



FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

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

JIM ROBERTS—FLORIDA SUNCOAST ORCHIDS A FEW ENCYCLIAS TO ENJOY!



It was in the college days of 1979 when I first encountered orchids during a routine doctor's visit. While there, I noticed a large Cattleya orchid on his desk. I asked the fateful question: "What kind of flower is that?" To which the physician laughingly replied, "You do NOT want to know!" A short story by the doctor about his all-consuming hobby ensued, and within two days I had gotten two orchids of my own.

During those college years in Northfield, Minnesota, I was put in charge of the St. Olaf greenhouse and its repository of orchids. I knew little about the plants but read everything I could get my hands on. After graduating, I moved to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands where I happened upon a sidewalk sale by the local orchid society. I joined the group, learned much about growing in a tropical arid environment, the native orchid species, and won my first AOS award for Encyclia bifida 'Loves Favor' AM/AOS.

Leaving the island three years later, I found myself trying to take 10 boxes of plants through customs back to Minnesota. Little did I know that the customs encounter would be easiest part. It was a totally new experience trying to grow plants in a cold Midwestern state. Many plants did not survive. Many did, and I learned that orchids actually could be grown quite successfully in the stifling environment of a house surrounded by ice and snow. (cont. on page 4)



President's Message

By Rich Ackerman



Summer is travel time for many of our members. I enjoy hiking and looking for native orchids on my summer trips. Two years ago, we found several different species in the mountains around Lake George, NY. This year in Colorado I struck out. They have at least 33 different species, but I'll be darned if I could find any.

The International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting in Apopka will have come and gone by the time this is in print. Did anyone from FLOS attend? It would be fun to have a review for the newsletter. There is still time to register for the Cattleya Symposium in early August in Fort Pierce. A large delegation from FLOS attends every year. We have a great time and learn a lot. Join us!

If you are on a trip this summer, remember to bring along your American Orchid Society (cont. on page 2)

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Mark Your Calendar

Encyclias

August 12

Jim Roberts

The Ghost Or-

September 14

Wendy Mazuk

Auction

October 14

Start getting plants
ready to donate



KEIKI CLUB NEWS

BY JILL SMITH

As an alternative to visiting a member's growing area in the blistering July heat, this month 21 active Keikis were joined by a number of post-grads and six Board members for a great learning session in the air-conditioned party room of Gerry and Jill Smith's condo. Our President, Rich Ackerman, conducted a most informative class on orchid nomenclature and how to read tags. Although one might think this is a rather dry topic, Rich's presentation was really interesting, interactive and lots of fun. He gave everyone handouts and a baggie with about 6 or 7 orchid tags and elicited a lot of laughs when he told us that these were the tags from all the orchids he had killed! As he explained all the different orchid terms, he asked the "students" to find a tag that matched each particular terminology. This hands-on approach really helped everyone to relate to all the information Rich provided. Everyone agreed that the venue was perfect and that we should do this every summer!



After the lesson, we had a raffle of more than 20 plants, and all the Keikis were thrilled to leave with at least one freebee orchid to pot or mount. Many thanks to both Rich and Les Corbin for their donations to this effort.

Special thanks also to all those who brought food and beverages to share with lunch. It was a great day and everyone learned a lot, met new orchid friends and enjoyed the wonderful spirit of FLOS!



There will be no meeting in August this year, but we will resume in September at John Budree's. The date and further details will follow.

Jill Smith, Keiki Club Chair
Sue Mitchell Grieg—Co-Chair
Rick Bellas—Co-Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chris Curtin and Dhvani Thakkar

David Hoyt and Eric Schaivi



AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY WEBINARS

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time at your convenience. The AOS adds multiple webinars each month, so check back often. Some are member only, but that is just an additional reason for joining.

West Palm Beach Judging Center:

Flamingo Gardens
3750 South Flamingo Road
Davie, Florida, 33330

Judging takes place at Flamingo Gardens, at 2:00 PM on the fourth Saturday of the month. November & December judging will occur on the third Saturday because of the holidays. Bring your plants for nominations before 2:00.

