



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 1

January 2021

January Speaker: Harry A. Gallis, MD Antelope *Dendrobiums*

Please joins us on January 11 at 7:30 via Zoom for Dr. Harry Gallis' lecture on Antelope *Dendrobiums*. He will provide a good overview of the various species and common hybrids plus tips and tricks for growing and flowering them.

Dr. Gallis has been growing orchids since 1980. His favorites are *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobiums*. He has received 41 AOS awards for his plants and boasts AOS awarded hybrids named for his wife (*Rlc.* Susie's Valentine 'Harry's Favorite' AM/AOS), his granddaughters (*Rlc.* Lisa Taylor Gallis 'Taylor' HCC/AOS) and Savannah (*Den.* Linc's Jewel 'Savannah Hope' HCC/AOS) and his son (*Den.* Alex Gallis), his first personal hybrid to win an AOS award). "I very much enjoy growing plants for shows and awards."

Recently becoming an AOS Judge Emeritus, Dr. Gallis entered the AOS Judging Program in 1991, became an Accredited Judge and has served as Past Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center, National Training Coordinator for AOS Judges, and Chair of the AOS Judging Committee.

As always, the Zoom link will be on our homepage @ FLOS.org. We hope to "see" you there!



"Show Table - Pandemic Edition"

Members can submit up to two pictures for judging, deadline end-of-day Saturday, January 9. Email photos to Rich and Joan. Email photos only.

President's Message

-Rich Ackerman



Hello FLOS, Happy New Year!

I spent a few days last month helping sort and distribute Chuck McCartney's library, photos, plants, and papers.

Chuck had arranged for universities and museums in Florida and North Carolina to take slides, photos, and botanical books. The newspaper clippings from his *Hollywood Sun-Tattler* gardening column and film reviews found homes in local institutions. His orchids are at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Finally, his collection of AOS Bulletins and *Orchids* magazines was donated to FLOS. We will share them at meetings and shows. His quiet demeanor hid a keen intellect and a very accomplished life. Those of us who knew him will miss him.

Program Committee Chair Vicki Hallock continues to bring us great speakers through Zoom. Please reach out to her or to me if you need help getting access online. I start the meetings early every month to help resolve log-on problems. Give it a try if you have not already done so!

We are starting to plan 2021 and 2022 events, as are other societies. I hope to see you all soon. In the meantime, enjoy being outdoors with your orchids. Fresh air and sunlight are good for plants and for people!

Mark Your Calendar

January 11: Harry A. Gallis, MD, Antelope Orchids

February 8: Linden Burzell, Ph.D, Unifoliate *Cattleyas*



2019



2001

Tips for Preventing Cold Damage to Our Orchids

By Claire Garrett

It's likely we will experience a few more cold spells before spring arrives. How to know what to do to prevent damage to our outdoor orchids? When are our efforts just too much fuss and bother? It is comforting to know that the occasional overnight drop into the 40's or 50's won't kill them. The threshold for death is around freezing (32 F), very rare in South Florida. Most *Cattleyas* and its hybrids, thin leaved *Oncidiums*, and many others do quite well outdoors down to the low 40's (some even the mid-30's). But if you have warm growing orchids in your collection like I do, these orchids will not die, but will be subject to unsightly disfigurement if exposed for more than a few hours to temperatures below what is found in their native habitats.

The "palm tree effect" in *Vandas* and *Rhynchostylis* is a classic example of cold damage. They lose their lower leaves, leaving just a few pairs on top of a bare monopodial stem. New leaves are not likely to emerge from this forlorn lower stem (though keikis may *eventually* sprout there), so it is well worth the effort to try to prevent this damage. Hard cane *Dendrobiums* experience similar defoliation below 60 degrees. They will grow new pseudobulbs in the spring, but the old bare canes will be a reminder of your neglect. *Phalaenopsis* will suffer, and many others will just stop growing for a long time. If you fancy orchids from tropical climates, you will be wise to protect them if you hope to see them flourish – not merely survive.

It is always a good idea to research the cultural requirements of our orchids, including temperature tolerance. *OrchidWiz*, a subscription orchid encyclopedia service, is my go-to resource, though a wealth of information is also available online, on the FLOS website and Library, and from the AOS. To help me remember which orchids need cold protection, I attach a yellow tag and write the orchid name on one side and either **HOT** or **WARM** in big bold letters on the reverse. This makes it easier and faster to see which orchids need protection.

If you have some that fail to thrive – perhaps the potting medium is too old, a new division not yet established, or a tender seedling, the stress of temperatures in the 40's/50's can be enough to send these weaklings to Orchid Heaven, so in they go into my spare bedroom!



