

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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FLOS.org

President's Message: Landscaping opportunities



I imagine many of us are eager to prune our plants and repot our orchids after all the shuffling, damage, and dieback caused by our

chilly winter. Zoe Bejar shared that **March 5th** is the ideal day to begin pruning, and it's also a perfect time to start the repotting process.

When moving my plants from indoors back to their growing areas, I tried to organize them by priority, placing those most in need of repotting first

in line. I'm choosing to see the winter chill as a landscaping opportunity: a chance to observe which plants fared best and which ones we may want to reconsider for future "events." Maybe you have some room for that plant or orchid on your "list" now.

It is the time to stock up on potting materials, fresh medium, baskets, pots, growth stimulants, clips, wire, and all the essentials. The task becomes far more enjoyable when everything you need is within reach.

Enjoy this beautiful weather and the renewed energy of your garden.

Happy Spring!

– **LUANNE BETZ**
FLOS President

Luanne Betz becomes a life member



The board of trustees is delighted to announce that President Luanne Betz has been bestowed a life membership for her unwavering service to FLOS for more than 15 years.

Luanne, who has held nearly every position on the board, was elected president in 2024. She also serves as our webmaster, Wild Apricot member platform administrator and took the reins as show chair last year.

Under her capable leadership, she and the board focused on introducing a variety of fun new activities such as an overnight ramble to growers in Central Florida and popular orchid bingo. Perhaps most importantly, as our top executive, Luanne has taken a fiscally responsible approach in managing the club's ever-growing

Continued on next page

Orchid Problems: What you need to know, Judy Bailey



Our guest speaker is Judy Bailey at our members meeting at 7:30 PM on Monday March 9.

A prominent orchid expert

and American Orchid Society (AOS) Senior Judge and Master Gardener based in South Florida, Judy retired as a chemist and moved to Delray Beach in 2006. She has become a well-known educator and speaker within the Florida orchid community. Judy has always been an enthusiastic plant aficionado and stumbled across her first orchid show more than thirty years ago while seeking a warm indoor respite during a particularly cold, snowy winter day in Northeast Ohio.

As a long time Master Gardener, both in Ohio and Florida as well as a Senior Judge with the American Orchid Society, Judy embraces opportunities to learn, share and teach plant knowledge, frequently speaking with many local South Florida orchid societies, garden clubs, botanical gardens and Master Gardener classes.

You are sure to find her at most local plant events and orchid shows as she continues to explore all things plant related here in beautiful South Florida while encouraging others to do the same.

– **LEN EMORY**
Programs Chair

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expenses to ensure future stability by instituting budgets for our yearly operating and show expenses. It worked. For the first time in many years, our show was in the black! In an exciting turn of events, Luanne also has likely managed to steer our 2027 show back to the War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale.

This is a long overdue honor. Please join the board in congratulating and thanking Luanne for her cheerful and tireless service to our great organization.

Board of Trustees

Upcoming FLOS events

March 21 Homestead Ramble

April 11-12 Bonnet House Orchid and Garden Festival, Member Outreach

April 13 Meeting Presenters: Keith and Dina Emig – Winter Haven Orchid Nursery, Fun Cattleya Species You Can Grow

May 11 Meeting Presenter: Yolanda Cuesta, Quest Orchids

June 8 Meeting Presenter: Julien – Krull Smith, Bulbophyllums

July 13 Annual Summer Potluck Bingo

August 10 Meeting Presenters: Phillip and Liz Hamilton – Bredren Orchids

September 14 Meeting Presenter: Fred Clarke – Sunset Valley Orchids

October 12 Annual Auction

November 9 Meeting Presenter: Art Chadwick – Chadwick & Sons

December 11 Holiday Party, Coral Ridge Yacht Club

January 8-10, 2027 FLOS Orchid Show and Sale

January 11, 2027 Meeting Presenters: Jason Mackey, Barefoot Orchids

Spring FLOS Ramble!

Saturday, March 21

This promises to be a fun and exciting day exploring exceptional orchid vendors and enjoying time together.

