



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

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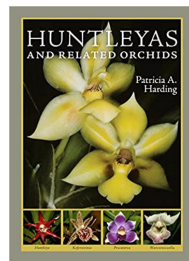
March Speaker: Patricia Harding, Orchid DNA and the Taxonomic Tree



Please join us via Zoom on Monday, March 8 at 7:30 pm for Patricia A. Harding's talk on Orchid DNA and the Taxonomic Tree. As always, the Zoom link will be on our homepage @ FLOS.org.

Patricia Harding is a photographer, writer, world traveler and observer who also grows orchids at her Oregon home, where she has been "stuck" for more than a year. She will teach us about testing orchid DNA and developing a family tree, how it is done and why it works. Sounds downright scary, right? Not so! Ms. Harding promises a science-for-the-layman presentation so we can understand how to make an orchid family tree without knowing the DNA in all the individual plants—all with a bit of humor and "some pretty orchid pictures." She will also explain the reasoning behind some of the often confusing name changes that have occurred in recent years.

She is author of the book, *Huntleyas and Related Orchids* and spoke about ecotourism and orchids at the recent World Orchid Conference in Africa.



Mark Your Calendar

March 8: Patricia Harding, Orchid DNA and the Taxonomic Tree

April 12: Glen Decker, "The Hike from Hell," In Search of *Phragmipedium kovachii*

May 10: Craig Pittman, "The Scent of Scandal"

June 14: Thomas Mirenda, 2019 Trip to Africa

President's Message

-Rich Ackerman

Hello FLOS,



I was talking with an orchid grower recently about things we wished we had learned ten years earlier. My top three? 1) Put more orchids into trees! They look great and are carefree. 2) Automate watering with sprinklers and timers. 3) Stay ahead of disease. Prevention is easier than cure. Now you can't say nobody told you.

The weather is gorgeous, and we can enjoy time outside repotting. Our February speaker repots when his orchids are just starting new roots. Keep an eye out. If you know you'll be dividing back bulbs, cut the rhizome ahead of time before new roots emerge and sprinkle some cinnamon on the incision. By the time you divide the plant, you should have some nice new growth on the back bulbs, perfect for donating to our October auction or sharing with a friend. Be aware of changing light patterns as the sun gets higher in the sky. I've sunburned a couple of orchids already this year.

Our Board continues to work hard behind the scenes to keep us moving forward. What are we working on? AOS committee work and judging, many Million Orchid Project sites, Broward County Extension partnership projects, COVID guidelines, show planning, upgrades to Internet at the church, and more! I appreciate the folks who reached out to me about serving on our Board and I thank all those who are currently helping. We are a very strong society due to the many people who contribute and help.

"Show Table - Pandemic Edition"

Members can submit up to two pictures for judging, deadline end-of-day Saturday, March 6. Email your photos to Rich and Joan. Email photos only. This is a great opportunity to share your orchids that are too large to bring in physically or are permanently mounted.

Olivier Shares His Experiences: Mites and Thrips



Spider mites and thrips are the major banes in my growing area. This time of the year is peak season for mites because they thrive in dry and warm weather. So, come February when the temps start rising and it is still dry, they go into “full devastation” mode.

Thrips are obviously a top concern because they damage or kill the blooms -- our main goal in growing. Thrips suck on the tender parts of our plants. Flower buds are their favorites, but they also love fresh root tips, e.g.). They are so tiny that it is really tough to see them, but you can spot the result of their action by observing growing buds. For example, you will start seeing black or brown spots on the surface of your *Vanda* buds. Also, you can see brown rings on *Vanda* roots as evidence of past thrips damage.

I’ve noticed that they love *Vandas*, *Cattleyas*, *Catasetums*, and *Stanhopeas*. Have not seen thrips on *Oncidiums*, and they have not been a main concern on *Phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobiums* (except Antelope *Dendrobiums*). It is apparently impossible to get rid of them entirely, but applying a preventative spray on emerging buds once per week will do the trick (twice in case of a serious infestation). Not sure if I am allowed to advertise products here, but I use Conserve (Spinosad), a fairly expensive but highly effective way to combat thrips, and I alternate with Orthene and a Home Depot 3-1 product. Alternating is important because the thrips might get resistant if you only use one product. Also, you have to be careful and use something that will not kill or damage your buds. Ask around. Growers use a variety of products, but just be sure what you use will not damage your flowers.

