

#### VOLUME 70 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2020

# 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.

## March Speaker: John Odom



John Odom has been growing orchids for over 50 years, and 40 years at their present location. John graduated from the University of Florida with his B.A. in agriculture.

With over 90,000 square feet of green-

houses, Odom's Orchids is one of the largest retail growers and shippers of orchids in the United States. They specialize in Cattleya orchids, but also grow other Vandas, Phalaenopsis, Lady Slippers, Oncidiums, and many



species from different genera. Unlike many other orchid growers, most of their orchids are mature, blooming size plants, so you won't have to wait years for them to bloom. John will speak on Encyclias

## **In This Newsletter**

Page 2 My Journey to Orchidaddiction Page 5 Olivier Shares His Experiences
Welcome New Members Page 6 Native Orchid Donation
FLOS Million Orchid Project Redlands Bus
Page 3 Keiki Club News A Note From The Editor
February Speaker: Mike Owen Page 7 February Ribbons
Page 4 Organize Your Orchids Homestead Ramble
US Postal Service – Orchid Stamps AOS Update

### Mark Your Calendar

A Tropical Plant Fair

March 9 – John Odom on Encyclias April 13 – Peter Kouchalakos of PCK on Terrestrial Orchids

May 11 — Jim & Melana Davidson of Jim-N-I Orchids on Catasetum July 13 — Tom Kuligowski on Orchid Cellphone Photography

## President's Message

By Rich Ackerman

Hello FLOS,

The spring season is here! It is the best time to be repotting. If you are looking for help, feel free to reach out to more experienced growers in our Society. We all learn from each other!

I am grateful for the many members who volunteer and help make our Society successful. We already have a nearly full signup list for the Tropical Plant Fair in late March, but more helpers are always welcome. Gina Delpino and Steve and Olivia Turowski came over to my house recently and helped pot up a couple hundred native orchid seedlings for the Fair. Many thanks to them. Finally, Ginny Salus is starting her 10<sup>th</sup> year as Newsletter Editor, and Brian Boyle is marking the same milestone as our Treasurer. We are so grateful for their service. Copies of the new AOS book *Guide to Orchids and their Culture* are for sale at the library table.

List is \$24.95, but we buy in bulk so your cost is only \$15.00. Very good book! Finally, I have given a few talks recently to Broward College students and to the new Florida Master Gardeners class at UF/IFAS. It is an honor to represent our Society at these events.

If you haven't renewed your FLOS Membership this will be your last newsletter!

It is easy to renew: go to FLOS.org or call Vicki Hallock (954-249-1589)





2001

2019

## My Journey to Orchidaddiction

#### By Kate Donohue

#### **Avoiding New Grower Confusion**

It was so exciting to welcome the new Keikis at our January event. Most are just beginning their orchid journey, so enthusiastic, full of questions, and eager to learn all about orchids. It will be a fun year!

Perhaps a few words of caution will help them avoid the total confusion I experienced as an enthusiastic new grower, I wanted to learn as quickly as possible. I read everything I could find and took copious notes at every lecture. Yes, lots of information, but one huge problem. Each grower or expert had a different way of growing, usually conflicting with the last thing I'd learned. By the end of the first year, my head was spinning, and I'd collected an impressive (and expensive) array of pots, medium, and other products. My "murder rate" was down, but my orchids were not really thriving, and I was completely confused about how to help them.

Long-time member Bob Stoozas provided my first ray of hope. "You have to figure out what works for you. Each growing area is unique. What works in your yard may not work in the growing area down the street." Wow!! I've since discovered that there are very few hard and fast rules to orchid growing, no matter what the experts say. Everything is a learning experience. Keep a close eye on your orchid. If it's thriving and blooming, keep doing what you're doing. If it's suffering, try something different. You're probably going to lose it anyway.

Ask other FLOS members what works for them. We all love sharing our growing tips, even the experienced growers. Every time you have a conversation, you will learn something, even if it's something you decide not to use.



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!

The KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle is highly recommended. Try some everyday products instead of the expensive specialty items. Dawn dish detergent mixed with water makes a good insecticidal soap. A 1/3 mixture of Formula 409, rubbing alcohol and water also works well. Rubbing alcohol does a fine job of sealing and sterilizing cuts and trimmed roots. Hydrogen peroxide is also useful. Use lemon juice and water to shine your leaves. TSP (Trisodium Phosphate) from the paint department at big box stores and mixed with water in a jar will sterilize your tools, keep your clippers sharp, and prevent rust. While you're at the big box store, try some of their fertilizers, insecticides, and products recommended for ornamental plants. You can often find healthy orchids at great prices too!

Lessons learned: don't be afraid to experiment, ask questions, and explore alternatives. Get to know your fellow travelers and enjoy the journey!



Here's what you get when you assume you have two pieces of the same Potinara in a pot because the leaves look the same. Pot. Sunday Limelight and Pot.Triple Love "NN". Kate Donohue

### Welcome New Members

Deborah Dugan Jennie Hendry Julie Karvoski Gina Alzate Barbara Gray Paul Army Marc & Joceline Castonguay

## FLOS Million Orchid Project

We are working on several Million Orchid Project installations for the summer. No dates yet, but they will be coming!

## Keiki Club News

Never let it be said that a few raindrops held back an avid group of Keikis thirsting for knowledge on the fine art of repotting orchids! Such was the backdrop

of the afternoon of February 15 when 31 of these newcomers braved the pouring rain and heavy traffic to gather at Scott and Donna Peplin's. Accompanied by a support group of 7, the



Keikis listened intently to Scott's exuberant presentation on how he grows the glorious orchids that festoon his Orchid Bar and Grill. Although his main focus was on repotting, Scott also touched on how he so closely pays attention to the weather and the time of the year for watering, fertilizing and repotting. He shared his techniques for trimming the



dead roots, caring for his tools and the types of pots he favors. He also stressed the importance of healthy roots because without a good foundation, orchids will not bloom. The Keikis

participated in a raffle, spent time getting to know one another and bonded over our commonality—the love of orchids!

Thank you, Scott and Donna! You are always such gracious hosts, and everyone loves

to come to your magnificent orchid house!

On March 29 the Keikis have been invited to bring their lunches and journey to RF Orchids where they will have a presentation from owner Bob Fuchs and Michael Coronado. This will be a special treat and Keikis will also be able to shop for



more orchids for their collections. Details will follow in an email about 10 days prior to the date.

It is so nice to have a fresh group of Keikis with us as we begin the new year! We hope that they will feel welcomed to FLOS, participate in the many activities we offer and enjoy being a part of our exciting society!

Jill Smith, Chair (jsmith8146@comcast.net) Rick Bellas (willbell@aol.com) Kate Donohue (emmykate48@hotmail.com)

## February Speaker: Mike Owen

At the FLOS meeting in February, Mike Owen, the biologist at the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, spoke to us about the orchids in Florida's

unique environment called the Fakahatchee Strand. Fakahatchee is the largest strand swamp in the world. Nineteen miles long, 3½ miles wide and 6 feet deep, this preserve contains 49 species of orchids, many of which are highly endangered or threatened. Luckily, this small preserve is surrounded by many other protected lands which help keep the Strand



Ponthieva racemosa

undisturbed. Mike explained that the slough has collected thousands of years of organic debris, and because of its constant wetness has never been burned or hurt in any way. Thus, it has remained unaltered by

human development.



Cyrtopodium punctatum

Over the last 25 years Mike has collected data about the orchids in the Strand. How many plants of a particular species exist and where, how many seed pods produced, how many plants

flowered, and the like. Thus, he has a good handle on the health of orchids in the preserve. Of course, he spoke about the Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*), and he found that the year after hurricanes blow through that flower and seed pod production spike. Mike quickly reviewed the species that exist in the Strand with pictures taken *in situ*. While putting that list here would simply bore the reader, Mike presented this roster with a passion and vivaciousness that was astounding. His ability to give anecdotal information about most of the species was entertaining and informative. If you go, be prepared for mosquitoes, and be prepared to (if you are lucky) see some orchids that you will not find anywhere else on earth.

