



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

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August 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is an updated version of the newsletter that was mailed at the beginning of the month.*

August speaker: Marni Turkel presenting 'Show Me the Plant'

Ever been disappointed when we finally bloom that plant we bought because the picture of the flower was so beautiful? Then, it turned out to be a very small flower on a very long spike on an ungainly plant.

This month, orchid expert Marni Turkel will present "Show Me the Plant," at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9. Her Zoom presentation includes images of blooming specimens to consider the whole plant for a sense of proportion and relationship and not the flower in isolation. Marni, a Santa Rosa, Calif.-based grower and former potter, will be talking about many of her favorite plants and will cover some basic information as well as specific needs for individual plants and strategies for growing specimen plants. This is a chance to see some of the best of her collection (such as *Habenaria roebelenii*, below) and learn how she grows them.

ZOOM MEETING ALERT: Due to rapidly rising covid cases in Broward County, we **WILL NOT** be meeting in person on Aug. 9 at the church. The online meeting opens at 7 p.m. and will start at 7:30. Find the link on the FLOS.org homepage.

– VICKI HALLOCK



President's message: We again will be meeting on Zoom

I was very excited that we were finally planning to get back to face-to-face meetings – even if they were to be somewhat smaller. But, alas, it was not meant to be, as a fourth wave of covid cases are surging.

We were planning to have an in-person meeting with the option to attend online because the church set size restrictions.

Meeting only online means we will be ribbon judging via Zoom. Please send your photos to jmconnors25@gmail.com by noon on Sunday, Aug. 8. Short notice, I know, but it can't be helped as safety is our first priority. (We will notify you via email of any changes to upcoming events, too.)

In other news, our auction (maybe) will be held in October, so start getting those divisions and donations ready. Also, we can (maybe) look forward to a fun holiday party in December (watch your newsletter for more details) and a show in January. Happy orchiding.

– JOAN CONNORS

A/V volunteer urgently needed

We are looking for a volunteer with audio-visual knowledge to assist at our monthly meetings. If you have expertise in this area and can help, please contact Joan Connors at 954-336-4948 or jmconnors25@gmail.com.

Upcoming events

Aug. 14: Keiki Club: Visit to Mac's Orchids and Lori Parrish's house

Aug. 28: Car-a-van Ramble to Homestead

Oct. 11: Annual auction

Jan. 21-23: Orchids Rock! 63rd Annual Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show and Sale

Basic care, common pests plaguing South Florida orchids



This month, I highlight some general care needs and common pest problems for popular orchids grown in South Florida, based on my own growing experience. These include cattleyas, vandas, dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and oncidiums. I know that bulbophyllums, phrags and paphs are also popular, but I have zero experience with them. I added for good measure my dear catasetums.

As a general rule, when in doubt, it is always best to water less rather than more. Also, most orchids will tolerate more light than what is recommended, as long as you begin exposing them to higher light in winter when the sun is gentler. Making the transition in the summer is not wise as the sun is so strong it will likely damage or kill the plant.

— OLIVIER TURINA

Cattleyas

Many will take high light and they should always dry out between watering. Their pseudobulb is a water reserve and they can tolerate some drought. Species, especially bifoliate, can be tricky to grow because of repotting times and rest periods. So, research specific plant needs if you acquire them. Hybrids are usually easier to care for. Cattleyas are susceptible to many pests and diseases. For me, thrips are a major issue. I preventively spray buds until they open. While I don't have issues with black rot and fungal diseases because I enjoy great ventilation, if your growing area is not well ventilated, that should be a major source of attention for you. The vast majority of cattleyas grow well in our climate.

Vandas

These are among the most demanding orchids in terms of light and water. Daily watering for bare rooted vandas (which is recommended) is a necessity for most of the year unless temperatures drop below 70 degrees. Also, high light is a must. Insects are usually not a big concern except for thrips, but some diseases are an issue, including foliar blight caused by guignarda, better known as "Thai crud". Vandas are hungry orchids and need to be fertilized at higher rates than most orchids. The "Vandaceous" alliance is host to many different genera, many of whom do well in our humid climate, but their water needs and light levels might differ quite a bit from the standard vanda.

Dendrobiums

This is a very tricky and diverse group of plants, and you should research each plant ahead of time, as some may not grow well in our heat while others may need extensive dry rests. Some need high light, others lower light. Some will not thrive in our heat. "Anything goes" is what you should remember. In my experience, dendrobiums are among the least disease and pest prone, but thrips, yet again, are an issue for blooms.