Mites have been a particular concern for me because I grow a lot of *Catasetums*, and mites love their tender foliage. It’s like a prime salad bar for them.

My *Phalaenopsis* and *Aerangis* have also been attacked, but their attack takes a different form. Mites typically attack the underside of tender leaves and remove the chlorophyll from the leaf. You will notice translucent patches on your leaf. On *Phalaenopsis*, they attack the upper part of the leaf and you will see superficial damage on the leaf if left untreated.

It is important to act quickly when you notice the damage because an infestation will get out of control if you don’t. You can soak a Kleenex with Isopropyl Alcohol 70% and rub the leaf. You will collect a black or red mess (there are different types of mites). Again, I have been unable to control my infestation completely, but I keep it at a manageable level. The good news with *Catasetums* is that they get new leaves each year. So, if you have a bad year, you can start fresh the next growing season, but mite damage on *Phals*, *Oncidiums*, *Stanhopeas*, etc., will never go away until the leaf drops off.



Severe mite infestation on a *Catasetum* leaf

Mites are spiders, not insects, so only products specifically labeled “miticide” will work on them. Insecticidal soaps that are “miticides” work great, as does rubbing alcohol 70% that can be applied directly. Spraying the foliage with water is good practice as these pests like it dry. However, don’t forget that wet foliage can be a source of disease, so, do this early in the morning and only if you have good airflow.



We are firing on all cylinders this year restoring native orchids to landscapes around Broward County. We expect to be partnering with Coral Springs Garden Club, Equality Garden Club, City of Oakland Park, IFAS/UF Broward County Extension, City of Weston, City of Fort Lauderdale, and quite a few HOA’s, garden clubs, and civic associations. Two years ago, many FLOS members enjoyed volunteering at our installations, but last year’s participation was limited due to COVID. This summer we hope to have some protocols in place to let those who wish to help do so. We will also do a repeat of our Members’ Sale, where you can get the best native orchids at the best prices. Happy growing!

SIBLING RIVALRY

By Claire Garrett

When my beloved *Vanda* (syn. *Vandofinetia* or *Vf.*) White Crane, a hybrid of *V. sanderiana* and *V. falcata*, was close to death after a period of prolonged heavy rain, I reached out to Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids to inquire if he still had any of these orchids left. I wanted to purchase a backup in case mine did not survive. None remained, but he offered one of the “selfings” he had made (*V. White Crane* x *V. White Crane*). When I asked him to save one for me and bring it to Redlands, he apologetically disclosed that these flowers were smaller than the original hybrid and asked if I was still interested. I decided to get one anyway.

As it turned out, the original plant somehow survived. Nevertheless, I am glad that I got the replacement because I have enjoyed observing these close relatives and seeing how dissimilar they really are. Just as my sisters and I inherited different physical characteristics from our parents (hair color, eye color, height etc.), these orchids inherited different physical characteristics from their ancestors. The White Crane sibling cross resembles the *V. falcata* side of the family, while the original *V. White Crane* draws its appearance more from the *V. sanderiana* side of the family. Since they bloom at the same time, it is quite easy to compare them.

V. White Crane x sib. favors *falcata* parent

smaller size
shorter leaves
darker green leaves
more flowers
smaller flowers
shorter lasting flowers
multiple low-mounded growths
longer curved spur



V. White Crane favors *sanderiana* parent

larger size
longer leaves
lighter green leaves
fewer flowers
larger flowers
longer lasting flowers
single monopodial stem
shorter straight spur

While there is a friendly rivalry between them and they compete for my affection, like any mother, I love them both just the same.



FLOS Board Adopts COVID Guidelines for Outdoor Events

Throughout this COVID Pandemic, the FLOS Board has worked hard to find ways to reach out to our members, bring them interesting speakers, and make them feel involved. Now that vaccines are available and the rules relaxing a bit, the Board is starting to plan a few “in-person” outdoor activities, such as Keiki Club repotting workshop, MOP plant sale, new member plant and packet pick-up, and MOP installations, and finding ways to make them safe to attend. At its February meeting, the FLOS Board adopted the following **Guidelines for Outdoor Events**:

1. All attendees must wear masks covering their mouths and noses at all time.
2. Events will be limited to 15 people.
3. Events will be scheduled in shifts to accommodate more people without exceeding the maximum.
4. FLOS will have on hand extra masks, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer.
5. No one should attend any event if they don't feel well, are experiencing any COVID symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID in the past 7 days.

