

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

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



Loving orchids since 1951

Volume 76

Issue 9

September 2026

FLOS.org

Presidents Message: Grab your paddles its the FLOS Annual Auction



Typically, a good topic to discuss in September is dealing with the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season and the wettest stretch of our South Florida year. However,

this summer's very long hot, dry spell along with the current long-range tropics forecast likely portend a drier than normal wet season and potentially worsening drought. Therefore, focusing on dealing with an extremely wet environment probably misses the mark this year.

On a brighter note, we are rapidly approaching our highly anticipated

[Annual Orchid Auction](#) next month on **October 12th!** As I've mentioned often, this is an excellent opportunity to expand your collections with proven, south Florida-hardy and often rare orchids.

For our generous members who may be currently repotting or dividing your plants and want to contribute to the auction tables, please keep these important [FLOS Donation Tips](#) in mind:

- **Health First:** Only donate healthy, pest-free, and disease-free divisions.
- **Label Clearly:** Ensure all divisions are named. If you know specific care instructions (e.g., "bright light" or "drier winter"), note that too!
- **Presentation:** Plants can be bare-root or potted. Please send a photo of the orchid and its tag to Olivier at



olivierftl@gmail.com also one of it in bloom if you have it. Include a description of the flower color and size to help excite bidders.

Continued on back page

Melana and Jim Davison, "Conversations with My Orchids"



Jim and Melana Davison, American Orchid Society Accredited Judges who

have an extensive and diverse orchid collection, will speak at our next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on September 14th. The topic of the presentation is "Conversations with My Orchids" which should appeal to our novice and experienced members alike. The couple are not only involved in caring for their orchids, but also are active in several South Florida orchid societies and are past presidents of three. Jim's appreciation for orchids stems from his scientific background as a Nuclear Chemistry Manager at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead. Melana is more interested in the

aesthetic qualities of orchids, especially the ones that look strange and other-worldly. She owns her own orchid maintenance business and is known as "The Orchidiva."

After Jim retired, they opened their own retail nursery, Jim-N-I Orchids. They travel the show circuit, selling their Florida-grown orchids. Their daughter also joined the crew.

Jim and Melana will have orchids for sale and also will provide orchids for our raffle table.

— **MARY JO FRICK**
Programs

INSIDE: Try something different with Olivier Pg. 2; "Orchid Odyssey" Pg. 2; Holiday Party Pg. 4; Overnight Ramble Pg. 5; July Ribbon Awards 6-7; Orchid conservation matters Pg. 8; Sept. to do list Pg. 9



Try Something Different

As seen on the YouTube channel
"Orchid House Fort Lauderdale"

Growing Orchids With Olivier

In the series "Try Something Different" I will feature today two *Trichocentrum*s that are really small plants and have delightful and fragrant flowers. Their diminutive size makes them easy to incorporate in your collection. They are available in the trade but your best bet is *Peruflora* at Tamiami or the Redlands as he always carries them and they are usually strong plants.

Trichocentrum tigrinum



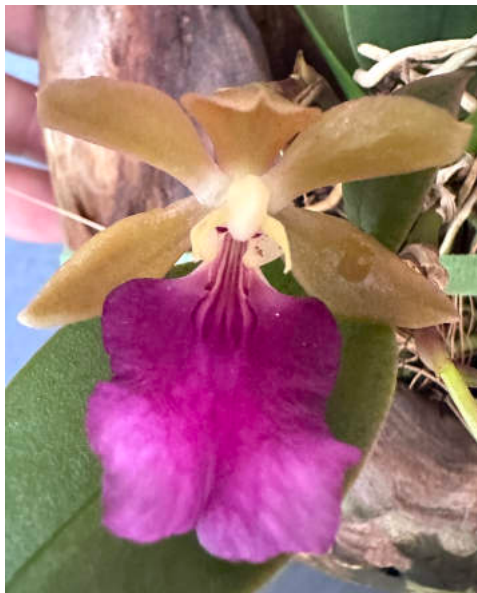
This small plant grows in Ecuador and Peru in regions that have protracted dry seasons (up to 5 months!) but with a heavy rainy season as well. It is critical to replicate those growing conditions. It is a warm grower.