Ramble Highlights:

- Visits to four orchid vendors
- **Quest Orchids** - Vendor of various orchids and specializing in Cattleyas
- **Banjong Orchids** - Vendor of unique, imported gorgeous pottery and Vandas
- **RF Orchids** - Lots of different types of orchids on beautiful grounds. A picnic area will be available for lunch
- **OFE** - Orchid supply vendor and will also be hosting numerous additional orchid vendors in coordination with our ramble

Snacks and refreshments provided on the bus

Picnic lunch stop at RF Orchids (Please bring your own lunch) Cost: \$50 per person if payment is received by Monday, March 9

[Pay here](#)



Deadline to sign up and pay: March 9th

Space is limited, so be sure to secure your spot early!

If you have any questions, please contact Grace Boston at GraceBoston2010@gmail.com

We look forward to sharing a wonderful day of orchids, shopping, education, and friendship with you!

**– GRACE BOSTON
FLOS Board Trustee
Ramble Coordinator**

Volunteers needed: Bonnet House Orchid Festival



Volunteers are needed to help staff the FLOS booth at the 16th annual Bonnet House International Orchid & Garden Festival on April 11-12 in Fort Lauderdale. There are morning and afternoon shifts from 9 AM-4 PM Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Roger Triplett at r.triplett22@gmail.com to sign up.



How to water is the single most important skill to master for successful orchid growing

Growing Orchids With Olivier

I remember someone telling me, in my early orchid days, that you know you have become a true orchid grower when you start worrying about the roots as much as you worry about getting beautiful flowers. That stuck with me because it is so true: beautiful flowers need a healthy root system to develop!

The reality is that to achieve a good root system, you need to master the watering. While light, temperature, potting and repotting as well as fertilizing are all important skills to acquire, there is nothing more important than your watering skills when it comes to successfully growing your orchids.

The vast majority of orchids are epiphytes, which means they grow on trees and are attached to the tree with their roots which are exposed at all times. They are not parasites; the tree serves mostly as an anchor and a way to catch some nutrients. The bark may also help retain a bit of moisture. We grow orchids mostly in pots with a medium because it is easier to organize pots rather than mounted plants and, it also requires less watering... but it means the roots remain wet much longer than in nature where they dry out fast with the breeze after the rain stops. Those roots are not supposed to stay wet that long and if they do, they may rot and the plant will slowly perish.

So, learning to alternate a wet and a dry cycle is critical. When you water your orchids, you should soak them really good, but then you must also let them dry out each time. The duration of the drying out varies from genus to genus. Cattleyas and Oncidiums absolutely need to dry out between watering. Vandas need to be watered every day but their roots must dry out, hence the use of a basket without any medium (usually). Bulbophyllums, Paphiopedilums, Stanhopea alliance plants etc... should barely dry out or just approach dryness. That is part of the



Phap. Gisela Utz flower

learning curve. Also, within one genus, different species may need more or less dry time.

If you can, using rain water or RO water is preferred by a majority of orchids, but that type of water has no nutrients and you must fertilize and add calcium and magnesium more than for orchids which receive tap water.

The symptoms of over- and underwatering are unfortunately similar: the plant is weak, the leaves are floppy, the bulbs are deflated etc... While in all reality you should know, based on your actions, whether the plant has too much or too little water, it is best to remove the plant from its pot and inspect the roots: if they are mushy and black, they have rotted and you overwatered. It may not be easy to recover from that, but it depends on the extent of the damage: you may still have live roots. If not, the road to recovery will be much longer and hazardous. Remedy usually involves trimming off all the dead roots, setting the plant aside in no medium, in shade and you can water them occasionally and you monitor any new root growth. Only when the new root growth is apparent, you can repot but be careful not to damage those fresh new roots!

If the roots are dried out, you

underwatered. It may be too late but if not, soaking the plant repeatedly until you see progress is the way to go, but you still must let the roots dry out each time.

I like dunking orchids overnight. If you do so, you should never re-use the same water for other orchids, as it could transmit diseases. When you dunk overnight, you basically mimic a monsoon rain that lasts for hours, which happens in nature. I do this for healthy plants occasionally, especially for my Stanhopeas which are very thirsty plants. Catasetums in the fall that are getting ready to go dormant but have a bulb that is somewhat deflated should be dunked overnight and most of the time, the bulb will plump up and you won't have to water it again until after it gets out of dormancy. Any orchid that is not really sick but somewhat dehydrated can benefit from dunking or at least getting a long soaking.

