



An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

# 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

VOLUME 71

ISSUE 6

June 2021

## June Speaker: Thomas Mirenda



Please join us via Zoom on June 14 at 7:30 for Tom Mirenda's presentation, "Phalaenopsis Species: Ecology Informs Culture." Tom will discuss many of the *Phal.* species (not hybrids) currently in cultivation and nuances of their culture based on where they come from. As always, the Zoom link will be on the FLOS.org homepage.

Trained as a marine biologist, Tom caught the orchid bug in his 20's while living in Hawaii. He was the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution for 10 years and also worked at the New York and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and the collection at Greentree Estate on Long Island. He is a monthly contributor to *Orchids* magazine and writes articles for the *Orchid Review* (UK), *Orchid Digest* and *Orchideeën*.

Tom is passionate about building partnerships to protect orchids and their habitats. He has traveled extensively, speaking about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and orchid conservation.

### Mark Your Calendar

**June 14:** Thomas Mirenda, *Phalaenopsis*

**July 12:** Dr. Mary Mancini, *Stanhopeas*

**August 9:** Marni Turkel, "Show Me the Plant"

## "Show Table - Pandemic Edition"

**Deadline: End of day Saturday, June 5**

Members can submit up to two pictures for ribbon judging after each monthly meeting. This is a great opportunity to share your orchids that are too large to bring in physically or are permanently mounted. Email photos only. Send to:

Rich Ackerman: richackerman@gmail.com

Joan Connors: jmconnors25@gmail.com

## President's Message

- Joan Connors



June marks the beginning of our new fiscal year, and I am honored to serve as your new President.

The past 18 months have been quite a challenge, requiring a lot of innovative thinking to keep FLOS moving forward during the COVID pandemic. We were able to provide a wide variety of monthly speakers via Zoom (thank you, Vicki Hallock), add nearly 100 new members, hold native orchid sales, expand the Million Orchid Project, conduct our Annual Orchid Auction virtually and successfully, and use part of the auction profits to give everyone a free year of membership. The Keiki Club is holding events again, and the Board is planning ahead for blended in-person meetings at the church later this summer, a possible Holiday Party, and even our Annual Orchid Show in January 2022.

It is clear that FLOS has successfully weathered the storm. There are many heroes in our story, but at its first meeting the new Board voted to award our now Past President Rich Ackerman with a lifetime FLOS Membership for his extraordinary leadership and dedication to keep us moving ahead during COVID. We will be forever grateful! A very special thanks to Zoe Bejar who "retired" after 11 years of dedicated service to the Board.

As we begin the new year, FLOS is stronger than ever and moving forward. There is a lot to do and FLOS is definitely up to the challenge.

### Welcome New Member

Mary Jo Frick



2001



2019



## Olivier Shares His Experiences: *Cattleya Violacea*, *Tigrina* and *Guttata*

I bought my *C. violacea* two years ago as a division from a South American vendor and it has now bloomed for the first time. I mounted it and it has been growing continuously. It is theoretically one of the easier bifoliate species to grow as it does not need any type of rest, but you still need to be careful to re-pot it **only** when you notice new roots.

The plant needs heat and water year-round, but its roots must dry quickly after each watering, hence the mounting which is recommended for this species in our South Florida climate. It is one of the warmest growing *Cattleyas* and while it is perfect for South Florida, it is best to bring it inside when we have cold winter nights (below 55 F).

It is a much smaller plant than most bifoliate species. While the majority of the bifoliate species are from Brazil, *C. violacea* grows in many parts of South America and has the widest geographical distribution of any bifoliate *Cattleya*. There are MANY different color varieties. Mine is the 'tipo' which is the standard color form. I find it gorgeous.

*C. tigrina* (syn. *leopoldii*) is very popular and is often confused with *C. guttata*. *C. tigrina* is still very often labelled *C. leopoldii* but the accepted name is now *tigrina*. Since I was born and raised in Belgium, I kind of regret that "leopoldii" is no longer the accepted name since it was named after the first Belgian King, Leopold I who reigned between 1831 and 1865. He was Queen



*C. violacea* 'tipo'

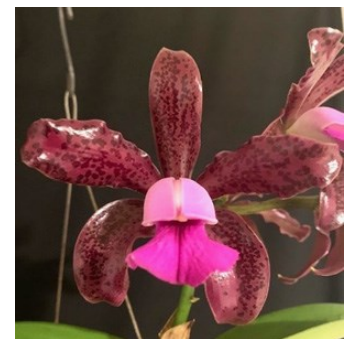
Victoria's German-born uncle. He was offered the Greek crown in 1830 which he declined and then accepted the Belgian crown a few months later. Both Belgium and Greece became independent countries in 1830. That is one of the beauties of orchid growing. It touches history and geography ... among many other things. Thanks to my orchid collection, I am learning a lot about names and places in South America!