If you don't have sufficient space indoors for botanical houseguests, group orchids on the ground against the house in a protected location away from the north/northwest wind. If it is an unpaved surface, lay down some type of covering to keep the plants clean. Cover them with an old quilt or a couple blankets to reduce windchill and retain warmth from the ground. Monster plants too cumbersome to move can be wrapped with blankets right where they are. You can plug in a couple strands of tiny Christmas lights inside the blanket for additional warmth without burning the leaves. Orchids mounted on trees obviously cannot be relocated, but they usually do OK left on their own. Some say the small amount of metabolic warmth given off by the tree protects the orchid from the cold.

For a large *Vanda* collection, you can order a custom sized translucent PolyMax tarp enclosure for the growing area. Space heaters can be positioned inside for additional warmth overnight and the side flaps can be rolled up to avoid overheating on sunny days. The canopy can be removed and folded for storage once the weather warms up.

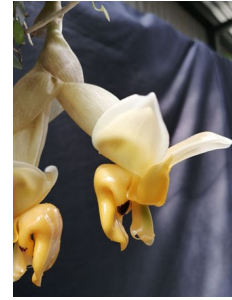
And what about the myth that you should water your orchids when it gets cold? Farmers turn on their sprinklers, don't they? Yes, they do — but only when the temperature is expected to go down to freezing. At 32 degrees water hardens into a shell on the surface of crops, keeping precious metabolic warmth inside the "igloo" to prevent plant cells from freezing. Conditions above freezing do not warrant irrigation. Cold tolerant orchids are not actively growing when cold, so they are not using much water. They do better if kept dry during cold spells, especially if in big pots where the media can stay wet and invite root rot.

During the remaining cold spells, with our warm growing orchids snug indoors or in their blanket cocoons, may the only cold damage be to those voracious iguanas – may they drop like rocks from their perches high in the trees!

Olivier Shares His Experiences: *Stanhopea* – Reader’s Digest (Part 3)



Stanhopeas grow in 4 defined geographical areas. Each area provides clues on how to grow them.



Stan. cirrhata

Zone 1: Northern Central America (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize). This is where you have the largest concentration of “colder growers.” Some plants need a rest in winter (usually one month). This is the trickiest zone for us.

Zone 2: Southern Central America (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama).

Zone 3: NE South America, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have the most *Stanhopeas*. You’ll also find them in Venezuela, Bolivia and some in the Guyanas and even Trinidad.

(Zones 2 and 3 typically have plants that require no rest and plenty of moisture. Most are suitable for South Florida, although some may be colder growers.)

Zone 4: Brazil has only 4 species. They are drier growers and take higher light and have a rest period. They all grow warm.



Stan. panamensis

There exists a distinction between “primitive” and “advanced” species. There are just 9 primitive species (out of approximately 70 total). All are totally suitable for South Florida. Their lip is less developed than advanced species, they are usually smaller (except *Stan. grandiflora*), and most grow these flowers in pairs on short inflorescences. All primitive species are from Zones 2 and 3 (*Stan. ecornuta* also extends into Zone 1) and they are all hot growers that thrive in constant moisture and shade. Primitive species are in 4 groups: *sreichenbachiana*, *grandiflora* and *candida* (all 3 are white); *annulata* and *avicula* (gold colored and closely related); *cirrhata*, *ecornuta*, *pulla* (all Central American species); and finally, *tricornis* which is very distinct from any other *Stanhopea*.

Besides the 9 primitive species and based on my readings, I tried to come up with a list of species which should be most suitable for South Florida in terms of temperatures: *anfracta*, *confusa*, *costaricensis*, *dodsoniana*, *embreei*, *florida*, *frymirei*, *gibbosa*, *greerii*, *haselowiana*, *impressa*, *insignis*, *jenischiana*, *lietzei*, *maduroi*, *napoensis*, *nigripes*, *panamensis*, *pozoi*, *pseudoradiosa*, *radiosa*, *saccata*, *wardii*, *warszewicziana*.

These species should work in South Florida, but might be at times challenging as they are potentially more intermediate growers: *connata*, *haselowiana*, *oculata*, *platyceras*, *ruckeri*, *shuttleworthii*, *tigrina*.

These species that are probably best to avoid as they grow colder and/or are reportedly hard to bloom: *hernandezii*, *intermedia*, *maculosa*, *martiana*, *ospinae*, *stevensonii*, *xytriphora*.

Answers to MOP Plant Identification:

1. *Oncidium ensatum*
3. *Epidendrum nocturnum*

2. *Cyrtopodium punctatum*
4. *Encyclia tampensis*



American Orchid Society

Education. Conservation. Research.

