

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

Peter Kouchalakos of PCK, Landscaping with Terrestrials

Peter Kouchalakos, along with his wife Clara, are the owners of PCK Orchids and Exotic Plants.

Peter is a law school graduate who found his true calling in growing and teaching others to successfully grow orchids and other exotic plants.

Peter Kouchalakos likes to call them the Johnny Appleseed of orchids.

Learn how easy it is to add these orchids to your landscape. With proper care, you too can introduce fabulous ground-growing orchids that add just a little touch to your tropical garden or your pool patio.

Peter will talk about the types of garden habitats these orchids require and what you can expect in the way of performance.

This group of garden orchids includes members of the Phaius, Spathoglottis, Epidendron and Oncidium genera.

President's Message



By Rich Ackerman

Hello FLOS,
We have a "new normal" for life here in our cities, counties, states, and countries.

All around the world families, businesses, and organizations are figuring it out and making it work. So too shall the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society figure it out and make it work.

Health and safety are first priorities always. Current CDC guidelines say we should not be in groups of more than 10 people for the next 60 days so it will be a while before we can meet again.

Continued on page 2.

Mark Your Calendar

April 13	Peter Kouchalakos of PCK Orchids & Exotic Plants	Terrestrial Orchids
April 18	Homestead Rambles	Trip to Homestead Orchid Growers
May 11	Jim & Melana Johnson of Jim-N-I Orchids	Catasetums
May 16	Redlands Orchid Ramble	Trip to Redlands Orchid Festival
June 8	General Meeting	TBD
July 13	Tom Maligowski	Cellphone Orchid Photography

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2001



2019

More President's Message

We are fortunate to have a hobby that grounds us in reality, lets us enjoy nature, and brings joy and beauty into the world. Even as we practice social distancing and physical isolation, the act of tending to our orchids joins us in a community of caring.

We will be conducting some organization business virtually. Please be sure that we have a functioning email address for you.

Stay safe and we will be together again soon.

Thanks,
Rich

P.S. Apologies to our two new member Gina! I mixed up last names in last month's letter. It was Gina Alzate, not Gina Delpino, who helped pot up *E tampensis* last month. It seems like years ago...



Cattleya Drumbeat 'Triumph' AM/AOS
C. Bow Bells x *C. mossiae*
Photo Sandi Block-Brezner



Rhyncattleanthe Beautiful Nicole
(*C. warscewiczii* ver. *alba* x *Bc. Daffodil*)
Photo Sandi Block-Brezner

Encyclias, awards and progeny

At our March meeting we were fortunate to have John Odom speak to us about the genus *Encyclia*, its awards and its hybrids. John's business, Odom's Orchids, is in Fort Pierce where he has roughly 90,000 square feet of growing space. He does not speak at societies very often, so we were blessed to have him.

John's presentation was organized by the number of awards each species had received from the AOS. The first among them was *Encyclia cordigera* having garnered 72 awards. Likewise, its progeny were also highly awarded. Both the rosea and regular forms had great color on the lip, with darker sepals and petals.

These plants are easy to grow, and are fragrant as well. This is a great plant for someone who wants to try an encyclia in his or her collection. The second species he discussed was *Encyclia alata*, known for its very dark sepals and petals. 42 AOS awards have been given to this species. John showed numerous pictures of this plant and its offspring, and the dominance of the gene for dark petals and sepals clearly came through. The third species he discussed was *Encyclia adenocaula*, a strikingly beautiful, fragrant,

and colorful species with spatulate lips, bright magenta markings on the lip and pink petals and sepals. The markings on the lips come through in its progeny. The fourth species he discussed was *Encyclia phoenicea*, with its wide wavy lip brilliantly striated magenta. *Encyclia adenocaula*



The darker petals and sepals provide a fine backdrop for the lip. The progeny are striking, and hybrids like *Bepi. Femme Fatatale*, and *Encycvola Phoenix* carry the striking lip but with spotted sepals and petals.