The plant proper is 5" at best but the single flowers are up to 3" and are really large compared to the plant. They are extremely colorful and fragrant. To me it is the sweet scent of a Mimosa flower (*Acacia* tree) if you are familiar with that truly delightful scent which is one of my favorites. The flower grows at the base of a developing new leaf.

The leaves are extremely coriaceous and thick to avoid desiccation in exposed sunny locations during the dry season. It must be watered sparingly over the

winter and plenty during spring and summer but let the plant dry out each time. A healthy plant should have plump leaves and when you buy one, make sure it has such plump leaves. Light should be high during the winter.

Trichocentrum albococcineum



This very small, clump-forming plant grows in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. It is a hot grower (nights below 55°F are a "no-go") but the light level should be moderately bright. It needs regular watering and no rest but must dry out slightly each time (they are very rot-prone). Mounting is best.

There is one flower per bulb but you can have many new bulbs at once and the spike can produce up to 5 consecutive flowers lasting for months! It has a very pleasant sweet fragrance.

The leaves store water and should be thick and plump.

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



We're excited to announce that **FLOS will be holding a membership drive at Equality Garden Club's "A Tropical Plant Fair!"** Come volunteer at the FLOS booth, meet fellow plant and orchid enthusiasts, learn more about our organization, and discover how you can become part of our growing community.

Time

Saturday, November 7 9AM-5PM
Sunday, November 8 9 AM-3PM

A Tropical Plant Fair is Wilton Manors' largest plant festival and sale, making it a wonderful weekend destination for gardeners, collectors, and anyone who loves plants. The event will feature plants and garden supplies for sale, food and drinks, Master Gardeners, plant societies, gardening experts, and much more.

If you would like to attend or help at the FLOS booth, please contact Roger Triplett at r.triplett22@gmail.com. We'd love to have you join us and help introduce more plant lovers to FLOS!

Location

Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve
1937 Wilton Drive Wilton Manors, Florida



Artwork by Gretchen Denton



"Orchid Odyssey" member ticket sales

Member tickets for Orchid Odyssey will be available for purchase online through [SeatGeek](https://www.seatgeek.com). Tickets may also be purchased at our online store and picked up at our general meetings.

BUY MEMBER TICKETS HERE

There will be no mailing of tickets this year.

SeatGeek tickets will be delivered directly to your email and can be transferred electronically.

As a member in good standing and in support of our show, we strongly encourage every member to purchase the **minimum of five (5) member tickets for \$75**.

Your five tickets will include **FREE entry to our VIP Early Shopping**

Experience on Friday, January 8 at 9:00 AM!

And once again, we will have our wonderful **VIP swag bags** for the first 100 guests, including a **FREE orchid!**

With the value of the VIP early-entry experience and the fabulous swag bag, the benefits are worth more than the \$75 cost of your five member tickets.

Minimum member ticket purchase: 5 tickets (\$75).

Your support through member ticket sales helps make The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Orchid Odyssey a successful show. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you bright and early for VIP shopping!

– LUANNE BETZ
Show Chair

FLOS Volunteers bring "Orchid Odyssey" to life

A spectacular orchid show doesn't happen without volunteers. FLOS members are the heart of Orchid Odyssey, helping welcome our guests and creating the friendly, exciting atmosphere our show is known for.

We need enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles, including:

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

Exit Checkers: Help guests as they leave and provide a friendly farewell.

Raffle Table: Keep the excitement going while helping with our popular orchid raffles.

Conservation Table: Share FLOS's commitment to orchid conservation and help visitors learn more about protecting these extraordinary plants.

Volunteer Shifts

Thursday: Setup

- 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- 1:30 to 5:00 PM

Friday

- 9:00 AM to Noon
- Noon to 3:00 PM
- 3:00 to 6:00 PM

Saturday

- 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- 2:00 to 6:00 PM

Sunday

- 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- 1:30 to 5:00 PM

Sign up today by emailing your name and phone number to r.triplett22@gmail.com to be a part of the team.

