular sections that are grown in South Florida?

- Section Callista is very popular because of the beautiful *Dendrobium lindleyi* (syn. *aggregatum*). It blooms only once per year and lasts usually only around 10 days but the spray of yellow blooms which opens all at once is so beautiful that most people have them in their collection. Section Callista plants typically need several months of very little to no watering. *Den. aggregatum* will usually bloom in late March, early April and you should keep it dry starting November. Other common species in this section are *Den. chrysotoxum*, *thyrsoflorum* and *farmerii*. They have yellow or white flowers.
- Section Spatulata (better known as "Antelope Dendrobiums") has colorful flowers with twisted petals like antelope antlers; those plants are perfect to grow in South Florida as they need warmth, are cold sensitive and require no rest, plenty of water



Den. Little Atro is section Latouria

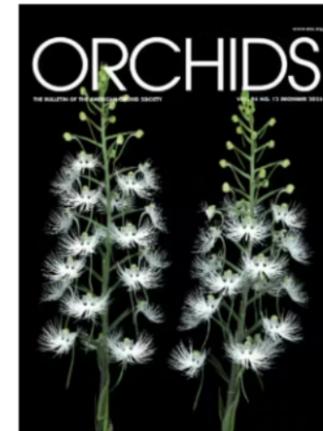
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Den. Lowana Nioka is Section Spatulata

## AOS CORNER



December AOS Magazine

### Featured this Month

Jim Cootes continues his series on the genus Dendrobium with Part 17: Dendrobium section Stachyobium, a widespread section comprising some 44 species ranging in size from miniature to plants with 2-foot canes. Günter Gerlach completes his two-part

article on the sex lives of *Catasetum* and *Cynoches* and Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis, Francisco Miranda and Christopher Maupin take us on an adventure in Brazil searching for *Cattleya nobilior* f. *amaliae*. Rounding out our features this month is an historical article by Dr. Joseph Arditti on the study of phytoalexins in orchids. These compounds, produced by various plant families following infection by pathogens or colonization by symbionts, such as mycorrhiza help to fend off pathogenic or colonizing fungi - sort of an immune system response in plants.

and high light year-round. Many are pretty tall plants and carry many flowers. Their blooms are very long lasting: 2 to 3 months is common.

- Section Latouria is another section which is easy to grow. It requires no rest, needs water year-round and high light. These orchids have large leaves that grow at the top of the cane and are usually compact growers. There are many hybrids available for sale and it is not uncommon for them to have blooms that last 4 to 6 months or longer. While they need heat to thrive, they will take very cold temperatures (all the way to high 30's) unlike the Antelope Dendrobiums.

Next month we will talk about more sections readily available in South Florida.

**Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020.**

## JANUARY Event Calendar

### January 9-11 - Orchid Magic

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale is being held at Charles Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines.

### January 16 - Miami Orchid Society's "Tamiami International Orchid Festival"

The Miami Orchid Society's "Tamiami International Orchid Festival," is being held January 16 - 18, 2026 at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center, 10901 SW 24 St, Miami, FL 33165.

### January 24 - West Palm Beach Judging Center - Flamingo Gardens

Judging takes place at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 S Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330 at 2:00PM. Plant Registration and Training will begin at 12:30PM, Nominations at 2:00PM.

Exhibitors can go to [www.wpbjudging.org](http://www.wpbjudging.org) for more information or email Jackie Wood at [bocaorchidlady@aol.com](mailto:bocaorchidlady@aol.com).

# FLOS 2025 Holiday Party

## *Oh what fun!*



We had a festive celebration at our Holiday Party on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> at the

stunning Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The facility was so beautifully decorated and you felt like Royalty in the ballroom overlooking the intracoastal.

After the Valet parked your car, the fun got started with cocktails (open bar) and passed hors d'oeuvres on the veranda overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway followed by dinner and dancing in the renovated Ballroom. Our plated diner was over the top and everyone commented how wonderful the food and service was.

Everyone came dressed in their favorite Holiday attire and enjoyed the entertainment and lighting provided by Mish Samson owner of Nu Sound

productions. He kept the evening lively and many on the dance floor.

Each table participated in name that tune to select their choice of the orchids. Each attendee took home a large beautiful blooming or in bud Orchid from Krull Smith Orchids, that alone was worth the price of admission.

A huge thank you to Luanne Betz, Grace Boston, Aixa Roversi Montague and Justine Vishnesky for assisting with registration. Joan Connors, Gretchen Denton, and John Soto created beautiful tablescapes and designed the Orchid display table.

It takes a village to make an event like this successful and you the members made it a very special and enjoyable evening to remember for a very long time.

**– JOE AKIN**  
**Holiday Party Chair**





# Better growing with these New Years resolutions

**Editor's note:** This feature by Claire Garrett was originally published in the January 2023 Newsletter.

Besides the usual vows to lose weight, exercise more and tackle household clutter, we should also try to remember our orchids in the New Year with these resolutions:

- Renew orchid society memberships (including the AOS).
- Sterilize orchid cutting tools and pots before reusing.
- Substitute Epsom salts and Potassium Nitrate for regular fertilizer

at least twice during the winter.

- Feed weekly weakly throughout the remainder of the year.
- Acquire only as many orchids as we have sufficient space and time to care for.
- Replace old orchid tags before they fade or disintegrate
- Perform monthly preventive insect and disease control treatments.
- Spray toxic chemicals only when bees are not foraging in the flowers

- Peel back dry sheaths on cattleyas.
- Get a prompt start repotting and dividing in the spring
- Donate extra divisions to the FLOS October auction
- It is, of course, impossible to keep every New Year resolution, but even just trying is a good resolution to start with.

**Claire Garrett has been a FLOS member since 2011 and has received one FCC (91 points), one HCC, one CCE (92 points) and five CCM awards from the AOS.**

## Advertisers

### See your ad here

Contact a FLOS board member for your business here.

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- 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
- 2 year Trustee - Olivier Turina

- 2 year Trustee - Gretchen Denton
- 3 year Trustee - Grace Boston
- 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](#)



**Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society**  
P.O. Box 4677  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338  
[www.flos.org](http://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](#)