John went on to discuss numerous other species in the genus: *mooreana* (a must have in my book), *tampensis*, *plicata*, *kennedyi*, *bractescens*, and *dichroma*. He also discussed culture. He waters twice per week, uses stalite as his medium, gives his plants very strong light, and feeds heavily during their growth season (summer). If you want numerous flowers per inflorescence (and there may be many of them), fragrance, color, and ease of growth, then the genus *Encyclia* is worth experimenting with. WARNING, some growers have found this genus addictive.

By Rick Bellas

Orchid & Plant Events

The slate for our 2020-2021 Board of Trustees

President – Rich Ackerman
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TRUSTEES

1 year Trustees – Allen Cogar, Sue Mitchell Grieg
2 year Trustees – Joan Connors, Sara Singer
3 year Trustees – Francisco Lambert, Olivier Turina

We will be sending refunds to everyone who registered and paid for the April ramble and the May Redlands bus.



Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile that donates 0.5% of your purchase price to a non-profit if you join the Smile program.

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

Our FLOS May Meeting is canceled at this point.

Maybe we can get together in June, we'll have to wait and see.

West Palm Beach Judging Center:
Judging takes place at Stelmar Gardens, 3750 South Florida Avenue, Davie, Florida, 33330. Judging is on the fourth Saturday of the month. Bring your plants for nominations before 2:00.



Once again, FLOS will be participating in “A Tropical Plant Fair” on March 28-29th at the Richardson Park, located at 19500 Richardson Drive. We will have two booths, one for FLOS and one for the Million Orchid Project. If you would like to volunteer please call Sue Mitchell-Grieg at 505-905-6807. Show hours are 9:00 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday, March 28, and 10:00 am - 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 29.



International Orchid Garden Festival

April 4-5, 2020
13th Annual International Orchid Garden Festival Saturday & Sunday, April 4-5, 2020 from 9am - 4pm.



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Inspiration.

Spring Meeting
20/20 Virtual Orchids Show and Sale
April 15-19, 2020
For more information www.aos.org

Homestead Ramble

Luxury Coach to Homestead Orchid Growers. FLOS Member & Guests, April 18, 2020. Meet at Christ Lutheran Church, Wash Hall. 1955 E Oakland Park Blvd. Fort Lauderdale. \$25 per person. Bring: Box with you name printed on it. Lunch. Going to: Stelmar Gardens, R.F. Orchids, and a friends. Quest Orchids. Contact: Allen Cogar – 954-444-1351 or tacogar@gmail.com You can pay online at www.aos.org

Redlands Orchid Festival

May 16, bus leaving at 9 AM. Return 5 PM \$30 includes entry to the Festival, lunch or plan to buy lunch at the Festival. Juice on the bus. Bring box for your orchid. Contact Allen Cogar for more information – 953-1351 or tacogar@gmail.com

Roots, Roots, Roots & More Roots

By Kate Donohue

It is often said that you can have too much of a good thing. Not so for orchid roots! Healthy roots, lots of healthy roots are the key to thriving blooming plants. Spring is the most important time to develop healthy roots. Orchids are growing aggressively through the end of May/beginning of June before hunkering down to survive our beastly long summers. Healthy roots will help the plants survive.

So, how do you get healthy roots? Part of it is the natural orchid growing cycle of spring, but there is a lot you can do to help it along. In addition to your “weakly weekly” fertilizing routine, alternate twice a month with a root growing fertilizer. There are plenty of brands available from orchid specialty stores to local big box stores.

In addition to plants that have outgrown their pots, recently purchased plants and plants that have finished blooming should be removed from their pots. It is likely you will find roots in very poor condition, dry and brittle, densely packed together, and/or mushy. These roots are dead and need to be removed to make room for air movement for the new roots. If you’re not sure whether a root is dead, gently pull on it. If it separates, leaving a thin string and no trace of green, it is dead. You can also snip near the end and see if there is any green inside. If so, it is a live root. Remove all medium, especially important for sphagnum moss and degraded medium. Sterilize all cuts in the roots with alcohol, peroxide, or cinnamon to protect them from insects and diseases.