HOMESTEAD BUS RAMBLE

Saturday November 9, 2019

Meet: Christ Lutheran Church
1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Depart: 8:00 am sharp

Return: 4:00—5:00 pm

Destinations: TBD

Cost: \$30 per person

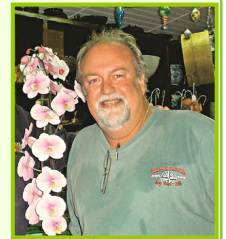
What to bring: lunch and snacks, box or crate for purchases, beverages (water and juices will be available on the bus)

Lunch: TBD

Drawings for free plants on the bus!

Contact: Capt. Allen, 954-553-1351 or

tacogar@gmail.com



(President's Message cont. from page 1) membership card for free or reduced price admission to almost 300 botanical gardens. This is just one of many benefits of belonging to AOS. You can get more information from our AOS Liaison Joan Connors or from Sue Mitchell-Grieg and Gigi Granger at our library table during our next meeting. Happy trails! Rich

As you work with your orchids this summer, please consider setting aside a division to donate to our annual orchid auction in October. The money raised helps underwrite member functions like the Holiday Party. It's a fun way to help support your society. Thanks!

JULY RIBBONS

B. David Sanders	Luanne Betz	Blue
Bc. Biosa 'Bill'	Bud Romboli	Blue
Blc. Waianae Leopard	Roderick Lewis	Blue
Den. <i>arowana</i>	Rich Ackerman	Blue
Den. Hibiki	Linda Hembree	Blue
Phal. <i>bellina</i>	Bonnie Bonneau	Blue
V. Pachara Delight 'Isabella'	Francisco/Paul	Blue
Bc. Yellow Bird	Luanne Betz	Culture
Gram. <i>scriptum x tigrinum</i>	Rich Ackerman	Culture
C. Leopoldii f. <i>coerulea</i>	Bud Romboli	Red
Den. Aridang Green	Bud Romboli	Red

GHOST ORCHID FRENZY BY VICKI HALLOCK

South Florida is home to one of the world's most iconic orchids, the ethereal leafless and endangered Ghost Orchid, *Dendrophylax lindenii*. It has been the subject of the book *The Orchid Thief*, the movie *Adaptation*, and even its image is on the side of U-Haul trucks. Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society members have trudged on rambles through the knee-deep, tea-colored waters of the Fakahatchee Swamp for a glimpse of its rare, elusive bloom.



Photo from Corkscrew Sanctuary web site

Recently, Ginny Salus and I went to the Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and saw the "Super" Ghost in bloom. Called the "Super" Ghost because of its approximate age of 50 years and because of the large number of flowers it produces each year. It was found growing about 45 feet above ground on an old cypress tree in the summer of 2007 by two visitors who were looking for owls. About 150 feet from the sanctuary's boardwalk it can only be seen with binoculars or the spotting scope Sanctuary volunteers train on it.

The pollinator of this orchid species has long been assumed to be the Giant Sphinx moth, *Cocytius antaeus*, because its proboscis was long enough to reach into the orchid's nectarary tube and gather pollinia on its head in the process. An unprecedented discovery by National Geographic Explorers Mac Stone and Peter Houlihan has recently upended that

assumption. Their photographs have shown the Giant Sphinx's proboscis is probably too long for its head to be close enough to attach pollinia to it. It is simply drinking nectar. No longer considered a one species pollinator, as many as five different moths may pollinate the ghost including the fig sphinx, *Pachylia ficus*, and rustic sphinx, *Manduca rustica*.

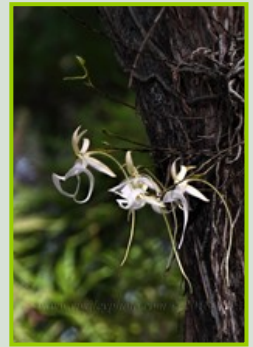


Photo from Corkscrew Sanctuary web site

Ginny and I had gone to the Sanctuary for a night walk led by a naturalist the night before visiting in the early morning. We saw a barred owl and blooming moon vines, heard croaks of about a half dozen different frogs and startled the two Nat Geo Explorers overloaded with their photographic equipment and not expecting people on the boardwalk so late at night.

We were lucky enough to be present at the Sanctuary for the first viewing of the short film *Catching Ghosts* the morning after their discovery was announced. Even Stone and Houlihan had not yet seen the film. You can find it on the National Geographic website or on YouTube. Be sure to watch this film. It is beautifully done by bioGraphic (sic).