–ROGER TRIPLETT
Volunteer Chair



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's Annual Holiday Party

6-10 PM
Friday December 11th
Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Complimentary valet parking

Cocktails & appetizers
Dinner & drinks
**Every guest receives a
blooming/budding orchid**
Music by Andrade World Music

Keiki graduation



Keiki graduates left to right: Damian Ruch, Ryan Strouss, Linda Myrick, Aixa Roversi de Montagna, Karen Fleisher Keiki Chair. Aaron Ritter and Danny Diaz not pictured.

Congratulations to our recent Keiki Graduates!

– **KAREN FLEISHER**
Keiki Chair

Making FLOS memories

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is planning an autumn overnight ramble to visit orchid growers. September 26-27. If you are interested, please contact Grace Boston, who is organizing this amazing trip.

graceboston2010@gmail.com

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)



Proposed Itinerary

Time	Place
8 AM - Sept 26	Pickup at Catholic Health Services in Lauderdale Lakes
Noon - Sept 26	Arrive at Palmers Orchids in Bradenton
	Florida Orchid House in Myakka City
6 PM Sept 26	Homewood Suites by Hilton Sarasota/Lakewood Ranch
9 AM - Sept 27	Adam's Orchids in Sarasota
	SunLand Orchids in Fort Myers
	The Garden Place in Fort Myers
6 PM - Sept 27	Return to Catholic Health Services in Lauderdale Lakes

AOS Corner



Featured This Month

Jim Cootes continues his multipart series on the genus Dendrobium and its relatives with Part 21: The genus Cadetia. The members of the section have been known over the years under numerous genus names and are now considered by Plants of the World online to a section (Cadetia) of a greatly expanded genus

August AOS Magazine

Dendrobium. James Ackerman tells us about Dendrophylax in an article entitled "Visions of Ghosts" and Roland Schettler fills us in behind the scenes of the Dresden World Orchid Conference. Rounding out our August features, Kay Perry tells us about her tour of several of the famous botanical gardens of Europe.

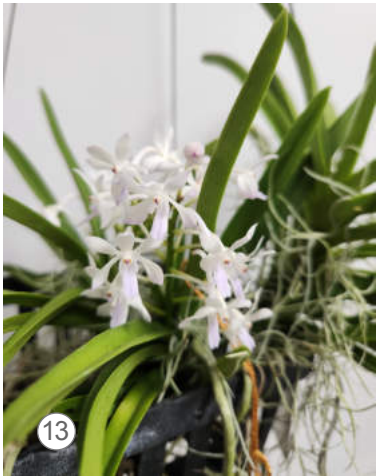
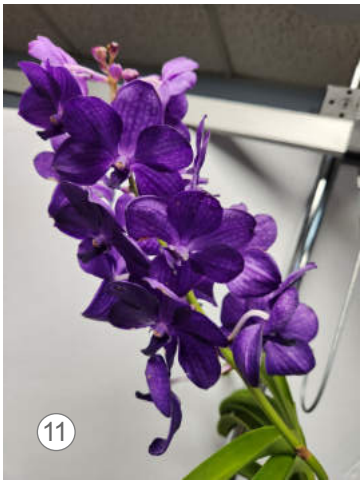
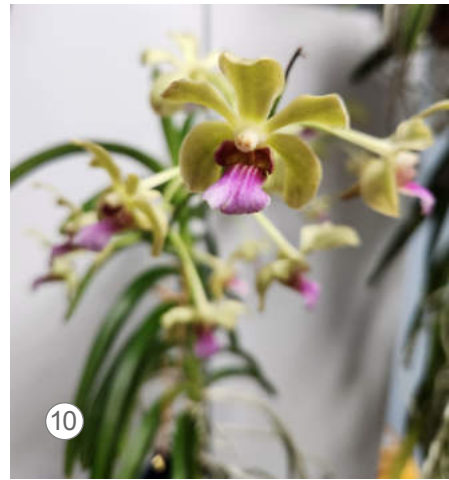
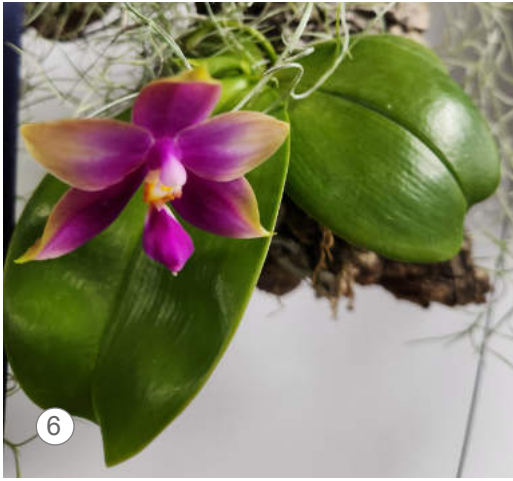
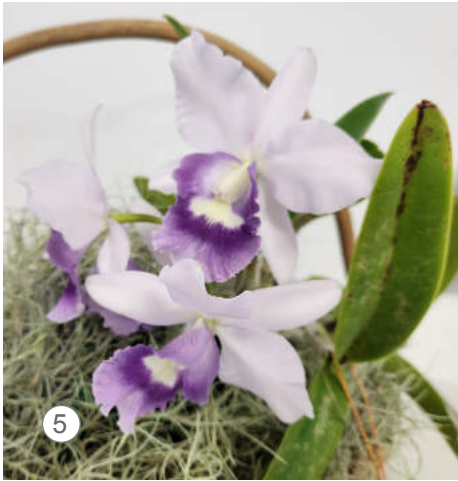
Rounding out the August 2026 issue