Why the name change? The discovery of orchid species in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was anything but smooth-sailing, and there was a lot of confusion. Many times, it was discovered that the exact same plant had been given two or more different names. In that case, the name that was used first takes precedence.

There are 3 main differences between *tigrina* and *guttata*:

- *tigrina* blooms in May/June while *guttata* blooms in Sept/Oct
- *tigrina* blooms from green sheaths while *guttata* blooms from dried sheaths
- *tigrina* has bigger flowers on a smaller plant

According to Laura Newton (AOS supplement of Oct 2020), there have been so many confusions over the years between these two species that many hybrids are mislabeled, and many of the current species for sale might just be a hybrid of both rather than either. Both species share upright growths with strong upright inflorescences, a firm substance and waxy, fragrant flowers.



*C. tigrina* (tipo x albescens)

I have two young *tigrinas*, both mounted. One flowered last year and it was a spectacle to behold. It bloomed in May from a green sheath, so I must assume it is properly labeled.



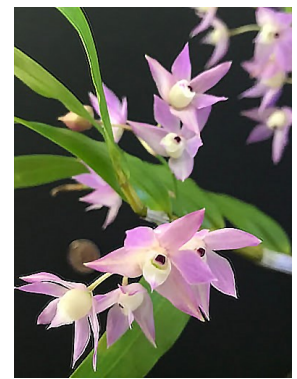
## July Speaker: Dr. Mary Mancini—*Stanhopeas*

Our July Speaker will be Mary Mancini, MD, a surgeon from Shreveport, LA. She is an AOS Judge in the Shreveport Judging Center and AOS National Training Coordinator. Mary has been growing orchids for nearly 20 years, specializing in *Cymbidiums*, *Encyclias*, *Stanhopeas*, and *Schomburgkias* and has won numerous AOS awards. Dr. Mancini will speak about *Stanhopeas*. If you are interested in reading up on *Stanhopeas* ahead of time, please see FLOS Newsletters November 2020, December 2020, and January 2021 for our own Olivier Turina's three-part series. Old newsletter issues are always available on our website **FLOS.org**.

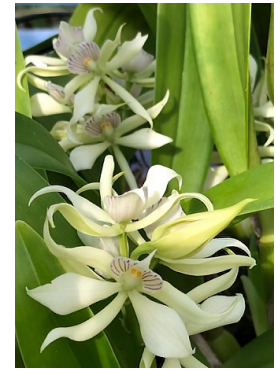
## May Ribbon Awards

<i>Blc. Fuch's Orange Nugget 'Lea'</i>	Nanette Rudolf	Red
<i>Myrmeco philathomsoniana</i> x self	Luanne Betz	Culture
<i>Blc. Mami Akatsuka 'Volcano Queen'</i>	Barbara Gaterman	Blue
<i>Blc. Hawaiian Wizard</i>	Luanne Betz	Blue
<i>Catasetum pileatum</i>	Rose Adams	Blue
<i>Cattleya</i> NOID	Elly Meisler	Blue
<i>Dendrobium hercoglossum</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Epidendrum oerstedii</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Jackfowlieara</i> (syn. <i>Iwanagara</i> ) Apple Blossom	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Mcv. Frances Fox 'Sun Spots'</i>	Gerritt Stryker	Blue
<i>Prosthechea fragrans</i>	Scott Peplin	Blue
<i>Psychopsis 'alba'</i>	Kelvin Stansberry	Blue
<i>Brassia caudata alba</i> 'J.E.M.'	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Den. Shining Pink</i>	Karen Fleisher	Culture
<i>E. Moonlight Shadows</i> * ( <i>E. cordigera</i> x <i>E. Gay Rabbit</i> )	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> NOID	Laura Metrick	Culture
<i>Vanda somthawil</i> ( <i>V. denisoniana</i> x <i>V. merrillii</i> )	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>Aranda Noorah Alsagoff</i>	Clifford Cideko	Red
<i>Dendrobium Gatton Sunray</i>	Scott Peplin	Red
<i>Encyclia 'Odom's Jungle'</i>	Kelvin Stansberry	Red
<i>Stlma. Kelly Lea</i>	Karen Fleisher	Red
<i>Trichoglottis smithii</i>	Karen Fleisher	Red