Stone and Houlihan explained to us the Giant Sphinx moth's size makes it more like a bird and its long tongue may be advantageous in keeping distance from predators such as bats and geckos when feeding. They also surmise the pollinators may first rely on chemical clues emanating from the flower and then focus on visual clues. In the hornworm family, the sphinx pollinators are all strong flyers and can travel long distances, so it is possible for the transfer of different genetic material from the Corkscrew to the Fakahatchee since ghosts grow in clusters in specific microclimates.

It was a delight for us to meet these personable researchers and to hear firsthand of their discovery and to see the Super Ghost even if it was far, far away!



Blc. Waianae Leopard
Roderick Lewis



Den. Hibiki—Linda Hem-

A NEOPHYTE'S JOURNEY

By Kate Donohue

Help, I'm addicted!!!

There is something seriously wrong with me. In just over three years, I have become hopelessly addicted to orchids. According to Wikipedia, addiction is a lack of self-control. Addicts want to stop but are unable resist the temptation. Addiction takes over your life, and you are unable to focus on anything else. Yep, that's me!



It began at the FLOS Orchid Show three years ago, and started snowballing after I joined FLOS, an orchid addict's delight with unlimited access to all things "orchid." Orchids were available for purchase and raffle at nearly every meeting. You get to hobnob with other orchid lovers and addicts, listen to orchid experts, sign up for Rambles, visit new friends to see their grow areas, participate in the Keiki Club, volunteer to help at our show and other shows and activities, gain access to newsletters, websites, books, and orchid research. I joined the American Orchid Society and the Coral Springs Orchid Society.

When I met Scott Peplin, I "had to have" a shade house. Scott promised that my orchids would at least double in size the first season, and they did! With my newly acquired knowledge and advice from my new orchid friends and experts, my orchid murder rate went way down, and more orchids rebloomed. I "had" to buy almost every orchid I saw, and my small collection rapidly grew to nearly 200 plants. I even won a few ribbons. Whoooppee!

Before I knew it, I didn't want to do anything but orchids. I would lose an entire day working on them, and happily repeat the behavior the next day—and the day after that. Had little interest in friends who didn't grow orchids. My only reason to get out of bed in the morning was to see if there were any new blooms.

Realizing I was in serious trouble, I tried to scale back. I skipped a couple of events and shows, most notably Redlands. It was hard, but I was very proud of myself until I went on a major binge two weeks later. Ordered from Odom's, pre-ordered and purchased more from Fred Clarke when he spoke at FLOS, got a few more from Scott's wife Donna, pretty much cleaned out Home Depot's special order for Father's Day, went to Carib's final sale and stopped at Banjong on the way home. The damage totaled 48 orchids!

I reached out for help but didn't get the responses I was expecting. Jill Smith said I was certifiably nuts. My

housemate Sam who lured me to Home Depot tried to make me feel better by admitting that he had secretly ordered five more pair of shoes (his addiction). Lydia Davis and Bernie drove right over to see what I got. Donna said I needed another shade structure. So, I called Scott and, as luck would have it, he had a small window of time available right away. He not only built a beautiful shade trellis within two weeks, he and Donna also provided an unbelievably adorable little dog to go with it!



So, my addiction continues, and I couldn't be happier!

(cont. from page 1)

During those return years in Minnesota, I worked in the horticulture industry, served in various capacities with orchid organizations and lectured to many garden clubs. I also had the privilege of traveling extensively around the United States, Europe and Hawaii for my career, visiting all of the major orchid nurseries. It was during this time that I started to turn my avid hobby into a small business.

In 2001 we moved to Florida with a small collection of plants, and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. We currently grow our beauties in three gutter-connected greenhouses encompassing 12,500 square feet of growing space. As always, I strive to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants for all our customers and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.

To date, we have registered about 90 hybrids with the Royal Horticultural Society in London and have received about 80 AOS awards on our exhibited plants. We participate in over 20 AOS shows each year in Florida alone and about 10 lectures each year as well. My best to all of you. Jim Roberts



WHAT'S IN A NAME?



There have been many changes to genus names and species names over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, mostly due to mistakes made in the early days, confusion between orchids, or better understanding of certain orchids. The advent of genetic testing towards the beginning of the 21st century, has made it possible to verify the kinship between orchids, and some of the results yielded big surprises when orchids which had been considered related suddenly were understood to not be related.... and vice versa.