I encourage you to touch the leaves and the bulbs before and after the dunking. You should feel the difference; it can be quite striking! When you have weather with non-stop rain for 24 hours, make sure your plants are exposed to it! Feel them before and after the rain and you'll feel the difference! They soak up all that water and store in their pseudobulbs which plump up. Even Phalaenopsis and Vandas which have no pseudobulbs to store water will store it in their leaves. You should feel their leaves nice and hard.

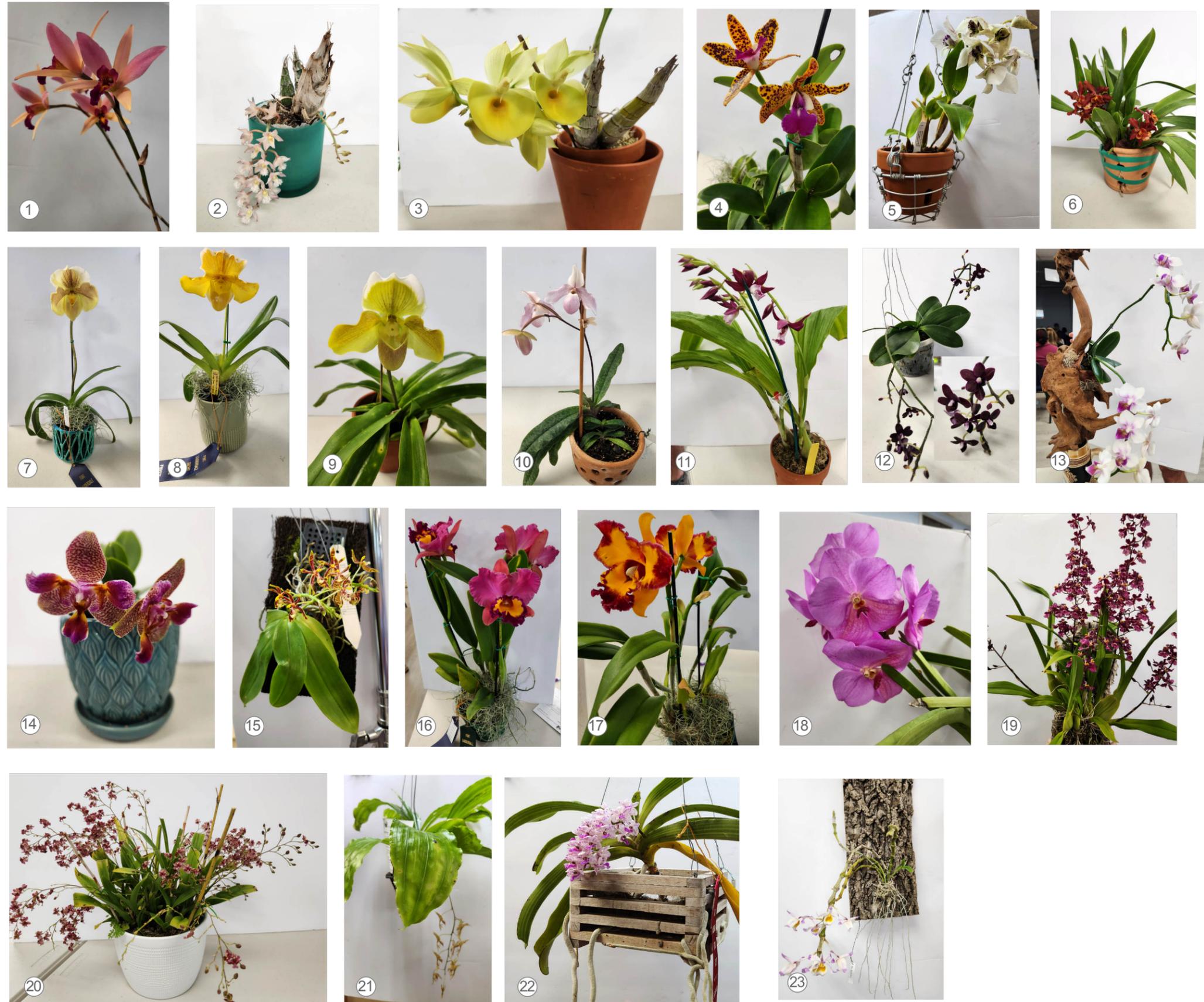
Happy growing!