- Gift a Youth Update - Growing Curiosity: Michael's Journey Through the AOS Gift-A-Youth Program by Deb Boersma • Tom's Monthly Checklist by Thomas Mirenda
- Questions and Answers by Ron McHatton
- For the Novice - Cleaning Clay Pots: Nothing is Ever Easy by Sue Bottom
- Collector's Item - Trichocentrum lanceanum by Judith Rapacz-Hasler
- Education Update - Cultivating Curiosity Orchid Education and Community Engagement in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico by René Enrique García
- Member Update - Up Close and Personal More Than Orchids: A Journey of Beauty, Discovery and Connection by Ovilie Vibal
- Orchids Illustrated - Odontochilus — Golden-Toothed Orchid by Wesley Higgins and Peggy Alrich My Favorite Orchid - Falling in Love with Orchids - Again and Again and Again by Suzanne Sawyer
- Lindleyana - Masdevallia westenrae (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae: A Distinctive New Species Described from Cultivated Material by Alfonso Doucette
- New Nothogenera, Combinations and Names by Julian Shaw

August Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Winner	Ribbon
1	<i>C. Princess Clementine</i> x <i>C. velutina</i>	Ariane Cattes	Blue
2	<i>C. tigrina</i>	Phil Salin	Blue
3	<i>Ctsm.</i> Mem. I.H. Shirley '7315' x <i>Ctsm.</i> Penang 'Selected A'	Sue Mitchell-Greig	Blue
4	<i>Encyclia phoenicea</i>	Maribel Beas	Blue
5	<i>Lc.</i> Final Blue	Doreen Christensen	Blue
6	<i>Phal.</i> Jennifer Palermo	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
7	<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
8	<i>Rhyncho brassoleya</i> Roderick Lewis	Roderick Lewis	Blue
9	<i>V.</i> Corneels Cilliers	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
10	<i>Vandachostylis</i> Motes Quantum	Gretchen Denton	Blue
11	<i>Vandachostylis</i> Prapawan	Keith London	Blue
12	<i>Vandachostylis</i> Rainbow Stars	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
13	<i>Neostalys</i> Lou Sneary 'banjong'	Gretchen Denton	Blue
14	<i>Den. pachyphyllum</i>	Ariane Cattes	Blue
15	<i>Epidendrum ciliare</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue

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



Refreshment donations

We appreciate the wonderful food donations for our meetings. Thank you.

