



# 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.

## February Speaker: John Romano



John Romano will be our February speaker, with a program on genus *Dendrobium*. The genus' native range spans from India all the way to New Zealand. Many are popular and grow well in South Florida.

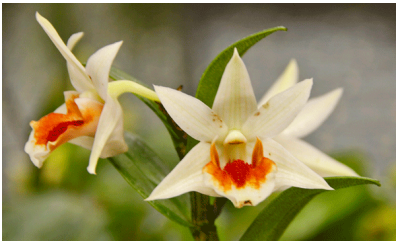
John started growing orchids in 1979 at the age of 13. He worked at Waterloo Gardens, Inc. in Exton, PA, and Gilberties Garden Center in Delaware County, PA, In 2002, got hired at JEM Orchids in Delray as their grower and worked there until 2005. John is a member of Coalition for Orchid Species, FOG, and Newbie FOG groups on Facebook. He runs the *Sobralia* group and the *Dendrobium* species group on Facebook as well as the Let's Talk Orchids group and hosts the Youtube show. (Coalition for Orchid Species)



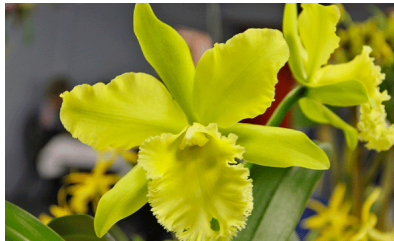
Den. Little Green Apples—Olivier Turnia



C. Mossman x C *aclandiae*—Jill Smith



Den. green lantern 'Red Carpet' - Angie Bonderenko



Blc. Prada Green 'Deluxe Diana' - Roderick Lewis

## JANUARY RIBBONS

<i>B. digbyana</i>	Kate Donohue	Blue
Blc. Prada Green 'Deluxe Diana'	Roderick Lewis	Blue
Bulb. Wilbur Chang	Francisco/Paul	Blue
C. Mossman x C <i>aclandiae</i>	Jill Smith	Blue
Den. Little Green Apples	Olivier Turina	Blue
Lc. Mini Song 'Petite'	Bud Romboli	Blue
<i>Liparis grossa</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
Masd. <i>sanctae-fidei</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
Neo. Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>Ornithocephalus manabina</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
V. Robert's Delight	Kelvin Stansberry	Blue
Blc. Myrtle Beach	Roby Tannenbaum	Cultural
Den. Andre Miller	Bud Romboli	Cultural
Lc. Betty Ford 'York'	Kate Donohue	Cultural
Lnt. Memoria Essie Nixon	Glen James	Cultural
Rhyn. <i>gigantea</i> 'Red'	Francisco/Paul	Cultural
V. Fantastic Fanfare*	Deborah Rauch	Cultural
Bc. Morning Star*	Johnny Ma	Red
C. <i>intermedia</i> topi	Norma Jeanne Flack	Red
Cll. Mizogushi	Francisco/Paul	Red
Cstm. <i>peleatum</i>	Olivier Turina	Red

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## Mark Your Calendar

**John Romano**  
February 11  
Dendrobiums

**Phillip Hamilton**  
March 11  
Broughtonias

**Kristen Uthos**  
April 8  
Japanese orchids  
*Neofinitia falcata*



# OLIVIER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES

## FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT GROW DENDROBIUMS YET.....

More sections within the dendrobium genus.

-Section Phalaenanthé is your standard big box retailer hybrid dendrobium. You know the look.... They are easy to grow, require no rest but are cold sensitive.

-Section Pedilonum is a bit less common but well known because of *Dendrobium bullenianum* with its orange/red flowers and *goldschmidtianum* with its fuchsia flowers. Unlike the other 4 sections -which are evergreens- these orchids are deciduous, and flowers usually grow on 2-year-old leafless canes. These have typically long, pendulous canes and need less light than the previous sections. Also, they need tons of water in the summer but very little from December through Spring when they bloom. They are easy to grow, but making them bloom properly requires discipline with water. The flowers are tiny, but there are hundreds of them and when grown successfully, these are truly gorgeous plants. Older cane can rebloom for many years before drying out. While their main blooming spurt is in the Winter or early Spring, they can bloom throughout the year. There is a natural primary hybrid of *bullenianum* x *goldschmidtianum* called *Dendrobium x usitae* which is red.



Den. *goldschmidtianum*  
(section Pedilonum)  
Photo by Olivier Turnia

-Section Dendrobium (often referred to as Nobile Dendrobiums) is well known and commonly available, but fairly tricky to grow in South Florida. There are two subsections, one requiring warmer temperatures which is easier to bloom. Den. anosum is part of that latter group and is common in South Florida and very attractive. Since I have been fairly unsuccessful with these plants. I will refrain from giving any advice. However, proper dry rest and, for the first subsection, a significant drop in temperatures, which we cannot provide outdoors in South Florida, are the keys to successful growing.

Those, including the three sections mentioned in the first article, are the most common sections you will encounter in South Florida but there are plenty more. I just want to add Section Dendrocoryne (aka. Australian hard cane dendrobiums). Those orchids carry numerous gorgeous little flowers and hail from Australia.

*Dendrobium kingianum* is very popular and common, has many different colors and is very fragrant.

*Dendrobium speciosum*, is the record holder of points awarded by judges at 99 points for a monster specimen, is a dream to own but, unfortunately, South Florida is not an ideal place to grow them. These dendrobiums need an extensive 100% dry rest but also a drop in nighttime temperatures that we are typically not able to provide in South Florida. Den. *kingianum* though will bloom if

you provide the required rest.