(\*) Denotes Registered Hybrid



*Dendrobium hercoglossum*  
Vicki Hallock



*Prosthechea fragrans*  
Scott Peplin



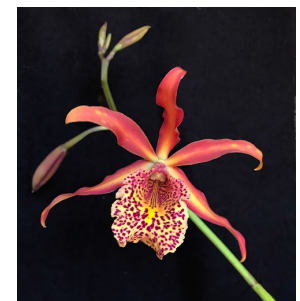
*Den. Shining Pink*  
Karen Fleisher

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Luanne Betz  
 Recording Secretary: Sue Mitchell-Greig  
 Corresponding Secretary: Jill Smith  
 Treasurer: Brian Boyle



*Jackfowlieara* Apple Blossom  
Olivier Turina



*Myrmecatavola* Frances  
Fox 'Sun Spots'  
Gerritt Stryker

### Trustees

Past President: Rich Ackerman  
 1 Year Trustees: Sara Singer, Allen Cogar  
 2 Year Trustees: Olivier Turina, Gerritt Stryker  
 3 Year Trustees: Gigi Granger, Karen Fleisher

Parliamentarian: David Thompson



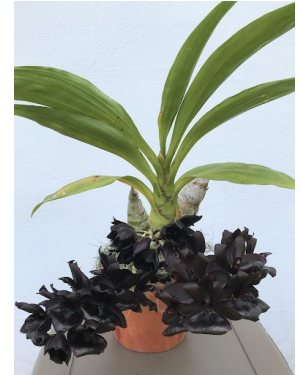
*Brassia caudata alba* 'J.E.M.'  
Claire Garrett

# The Many “Awards” of Volunteering

- Kate Donohue

If you watch the Ribbon Judging portion of our monthly meetings, you will notice that Claire Garrett often receives at least one Culture Award for her beautiful orchids. She has won four AOS awards and the Grand Champion Hobbyist Award at our 2018 FLOS Orchid Show. Not only is Claire one of our best growers, she can also tell you exactly where she got each plant and how she raised it, just like a proud mother boasting about her children.

Claire received a Culture Award for this spectacular *Monnierara* Millennium Magic ‘Witchcraft’ at the Pandemic Judging in April. When asked if she had any comments about her orchid, she replied, “This is the plant that I chose as my gift for volunteering at our 2019 show. It reminds me what a fun time we had at the show and how much I am looking forward to our first FLOS show after the pandemic.”



Claire added that the flowers smell like peppermint mouthwash, especially in the mornings. Like many of us, Claire goes outside first thing in the morning to see what happened to her orchids overnight. She joked that the fragrance reminds her to brush and floss her teeth when she goes back inside!

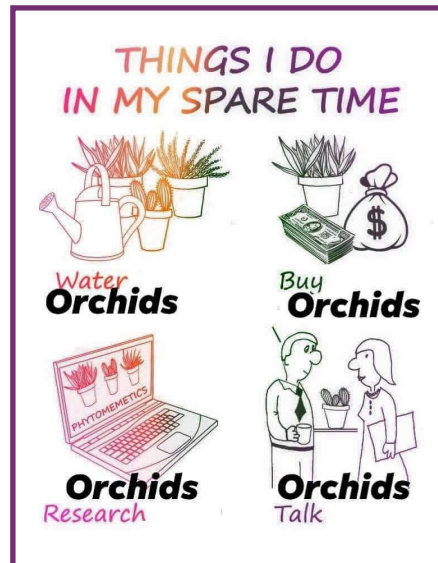
Many of Claire’s awarded orchids came to her collection as the free plants each member receives when we volunteer for a FLOS event or attend the Holiday Party. There is usually a wide variety of plants from which to choose, all from reputable growers. According to Claire, it is an excellent opportunity to try a different species or hybrid that you may not have considered trying before.

Moral of the Story: Great things can happen when you volunteer with FLOS. You get to hang out with fun people, meet orchid growers, learn about orchids, make new friends, end up with some beautiful orchids, and perhaps even win some awards. Sounds like a win-win to me!

