



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

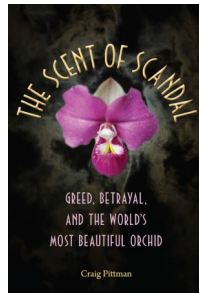
ISSUE 5

May 2021

May Speaker: Craig Pittman



Native Floridian Craig Pittman, began his journalism career at Troy State University in Georgia, where his muckraking work earned him the label “the most destructive force on campus.” Craig has won awards for his work for the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Sarasota* magazine, covering Florida issues and disasters.



In 2012 Craig published *The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid*, about the 2002 discovery of a spectacular new slipper orchid in Peru that set off a flurry of skullduggery, nastiness, and illegal activities by prominent members of the orchid community.

Craig is a great storyteller who mixes science, legal issues, personalities, and mismanagement in topics unique to Florida. His books are fascinating with a bit of fun: *Cat Tales*, the latest book about the battle to save the Florida Panther; *Oh, Florida!* about Florida's reputation as the “weirdest state;” *Paving Paradise* about the vanishing wetlands; and *Manatee Insanity* about efforts to save the Manatee.

Mark Your Calendar

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

June 14: Thomas Mirenda, *Phalaenopsis*

July 12: Dr. Mary Mancini, *Stanhopeas*

“Show Table - Pandemic Edition”

Deadline: End of day Saturday, May 8

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

- Rich Ackerman

Hello FLOS,



I recently attended a UF/IFAS webinar about Urban Tree Canopy that began with a photo of a tunnel with a light at the end. May this be true!

Gardeners are an optimistic bunch. How can you plant a seed without hope? You will read in this newsletter how FLOS has restarted some activities. We will continue to proceed with caution and find new ways of helping people learn about orchids.

One new activity is a new distribution channel for native orchids. Through our partnership with the County Extension Agent, residents can buy *Encyclia tampensis* and *Oncidium ensatum* online in the FLOS Store for pickup in June or August at the Extension Office in Davie. While FLOS members have already had several opportunities to add native orchids to their landscapes, now your neighbors can as well. Please spread the word!

My term as President of FLOS concludes at the end of the month. I want to thank all our members who participate and make us the great society that we are. It has been an honor and a pleasure.

Welcome New Members

Erick Baumann

Robin Bodiford

Helen Calvit

Cliff Hughes

Sebrina James

Sylvia Mann

Debbie Baker Robinson

Jeff Robinson

Monica Salis

Ellen Schneider

Rhonda Wardlaw



Olivier Shares His Experiences: Species vs. Hybrids

When I started growing orchids, I did not realize there was a distinction between species and man-made hybrids. I had purchased an orchid book, looked up every orchid I bought at orchid shows, and was frustrated to find just a few of my newly acquired treasures in my book. I had yet to join FLOS and educate myself.

When I finally understood the critical difference, I had no preference toward either species or hybrids at first. I just wanted a pretty flower regardless of whether it was a naturally growing plant or an engineered one.

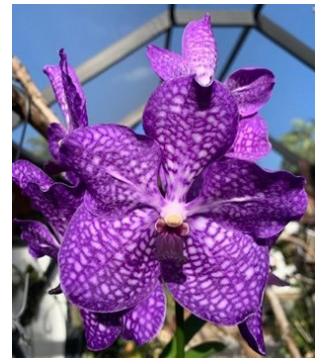
Since then, I have developed a very strong preference for species. I am a bit of a purist and feel like species are the “true” orchids, even though there is no truth to my assertion. Today 55% of my orchids are species, 15% are primary hybrids (some are natural ones), and 30% are hybrids. I believe there are two distinct types of growers: those who feel strongly about species and those who do not care and grow mostly hybrids because they are a lot more common and easier to grow.

Hybridization programs typically try to improve existing colors or create new colors, increase or decrease the size and shape of a flower, make a plant bloom more often, increase the versatility of growing requirements, etc. A hybrid is usually easier to grow because of its varied genetic make-up. However, many hybrid programs are focused exclusively on the color or shape of the flower regardless of temperature tolerance or watering needs.

When you think about it, growing a hybrid really makes more sense. If you grow a species, you have to duplicate its natural environment as closely as possible. Some species have wide geographical distributions and are therefore more versatile, but many grow only in limited areas with uniform conditions. Some grow in just one single valley somewhere on planet earth with VERY specific needs. It is called a “pain in the a...,” but I don’t mind that.