Dead & overcrowded roots



Cleaned and trimmed roots

Some repot immediately in a root-enhancing medium. I prefer to set them in an empty pot to “sweat.” There is no point in fertilizing these plants because there are no roots to absorb nutrients, but you can water as usual. New green-tipped roots should start developing in a few weeks. Best to wait a couple more weeks before potting or mounting to avoid damaging the fragile new roots.

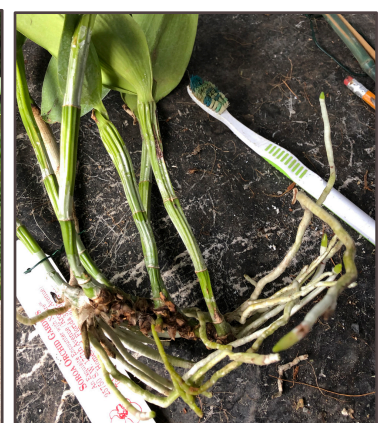
Dip ‘N Gro is an excellent root starter/enhancer. Spray or dip roots or the bottom of plants where the roots will develop. If you are dipping, add a bit of milk to avoid spreading diseases from plant to plant. Another great option is KLM. Both are available at orchid supply stores and online. Less expensive options include Epsom Salts and liquid seaweed.

Plenty of air movement is crucial. I grow most of my plants bare root to give the roots as much air as possible and keep a close eye on them. Have also purchased four inexpensive oscillating fans that have somehow survived more than a year, despite not being under cover.

These are the most popular products and practices for great roots, but I’m sure other hobbyists have their own “potions” to recommend. Ask others what they use. As always, you must find what works for you, so don’t be afraid to experiment.



Orchid sweating



Ready to be repotted or mounted.

Photos Kate Donohue

No Alcohol? Try Peroxide

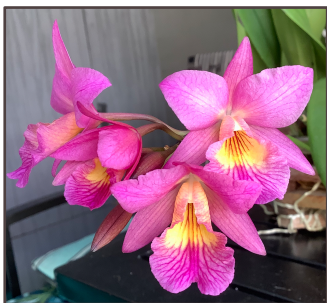
By Kate Donohue

Just as I began spring repotting, discovered I was down to my last bottle of isopropyl alcohol. It's my quick go-to treatment for all sorts of things, especially to sanitize wounds to roots and leaves and when repotting. Spent the afternoon going everywhere that usually carries it, only to discover there is none available, now or in the immediate future, because of the Corona Virus. By then, I was in full panic mode, trying to figure out what I could use instead, the last desperate option being cheap vodka (just kidding).

Remembered reading an article in *Orchids* Magazine a while back about the wonders of hydrogen peroxide. Found the article (August 2018, pp. 582-4) after an hour of searching back issues, well worth the effort. According to author Sue Bottom, hydrogen peroxide does pretty much the same things as alcohol and even more. Some hobbyists use it almost exclusively, and I had four bottles in my supply cabinet! Crisis averted.

Peroxide is an effective non-toxic, topical antibacterial and antifungal agent. It seals and sterilizes the area after cutting roots or leaves. It prevents secondary infections to leaves damaged by insects or sunburn. Sprayed into the crowns of Phalaenopses, it prevents and stops the spread of crown rot. You can also spray it liberally after heavy or prolonged rains to prevent rot. Some people spray or drench pots and roots to promote healthy root growth and prevent all sorts of "nasty" stuff. There are minor cautions for using with organic materials, but it seems the benefits far outweigh the negative.

The 3% solution sold in stores can be sprayed full strength. It's readily available, inexpensive, and easy to use. Back to my orchids!