We are obviously in uncharted territory here, and both events and guidelines may be subject to change as warranted. We will communicate any updates to our members and post them on our website **FLOS.org**.

Update on My Article “Slipping Down the Rabbit Hole”

By Vicki Hallock

Last month I shared my experience trying to identify an orchid incorrectly labeled. As I looked through old copies of the AOS *Orchids* Magazine to find the one I needed, I got sidetracked. Eventually I found and the article learned that the orchid was named *Platystele gerritsenianum* for our November speaker, Mary Gerritsen. I sent her the article, and here is her reply:

A little back story to your tale,

The confusion about the name on the plant goes back even further. I received it with a different name on it, and when it bloomed it was obviously wrong. A little research and I figured it might be a new species. I contacted Alfonso Doucette and Ken Cameron at U. Wisconsin, sent them photos and an herbarium specimen, and they did further research and described it as *Platystele gerritsenianum*.



Jose Portilla was an author because the plant originally came from him-I honestly don't think he gave the article more than a glance-he has so many new species that come out of his greenhouses and related field work.

However, later some botanists were visiting Ecuagenera and found this *Platystele* growing in one of the greenhouses and did not read the article in *Orchids* and gave it a new name. Then all the labels at Ecuagenera were changed to that one. Later that year (I think it was 2018), Ivan Portilla came to the San Francisco show and was eager to show me this new *Platystele* (because I am always looking for new ones). I took one look at it and said, no, that is *Platystele gerritsenianum*. I had to go home and print out the article from *Orchids* before he was convinced.

So hopefully all the plants at Ecuagenera are now named correctly.

(Postscript from Vicki: They aren't!)

April Speaker: Glen Decker



Our April Speaker, Glen Decker, has been growing fabulous *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums* for more than 40 years, earning numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, W.W. Wilson Award, and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He spoke at a FLOS meeting several years ago about his fabulous orchids, but his presentation this time will be "The Hike from Hell," about his trip to Peru in search of *Phragmipedium kovachii*, as reported in a chapter in Craig Pittman's book, *The Scent of Scandal*, "greed, betrayal, and the world's most beautiful orchid." It's a fascinating book and a fun read. Craig Pittman will be our May speaker.

Mr. Decker holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture, was the former owner of Piping Rock Orchids in New York, previously served as Chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and a was past Director of the Orchid Digest. Glen appeared in Martha Stewart's *Better Living* Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium." He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *The Best Orchids for Indoors* and was the technical editor for the *Orchids for Dummies* book. His many articles on *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums* have been published worldwide.

FLOS Scholarship Award

Congratulations to FLOS Member Gina Alzate, recipient of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program Scholarship sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society



2019



2001

February Ribbon Awards

<i>Angcm.</i> Crestwood	Bud Romboli	Blue
<i>Bc.</i> Hawaiian Agenda 'Florida Winter'	Deborah Rauch	Blue
<i>Blc.</i> Bill Krull 'Krull's Premier'	Chris Crepage	Blue
<i>Cattleytonia</i> Why Not	Karen Fleisher	Blue
<i>Clowesetum</i> Cosmic Sunlight	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Dendrobium nakaharae</i>	Joan Connors	Blue
<i>Epc.</i> Mikawa Prime	Scott Peplin	Blue
<i>Onc.</i> Tsiku Margarite	Barbara Gaterman	Blue
<i>Papilionanda</i> Gwi Kiat Hoon *	Karen Fleisher	Blue
<i>Papilionanda</i> T.M.A.	Kate Donohue	Blue
<i>Potinara</i> Pop City 'NN'	Kate Donohue	Blue
<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Rlc.</i> Mahina Yahiro	Timothy Russo	Blue
<i>B.</i> Jiminy Cricket 'Super Bug'	John Wrench	Culture
<i>Bc.</i> Pastoral Innocence	Scott Peplin	Culture
<i>C.</i> Little Angel x <i>Guaricattonia</i> Sogo Doll	Luanne Betz	Culture
<i>Ctt.</i> Varut Startrack	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>Den. goldschmitianum</i> (miyakel) x sib ('T3' x Heinyng)	Rich Ackerman	Culture
<i>Den. peguanum</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Arleigh Ball*	John Wrench	Culture
<i>Lc.</i> Melody Fair 'Mishima'	Deborah Rauch	Culture
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i> 'Claire de Lune'	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Rlc.</i> Dick Smith 'Paradise'	Luanne Betz	Culture
<i>Rlc.</i> Annie Belle 'Krull-Smith' AM/AOS	Chris Crepage	Red
<i>Rlc.</i> Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon' x <i>Rlc.</i> Hawaiian Princess 'Florida Suncoast'	Barbara Gaterman	Red

