

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.

January Speaker:

Prem Subrahmanyam

Prem Subrahmanyam became interested in orchids at a young age in his boyhood home in Tallahassee, Florida. This was the beginning of a life-long passion for this amazing family of plants. He soon located native orchid species growing in wild areas near his boyhood home, launching a journey of discovery of Florida's amazing native orchids, including the rare and elusive Ghost Orchid. Moving to central Florida in 2005, he has expanded his exploration to central and south Florida, where he can often be found hiking out into the wild with his wife Joy and/or a few of their 15 children in tow as photographer's assistants.



From: <http://www.flnativeorchids.com>

Prem has spent some 30 years tracking down both common and rare species within the wilds of Florida, armed with his camera and a sharp eye. Many of these photographs appear, along with detailed information on Florida's orchid species, on a website he personally founded and maintains: www.flnativeorchids.com. His photographs and articles have also appeared in many orchid related magazines, wildflowers guides, and books.

His presentation "Orchids in our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids" covers a variety of orchid species found growing wild in our state and combines scientific information, anecdotes from his time in the field, and award-winning photography in a presentation you won't want to miss.

Mark Your Calendar



Preview Party—January 24 7:00-10:00

Orchid Paradise Show: January 25-27 from 10am to 6pm

Please pay for your presale tickets or return them before the show—FLOS must account for all tickets or pay for them!

Prem Subrahmanyam

John Romano

Phillip Hamilton

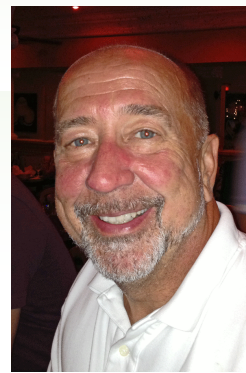
January 14

February 11

March 11

2019 SHOW UPDATE

This is the last newsletter you will receive before the January show and it has some important information for you as a grower and a volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact me: Michaelschaberl@comcast.net or at 954-683-9615.



We know you are proudly growing and grooming your 2019 Hobbyist Grown award winning \$500 Orchids. This award is open to all hobbyists, but we would really like a FLOS member to win this prize. New this year for FLOS members only are 3 new \$250.00 prizes for the

Best Cattleya, Dendrobium and best cut flower arrangement. To enter your orchid, you must bring your plant to the War Memorial on Wednesday, January 23 from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM to be registered. (cont. on page 7)

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A NEOPHYTE'S JOURNEY

BY KATE DONOHUE

Phear of Phal Phailure

Phalaenopsis is probably the best known and most popular of all the orchids. They seem to be for sale everywhere from grocery stores to big box stores, and many are inexpensive. They are certainly beautiful to behold, sometimes in impossibly vivid colors. Most of the flowers last a very long time. Some are fragrant. They can be grown indoors or outside and are frequently featured in home décor and centerpieces. They are usually recommended as the best orchid for beginners.

That being said, why are so many orchid enthusiasts afraid of them? I'm constantly hearing comments like, "I can never keep them alive," "They never bloom again," or, "I'm just tired of messing with them"? Scott Peplin reports that some of his clients tell him not to bother repotting them because they are so widely available and inexpensive. The clients just replace them when they finish blooming. Someone else I know removes them from the pots and tosses them into his mulch pile. "If they survive, fine; but they are too finicky to mess with."

My experience with Phals has been pretty much the same. Have had very little luck keeping them alive and don't believe I've ever had one rebloom. Either they dry out or the roots turn into a green, nasty-smelling glop. However, I've managed to keep a few alive this fall and am starting to see some bloom spikes emerging. Very encouraging.

Most experts and how-to books recommend growing Phals in sphagnum moss that should be changed out every year. The consensus is to use plastic pots and keep the medium moist. If that is best, then why do most commercially available Phal mixes have all sorts of other stuff in them? The Lowe's and Home Depot mixes are mostly bark, which is great for holding moisture, but rots pretty quickly. The mix from orchid supply places has a variety of charcoal, fine dirt, bark, coconut, and sponge rock in with the moss. At non-specialty stores and even some florists, the care instructions call for watering with one ice cube per week only if grown indoors. Ouch!! The only logical explanation I've been able to come up with is that it keeps people from getting the crown wet. We all know that wet crowns cause rot that can quickly spread to nearby Phals and wipe them all out.