Gct. Henry Wan Why Not X Broughtonia negrilensis

Guaritonia Henry Wan is an orchid hybrid originated by Claude Hamilton in 1995.

Orchids & Descriptions



Roth. Yokosuka Story 'Little Oriole'

Rothara is the new intergeneric name for this hybrid combining *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia* and *Sophranitis*.



Den. Indigo Queen

Don't cut off old canes, as they store nutrients and water to keep the plant healthy. Older canes will sometimes flower or produce tiny plantlets called keikis, that can be potted up on their own after they develop roots.



Blc. Chyong Guu Linnett 'Smile'

Brassolaelio-cattleya, abbreviated *Blc.* in the horticultural trade, is the orchid nothogenus for intergeneric hybrid greges or grex containing at least one ancestor species from each of the three ancestral genera *Brassavola*, *Laelia*, and *Cattleya* and from no other genera.



Lc. Coastal Splendor x Schomburgkia undulata Photo John Wrench

Lc. Means *Laelia* and *Cattleya*. *Schomburgkia*, this genus is named for Richard Schomburgk, a German botanist who explored British Guiana during the 19th century. Species in this genus are either epiphytic or lithophytic in their growth habit.

Photos Kate Donohue

By Olivier Turina



Dendrobium – Section Spatulata (Antelope Dendrobiums)

In the Dendrobium genus, it is best to know what section your plant belongs to, since care and needs for dendrobiums vary tremendously from one section to another; some need months of rest/drought and others need no seasonality in care whatsoever. There is also a wide variety of different temperature requirements within the genus.

Section Spatulata (better known as “antelope dendrobiums”) is my personal favorite. They are gorgeous with their twisted petals and sepals which look like antelope antlers (hence their nickname). There are many hybrids and you will find a very large color palette; I doubt you won’t find anything to your taste! Also, they are perfectly suited for our South Florida climate and there is no seasonality in their care..

Basics of care:

I grow mine in a very tight pot (like all dendrobiums) and they enjoy great ventilation; therefore, I water them practically every day.

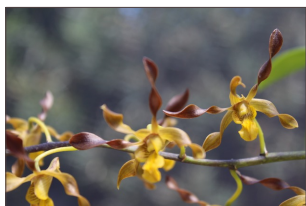
These are high light plants. Some get up to 9 hours of filtered light over the summer in my screened in area. One of them gets direct unfiltered sunlight for hours every day (afternoon sun).

These are among the most cold sensitive orchids. So be careful if temperatures drop significantly at night. Below 50 degrees is really dangerous for them. If they have buds, I bring them in at 55.

Fertilize them weakly weekly but a bit more might be ok too?

The only pest that has been a real issue for me are thrips and I spray buds when they start popping up.

Like all dendrobiums, they should be grown in tight pots and repotting should be postponed as long as possible. Repot only when new roots are growing.



Photos by Olivier Turina

Den. Touch of Gold (close-up)

Other considerations:

There are some small plants available but the vast majority of these *dendrobiums* are pretty tall and large. So, you need space for them. Blooms are long lasting and a well grown plant will have tons of flowers. My *Den. Lowana Nioka* has been blooming NON-STOP since December 2016!!! It reaches a peak around March/April but there are flowers year-round! Most orchids in this section will bloom continuously for months!

The majority of plants available in this section are hybrids. Therefore, they tend to bloom repeatedly and at various times during the year. I have one single specie, *Den. tangerinum* which blooms reliably once a year in February and lasts 3 months. It has a gorgeous orangey color with a purple lip. I brought it to the meeting in March and got a green ribbon. You can do it too!



