

# 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.

## Orchid Vision 20/20

### Last minute Tidbits

1) We ask all volunteers to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled time.

2) The parking garage will be used by passengers leaving on cruise ships as well as patrons coming to the car show which will also be at the convention center. Please plan and leave some extra time because at certain times there will be heavy traffic. **The best route is to come East on 17th Street and turn right on Eisenhower Blvd., which is before the causeway. Turn left at the light to get into the garage.** Cruise ship passengers will be going straight to go thru security. **It will be best if you park on the 2nd floor, walk across the southern most sky walk and up the escalator or elevator to the 3rd floor. Our show is in the Grand Ballroom on the 3rd floor. If you end up on another floor there are elevators and stairs to get you to the Ballroom.**



- 3) There is handicapped parking in the garage and with a valid permit, parking is free.
- 4) Post or share posts on social media. You can really help spread the word about your show, letting all your friends, and their friends know how exciting our show is for new patrons. They will thank you!
- 5) It is also fun to invite a friend to (cont.on page 3)



## President's Message

By Rich Ackerman

Happy New Year!



Have you included your orchids in your New Year's resolutions? We are all at different stages of our learning and cultural practices, but the new year is a good time to start a new habit. Here are a few painless suggestions: Make a "food day" every week. Then just do it! Monday is mine; I try really really hard to mix up some fertilizer every Monday and spread it to plants that are hungry. You need to know your plants, as some need a rest, but even a hand sprayer worth of fertilizer will help keep your ever-growers growing strong. See something, do something! Diseases and pests don't go away without some help. If you see something going brown or yellow, check it out. Even if you just move the plant to a spot on your bench to check out later, it is best to take action. Keep learning! Set up an alert in Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) for a search on "orchid" and you'll get an email every day with articles about your favorite flower. Just read the abstracts and you'll be amazed at what you learn.

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## Mark Your Calendar

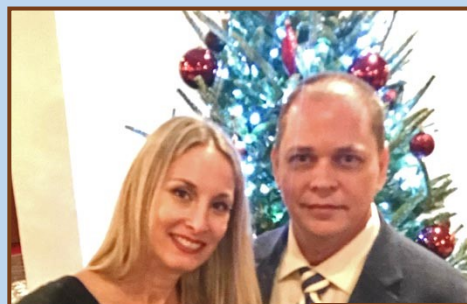
- January 9, 2020 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm** FLOS Orchid Show Preview Party (go to FLOS.org for info & tickets)
- January 10, 11 & 12** The 20/20 Orchid Vision Show & Sale
- January 13, 2020**—Peter T. Lin—Growing Miniatures
- February 10, 2020**—Biologist Mike Owen, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park



# FLOS Holiday Party



The Holiday Party this year at our new venue, Coral Ridge Yacht Club proved to be quite an impressive event! FLOS members mingled and enjoyed beverages in the beautifully decorated dining room and adjacent terrace overlooking the Intracoastal. Everyone dined at tables with glorious phalaenopsis centerpieces and the evening culminated in everyone choosing a lovely blooming orchid from the plant table. A terrific time was had by all and it was certainly one of the best FLOS Holiday Parties ever! Kudos to Paula Kramer, Sue Mitchell-Grieg, Joan Connors, and all those who helped plan this festive occasion!



# Keiki Club News

It was great to see so many Keikis in attendance at our amazing FLOS Holiday Party at Coral Ridge Yacht Club on December 18<sup>th</sup>. It was apparent the Keikis were enjoying the festivities and getting to know other FLOS members! What a great evening—everyone had a wonderful time and it was a special bonus for everyone to leave with a gorgeous blooming orchid!

The new year will be kicked off by the creation of the Welcome Display for the Show on January 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition to those who helped plan the exhibit, many other Keikis and Post Grad Keikis have volunteered to be there for this exciting project. We hope that FLOS members will consider loaning some nice plants for the display and we thank you for your assistance!

On December 4<sup>th</sup> several Keikis gathered at Jill's condo, accompanied by a few Board members to gather information and help get ideas for their show display. Since this exhibit is the Welcome Display, they want it to be simple and elegant and something that will draw our guests in. They were provided with handouts generated by AOS judges which will guide them through the process. Since last year's display was met with so many accolades by the visiting judges, it will be a challenge for them to surpass that level of excellence. Given their enthusiasm, they are sure to rise to the occasion!