Phalaenopsis

They grow best in low light and even shade (many of the small species need real shade). They should not be left dry for too long, although I personally grow them drier with excellent results. Of major concern: Crown rot if media is wet when evening temperatures are below 60 degrees. Spider mites and mealybugs are also a concern. Phalaenopsis need heat and the vast majority will grow perfectly in South Florida.



Oncidiums

Oncidiums seem to be relatively care-free in terms of diseases and pests. This is a genus which seems to be mostly unaffected by thrips. The biggest issue here is watering. These are usually very drought tolerant orchids and overwatering is a highway to hell. The wet and dry cycle typical for many orchids should be strictly observed. Some oncidiums are not suitable for South Florida as many prefer cooler weather. Do not assume they are a good fit for our climate. Light levels are usually lower than cattleyas, but some species can be exposed to full sun. Carefully research this group before buying a plant.

Catasetums

If you read my articles, you probably know all about dormancy with total water withdrawal and patience to restart watering when the new growing season starts. If you master their life cycle, catasetums are a breeze to grow as they are more predictable than other orchids. The big issue are spider mites, which you need to get under control in the spring or else they will be a runaway problem. Rot is a concern for genera like Cycnoches and Mormodes. They are the hungriest orchids during the growing season and should be fertilized regularly. Most are well suited to our climate, but they need good light and kept moist while growing.

Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and joined the board in 2020. Orchids are his passion and he shares his personal growing experiences each month. Email questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.

July Ribbon Awards

AUGUST 2021

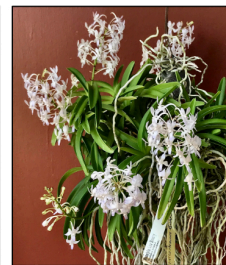
Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Vanda</i> Golden Doubloon (<i>V. denisoniana</i> X <i>V. tessellata</i>)	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>Rhy coelestis</i> 'Fuchs Indigo' AM/AOS X 'Robert' AM/AOS	Steven Turowski	Culture
<i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary (<i>Neofinetia falcata</i> X <i>Rhynchosstylis coelestis</i>)	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Grammatocymbidium</i> Memoria Nathan Newman (<i>Gram. Star Festival</i> X <i>Gram. scriptum</i>)	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Platystele reflexa</i>	Vicki Hallock	Culture
<i>Ctism</i> Portagee Star 'Brian Lawson's Sunrise' HCC/AOS X <i>Ctism. fimbriatum</i> 'Golden Horizon'	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Cattleya</i> Tokyo Magic '6-1' AM/AOS	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>Ascda</i> Banjong Fantasy	Steven Turowski	Blue
<i>C. Dominiana</i> x <i>C. Diamond Girl</i> HCC/AOS	Arthur Clark	Blue
<i>C. Chocolate Drop</i> X <i>C. schofieldiana</i>	Zoe Bejar	Blue
<i>Blc</i> Miva Royal Chocolate Delice	Barbara Gaterman	Blue
<i>Anathallis brevipes</i> (<i>Pleurothallis</i>)	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Onc.</i> 'Sweet Sugar' X <i>Ionopsis utricularoides</i>	Timothy Russo	Blue
<i>Trichocentrum stacyi</i>	Craig Barry	Blue
<i>Den.</i> Green Mist	John Wrench	Blue
<i>C.</i> Korat Spots	John Wrench	Blue
<i>Den.</i> 'Midnight Velvet'	Timothy Russo	Red



V. Golden Doubloon



Rhy. coelestis 'Fuchs Indigo' X 'Robert'



Neostylis Lou Sneary



Platystele reflexa



Catasetum (*Ctism*)



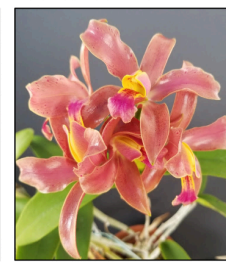
Cattleya Tokyo Magic '6-1' AM/AOS



Ascda. Banjong Fantasy



C. Dominiana X
C. Diamond Girl



C. Chocolate Drop
X *C. schofieldiana*



Blc Miva Royal
Chocolate Delice



Trichocentrum stacyi

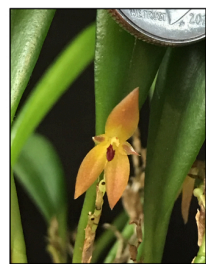


Onc. 'Sweet Sugar' X
Ionopsis utricularoides

Graphic: John Wrench

Show off your specimens

August Ribbon Judging will be online. Please send photos to jmconnors25@gmail.com by noon on Sunday, Aug. 8.



Anathallis brevipes
(*Pleurothallis*)



C. Korat Spots



Den. 'Midnight Velvet'



American Orchid Society

Education. Conservation. Research.