Den. tangerinum (from March meeting)



Den. Lowana Nioka

Den. Caesar ‘Pink’

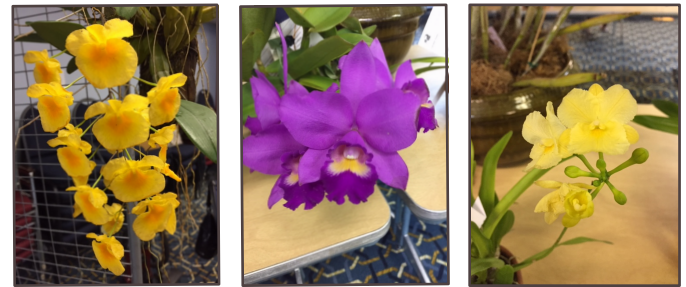
March Ribbons

APRIL 2020

<i>Brassocatanthe Selsal's Amaretto</i> (*)	Rick Bellas	Blue
<i>Bro. sanguinea var aurea</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
<i>Den. aggregatum</i>	Glen James	Blue
<i>Den. Asian Smile</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Den. speciosum</i>	Rich Ackerman	Blue
<i>Encyclia cordigera</i>	Kelvin Stansberry	Blue
<i>Epi. ciliare</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
<i>Lc. Secret Love</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Ornithocephalus manabina</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
<i>Paph. Mathewsianum</i> x <i>Paph. Hsinying</i> (**)	Luanne Betz	Blue
<i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i>	Glen James	Blue
<i>Phal. schilleriana</i>	Glen James	Blue
<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis var formosa</i>	Tim Russo	Blue
<i>Vanda Golden Doubloon</i> (*)	Glen James	Blue
<i>Cattleya guatemalensis</i>	Michael Bryant	Cultural
<i>Den. aphyllum</i>	Saionara Darosa	Cultural
<i>Den. tangerinum</i>	Olivier Turina	Cultural
<i>Cta. Jamaica Joy 'Hamlyn's Darkie'</i>	Rick Bellas	Red
<i>Den. Sea Marian 'Snow King'</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Red
<i>Paph. Sugar Web</i>	Luanne Betz	Red
<i>V. Pure Wax</i>	Kelvin Stansberry	Red



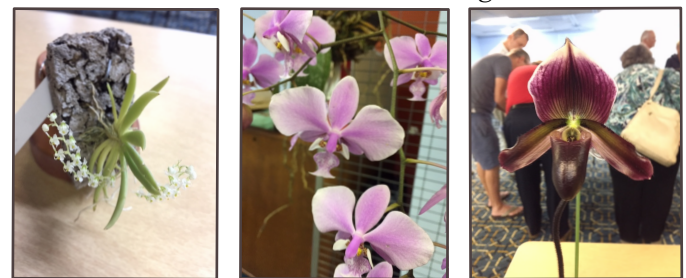
Den. speciosum *Encyclia cordigera* *Epi. ciliare*



Den. aggregatum *Lc. Secret Love* *Bro. sanguinea var aurea*



Den. Asian Smile *Paph. philippinense* *Cattleya guatemalensis*



Ornithocephalus manabina *Phal. schilleriana* *Paph. Sugar Web*

(*) Registered Hybrid (**) Unregistered Hybrid

Welcome New Members

Marc and Joceline Castonguay
Saionara Darosa

Jennie Hendry
Gina Alzate

Donation to FLOS Tree at Flamingo Gardens

We thank Sandi Block-Brezner for her donation of three gorgeous orchids for our tree at Flamingo Gardens. Brian Hufford and Rich Ackerman installed them last month.

Please support our advertisers. They help pay for the expense of this newsletter.



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Also Member of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C. and Nebraska Bars

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Français • Italiano
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Atlantic
PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL

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

March refreshments provided by: Carrie Ackerman, Patty Archibald, Norma Jeanne Flack, Gigi Granger, Kathy Homann, Shelly Jones, Elaine Jordan, Lory Mathis, Vince Otero, Fran Renguso & Ginny Salus



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

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

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.

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Recording Secretary: Jill Smith
Corresponding Secretary: Zoe Bejar
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