This is an extraordinarily complex and controversial subject. You will encounter many orchids with names which are no longer officially recognized like *Cattleya aurantiaca* - now *Guarianthe aurantiaca*. I am in no way shape or form a specialist in this complicated matter, but I have just picked up a few bits and pieces over the past few years.

Here are just a few fairly common changes that you may encounter. Please note that some people disagree with some of those changes, and others who have been growing orchids for a very long time simply refuse to adopt the new names. It has created a lot of confusion.

Cattleyas:

Arguably the most popular genus has gone through many changes. Among the most significant changes:

- While most Cattleyas are from Brazil, there were 4 (very common) Mexican species (+ one natural hybrid from Mexico) which are now known as "Guarianthe". Those are *aurantiaca*, *skinneri*, *bowringiana* & *deckeri*. So when you buy a Guarianthe, you are buying a Cattleya.



Gua. aurantiaca var. *aurea*.
Oliver Turina

While changes in orchid names for genera is confusing enough, the ripple effect has created havoc for hybrids whose names are usually derived from the names of the parents' genus. So, a hybrid which used to be a *Cattleya* might now have become a *Cattlianthe* because it has a *Guarianthe* parent which used to be a

Mexican *Cattleya*.... This is just one very simple example of the mayhem this has created in hybrid orchids' names, but there are many more: *Potinara* e.g. is no longer a valid genus. They are now spread among *Rth.*, *Rlc.* etc...).

- The Brazilian *Laelias* are now called *Cattleyas* while those from Mexico are still called *Laelia*.
- *Sophronitis* are now considered *Cattleyas*. Those are usually colder grower and seldom encountered in South Florida.

Oncidiums:

- Many formerly known *Oncidiums* are now called *Gomesas*. I am not certain of the scientific explanation, but *Gomesas* are usually smaller sized *Oncidiums* and there are MANY of them. So when you buy a *Gomesa*, you are buying an *Oncidium*.
- Because of this, many previously known *Oncidium* hybrids are now called *Oncidesa* if one of the parents is now a *Gomesa*.... Another example of the ripple effect...
- All the previously known mule-ear and rat-tail *Oncidiums* are now grouped with the *Trichocentrums*.



Gom. Moon Shadow
'Tiger Tail'
Oliver Turina

Vandas:

- *Ascocentrums* and *Neofinitia* are now simply *Vandas* which means that what used to be an *Ascocenda* (cross between a *Vanda* and an *Ascocentrum*) is now just a *Vanda*. This is somewhat unfortunate because *Ascocentrums* are small statured *Vandas*, and it was easy to spot their impact on a hybrid called *Ascocenda*. That distinction no longer exists.

Phalaenopsis:

- If you buy a *Phal. japonica*, it is also often sold as a "Sedirea *japonica*". When discovered, it was considered an *Aerides* which is a vandaceous but later on it was put in a separate mono specie genus called *Sedirea* (*Aerides* spelled backwards!)but it is now considered a *Phal*.... Go figure!

Maxillaria:

- Here in South Florida, this huge genus is mostly known for *Mxl. tenuifolia* which is the famous "coconut orchid". Technically though, this has now become a *Maxillariella*.... not such a big difference, but the remainder of the genus *Maxillaria* is a true nightmare in terms of classification with many back and forth like *Brasilorchis*, *Ornithidium*, *Heterotaxis* etc...

On a side note, I wanted to mention *Paraphalaenopsis* whose name has not been changed while it probably should have been: They were initially considered related to *Phalaenopsis* - hence their name - but these are actually vandaceous plants and no hybridizing of *Paraphalaenopsis* succeeds with *Phalaenopsis*. There are only 4 known species and not that many hybrids but all successful hybrids are with other vandaceous orchids.

These are just a few examples of this nightmare of name changes that you may be encountering while shopping for orchids.



This orchid is misnamed in the July Newsletter - thank you Chris Crepage for catching the mistake.

Correct name:

Broughtonia Wedding Song

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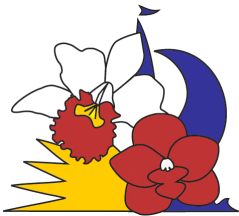
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Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso and FLOS for the movies snacks!.



FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

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

Directions: From I-95 take East Oakland Park Blvd. go 2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave. Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park Blvd. west for two blocks, turn north on NE 20th Ave. Park in the rear of the church which is on the NW corner of Oakland Park Blvd. and NE 20th Ave.

[Recipient]

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