They also need high light or even full sun. In South Florida, it is best to buy a hybrid as it increases the heat tolerance of the plant.

I have recently acquired:

-*Dendrobium hercoglossum* (Section Breviflores), which has already bloomed once so far, and I must say I was totally in love. The flowers are small but delightful.

-*Dendrobium faciferum* (Section Rhopalanthé). Somebody recently brought a beautiful one for judging at the FLOS meeting. This is a good choice for South Florida.

-*Dendrobium trichostomum* (Section Calypstrochilus). South Florida is supposed to provide ideal growing conditions for this plant, but so far my result is not satisfactory.

-*Dendrobium hancockii* (Section Holochrysa) which is not a good choice in South Florida as it is a colder growing plant, but I got 3 flowers the first winter and therefore I am hopeful. It needs a VERY long dry rest.

All these are species hail from other sections which are less commonly encountered in South Florida. I am still experimenting with these.

Finally, I wanted to mention Den. *cuthbertsonii* which is a beautiful popular miniature commonly available online, but it is cold growing (as it comes from high altitudes) and will not bloom in South Florida.



Den. *hercoglossum*  
(section Breviflores)  
Photo by Olivier Turnia



## Welcome New Members:

Elly Meisler Dana and Earl Wilson  
Jennifer Seer Timmothy and Patrick Russo  
Rick Wetzler Ronald and Clara Goff  
Rick Martin Harvey Friedman



Lc Betty Ford 'York'—Kate Donohue

# A NEOPHYTE'S JOURNEY

By Kate Donohue

I've had anything but beginner's luck since I started trying to grow orchids four years ago. I've managed to kill hundreds of them, and many of the living ones looked like they needed Last Rites. Since joining FLOS, pestering just about everyone for suggestions, reading everything I can get my hands on, experimenting, visiting growers, etc., I'm FINALLY having some success at growing orchids, and I'm positively delighted. Have even won a few ribbons at our meetings.

So, what has changed? Well, LOTS of things, but I believe the biggest change happened when Scott Peplin built a beautiful shade structure on the west side of my house.

Was trying to grow orchids under a covered patio facing west. Didn't have the right trees in the right place for mounting orchids. Had installed latticework

## KEIKI CLUB NEWS

BY JILL SMITH

Even though the Keikis haven't been enjoying any formally scheduled meetings these past couple of months, that doesn't mean that they've been inactive! On the contrary! A good group of them have been busy planning the welcome exhibit for the show and that's involved a lot of sharing of ideas, shopping for props and equipment and meeting to make it happen. We gathered at the Smith's condo on January 10th and everyone brought things that might be useful to create a beautifully simple display. After brainstorming, we adjourned to the larger party kitchen area to do a mock up so that we have a design ready to go for the show. We adjourned confident that we will be welcoming all the folks attending the show with a worthy exhibit and looking forward to putting it all together!

Our first meeting of the year will be held at Scott Peplin's on Saturday, February 23, 2019. More details with the time and address will follow to all the Keikis in an email about a week before. We are eagerly anticipating welcoming a new group of Keikis, we're sure it will be a great time and that Scott will provide us with lots more useful information on orchid culture!

Jill Smith ([jsmith8146@comcast.net](mailto:jsmith8146@comcast.net))

Rick Bellas ([willbell@aol.com](mailto:willbell@aol.com))

Sue Mitchell-Grieg ([smg05kw@gmail.com](mailto:smg05kw@gmail.com))

on the south side of the patio and tried hanging orchids there that needed less sun, but there was not enough sun on the inside and too much on the outside. Was using mostly benches, which worked pretty well, but resulted in broken pots and damaged plants every time the wind blew. Then I hung curtain rods at the edge of the porch and hung most of my remaining plants. Again, better, but still not right. Seems I was not getting enough hours of sun, and the sun was too intense, even though I hung regular screen material curtains in the summer.

When Scott was building the shade structure in late April, he assured me that my orchids would take off like wildfire, probably double in size, and produce healthy root systems. That's exactly what has happened, and it has been pure joy to behold the transformation. Filtering the sun with 50% shade cloth has been the key. It's amazing! I have had to gradually shift some orchids to the north side of the structure to accommodate the more southern angle of the winter sun and will have to gradually shift them back in the spring; but that doesn't seem to affect the orchids if you do it slowly, one hook at a time.

Have talked with lots of members who live in apartments or townhouses and grow on their patios and balconies. Most have problems with the light, but don't have the room for a regular shade house. Others have yards, but don't have the extra money for a fancy shade house. My advice to them is to experiment and see what you can come up with to suit both your space and your budget. Small, simple shade structures for patios and balconies can be built with PVC pipes or wood or even commercially available shelving units if you use some imagination. There are shade house kits available that you put together yourself. One friend even bought a small greenhouse and switched out the glass for shade cloth. The only local source I've found for shade cloth is Green Barn Orchid Supplies, but there are lots of vendors online. It can be shaped, cut, and attached in a variety of ways. You could also hang it like curtains.

I'm enjoying this so much that I'm considering enlarging my shade house, but can't seem to save up the money because I seem to have become addicted to purchasing orchids, a common problem I'm told. Oh well, someday ....

Photos by Kate Donohue



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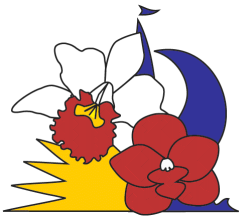
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Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso.

Nora Dyke, Deb Johnson, Kathy Homann, Joan Connors, Ginny Salus, Zoe Bejar, Carrie Ackerman, Shelly Jones, Norma Jeanne Flack, Rick Martin, Roberto Ibarra, Omar Gonzales



## 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 I95 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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