So, what's the solution? As always, you need to figure out what works for YOUR plants in YOUR growing conditions. Other FLOS members I've (cont. on page 4)

KEIKI CLUB NEWS

BY JILL SMITH

On Sunday, December 2, Scott and Donna Peplin hosted a wonderful holiday party for the Keikis! We all gathered beneath their wonderland of flowering plants around the "World Famous Orchid Bar and Grill" and enjoyed enthusiastic banter and good food and drink. Several of the group had not yet been there and were amazed by the display of glorious orchids so beautifully arranged and placed. Thank you, Scott and Donna! As always, you were great hosts, and a good time was had by all! And thanks to all those who brought something to share!

We are looking forward to the event of the year which is coming fast--the big Show--this year, Orchid Paradise! We invite all Keikis who are able to join us for the creation of the welcome display and set up on January 23. We need help! And we need plants, so if you have something lovely in bloom, please let us display it for you. Or if you are so inclined, enter one of your plants for judging. And don't forget there will be three new cash awards for the best dendrobium, the best cattleya and the best cut flower arrangement. Also, if you haven't volunteered to work at the show, please sign up with Michael Schaberl. We are looking forward to having the Keikis very involved, meeting new friends and learning by participation. Also, the Million Orchid Project for Broward County will be launched on the 23rd at 1 PM outside the War Memorial, and we encourage the Keikis to attend this memorable event.

There will not be a Keiki meeting in January, but we will resume our schedule in February, meeting again at Scott Peplin's for a Cattleya repotting presentation. In March, Olivier Turina will be hosting us at his beautiful home in the Bal Harbor neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale, and in April we'll be at Gustavo Valverde's Green Valley Orchid greenhouse. No dates have been established as yet, but we will be in touch with that information in the weeks to follow.

See you all at the Show!!

Jill Smith (jsmith8146@comcast.net)

Rick Bellas (willbell@aol.com)



AOS FALL MEMBERS MEETING AND 19TH ANNUAL SLIPPER ORCHID SYMPOSIUM

BY SANDI BLOCK-BREZNER

At the beginning of November, I attended the Fall American Orchid Society (AOS) Members Meeting in Apopka, Florida. As an AOS third year Student Judge with the West Palm Beach Judging Center (WPBJC), I felt it would give me an opportunity to learn more about the AOS. It would also give me an opportunity to participate in an afternoon of judging with AOS members from other parts of the country. The judging session was organized by the Florida North Central Judging Center, which meets in Tampa and has an outreach center near Orlando. This was also a chance to see orchids I might not usually see in here in South Florida, and there were a few.

Though I was just an observer at the Member's Forum, it was interesting to hear about all that's happening within the organization and hear about their recent accomplishments, like membership breaking 10,000! (I know it might have been higher in the past, but it had fallen way down, and there was a big campaign last year to raise it up again.) Also the AOS has finally opened the Archives Room and Library at Fairchild Botanical Gardens in Miami. It is staffed by a volunteer Sat., Mon., Wed., and Fri., from 9-12 and Tues. and Thurs. from 10-1 (though it's probably a good idea to call ahead before making the trip!) If you are curious or need to do any research, it should be a good place to start...we know not everything about orchids is digitized! If you are an AOS member, you should have received the Cymbidium Supplement this past October. We were told an Oncidium Supplement is being planned and will be out in October, 2019. The AOS website and Orchids Plus program are also undergoing major upgrades, and the Webinar topics have been set through May. AOS is also producing a new book titled *AOS Guide to Orchids and their Culture*. Should be good for newbies!

I also attended a committee meeting that is planning the



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FLOS is on their list of supported non-profits, so you can choose to support us while you shop!

Centennial Celebration Gala that will be April 10, 2021 in Miami. Robert Fuchs of RF Orchids is the Chair, and I heard that FLOS has already made a contribution!

The highlight of the meeting was when Joan Connors was recognized as being promoted from a Student Judge to an Associate Judge!! Now her vote counts! *Congratulations Joan!!* And we were happy to hear the AOS Special Annual Awards announced and six were from the WPBJC and that *Tom Kuligowski, the WPBJC photographer*, received awards and recognition for his wonderful photographs of those awarded orchids!

On Friday morning, Thahn Nguyen of Springwater Orchids spoke on "Line Breeding Paphiopedilum Species". The vendor tent was open both days with a dozen growers from Germany, Taiwan, and the USA! It was hard to resist!