- Keith London

Zoe Bejar

Robert Romani

Sona Peña

Doreen Christensen

Joan Connors

Norma Jeane Flack
- Aixa Roversi

Judy Tkacs

Mark & Sherrie Smith

Elaine Jordan

John Soto

Chris Crepage

Peppe Troche
- Joan Haddad

Gary Bremen

Ryan Strouss

Damian Ruch

Glenda Connoly

This beautiful Vanda donated by Keith London could be yours as it will be auctioned off at the FLOS Orchid Auction on Oct. 12.

Orchid conservation matters

The First Annual “Florida Orchid Conservation Symposium”



PHOTO: Naples Botanical Garden

The First Annual “Florida Orchid Conservation Symposium” was held last month at Naples Botanical Garden. I was fortunate enough to have been invited. It was a special day with Florida orchid conservation luminaries joining together to plot a collaborative path forward.

We started with a tour of Naples Botanical Garden laboratories and greenhouses guided by Nick Ewy, former FLOS speaker. They are adding a new micropropagation lab to increase their orchid research and production capabilities. We also visited the seed bank laboratory, where Naples Botanical Garden holds significant seed reserves, including a full complement of their coastal ecosystem's native plants. That collection proved its worth after two damaging hurricanes, supplying material for restoration work in the storms' aftermath.

The Symposium then started. John Parke Wright IV kicked things off with some incredible news. He is starting a new group called ORCHID CONSERVATION FLORIDA, to be led by Adam Herdman. It is modeled after his existing ORCHID CONSERVATION CHELSEA, a worldwide collaboration of orchid conservationists that have won three Gold Prizes at Chelsea

Flower Show in England. These groups act as international coordination, fundraising, and advocacy organizations. “Orchids of Florida, Bahamas and the Caribbean” is the theme for their 2027 Chelsea entry.

Dr. Jason Downing gave the first keynote speech, with lots of interesting tidbits.

- A school in Hialeah is growing fifteen ghost orchids on pop ash trees in the schoolyard, so FTBG is getting seed from there instead of the wild now.
- A new micropropagation lab is being built at Fairchild with ten times the space of the original. It includes the ability to do tissue culture cloning.
- FTBG is establishing the first micropropagation certificate program in the world.
- As of 2025, they are up to 715,000 orchids installed in Million Orchid Project.
- They have been finding volunteers (seedlings from installed plants) all over Miami in several species
- On a less happy note, he estimates the population of Trichocentrum undulatum is down

to 15 plants in the wild. Efforts to establish other colonies (including our efforts here in Broward) have all been generally unsuccessful.

Dr. Larry Zettler gave a second keynote, discussing his decades long efforts with the Ghost Orchid reintroduction in Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. He has been bringing undergraduates to the refuge for over 15 years, with the support of Naples Orchid Society scholarships each year. Many of his students have gone on to earn advanced degrees.

After the keynoters, academics including Dr. Hong Liu, Fernando Rocha Vento, Bethany Simpson, Sarah Wetterer, and Adam Herdman gave brief talks on their research areas. These included genetic diversity declines in Bletia purpurea due to habitat fragmentation, a survey of genetic variation in Calopogon species, mycorrhizal associations of Florida native Oncidinae, and ongoing conservation efforts for Dendrophylax lindenii. Trichocentrum undulatum was discussed again; battered by storms, weakened by invasive scale, and neutered by a native pest (Melanagromyza miamensis) that causes seed pods to fail before maturity, it is on the verge of extirpation.

In a closing comment, John Parke Wright IV invited us all to join ORCHID CONSERVATION FLORIDA and to come to Chelsea for a meeting he has planned for May 17, 2027. He also promised a second Symposium in a year, something to look forward to!

– **RICH ACKERMAN**
Membership Chair

So much to do, so many hot days

This article is reprinted with permission from Bridget Uzar, a grower for Carter and Holmes for over 20 years and a hybridizer since 2010. It originally appeared on the Orchid and Companion Plants blog on August 12, 2026, at carterandholmes.com

We all have To-Do lists for our growing spaces and it's hard to get the motivation to work out in the heat. Just like you, your orchids are waiting for a reprieve from the hot weather too. Overly warm days combined with night temperatures that stay in the upper 70's can contribute to a number of problems in your greenhouse or growing space. Which means high temperatures or not, you have to keep an eye out for certain issues.



