

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

Phalaenopsis Species, Part 1

By Olivier Turina



Phalaenopsis are not exactly the most exotic orchids, given their wide availability. Most big box store *Phals* are so hybridized that no one bothers with their “backgrounds.” Depending on which article you read, the “headcount” for the number of species in any genus is never the same. So, let’s say there are over 75 species in the *Phalaenopsis* genus...

However, there are many gorgeous *Phalaenopsis* species that may be overlooked. Many are available quite readily at orchid shows or online.

Most *Phalaenopsis* species are small plants with small flowers. The larger plants/flowers are best known and usually hail from the Philippines. The most famous are the large white *Phal. amabilis* and *aphrodite*, which are in the background of so many of our hybrids; but there are also a couple of very beautiful *Phals*. that can turn into huge specimen: *Phal. schilleriana* and *Phal. stuartiana*. There is also *Phal. sanderiana* which resembles *schilleriana* but seems to be less popular.



Phal. schilleriana is delicate pink with an intoxicating rose fragrance in the morning. The older the blooms, the stronger the fragrance that can carry for several feet! This species has a root system that is very aggressive and will attach to anything it finds. A mature plant will have very long inflorescences with hundreds

of flowers. Its mottled leaves indicate these are low light plants (lower than your average *Phal.*). They are spring bloomers, and the flowers last about a month. Like most species, they only bloom once per year. After flowering, they usually take a break for a month or so.

In The Online Issue

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Phalaenopsis Species Part 1 / President’s Letter

Upcoming events / Contact information / Orchidiction The Bright Side

Amazon Smile / AOS Judging Center, AOS Webinars

Visit the New York Botanical Garden Virtual Orchid Show

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President’s Message

By Rich Ackerman



Hello FLOS,
As I write this our governor is saying we may be “past the peak” and local leaders are talking cautiously of reopening. This is a more pleasant state

of reality than where we were last month. Still, ongoing requirements for social distancing and restrictions on social gatherings along with the possibility of a “second wave” will challenge our orchid society for a while longer.

Our regular meetings will continue to be held on the scheduled dates. Our May 11 meeting will be online via Zoom. You will find the link on our website www.flos.org. We will set up some test Zoom meetings ahead of time so you can work out technical glitches on your computer or phone.

The Keiki Club is temporarily suspended. We will start it up again as soon as we can. All May’s bus trips are cancelled, and refunds have been sent to everyone who prepaid. Let us know if you didn’t get yours.

Other events are up in the air. Million Orchid Project installations planned for this summer are currently on hold; seedlings will happily grow stronger if we have to wait until 2021 to plant them out. Our Auction (Oct.12), Holiday Party (Dec.6) and Show (Jan. 8-10, 2021) will all depend of the state of the pandemic and the rules in effect at the time.

Stay safe and we will be together again soon.
Rich

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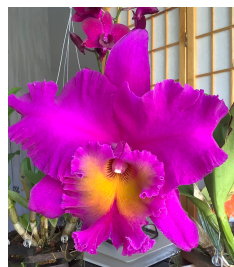


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Kate Donohue



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2019

*Cat. luddemanniana
alba* Kate Donohue



ORCHIDICTION

By Kate Donohue

Look on the Bright Side

COVID19 has brought our world to a halt for the time being. Most of us are stuck at home with plenty of time on our hands. Watching all the TV and news coverage day after day, hour after hour and listening to everyone's complaints pose a serious threat to our sanity.

Instead of giving in to fear and depression, I keep looking for the positive. Feel truly blessed that I have a home I love, enough money to get me through if I'm careful, my health (so far at least), and my orchids.

Self-isolation couldn't come at a better time for orchid lovers. It began at the start of the repotting season and will continue for at least another month. With nearly 300 orchids, many of them in bloom, I have more than enough to keep me busy for a long time. Every orchid in my collection needs something: general cleanup and trimming, new tags, replacement of time-release fertilizer, repotting, etc. You can order supplies online.

There is also plenty of time to attend free orchid seminars and AOS seminars, flip through past issues of *Orchids Magazine*. It's wonderful to have time to do all of this. It's what I love.

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My most exciting find so far is a small blurb in the November 2019, issue about fertilizer baskets. OK, so maybe I'm too easily excited, but I never could get enough of them. My huge shipment of various sizes arrived yesterday afternoon. I'm pumped!

My message to friends and FLOS members: Stay home, stay safe, laugh when you can, and enjoy your orchids.