*Pecteilis radiata*



Syn. *Habenaria radiata*, native to China, Japan, Korea, and Russia. Known as the White Egret Flower, Fringed Orchid, or Sagisō. Not to be confused with the North American White Fringed Orchid *Platanthera praeclara*.



*Caleana major*



Known as Large Duck Orchid, native to eastern and southern Australia

**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 FLOS email and password. This makes it easy to get in touch with FLOS friends.

**Join the FLOS Facebook Group:** Connect with other FLOS members, see what they are doing, learn about orchid culture and orchid events. Open to all FLOS members and invited guests.

**Check Out members.flos.org:** Log on at members.flos.org. Choose “Edit Profile” to update your information. You can even choose a fun Avatar and upload your orchid photos to your own album! You can opt out of the print version of the newsletter to save us \$\$\$ on printing and mailing costs (every member gets the online version). You can contact a member directly through the public profile member directory. In the FLOS Store, you can purchase plants, supplies, books, and any items we have for sale, buy tickets to events, and register for Rambles. Under “Downloads,” you can access official society documents.



We are about to launch into MOP mania. We have commitments for over 9,000 orchids this summer, so we are going to be busy. Our partners this year include Colee Hammock, Stunson Nature Trail (Oakland Park), Equality Garden Club (Wilton Manors), City of Weston, Broward County Extension, City of Fort Lauderdale (Snyder Park), Coral Springs Garden Club, and Catholic Cemeteries in North Lauderdale and Doral. There will be many opportunities for FLOS members to help.

Here's a photo of the first FLOS-planted seedling to bloom, planted in Colee Hammock in 2019. Several others are in bud. Success!

**FLOS Field Trip: Saturday, June 5 8:30 am.** Join us at Stunson Nature Trail in Oakland Park (1701 NW 38th St, Oakland Park, FL 33309) for a brief talk about native orchids and a tour to see a large-scale planting. If you want to help on installations later this summer, please try to make it. After the tour, you can help conduct a census if you want to stay a little longer.

**Monday, July 12, 8:30 am.** Help install a variety of native orchids at Snyder Park (3299 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fort Lauderdale 33315).

## Measuring Light

ALTHOUGH there are light meters that can be used to measure the light in your orchid growing areas they can be confusing to use. An easy way to determine the brightness of your growing area is to use a white sheet of paper or white illustration board or foam core. Hold your hand about 8–10 inches (20–25 cm) above the white card on a bright day when the sun is shining fully. Use the illustrations shown here as guides.



**FULL SUN** Notice the dark shadow with a hard edge.



**BRIGHT** Shadow has a soft edge, is lighter. Approximately 35–40 percent shade cloth.



**FILTERED LIGHT** Soft edge, open shadows. Approximately 50–60 percent shade cloth.



**SHADY BRIGHT** Very soft, gray shadow. Approximately 70 percent shade cloth.



**FULL SHADE** Blurry shadow; difficult to recognize the object in the shadow.



# American Orchid Society

*Education. Conservation. Research.*

## West Palm Beach Judging Center—Flamingo Gardens

3750 South Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330

**Saturday, June 26**

Judging has returned to the Flamingo Gallery. If you plan to attend, please contact [bocaorchidlady@aol.com](mailto:bocaorchidlady@aol.com) or [sblockfl@bellsouth.net](mailto:sblockfl@bellsouth.net) for instructions on how to gain access to Flamingo Gardens.

Plant registration will begin at 1:30 pm with judging at 2:00 pm. All plants must be **pre-registered** by 3:00 pm on Friday, June 25, by email to: [bocaorchidlady@aol.com](mailto:bocaorchidlady@aol.com). Please provide the name of the plant, parents (if a hybrid), and your name and contact information.

Masks are requested, but not required for those who have been fully vaccinated. No food will be served, but you are welcome to bring your own. Please refer to our website for specifics ([wpbjc.org](http://wpbjc.org)) or contact our AOS representative Joan Connors.



## AOS Centennial Celebration

**October 28-30, 2021**

**The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables**

Join us at the beautiful and historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, for three days of camaraderie, orchids, and jubilee as we reminisce about our past and look forward to the next 100 years!

Visit [aos.org/news-and-events/centennial-celebration.aspx](http://aos.org/news-and-events/centennial-celebration.aspx) to find out more and register for this exciting event.