We are lucky to have one of the most important orchid preserves right in our backyard. Know what time of year the orchid you wish to see blooms, put on your

(Photos by Chuck McCartney)

waders, grab your insect repellent and your walking stick, and join a group to hit the road. You might even get to see the Dingy Flowered Star Orchid (*Epidendrum amphistomum*), the Cowhorn Orchid (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*), or the Jingle Bell Orchid (*Dendrophylax porrectus*). Most of all, such a trip would give visitors the sense of awe and beauty conveyed by Mike's talk about a little piece of the plant that he so obviously loves.



Dendrophylax lindenii

(Rick Bellas)

# Organize Your Orchids with "Orchid Catalog"

By Kate Donohue

How do you keep track of your orchids? It can be a real challenge to figure out something that works. Some have rigged up data bases with Excel. I opted for an old-fashioned method with notecards, printed photos and a three-ring binder. It works, sort of, but is cumbersome and inefficient.

FLOS Member and Keiki Angie Bondarenko from Ukraine designed and recently launched **Orchid Catalog**, a nifty and easy-to-use solution to our

problems. Available for only \$2.99 at the App store only for iPhones and iPads at the present time, it keeps track of everything you need for each orchid in your collection. It includes a color photo, genus (with genus search available),



species, cultivar, purchase date, purchased from, price, original condition, current plant size, seedlings, fragrance, sold to with date, sold price, reason for death, awards, bloom dates, flower size, repoting dates, treatments, care, notes, and pop-up statistics. You can enter as much or as little information as you want. You can upload to iCloud or iTunes and retrieve the latest version at any time.



I'm already entering my orchids and am delighted with how easy it is for an old dinosaur like me. I use my iPad because it is easier for me to see. Every time I make changes, I can upload the catalog to iCloud, then download to my iPhone so I always have the latest catalog with me to show off to friends and avoid purchasing duplicate orchids by mistake. Check out Orchid Catalog in the App store. There are



several sample posts and pages you can see. If you have questions, you can ask Angie at the various meetings, events, and Keiki gatherings she always attends, or you can contact her by email (ang.bond.21@gmail.com), text (786-702-6207) or phone.

# The U.S. Postal Service is introducing 10 new orchid stamps!



The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the beauty of Wild Orchids with stamps of flowers that grow in the United States. The stamp art highlights photos taken by photographer Jim Fowler. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps.

Each stamp features a photograph of one of these nine species: Cypripedium californicum, Hexalectris spicata, Cypripedium reginae, Spiranthes odorata, Triphora trianthophoros, Platanthera grandiflora, Cyrtopodium polyphyllum, Calopogon tuberosus, and Platanthera leucophaea. Within the booklet, each stamp design is featured twice. The Wild Orchids stamps will be issued with 10 stamp designs in booklets of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000. (store.usps.com)



Once again, FLOS will be participating in "A Tropical Plant Fair" on March 28th & 29th at the Richardson Park, located at 1937 Wilton 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-Greig at 305-905-6807. Show hours are 9:00 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday, and 10:00 am - 3:30 pm on Sunday. If you have already signed up, we look forward to seeing you. And if you have a pretty orchid in bloom, please bring it with you!

## **Olivier Shares His Experiences**

## Reading material and information sources for the orchid lovers



Besides attending monthly FLOS meetings and exchanging experiences with fellow orchid lovers, there is an abundance of educational material, both in print and online. I wanted to share some I find very interesting, but there are plenty more!

The most important resource for general education is the American Orchid Society (AOS). Their website **aos.org** has TONS of information on anything related to orchid growing. They have a monthly magazine, and one-year \$65 membership includes physical delivery of the magazine in print. Their website has the past monthly magazines all the way back to 1932 (some years are missing)!

- -The website has webinars on a regular basis, if you cannot attend live, you can access the recorded version at a later date (which is what I do).
- -On aos.org, there is a tab "All About Orchids" that contributes to anybody's education on orchids.
- -The yearly membership also includes free access to "orchid pro" a database for past orchid awards (the famous "HCC/AOS", "AM/AOS", "FCC/AOS", that you see on name tags).
- -You can also buy several interesting books on aos.org.
- -Finally, every year there is a "supplement" to the monthly magazine which is very interesting. In 2019 it was about the Oncidium alliance.