In conjunction with the Members Meeting was the 19th International Slipper Orchid Symposium which had five world-renown speakers on Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums:

Dave Sorokowsky- 'Novelty Paphiopedilum Breeding'

Chen-Chung Chen- 'Multifloral Paphiopedilums'

Jason Fischer- 'New Phragmipedium Hybrids and Culture'

Alexej Popow- 'Contemporary German Complex Paphiopedilum Breeding'

Dr. Harold Koopowitz- 'Perfecting the Miniature Complex Paphiopedilums'

And of course, one of the best parts was also spending lots of time with other orchid growers and lovers from all over the country and hearing how they grow their orchids!

What can be better than spending time with orchid friends? The Spring Members Meeting will be in San Diego, California. Save the Date details will be sent out soon, and you can check the website at <http://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings.aspx>.

JANUARY IS FLOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME
You can renew at <https://members.flos.org>:and pay online:

- go to <https://members.flos.org>
- log in (only members can log in)
- click on Join Us

-go to the bottom of the page and select your membership level and follow the directions Need help?
Email richackerman@gmail.com

(cont. from page 2) spoken with have figured a number of solutions and have beautiful plants. Many mount them on trees with filtered sunlight, while others grow them in pots without any medium, grow them sideways, hang them at an angle to help keep the crowns dry, and one person even hangs them upside down in full sun. Phals are pendulum orchids, so this makes sense.

If you are as determined to conquer Phal phear as I am, you need to experiment. The good thing is that Phals are inexpensive to replace if you phail. What's working for me so far is a mixture of 1/3 chopped sphagnum moss (for moisture), 1/3 clay pebbles (for drainage), and 1/3 a mixture of coconut fiber, charcoal, and sponge rock. I spray the medium with Physan to stave off algae. I've ditched plastic pots in favor of clay. I hang them at an angle so the water can drain easily off the crowns. I'm also ready to try some sideways and tree mounting to see how that goes. I'm no longer afraid. I shall overcome Phal phailure!

MILLION ORCHID PROJECT UPDATE

At our show booth this year we will be selling Florida natives *Encyclia tampensis*, *Oncidium ensatum*, *Prosthechea cochleata* var. *triandra*, and *Epidendrum anceps*. They are going to go fast, so if you want some get them early. These are the plants:



We will be installing orchids at Broward College South Campus along with science students and faculty on April 15, 2019, at 9:00am.

Our Dillard installation is not yet scheduled. Stay tuned for that one!

Finally, we will be breaking new MOP ground doing an installation at 9:00am on June 1, 2019, in the Colee Hammock neighborhood in downtown Fort Lauderdale. There are many lovely sites, and helpers would be greatly appreciated!

We are compiling a list of neighborhoods, governments, and schools interested in being a FLOS-MOP site in 2020. We will have more plants next year grown from



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

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. January offerings:

Bill Rogerson

Thursday, January 10th.

8:333330 pm-9:30 pm EDT

Finally, a sensible guide for growing Cattleyas!



Ron McHatton

Thursday, January 10

8:30 pm-9:30 pm EST

Orchid Q & A

THE AOS LIBRARY NOW OPEN!



We are pleased to announce that our library is now open! Located in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, the library holds our extensive collection of orchid books and artifacts.

Library hours are:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9:00 AM to Noon
Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

West Palm Beach Judging Center is at:

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.

Contact: Chair - Robert Fuchs

Web site: <http://wpbjudging.org/>

ORCHIDIST'S WORD OF THE MONTH

velamen (VEL-lah-min): The thick sponge-like layer or layers of cells covering the roots of epiphytic orchids helps prevent water loss and aids in the rapid absorption and assimilation of water and mineral nutrients.

locally collected seed capsules. Please speak to a committee member (Allan C, Paul G, Sue MG, Tin L, or Rich A) if you want more information.

OLIVIER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES

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



Dendrobiums hail from SE Asia and Australia. There are some cultural features 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 to be in a pot as tight as possible. Mounting is also often a good option especially for those with pendulous canes.
- ◆ 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.