A special thank you goes out to all those Keikis who have generously volunteered time to work at the show and to clerk for the judges. We are sure they will find it to be a very rewarding experience and they will learn a lot about growing orchids as well!

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be another holiday event which will include Keiki "graduation" for those who have been actively participating in the Keiki program for the past two years. This will be taking place at the beautiful "Orchid Bar and Grill" at Scott and Donna Peplin's. There will be diplomas, food, beverages and, most importantly, fun for all! Board members will attend and it is sure to be an afternoon to remember as well as the start of a new "Keiki Tradition!"

See you all at the Show!!

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

Rick Bellas, Co-chair ([willbell@aol.com](mailto:willbell@aol.com))

## Time to renew!

Log in at [members.flos.org](http://members.flos.org) and you can pay online. You can also check and update your mailing address, phone, and email address while you are there.

(Orchid Vision 20/20 Last Minute Tidbits cont. from page 1) come with you, carpool and enjoy the show.

6) Pay on line or contact Luanne Betz to pay for your presale tickets and receive your preview party ticket. All monies must be turned in by Friday, January 3 so we can let the caterers know you are coming.

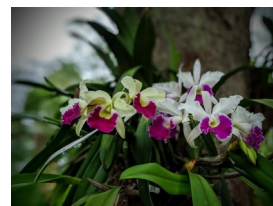
7) Plant registration is Wednesday, January 8 from 3pm-8pm. Please bring your prize winning entries to the Grand Ballroom during this time to be eligible for over \$1000 in available prize monies!

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to a beautiful and amazing show! Together we are Great!

Feel free to contact me with any show questions. [Michaelschaberl@comcast.net](mailto:Michaelschaberl@comcast.net) or 933-683-9615

## More Orchids Mounted at Flamingo!

Brian Hufford and Rich recently mounted about a dozen more donated orchids in the FLOS Tree at Flamingo Gardens. Many thanks to those who donated them. It is looking great!



Photos from Flamingo Gardens Website.

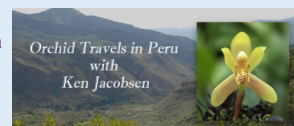


## American Orchid Society Webinars

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:

### Orchid Travels in Peru with Ken Jacobsen

Thursday, January 9, 2020 Member-Only



### Greenhouse Chat January 16, 2020

Ron McHatton,  
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Public—Send your questions with photos to Sandra Svoboda

at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by January 14<sup>th</sup>.



## 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.

## January Speaker: Peter T. Lin - Diamond Orchids



Peter started growing orchids over 35 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 14 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again! He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society, and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country.

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He is also known as "Mr Sophronitis" as he has a passion for growing and collecting them. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in three small greenhouses, outdoors, and an offsite greenhouse.

### USPS to go Wild for Orchids!

The United States Postal Service is releasing new stamps in 2020 - Wild Orchids! The American Orchid Society will be hosting the First Day of Issue Ceremony for these stamps on February 21st, 2020 at the AOS Library located in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida. Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grows wild in the United States: *Cypripedium californicum*, *Hexalectris spicata*, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Spiranthes odorata*, *Triphora trianthophoros*, *Platanthera grandiflora*, *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, *Calopogon tuberosus*, and *Platanthera leucophaea*.

A First Day of Issue Ceremony is held for each new stamp release the day the stamps go on sale across the USA. National and local media are invited to help get the word out about the new stamps and USPS broadcasts the Ceremony live on Facebook and Twitter. USPS also sells the stamps at the Ceremony along with other related philatelic products.



## Welcome New Members

J. C. Alonso, Jr.  
Ally Samper

FLOS put on an Orchid Workshop at PATCH Community Garden in Dania Beach on December 14. Joan Connors demonstrated repotting and mounting; Tom Kuligowski talked about light conditions; Rich Ackerman talked about Million Orchid Project, fertilizing, and watering. We also sold orchids from Greenhouse Orchids in Davie (thank you Rita!) and staghorn ferns rescued from Clara Barker's neighbor's house and mounted by Craig Barry and Rich. Many thanks to Allen Cogar, Jill Smith, Zoe Behar, Craig, Sara Singer, Joan, Tom, and Luanne Betz for all the help.