Check it out: it is worth your time and money for the subscription.

"Orchid Digest" is a quarterly magazine. It provides very in-depth material, and a one-year subscription costs \$39. You can buy past editions on subjects you care about (although not all of them are available). This is probably more for the real enthusiasts among us.

Bluenanta.com (aka. Orchid Roots) is free and an amazing resource if you care about proper tags on your orchids and also the lineage of each hybrid you have. It also covers species. With all the renaming of orchids that is going on, I believe the website is up to date on the latest recognized names for most plants. It offers great pictures too, and you can discover progenies of your favorite plants ancestry.

<u>Orchispecies.com</u> is also free but obviously only for species, not hybrids. You get good information on each specie.

<u>Cattleya.wikidot.com</u> is free and offers good information on basic needs/features for many species from the Cattleya alliance (Cattleya, Brassavola, Encyclia, Broughtonia, Epidendrum, Laelia etc...)

When I google orchid names, I often get referred to **Travaldo.Blogspot.com**.

They have interesting culture sheets for many orchids.

Obviously, Facebook offers many specialized groups that you can join and learn from, and share your pictures and experience. FOG (Florida Orchid Grower) is a big one for us.

If you like Dendrobium species, the Orchid Species Culture: Dendrobium by Baker and Baker is very useful considering how varied the needs are from specie to specie.

The Bakers (Charles and Margaret- I believe Charles is still alive?) have also developed a whole library of culture sheets for many species. Those can be purchased online for \$1 per sheet. Many of these sheets seem a bit repetitive, but you get a good idea of temperature and water requirements for each orchid as well as water needs and useful info on how the plant blooms and what the flowers look like.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society (us!) has its own library on a huge array of subjects. Go talk to Sue Mitchell-Greig borrow one or more books. This is free and covered by your membership. One more good reason to be a FLOS member.

#### https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plantregistration-forms/orchid-name-abbreviationslist.pdf

is where you will find all the official abbreviations for each genus you will encounter (it is mind boggling how many there are....).

**RHS.ORG.UK** is the bible for official registrations of orchids (and plants in general).

And there is plenty more out there.

You will quickly notice that you will sometimes get contradictory information on care/culture for the same orchid from different sources. Therefore, try to corroborate with more than one source or ask around but more importantly: try for yourself!

## A Note From The Editor

This will be the last FLOS Newsletter I will edit. I have loved being the editor of the newsletter and thank you for the opportunity to do something I have truly love. Thank you to everyone who has helped me, especially: Joan Connors, Kate Donohue, John Wrench, Olivier Turina, Chuck McCartney, and the FLOS Board. It is time to pass on the torch. If you are interested in helping with this task please contact our President, Rich Ackerman. I will see you at our March meeting.



Blc. Golden Nuggett Chris/Alex

#### Native Orchid Donation to FLOS

We thank Saira Kaizad for her donation of a flask with seedlings of the Ghost Orchid (Dendrophylax lindenii) and the Jingle Bell Orchid (Dendrophylax porrectus). It has already proven to be a hit at talks.

#### Redlands Orchid Festival Bus

May 16, leaving at 9 AM—returning 4-5 PM \$30 includes entry to the Festival Bring lunch or plan to buy lunch at the Festival Water and juice on the bus Bring box or crate for your purchases.

Contact Allen Cogar for more information:



Lepanthes telipagoniflora—Vicki Hallock



Paul/Francisco

C. Pastoral Innocence Scot & Donna Peplin



Den. moniliforme - Bonnie Bonneau

## February Ribbons

J		
Ascocentrum Mona Church	Rick Bellas	Blue
Bc. Hamlyn's Magic*	?	Blue
Blc. Bouton D'Or	Debbie Johnson	Blue
Blc. Lemon Yellow 'Carib'	Bud Romboli	Blue
Blc. Ronald's Canyon 'Koko Head'	Kate Donohue	Blue
Blc. Winward Flare 'Hawaii'	Paul/Francisco	Blue
Bro. Jamaica Jester	Rick Bellas	Blue
Den. Fire Wings	Jill Smith	Blue
Den. moniliforme	Bonnie Bonneau	Blue
Den. My Sweet 'Wink'	Deborah Rauch	Blue
Den. Yellow Song 'Canary'	Dolores Hurst	Blue
Epi. Serena O'Neill	Roderick Lewis	Blue
Lepanthes telipagoniflora	Vicki Hallock	Blue
Peaseara Chian-Tzy Lovely	Olivier Turina	Blue
Phal. NOID	Bonnie Boneau	Blue
Rhyncattleanthe Embers *	Kate Donohue	Blue
Stanhopea anfracta	Olivier Turina	Blue
V. MV Tannis	Sara Singer	Blue
Blc. Golden Nuggett	Chris/Alex	Culture
C. Pastoral Innocence	Scott/Donna Peplin	Culture
Den. Country Girl	Debbie Johnson	Culture
Den. Little Atro	Olivier Turina	Culture
Den. nobile Springdream 'Apollon'	Chris/Alex	Culture
Den. wassellii	Claire Garrett	Culture
Specklinia picta	Vicki Hallock	Culture
Bc. Anne Hamilton*	?	Red
C. Pure Soul 'Yutaka Morimoto'	Kate Donohue	Red
Ctna. Mem. Henry Goldberg	Jill Smith	Red
Den. My Sweet 'Wink'	Francisco/Paul	Red
Pcu. Golden Peacock	Nelly Yefet	Red
Rch. Magic Wand	Jane Unger	Red
Rhyncattleanthe Butterbur	Angie Bondarenko	Red
V. Motes Green Goblin *	Sara Singer	Red

(\*) Denoted Registered Hybrid





#### 47th Annual Orchid Show

Saturday, February 22 2020 Sunday, February 23 2020 Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Dr Naples, FL 34112



#### Homestead Ramble

What: Luxury Coach Trip to Homestead Orchid

Growers

Who: FLOS Members &/or Guests

When: April 18, 2020

Where: Christ Lutheran Church Parish Hall

1955 E Oakland Park Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL

How Much: \$35 per person

Please bring:

Box with you name printed clearly

Lunch - bottled water will be provided

Itinerary: Stelmar Gardens, r.f. Orchids, Soroa

Orchids, Quest Orchids

Contact: Allen Cogar—954-553-1351

tacogar@gmail.com

You can pay online at FLOS.org



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. March offerings:



Greenhouse Chat March 19, 2020 Ron McHatton, Orchid Q&A 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.

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



Diana Waterous Centorino Attorney at Law, P.A.

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

1230 Southeast 4th Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1912 Tel 954.462.7760 Fax 954 462 7761

#### Norma Jeanne Flack D.O. Board Certified Eye Surgeon

Glaucoma Specialist Cataract & Laser Surgery Oculoplastics Eye Exams Botox / Fillers

Cross Medical Building 2334 NE 53rd Street • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308 954-776-0292





#### **Green Barn Orchid Supplies**

Everything you need to grow beautiful orchids

Co-Proprietors Lynn Lappin and Hyla Levine

5185 Conklin Drive Delray Beach, FL 33484 (561) 499-2810 (fax) (561) 989-0850

Web site: www.greenbarnorchid.com





#### Michelle Durnil Financial Advisor

717 S E 2nd Street Ste 204 Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301 Bus. 954-463-1933 Cell 954-573-4062 www.edwardjones.com

> Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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

Refreshments provided by: Zoe Bejar, Pau l Gumos, Joan Connors, Haydee, Lory, Patty, Jane Unger, Carol Ammicati, Charlotte Hartford, Elaine Jordan, Ginny Salus, Norma Jeanne Flack, Debbie Johnson, Ales Rodriguez, Chris Morales, Fran Renguso, Kathy Homann, Carrie Ackerman, Debbie Lacek, Vicki Trank



## 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]

President: Rich Ackerman 1st Vice President: Allen Cogar 2nd Vice President: Vicki Hallock Recording Secretary: Jill Smith Corresponding Secretary: Zoe Bejar

Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Newsletter: Ginny Salus, Editor - 954-303-1789

Website: www.FLOS.org