When you buy a hybrid, it is still useful to research its parentage. Bluenanta.com has the answers. You can research parent’s needs and then determine if your new baby is versatile in terms of its requirements (light, water, temperatures) or just as “finicky” as its parents.

For example, this *Vanda* Pakchong Blue is 63% *V. coerulea* and 32% *V. sanderiana*. It is a very interesting hybrid because *V. coerulea* is a colder growing species while *V. sanderiana* is the least cold tolerant of all. Your hybrid will then be more cold-tolerant, and you won’t need to bring it inside when temperatures drop below 50 F. Hence, the usefulness of doing some research.



A great compromise between hybrids and species is a primary hybrid. While some orchids are so hybridized that you can trace back species five or more generations (*Phalaenopsis* and *Cattleyas* have many of those) with a primary hybrid, both parents are species. Therefore, your plant is still very close to Mother Nature, but the mixing of genes can often lead to substantial improvements and ease of care. Some primary hybrids even occur in nature when both parents grow in the same area.

Sometimes, hybridizers are out of luck to achieve certain goals if one genus or alliance has certain traits that are similar across the board. For example, increasing the longevity of flowering in the *Stanhopea* genus is impossible because they all last only a few days. Even inside the *Stanhopea* alliance, it is very difficult because all genera have short-lived blooms. The exception are *Acinetas* which can last two weeks. Hence *Aciopea* (*Stanhopea* + *Acinata*) has flowers that can last two weeks.

That is also why we do not have blue orchids. Blue is a primary color. There are very few truly blue orchids in nature, and they are plants that typically cannot be domesticated or hybridized. So, the blue orchids we buy (usually called *coerulea*) are really purple orchids. On the other hand, black hybrids have been created using dark reds properly interbred. Hybridizers are magicians, and it takes great skill and real experience to develop a successful hybridizing program that achieves predefined set goals.

Want to learn more about your favorite flower? Set up an alert in **Google Scholar (scholar google.com)** for a search on “orchid.” You’ll receive an email every day with all sorts of informative, interesting, weird, and fun articles that you probably won’t find anywhere else. Just read the abstracts. You’ll be amazed at what you learn!



2001



2019

FLOS Board Finally Goes Live



After more than a year of Zoom meetings, the FLOS Board finally “went live” at its April meeting. Luanne Betz and her husband David Thompson hosted the meeting outdoors among the hundreds of beautiful orchids in their collection. Not only were Board members finally able to greet each other in person, they were treated to a delicious catered meal prepared onsite by La Paella Chef, Dana. The meeting provided a ray of hope that things are slowly opening up, that COVID restrictions will soon be eased, and that there will be more frequent and larger “live” gatherings possible in the near future.

Note: Masks were removed for this photo, so everyone could smile.

Second Keiki Workshops

FLOS President Rich Ackerman opened his growing area again on April 10 for the second series of Keiki Orchid Mounting Workshops. Rich’s presentation was lively and interactive, with lots of questions and suggestions before each Keiki received a small Yellow Bird to mount on a wooden slat. Everyone went home happy and looking forward to the next event.

The May Keiki Gathering will be in the growing area of Co-Chair Kate Donohue on Saturday, May 22, probably in two separate sessions. Watch your email inbox for details soon.



New Board and Trustees: There were no nominations from the floor at our March meeting, so the recommended slate will take office in June.

Membership Roster: Don’t forget to verify your membership information before we go to press for the 2021-22 Membership Roster next month. Go to members.flos.org, log in, and click on your name in the upper right. Contact Luanne Betz (luannebetz@aol.com or 954-341-2874) if you have problems or questions.

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. Open to all 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.

Mac's Orchids Has a New Home



Mac's Orchids has a new home in Southwest Ranches, a new 34' x 110' greenhouse, with four additional greenhouses to be added later this year, all set amid beautiful Florida foliage, a waterfall, and roaming peacocks. It is the culmination of Mac and Helen's long-time dreams. "We are so happy that after 20 years of commercial growing, we can finally invite everyone to see our amazing orchids and to see what we love to do."



Most of us know Mac as the knowledgeable and enthusiastic auctioneer at our annual auctions, past FLOS president and active supporter, an exhibitor at orchid shows, and frequent trophy winner for his displays. Mac and Helen obviously love what they do and are very good at it. He specializes in orchids that "thrive on neglect" and also hybridizes and clones *Dendrobiums*.