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

February 2026 Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Winner	Award
1	<i>Lc. Santa Barbara Sunset</i>	John Soto	Blue
2	<i>Cl. Rebecca Northen</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
3	<i>Ctsm. pileatum</i>	Olivier Turnia	Blue
4	<i>Ctt. Ratsima Spot</i>	John Soto	Blue
5	<i>Den. Roy Tokunaga</i>	Mark/Sherrie Smith	Blue
6	<i>Ons. Carolina Jijon</i>	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
7	<i>Paph. Eoboe*</i> (Paph. Hsinying Gold x Paph. Magic Mood)	John Soto	Blue
8	<i>Paph. Crazy Jolly</i> x Paph. Elfin Moon x Paph. Tucson	John Soto	Blue
9	<i>Paph. Gilroy*</i> (Paph. Stone Lovely x Paph. Gege Hughes)	Luanne Betz	Blue
10	<i>Paph. Deperle*</i> (Paph. primulinum x Paph. delenatii)	Luanne Betz	Blue
11	<i>Phaiocalanthe</i> Kryptonite	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
12	<i>Phal. Black Pearl*</i>	Jackie Nunez	Blue
13	<i>Phal. Driftwood Art</i>	R. Romani	Blue
14	<i>Phal. Joy Fairy Tale*</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
15	<i>Phal. mannii</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
16	<i>Rlc. Phet Wangnamkeaw*</i>	John Soto	Cultural
17	<i>Rth. Chomyong Surprise*</i>	John Soto	Blue
18	<i>V. Pranerm Prai</i> x <i>V. Tawecsuxsa*</i>	Doreen Christensen	Blue
19	<i>Onc. Tariflora Lady*</i>	Gretchen Denton	Cultural
20	<i>Onc. Twinkle*</i> 'Red Fantasy'	Gretchen Denton	Cultural
21	<i>Gongora histrionica</i>	Olivier Turina	Red
22	<i>Rynochostylis gigantea</i> 'spot'	Hung Tran	Red
23	<i>Den. pendulum</i>	Douglas Dourado & Ariane Cattes	Red

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid
 Photos by Gretchen Denton
 Orchid Identification by Joan Connors





February: The month of the Algorithm

From the editor: this is an excerpt of an article by Thomas Mirenda from the February issue of AOS Magazine. Edits have been made for length and relevance. Please refer to the [February issue of AOS magazine](#) for the full article.

LYING IN REPOSE

While many of our orchids continue to lay sleeping this month while temperatures and daylengths are met in their nadir, it is still important to remain engaged with them. Excessive watering and fertilizing during dormancy will likely wreak havoc on them. While they may seem to be in a state of suspended animation, they are still very much alive, respiring and even photosynthesizing. I have heard tales of plants put in closets and opaque plastic bags while in dormancy where they are easily forgotten and unduly stressed. Just keep sleeping plants in conditions that replicate their natural habitats, and they will survive the "little death" that they experience in winter.

LOOK OUT! HERE WE COME!

We often misunderstand what dormancy really is. In the growing season, usually spring to summer months, most orchids produce new leaves and growths and are saving

nutrients and water in pseudobulbs and other succulent structures to tide the plant over during drier periods and the very energetically expensive process of flowering and seed production. (Think about how much YOUR children cost you!) So even though your plants may not be growing too much in the winter, a lot of them are using their storage organs, pseudobulbs, fleshy leaves and roots, etc. to support new emerging flower spikes popping up on many plants in your collection, Phalaenopsis, cymbidiums, cattleyas and lycasts are all gearing up to make us proud with magnificent blooms. Plants approaching anthesis often need less water than they did in spring and summer, but not the extreme dryness our deciduous orchids prefer this time of year.