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid

Swivel Your Orchids for Better Growth

By Vicki Hallock

A couple of our recent speakers suggested turning orchid pots periodically so all sides would receive sufficient light to properly bloom and so the plant shapes would look more balanced. We've all ended up with flowers on only one side of the plant from not turning it.

Orchids sitting on a bench are easy to turn periodically, but not so for those hanging high overhead. A simple solution is to use a fishing swivel. They are inexpensive, strong and made from brass or stainless steel. Look for swivels in the fishing section at any big box store. They can also be found online, but be careful to determine their size so you won't make the same mistake I did. What I ordered must be for catching minnows! I do grow mini orchids, but even these are too small for me to use.

Rich Ackerman donated some swivel spinners as a lot for our October Auction, and it did very well. I hope he does it again this year. Hint, hint



Welcome New Members

Dave Kody
Justine Vishnesky
Kumar Kumarasiri
Christopher Bowman-Vicente & Mary Rubin

Gary Snyder
Ileana Brana
Marlene Rodak

Slipper Orchids International Speakers Day: A Virtual Experience

Presented by The Paph Forum & Paph Guild

March 20, 2021 12:30-5:30 PM EDT

Don't miss this chance to hear these top Slipper Orchid speakers!

Michael Tibbs: An Update on *Paphiopedilums* in Europe

Wenqing Perner: Saving China's Slipper Orchids Through Sustainable Conservation

Frank Cervera: *Phragmipedium Schlimii*, a New Look at an Old Species

Ross Hella: Breeding Miniature *Paphiopedilums*



Registration Fee: \$30 Register online @ orchiddigest.com





American Orchid Society

Education. Conservation. Research.

AOS Spring Annual Members Meeting



Saturday, March 13 at 2:00 PM

Via our GotoWebinar platform. There is no charge to attend this event, but you must pre-register on the AOS website.

Be sure to attend our new **Virtual Auction**, starting Wednesday, March 3 at 8:00 AM, continuing until 8:00 PM, Monday, March 8, via the Better World platform. There will be plenty of items to bid on! Orchid plants, books, supplies and collectibles -- even an "Orchid of the Month" certificate. Details and the auction link will be posted in the AOS website, the Orchidgram and AOS Social Media. Be on the lookout for it!

West Palm Beach Judging Center is Re-Opening!

Judging will resume Saturday, March 27, at Flamingo Gardens in the Barbecue House near the rear entrance. Plant registration will begin at 1:30 PM with judging at 2:00 PM. We are asking that all plants be pre-registered by 3:00 PM on Friday, March 26, by email to: bocaorchidlady@aol.com. Please provide the name of the plant, parents (if a hybrid), and your name and contact information.

We will be following all Broward County COVID guidelines. No food will be served, but you are welcome to bring your own. Please refer to our website for specifics (wpbjc.org) or contact our AOS representative Joan Connors.

AOS Library Volunteers Needed



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 and is seeking orchid lovers who can volunteer a few hours a month so that regular open hours can be established for the Library. No experience required. 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!

Please contact Claire Garrett (954-684-1062 or clairgarr@aol.com) if you are interested.

AOS Webinars:

Online video webinars are added every month. Visit 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.



Greenhouse Chat, Ron McHatton

Orchid Q&A

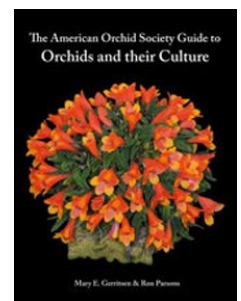
Tuesday, March 2, 8:30 pm
(Open to the Public)



Star Search: Angrecoid Hybrids & Awards, Beth Martin

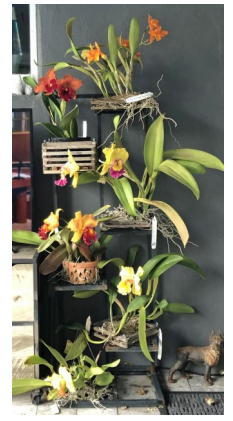
Tuesday, March 9, 8:30 pm
(Members only)

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.