Centennial Celebration: Oct. 27-30

The American Orchid Society' invites you to join them for a once in a lifetime celebration at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables this fall.

The four-day celebration will include the 2021 Fall Members Meeting, activities and an exciting live auction. The centerpiece event will be a splendid gala that will feature a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, music, and dancing in a beautiful and historic setting. Registration is \$100 per person; gala benefit tickets are \$250 per person at AOS.org.

Library volunteers needed

The American Orchid Society is considering opening to the public its amazing library at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral

Gables, if a sufficient number of volunteers agree to staff it. AOS is asking volunteers to commit to just a couple shifts per month so that regular hours can be established.

No experience is necessary, but a love of orchids and a friendly spirit would be a big plus. Training will be provided once the program is ready to start. If this stimulates your curiosity and you would like to find out more, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Claire Garrett at 954-684-1062 or clairegarr@aol.com.



Upcoming webinars

Webinars are added every month. To register, go to AOS.org and click on the "All About Orchids" tab and then on "Webinars." Some offerings are for member only, so that's a great reason to join the AOS.

Greenhouse Chat: Join Dr. Ron McHatton at 8:30 p.m on Aug. 5 as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please email questions and photographs by Aug. 3 to Sandra Svoboda at greenhousechat@aos.org.



Video Library: Watch and learn

Watch useful, how-to video clips on orchid culture. These videos are self-contained and do not require any player or other software. Some of the 100-plus topics:

- Boisdual Scale
- Divide or Repot?
- Keikis & Air Roots
- Leaftip Dieback
- Recognizing Spider Mite Damage
- Recognizing Virus Symptoms
- Repotting an Unhealthy Orchid
- Root Loss
- Watering Orchids

Out & About



FLOS members Gerritt Stryker, left, and Rich Ackerman demonstrate orchid mounting.

Million Orchid Project update: Installation at Snyder Park in July

FLOS completed a native orchid installation at Snyder Park on July 12. Volunteers installed about sixty native orchids, including little *Epi nocturnum* in a ditch down by the dog lake. There also was a demonstration of the installation along with a ribbon cutting on July 17.

Fun field trip to Mac's Orchids

More than 60 orchid nuts turned out on July 10 to tour Mac and Helen Rivenbark's spectacular new orchid greenhouse in Southwest Ranches. Attendees got special discounts on purchases, enjoyed a free plant raffle and snacked on array of tasty treats. Best of all, lots of old Ramble friends were reunited.

Coming Aug. 28: Our next "Car-a-van Ramble" will mosey on down to Homestead to visit Quest Orchids, have lunch at R.F. Orchids and make two other stops. Watch your inbox for more details coming soon.

– ALLEN COGAR

Keiki Club: Orchid Odds and Ends

The FLOS Keikis, as new members are known, were able to meet yet again in person for a delightful morning at board member Sara Singer's house on July 17. The group checked out Sara's multiple growing areas, yard and poolside, taking in all the lovely settings for her stunning orchids. Her niches are all aptly placed and suited to the types of plants in her collection and her creative placement for them seems to be just perfect.

The meeting addressed "Orchid Odds and Ends" and the five of our long-time members gave valuable growing tips, explaining watering, fertilizing, conduits for fertilizing, plant placement, light and air movement options, among other topics. While our methods for care were often were different, the main idea of "whatever works for you" is always your best bet. If something doesn't work, make a change. There were so many questions and ideas shared. Plus, we enjoyed casual environment. Everyone learned valuable information, left with an orchid and had a terrific time. It was good to be joined by several club members whom we have not seen for a while mingling with those who are new to our club, exchanging contact information.

Special thanks to Sara and her husband Rich, an excellent host! Their gracious hospitality was over the top. Also, thanks go to Karen Fleisher, Vicki Hallock and Kate Donohue who offered lots of insight and helped to provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Keiki meeting Aug. 14: Mark your calendars! We will be visiting both Mac's Orchids, where you can shop and hear a presentation on dendrobiums, and Lori Parrish's growing area. Look for an email with the specifics. Preregistration will be a must. It's going to be a great day so make a plan to be with us for plenty of fun. See you there!

– JILL SMITH,
Keiki Club Chair

Join the FLOS Facebook group

Join our Facebook group and show off your prized blooms, get notified of upcoming events and find useful information on orchid culture. So far, we have just under 200 members. Search Facebook Groups under Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society.

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1st Vice President: Vicki Halllock (Programs)

President: Joan Connors

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.

1955 East Oakland Park Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Time: 7:30 pm. Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
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