LOVE AND FASCINATION

February being a cooler month allows for the growth of many of the stranger orchids to proliferate and bloom more freely. I am speaking of course about pleurothallids and other upper-elevation species. Many of us struggle with these types of plants during the summer when they are super stressed by the heat. Most of these curiosities occur in montane, cool and breezy environments with dappled shade from a verdant forest canopy. The absence of stressful temperatures allows forest plants such as masdevallias, draculas and restrepias the conditions they need to thrive. These extraordinary plants belong in every collection. They instruct us about the true meaning and wonder of biodiversity and the pure extraordinary nature of the orchid family.

-- Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades. He is a former AOS trustee and is a past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center.

March meeting: Orchids for sale



At this month's members meeting, we'll have a special treat from one of our own enthusiasts. Damian Ruch, lifelong nature lover and passionate orchid grower, will be offering a small selection of orchids that he has personally cultivated.

- Maxillaria tenuiflora 4" pots
- RLC Kaoru suzuki 2" pots
- RLC Yuki akatsuka 2" pots
- Pros radiata (species) 2" pots
- C Guatamalensis (spc) 6" pots

These plants aren't just purchased and resold, they've been grown from seed, raised from flasks, and carefully

nurtured through each stage of development. Damian's collection reflects years of patient work, dedication, and a genuine love for orchids. If you've ever wanted to add a plant with real "from-scratch" roots to your collection, this is a great opportunity.

He'll have a limited quantity available, so be sure to stop by early and take a look. Whether you're hunting for something unique or simply want to support a fellow member's botanical passion, we encourage you to check out his table.

**– GRETCHEN DENTON
Newsletter Editor**



Orchid Shows

March 6-8 - Martin County Orchid Society's

"Orchids at the Disco"

Martin County Fairgrounds, Building G, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL 34996

March 14 - Orchid Society of Coral Gables

"Fairchild Orchid Festival"

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33156

March 20-22 - Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance's

"Orchid Jungle"

North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL 34109

Orchid Judging

March 21 - Florida-Caribbean Judging Center - Fairchild Tropical Garden

Judging takes place at the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Corbin Building, Room A, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral

Gables, FL at 1:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: Dr. Claire Sidran, 7971 SW 122nd St, Miami, FL 33156

March 28 - West Palm Beach Judging Center - Flamingo Gardens

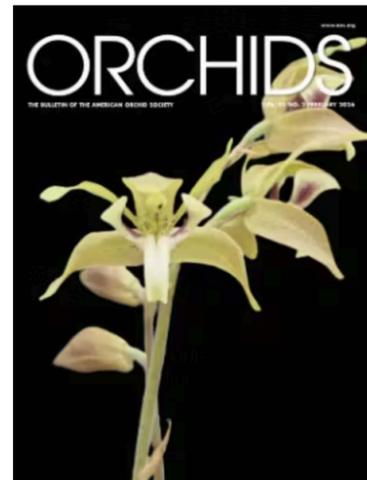
Judging takes place at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 S Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330 at 2:00PM. Plant Registration and Training will begin at 12:30PM, Nominations at 2:00PM.

Exhibitors can go to www.wpbjudging.org for more information or email Jackie Wood at bocaorchidlady@aol.com.

Corbin Building, Room A, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL at 1:00PM on the third Saturday of the month. Send cut flowers to: Dr. Claire Sidran, 7971 SW 122nd St, Miami, FL 33156

Featured this Month

Jim Cootes continues his series on the genus Dendrobium with Part 19: Dendrobium sections Lichenastrum and Microphyllaea; two very small sections with miniature species. Steve Gonzalez-Costa writes about his experiences with an outreach judging at a show in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and Robert Griesbach tells us about the Corning brothers in the Gilded Age of Phalaenopsis.



February AOS Magazine

Announcing new AOS Scholar Doug Dourado



The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is partnering with the Boca Raton Orchid Society to select Douglas Dourado as the recipient of this year's student scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to students of the West Palm Beach Judging Center who are active members of our Society. The Judging Center, which is affiliated with FLOS, also receives our annual financial support.