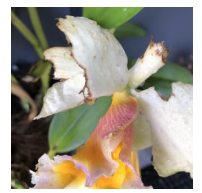
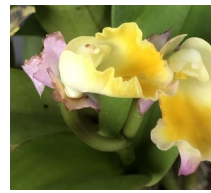
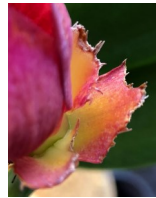
Murder in the Orchid Theater

By Kate Donohue



As some of you know, my housemate Sam and I display blooming orchids on either side of the outdoor TV. We call it the Orchid Theater. It's where I drink my morning coffee and wake up to the beauty of nature. One recent morning, I saw the weirdest orchid flower I'd ever seen. (You must realize that I'm in a dense fog before coffee, so my brain is very slow to process what my eyes see.) It was two orchid flowers with no petals!

Upon closer examination, I realized something had chewed all the petals off one flower and left only a partial, mangled petal on the other one. There were definite teeth/chew marks. I had photographed this orchid the evening before, so the damage definitely occurred overnight. Whatever ate it began at the edges and chewed toward the stalks. The horror continued as I discovered two other orchids in the same condition. Oh no! A serial inflorescence murderer was on the loose!



B/c. Taiwan Chief Wine 'Van Gogh': Before and after

The murderer ate the petals but left the lips intact

Being a huge fan of real-life crime shows, I immediately went into detective mode, got out all my orchid reference books, and started going down the list of "usual suspects." Definitely a critter of some sort, definitely nocturnal, and definitely a voracious feeder. Slugs and snails? Highly unlikely. No telltale slime trails, bite marks too large, hadn't seen any yet, still in the dry season, and I had sprinkled Sluggo several days before as a preventive. Iguanas? Haven't seen any since hanging mirror mobiles, they are diurnal, and one that would leave such large bite marks would have been too heavy to get onto the stems without breaking them. Beetles? They are more apt to chew random holes throughout the petals and lips and are not nocturnal. Sam suggested caterpillars, perhaps a stowaway from my January orchid ramble to Apopka and Fort Pierce because several orchids in the group were from that batch. Unlikely, it had been a month and there was no evidence. There was no damage to any of the orchids in my shade structures or to hanging plants in another section of the covered patio. Spent a couple hours online but could turn up no new suspects. I was out of ideas. What could this be? Whatever it was, I needed to execute it immediately before it did more damage.

Sent photos to several experienced orchidists, dear friends whose knowledge is far greater than mine. Their guesses were the same as my earlier suspicions, except for Claire Garrett who thought it perhaps looked like rodent bite marks. She remembered someone complaining about rodents attacking their orchids and suggested I email photos to Dr. Ron McHatton, the AOS resident expert on such things, which I immediately did. Also discovered an online orchid chatroom where several people claimed rodents had chewed on their plants, even some flowers. No photos, but the descriptions sounded very similar.

Aha, finally a good lead, although Sam strongly disagreed because they would be too heavy to climb on the stems. It made sense though, because we had cut down three overgrown, dense palm groves several weeks prior and had seen a couple small rats scurrying about in the area late at night, presumably looking for new homes. Because nobody likes scurrying rats, we had hidden some d-Con the day before where our dogs couldn't get to it.

The second morning I found one damaged flower, but thankfully none the third morning. The fourth day I received a lovely email from Dr. McHatton confirming that it was rodent damage and explaining how it was done. I still haven't found the dang varmint, but I suspect he/she is either dead or moved on with a full belly. Thank you, Claire and Dr. McHatton, for helping me solve my murder mystery!

MARKETPLACE

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Washington, D.C. and Nebraska Bars*

1230 Southeast 4th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1912
Tel 954.462.7760
Fax 954.462.7761
DWC@dianawaterouscentorino.com

Orchid Environments
Scott Peplin
Orchid Structure Consultant
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(954) 629-3627
www.orchidenvironments.com



Olivier Turina, P.A.
Realtor, GRI

C 954-591-1487
OlivierFTL@gmail.com
3432 N Ocean Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

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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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