During my recent visit to check it all out, Mac was gracious enough to sit down and reminisce. Turns out that his first orchid experience was exactly like most of ours. In 1996, he purchased a blooming *Phalaenopsis* as a gift for Helen. It did not survive. Unfazed, he continued buying orchids, but was frustrated by his high mortality rate. In 1997, a neighbor suggested he join FLOS, and everything took off from there. He began importing orchids from the Philippines to honor Helen's homeland. In 2001, they founded Mac's Asian Orchid Source, doing business as Mac's Orchids.



They began doing orchid shows. Mac continued his regular job during the week while Helen organized and packed up orchids for the shows. As their success grew, they were frustrated by lack of space to show and sell orchids except by appointment. Their new location is a perfect solution.

Mac's is open 9 am to 6 pm, closed Mondays. Because they are still moving plants and getting their former property ready for sale, Mac asks that you call or text ahead (954-410-8580) to be sure he can be there to greet and show you around. Check it out. It's well worth the drive. 6800 Appaloosa Trail, Southwest Ranches, 33330.



This summer there will be opportunities again for FLOS members to help with some native orchid installations. If enough folks are interested, we could do a workshop at Stunson Nature Trail to see some examples of good and not so good installation techniques. Maybe toward the end of May? Let us know richackerman@gmail.com

We have many large installations planned this summer, but we still have some orchids available! If you know of any groups – government, garden club, HOA, whatever – let us know!

Native Orchid Sale and Orchid Swap

April 17 marked our second in-person FLOS event, a Member Sale of Native Orchids. *Oncidium ensatum*, *Trichocentrum undulatum*, *Encyclia tampensis*, *Ency. tampensis alba*, *Epidendrum nocturnum*, and *Vanilla* plants were offered at member-only prices. There was a bring-a-division, take-a-division table, and lots of free stuff (orchid magazines, assorted vases, Florida Coontie seeds, Walking Iris transplants, and mugs). Donated *Dendrobium* divisions also were given away, along with propagation and culture instructions.

The sale raised about \$400 to support our Million Orchid Project efforts and collected 14 orchids for a fundraiser. They were planted in beautiful artisan pots donated by MIY Ceramics & Glass Studio in Hollywood and sold. All proceeds went to support the Broward Chapter of Miami Rescue Mission.



Many thanks to everyone who attended, especially members who donated orchids for the fundraiser. Special thanks to Vicki Hallock, Luanne Betz, David Thompson, Allen Cogar, Gerritt Stryker, Sue Mitchell-Greig, and Craig Barry for all their help..

April Ribbon Awards



Dendrobium Joyce Kelly
Barbara Gaterman



Phalaenopsis OX Black Face
Roger Triplett



Dendrobium calamiforme
Claire Garrett



June Speaker: Tom Miranda

Please join us via Zoom on June 14 for Tom Miranda's presentation, "*Phalaenopsis* Species: Ecology Informs Culture." It will cover many of the *Phal.* species (not hybrids) currently in cultivation and nuances of their culture based on where they come from.

Trained as a marine biologist, Tom caught the Orchid bug in his 20's while living in Hawaii. He served as Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution for 10 years and has 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 articles for the *Orchid Review* (UK), *Orchid Digest* and the Dutch publication, *Orchideeën*.

Tom is passionate about building partnerships between botanical gardens, hobby and commercial growers, and scientists working to protect orchids and their habitats. He has traveled extensively, speaking about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and orchid conservation.

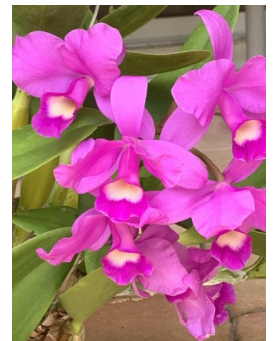
<i>Angraecum leonis</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Dendrobium farmeri</i>	John Wrench	Blue
<i>Dendrobium Joyce Kelly</i>	Barbara Gaterman	Blue
<i>Encyclia Rioclarense*</i>	Karen Fleisher	Blue
<i>Gastrophaius Dan Rosenberg "Tropical Ice"</i>	Roger Smith	Blue
<i>Paphiopedilum philippinense</i>	Alex Rodriguez	Blue
<i>Phalaenopsis OX Black Face</i>	Roger Triplett	Blue
<i>Phalaenopsis Purple Heart</i>	Rick Bellas	Blue
<i>Phragmipedium longifolium var. roezlii</i>	Alex Rodriguez	Blue
<i>Renanthera Datin Blanche Olbery</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Rhyncattlianthe Elizabeth Ann Hamilton</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Cleisostoma arietinum</i>	Rick Bellas	Culture
<i>Dendrobium calamiforme</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Dendrobium lindleyi</i>	Rose Adams	Culture
<i>Dendrobium tangerinum</i>	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>Guarianthe skinneri 'Angela' FCC/AOS</i>	Karen Fleisher	Culture
<i>Monnierara Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft'</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Oncidesa Sweet Sugar</i>	Carol Ammirati	Culture
<i>Trigonidium egertonianum</i>	Vicki Hallock	Culture
<i>Dendrobium Bruce Gordon</i>	Barbara Gaterman	Red
<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	John Wrench	Red
<i>Phragmipedium Ecuagenera's Dream</i>	Alex Rodriguez	Red
(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid		