Besides this, Dendrobium is a tricky genus, as its orchids have vastly differing growing needs within the genus. Most orchid genera have reasonably similar general growing conditions that apply across the board, not so for Dendrobiums

The main issues to focus on when buying a new dendrobium are:

- ◆ Watering needs are the biggest issue. 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 also vary among the genus but a majority need high light.
- ◆ Temperature requirements also vary tremendously. I have read that plants which grow below 3,500 feet in the wild should be able to survive or thrive in South Florida. That information is usually available on orchidspecies.com
- ◆ Some dendrobiums are evergreens while others drop their leaves. In the latter case, they typically grow flowers on leafless canes.

Therefore, while most hobby growers usually do not pay attention to “sections” in each genus (a section is a subcategory within a genus with similar characteristics), 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.

What are the most common sections will grow in South Florida and that are readily available for purchase?

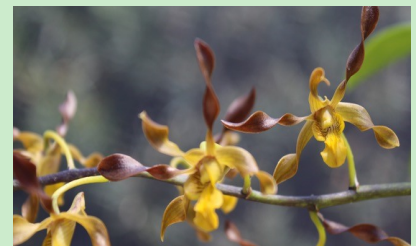
- ◆ Section Callista is very popular because of the beautiful *Dendrobium aggregatum*. It blooms only once per year and lasts usually only around 10 days, but the spray of yellow blooms which opens all at once is so beautiful that most people have them in their collection.



Den. *aggregatum*
(section Callista)

- ◆ Section Callista is a somewhat tricky section when it comes to rest period. Those plants typically need several months of ery 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. *chysotoxum*, *thyrsoflorum* and *farmerii*. They are yellow or white.

- ◆ Section Spatulata (better known as “antelope dendrobiums”) is my personal favorite, as the flowers have those gorgeous colorful twisted blooms



Den. Touch of Gold
(section Spatulata)

like antelope antlers, and they are also perfect to grow in South Florida as they need warmth, are cold sensitive and require no rest, plenty of water 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, but I have a hybrid that has been blooming practically non-stop for 2 years now! The majority of plants available are hybrids.

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 even longer. While they need heat to thrive, they will take colder temperatures unlike the Antelope dendrobiums. Roy Tokunaga recently spoke at length about them when he came to our FLOS meeting.

FLOS 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTOS BY DAVID KRAMER AND ZOE BEJAR



(cont. from page 1) There will be volunteers to assist with the process. The more information you have about your entry, the easier the process will be. It is very exciting to have one of your orchids judged the best, receive the prize money and the honor that goes with it. Don't be intimidated, join the fun, you have nothing to lose... bring in your blooming, pest and disease-free orchid for judging. You just may win!

If you have signed up to volunteer as a judging clerk, you will be contacted by Zoe Behar, our head clerk. She will provide you with detailed instructions about when you need to be at the War Memorial on Thursday morning January 24th and what your responsibilities will be on that day.

Those of you who are "first timers" will be paired with a more experienced clerk. Listening to the judges' orchid conversation and comments will be very informative.

Those of you who have volunteered as host and hostesses should arrive at the Show 10-15 minutes before your scheduled shift. You will then see Rich Ackerman, who will issue you a volunteer badge and a green vest, both of which will help patrons identify you as someone from the show where they can direct their questions. For those of you who are new to this position, you may be asked to hand out

show programs or raffle tickets and act as a sentry at an exit door.

Each day we provide the vendors with a different color adhesive dot that they are required to attach to all plants and merchandise that have been paid for by the patrons. If you are stationed at an exit door, we ask that you look and see that the plants leaving the building have the proper colored dot. You will, by virtue of your volunteer vest and name tag, be asked about locations of bathrooms, food, our FLOS booth for information about our Society and the raffle ticket entry point.

Approximately every hour we raffle an item (orchid plant or other merchandise) donated by one of our vendors. Winners must be present to win.

At the end of the day on Friday and Saturday, all entries are included in a daily raffle for a \$100.00 shopping spree with one of our vendors. We will contact that winner by email and ask them to return to shop on us!

Your main responsibility as a host or hostess is to be helpful and courteous to all of our patrons, helping to ensure that they have a wonderful time and that they leave the show feeling positive about FLOS and our show. If you are asked a question and are not sure, you can ask me or any board member. I am very visible during the show and always ready to assist.

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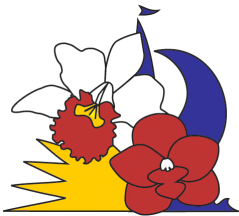
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Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson & Fran Renguso.



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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