Let's Dive Into Some of the Most Common Issues You Might Encounter

The one I get asked about most often. High temps can cause 'bolting' on growths that mature during the summer months. Bolting, just like with vegetables in the garden, can lead to overly lush, green soft foliage and weak stems (and the occasional giant zucchini squash). The foliage simply cannot hold itself up and the leaning can lead to permanently bent or broken pseudobulbs. Make sure you have greatly reduced your nitrogen levels in any fertilizer you are using. By now most orchids have matured, or nearly matured their growths for the season.

Plants will continue to use nitrogen they have stored and you can slow or stop applications for the time being. Instead, switch to a low nitrogen fertilizer like Growmore 6-30-30. This is listed as a bloom booster, but the low nitrogen levels also encourage better growth during the late summer and fall months. The phosphorus and potassium also prepares plants like Phalaenopsis and



Cymbidiums for winter blooming cycles. Use of Cal-Mag fertilizers is also suggested as calcium levels deplete over time and can cause premature browning or blacking of new growths.

You will also notice that insect problems can quickly reach unmanageable proportions in the hottest months. That is because insect populations can mature much faster in the heat and longer days. During 70° days, a population of thrips can mature in about 7 days. When the temps reach over 90°, it can reduce that by half. Thrips, scale, and mealybugs all grow much faster (and eat more) during hot weather. Start by adding Yellow Monitoring Cards to your growing space, both at plant



level and above the benches. Not only do they catch any fungus gnats hanging around, the cards will help check for other flying insects like aphids, thrips and whiteflies. For scale and mealy bugs closely observe the plants and in the crevices. Consider using a systemic insecticide like Imidacloprid to keep populations in check. We suggest using this every week for at least three weeks to help knock down current populations and build insecticide levels in the plants themselves. Always make sure to use chemicals in a well-ventilated area and to wear proper protection.

Not only do the orchids and other plants grow but the weeds do too. Unwanted plants can quickly invade your growing space from outdoors, or from new acquisitions. Even if you can't pull every weed, try to get sporing fronds, seed pods and blooms so they can't reproduce quickly. Remember that



weeds and groundcover plants under benches will also host those insects we mentioned above.

And last but not least, many of us are in the middle of seasonal rainy

weather. It seems like all across the Southeast can expect frequent cloud bursts and rolling thunderstorms that drop loads of rain on our outdoor plants. Make sure that plants in pots are not staying overly wet. The last thing you need is to fight root or crown rot in your collection. Keep them elevated and off

Continued from pg 9

the ground away from puddles (and slugs). If you start seeing foliage issues from the extreme humidity and rain, consider an application of a systemic fungicide like Thiomyl. This will provide a few months protection from most foliar issues and rots, especially as the weather starts cooling. Which will be soon, we hope.

Happy Growing!

– **Article Submitted by**
JOAN CONNORS
Past President

Presidents Message - Continued from pg 1

- **Supplies Welcome:** If you have extra pots or quality orchid growing supplies taking up space, we will happily accept those for the auction as well.

Speaking of expanding collections, we have a very special opportunity for our community. Longtime FLOS and former Board Member, as well as accomplished artist **Tin Ly** is downsizing his gorgeous and unique collection of orchids. He has generously offered FLOS members the opportunity to select orchids free of charge from his collection at his

home from **9:00 AM to Noon on Saturday, September 12th**. He simply wants to make sure his orchids find a nice home. Like the Auction, this is a unique opportunity to pick out beautiful orchids from a cherished society member. It is first-come, first-served, so mark your calendars to secure a piece of local orchid history! The address will be sent out in an email reminder closer to the event.

Thank you, Tin!!! And thank y'all for being an active part of our Society! Stay safe and please do a rain dance.

– **LEN EMORY**
FLOS President

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and Paul Gebrian

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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

Meeting Info

2nd Monday of each month.

Time 7:30-9:30 PM

Location

Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

[Google Map](#)