The student judging program is a rigorous three-year course of study conducted in coordination with the American Orchid Society. Coursework includes orchid species identification, genetic inheritance patterns, award recognition standards, and detailed handbook procedures.

The FLOS Scholarship provides financial assistance for essential training tools such as approved educational seminars. Upon successful completion of the initial three-year program, students may advance to Accredited status, followed by up to an additional three years of advanced study. When the student achieves Certified Judge status, the scholarship commitment is fulfilled.

FLOS has previously funded scholarships for members Joan Connors, Sandi Block-Bezner, Alex Rodriguez, and recently David Sweeten. This ongoing initiative strengthens the future of our Judging Center and supports the continued excellence of orchid judging in our region.

**- JOAN CONNORS
AOS Judge & Past President**

March momentum: Orchid care checklist

March is one of the most rewarding months in the orchid calendar. Many of our orchids are starting to burst into bloom, as the last of the winter hybrids overlap with the earliest spring bloomers. Your garden will soon be putting on a spectacular show.

But March is also a transition month in Florida, and that means pay attention to detail.

Cattleya Care: Sheaths & Bud Protection

Monitor senescing (yellowing) sheaths. Old sheaths can trap moisture around developing buds, creating the perfect environment for bud rot, especially in our humid climate.

- ✓ Carefully remove dried or yellowing sheaths.
- ✓ Provide gentle support for emerging buds once the sheath is removed.
- ✓ Increase air movement around blooming plants to reduce fungal issues.

Good airflow is very important.

Watch the Light

March and April bring longer days and rapidly intensifying sunlight. An exceptionally bright day, especially following rain can quickly lead to leaf sunburn if shading isn't adequate.

- ✓ Check shade cloth and adjust if needed.
- ✓ Gradually acclimate plants if moving them outdoors.
- ✓ Inspect leaves regularly for pale or scorched patches.

Remember: Light increases quickly this time of year, your orchids feel it before you do.

Water & Fertilizer Adjustments

As the days lengthen, orchids shift into active growth. Increased metabolic rates mean:

- ✓ Plants dry out faster
- ✓ Roots begin to grow more actively
- ✓ Nutrient demand increases

Monitor your pots, if they're drying more quickly, it's time to increase watering frequency.

Maintain a consistent fertilizer schedule (weakly, weekly is still a reliable rule). In Florida's mineral-heavy water, periodic flushing with rainwater or reverse osmosis water can help prevent salt buildup.

Repotting Season Begins

With winter bloomers finishing and spring bloomers emerging, March is the ideal time to plan repotting.

The best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas is immediately after blooming, just as new roots begin to emerge. When timed properly:

- ✓ Roots establish quickly in fresh mix
- ✓ Plants experience minimal setback
- ✓ Growth resumes strongly for the coming season

Use fresh, well-draining bark mix appropriate for our humid climate. Avoid oversized pots, cattleyas prefer to be slightly snug.

Florida Best Practices for March

Because we grow in South Florida's unique climate, keep these additional tips in mind:



- Increase air circulation as humidity rises.
- Begin monitoring for pests (thrips, spider mites, scale) as temperatures warm.
- Check drainage after heavy spring rains, orchids should never sit in standing water.
- Consider dividing overgrown plants after bloom if they have at least 3-4 healthy pseudobulbs per division.
- Apply a preventative fungicide only if you've had issues in the past, don't spray unnecessarily.

March is a month of momentum. Growth is accelerating, roots are forming, and bloom cycles are shifting. A little extra vigilance now sets the stage for spectacular spring displays.

Stay observant, adjust gradually, and enjoy the show.

**GRETCHEN DENTON
- Newsletter Editor**

Welcome new members

Donna Galatis
Joan Haddad

Keiki Club at Flamingo Gardens



Refreshment donations

We appreciate the wonderful food donations for our members meetings.

Thank you:

Justine Vishnesky
Joan Connors
Sonia Pëna
Les Corbin
John Soto
Judy Tkacs
Robert Romani
Zoe Bejar
Sue Mitchell-Greig
Doreen Christensen
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For a full list of FLOS Committees and Bios go to our website - [Committees List](#)

Meeting Info

 2nd Monday 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](#)



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
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