We still have a few seats available at our FLOS reserved tables for the Gala and Banquet on October 30. Cost: \$250. Purchase your tickets online at [members.flos.org](http://members.flos.org) homepage. Scroll to the bottom for the link under Upcoming Events.



FLOS still has a few copies of *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* for \$15, half the AOS price. Pick-up only. Shipping not available. Contact [richackerman@gmail.com](mailto:richackerman@gmail.com)

Copies will also be available at Keiki events. Cash only.

## AOS Webinars:

Online video webinars are added every month. Visit [AOS.org](http://AOS.org) to register for an upcoming webinar, or watch recorded webinars at your convenience. Some are member only, just another reason for joining AOS.



**What are judges looking for when you set up your exhibits?**

**Marc Burchette**

Tuesday, June 8, 8:30 pm  
(Members only)



**Greenhouse Chat, Ron McHatton**

**Orchid Q&A**

Thursday, June 17, 8:30 pm  
(Open to the public)

## AOS Library Volunteers Needed



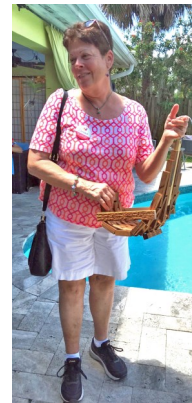
Please contact Claire Garrett (954-684-1062 or [clairgarr@aol.com](mailto:clairgarr@aol.com)) if you can volunteer a few hours a month. We will train you. The library is a beautiful place to hang out, you get to interact with other orchid lovers, **PLUS** you can peruse all the books in our extensive library!

# May Keiki Event

- Kate Donohue

The weather was just about perfect as I welcomed two groups of Keikis to my orchid grow area on May 22. This Keiki class is especially anxious to learn and get growing because so many joined during the pandemic and have waited more than a year. I gave a short talk on my growing culture, general tips, and greenhouse etiquette before the Keikis had time to wander around, see how I grow, and ask questions. Vicki Hallock, Scott Peplin, Sara Singer, Karen Fleisher, Luanne Betz, and Dave Thompson were on hand to welcome everyone and provide some one-on-one attention. We raffled a few orchid cuttings and a beautiful, slatted hanging basket made and donated by Dave Thompson. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for Keikis to connect with each other and meet long-time FLOS members. We finally got to see what some people looked like without their masks. We hardly recognized each other!

Vicki Hallock has invited us to her grow area on Saturday, June 12. Rich Ackerman will give his famous “How to Interpret Orchid Tags” talk via Zoom in July, and we will do a double event on August 14 at Lori Parrish’s grow area and Mac’s fabulous new nursery, and we will visit Sara Singer’s grow area in September. Watch your email in-box for details.



## Greenhouse Etiquette

As Keikis we will be visiting the greenhouse and growing areas of experienced orchid growers and hobbyists who are kind enough to share their knowledge so that we, too, can grow healthy plants and beautiful blooms. While we all know how to behave when we visit others, there are some additional guidelines that we may not have thought of as we enter the inner sanctums of orchid experts. We all want to be remembered as considerate visitors who would be welcomed back!

- Leave large purses, backpacks, and tote bags outside the greenhouse to avoid accidentally bumping into plants and causing damage. Many of us have a special small purse to carry inside.
- Our hosts have invited us to look at their plants and ask questions which they are happy to answer. Look, but **never touch a plant** without permission.
- Most growers have ID tags in their pots or attached to their plant containers. **Do not touch the tags** or remove them to see the name of the plant. We don’t want to risk damaging brittle tags or misplacing them. Sometimes the tags are attached to roots, and we wouldn’t want to risk damaging them. Our hosts will be happy to tell you the name of the plant if you ask.
- Many of our hosts will offer seedlings, divisions, or plants that they no longer want—very generous indeed! But **please don’t ask for a cutting**. We would never want to put our host on the spot or in an uncomfortable position.
- If you have a question about a sick plant in your collection, cut off a piece and seal it in a plastic bag or take a photograph. We cannot risk contaminating our host’s collection, so **leave your “problem” plants at home**.
- Always enjoy refreshments away from the plants, same for smoking or vaping.

Enjoy your time with our hosts and ask lots of questions. Who knows, someday **you** may be hosting the Keiki Club!

# MARKETPLACE

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They help pay for the expense of this newsletter.



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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.  
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