### A Tropical Plant Fair 2020

#### Presented by Equality Garden Club

FLOS will have two booths at "A Tropical Plant Fair" in Wilton Manors on March 28 & 29, 2020, one for FLOS and one for Million Orchid Project. Please save the date and sign up to help!

### Want To Learn More About Plants?

Consider applying for the Florida Master Gardener training class. Many FLOS members are also FMG volunteers. Broward County Extension is accepting applications for the Class of 2020, due by January 10, 2020.

### Easy Access to FLOS Membership Directory

You can have your FLOS Membership Directory on your phone! Go into the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for Wild Apricot. Download the "Wild Apricot for Members" app and log in with your email address. This makes it easy to get in touch with friends from our society. 😊

# Olivier Shares His Experiences

## Memories of a Newbie Part I

I remember my initial impression when I went to my first Orchid Show (of course...in Fort Lauderdale!): I was totally overwhelmed by the beauty, the colors and shapes. I thought I was in heaven and bought a few



orchids. I did not know anything about orchids, barely what a Phalaenopsis was. It took me almost a whole year to attend my next show: the Bonnet House show and then again the Fort Lauderdale Orchid show in January and I bought a few more orchids. I had caught the orchid virus.

For the newbies who are reading this article, here is some of the meaningful basic advice on primary care I can

share:

Orchid growing is NOT an exact science. While you obviously want to educate yourself on best practices - and most make sense-, in reality your own orchids may behave differently; they may like or dislike what you are doing and the growing environment you are offering. So, you are partially on your own; the key is regular observation of your plants: when you see they thrive, you know you should continue what you are doing; when you see they sulk, then you need to adjust your approach.

No matter what you read about water needs, ALWAYS err on the side of restraint. Even the orchids that have no water “reserves”, like Phalaenopsis, can withstand periods of drought. What most orchids cannot stand are soggy roots that will rot and kill the plant. I am naturally a serial over waterer and I believe this is a tendency among many growers. Some orchids like Vandas, Stanhopeas etc., need a lot of water but most orchids will die from overwatering faster than from drought. When in doubt... abstain.

No matter what you read about light requirement for each orchid type, you can usually go with higher light levels with some success. Like with anything else, moderation is key and it is recommended to try and increase light levels incrementally. Winter months are best to start increasing light level for an orchid as the sun is weaker, the heat is lower and the days are shorter. Beware: certain leaf types will not take any direct sun. Whenever you start a trial, keep a close eye on your baby and reduce light immediately if you start see-

ing leaf burns! Midday sun and summer sun are the worst.

Repotting: you will hear a lot of growers recommending yearly repotting and how detrimental decaying medium can be. Regardless, don't do like I did at first, I immediately repotted all my plants that came from the orchid show. BAD idea! There is a time to repot orchids, when they have new growth or new roots (I prefer new roots). Yet, no matter what you hear about the benefits of repotting annually, I would caution against being too “automated” in this process: observe your plant and if it looks healthy and has room to grow, keep it longer in the same pot. Repotting is traumatizing to your plant and sets it back. Personally, I like mounting orchids. It often enhances the beauty of the plant in bloom and gets rid of the issue of repotting.

While orchid lovers are notoriously never satisfied (after all there are hundreds of thousands of gorgeous orchids out there), you must determine your own limits: how much space you have, how much time you have etc. When I reached 50 orchids, I started panicking, thinking it had become slavery. Then I realized it made me happy and now I have 300 of them and counting. This being said, I am a realtor and work from home and I don't have to rush to work every morning at 8 am. I also don't have kids. So, my lifestyle allows me to take on this “side job”. BUT, there is nothing wrong with growing just 10 orchids or even just one.

You truly should observe your orchids regularly. I made a routine to go out at night with a flashlight because it is the best way to really spot problems (pests and diseases) but also surprises: a new spike, new root growth etc.... It makes me happy to do so but regardless of how often and how you do it, it should be “regular” practice as problems develop quickly and can spread quickly too. Never procrastinate with orchid problems! If you see something, do something.



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!


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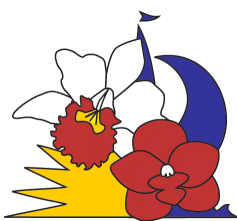
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## Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

**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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2nd Vice President: Vicki Hallock  
Recording Secretary: Jill Smith  
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