AOS Library Volunteer Opportunity!



Calling all orchid lovers with a little free time to spare!

The American Orchid Society is considering opening the amazing AOS Library located at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables to the public on a limited basis, IF a sufficient number of volunteers can commit to staffing it. AOS is asking each volunteer to commit to just a couple shifts per month so that regular open hours can be established for the Library.

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 up. If this stimulates your curiosity and you would like to find out more, please contact Claire Garrett, Volunteer Coordinator (954-684-1062/clairegarr@aol.com).

West Palm Beach Judging Center

The Judging Center is still operating under COVID-19 protocols, so there are no in-person activities or judging until further notice. Please contact Joan Connors, our AOS Representative, with any questions.

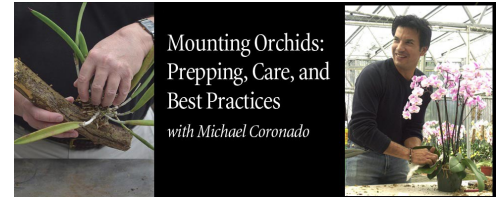
AOS January Webinars:

Online video webinars are added every month. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch recorded webinars at your convenience. Some are member only, just another reason for joining AOS.



Greenhouse Chat, Ron McHatton Orchid Q&A

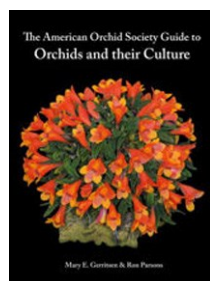
Thursday, January 7, 8:30 pm
(Open to the Public)



Mounting Orchids: Prepping, Care, and Best Practices, Michael Coronado

Wednesday, January 13, 8:30 pm
(Members only)

We have copies of our November speaker's book *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* for \$15. Contact Rich (richackerman@gmail.com) if you want one. It's an excellent reference book for both the new and experienced grower.



February Speaker

Linden A. Burzell, Ph.D. will join us on February 8 to share his knowledge of unifoliate *Cattleyas*. He began growing orchids in Southern California in the late 1950's, became active in orchid societies during his 30 years in Hawaii, and started growing orchids "with a vengeance" when he returned to California in 1996. He enjoys breeding, growing, exhibiting, and photographing his ever growing collection of *Cattleya* species cultivars. He is also a student AOS Judge in the South Pacific Region.



Progress Report

We recently heard from one of our partners who planted around 500 native orchids in their Riverland Manors neighborhood this summer. They reported that the plants are doing well overall and sent along some pictures.

One of my favorites is the *Oncidium ensatum* planted in a staghorn fern! You might see something like that at the FLOS auction in a year or two!

How many of the native orchids below can you identify?
Answers on page 3.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Orchidiction

By Kate Donohue

Happy New Year! Yes, 2020 been a horrible year for most of us, and we have no idea what 2021 will offer. Only time will tell.

It was also a rough year for our orchids. The rainy season seemed to go on forever, with hours upon end of drenching rains. I dealt with black rot several times, a dreadful and frightening new experience. It's being called the hottest year on record. My orchids suffered from the heat when they weren't being drenched. They rarely dried out enough to be treated or fertilized. The high temperatures and rains continued way past their usual end. The major cold spells in December stressed our plants further, and we got busy plucking off yellowing leaves. We can't even look forward to the winter orchid show season.

So now it's January, a ritual time of rest for our orchids and for us. We don't need to do much except enjoy the beauty and fragrance of our winter bloomers and perhaps engage in some sense of pride and relief that our efforts have resulted in blooming orchids. However, we should treat proactively for thrips and keep an eye out for any other problems.

The weather is just about perfect, and it's a real joy to be outside. Hey—this is why we suffer through our sweltering six-month summers. It's a perfect time to relax among our orchids, doing some of the research and back reading we haven't had time to do, making a wish list of orchids we would like to add to our collections, and enjoy the beauty. If you feel guilty not working, you can always putt around, sterilize your pots, replace any old ID tags before they break off, make sure you have everything you need on hand ready for spring repotting, and other small tasks.

How would you like to receive our FLOS monthly newsletter? Yes, you DO have a choice.

All members with email addresses automatically receive an email version every month specially formatted for cell phones and computers. There is also a PDF version on our website that you can read and download and print if you want a hard copy. Paper newsletters are printed and mailed every month to 130 members who have indicated they want to receive news that way.

When you joined FLOS, you chose whether you wanted a printed or email newsletter. If you no longer need or want the printed version, please go to your member profile on our website and make the change to email only. If you have problems, please contact Luanne Betz. We want to make sure everyone receives our newsletter, but would like to limit unnecessary mailing costs (now \$0.55 each).

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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