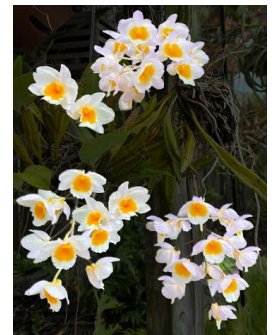
Dendrobium lindleyi
Rose Adams



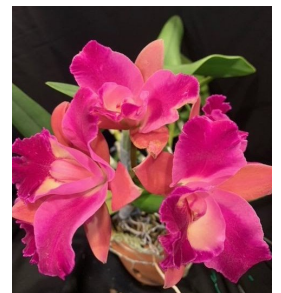
Oncidesa Sweet Sugar
Carol Ammirati



Guarianthe skinneri 'Angela' FCC/AOS
Karen Fleisher



Dendrobium farmeri
John Wrench



Rhyncattlianthe Elizabeth Ann Hamilton
Sara Singer



American Orchid Society

Education. Conservation. Research.

West Palm Beach Judging Center is Open Flamingo Gardens

3750 South Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330
(In the Barbecue House near the rear entrance)

Saturday, May 22

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, May 21, 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.

March WPBJC AOS Orchid Judging was terrific! There were 56 gorgeous orchids brought in to be judged, 20 were nominated, and 14 were awarded.

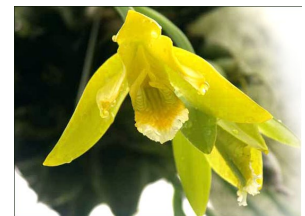
AOS Webinars:

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, May 4, 8:30 pm



Prosthechea karwinskii in Mexico:

A Study in Reintroduction

Julia Douglas

Thursday, May 13, 8:30 pm

(Members only)

AOS Centennial Celebration

October 28-30, 2021

The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables

Four seats still available at our FLOS reserved tables at the Gala and Banquet on October 30. Cost: \$250. Purchase your tickets online at members.flos.org homepage. Scroll to the bottom for the link.



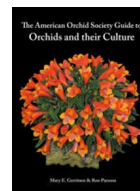
Prosthechea karwinskii in Mexico:

A Study in Reintroduction

Julia Douglas

Thursday, May 13, 8:30 pm

(Members only)



FLOS still has a few copies of *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* for \$15, half the AOS price. Shipping not available.

Contact richackerman@gmail.com

AOS Library Volunteers Needed



Please contact Claire Garrett (954-684-1062 or 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!

Laughing Bumble Bee Orchid

(*Ophrys bombylifora*)



Native to the Mediterranean region from Portugal and the Canary Islands to Turkey and Lebanon

Choosing the Right Orchids

If you're just starting your orchid collection, you'll want to buy lots of plants. I hope you will avoid the mistakes I made by buying just about every orchid I saw, just assuming it would grow outdoors in South Florida. There will always be lots of orchids for sale, and you can save major heartbreak and money if you slow down, ask questions, and do a little "due diligence" first.

Seek advice from FLOS members, friends, and neighbors who grow orchids. Orchid "addicts" love to share their experiences and ideas. Which vendors do you recommend? What type of orchids do you find easiest to grow? Always a good idea to purchase from knowledgeable, reputable growers at a show, online, or by visiting their nurseries. Don't hesitate to ask questions. If the vendor can't give you the information you need, move on to the next one.

Ask the vendor if it is a species or hybrid, if it will do well in south Florida, indoors or outdoors, mounted or potted. Orchid show vendors come from all over the world and a variety of growing environments. Not all of their plants will be appropriate for your growing conditions.

Carefully examine each plant, looking for signs of insects or disease, healthy foliage, and good roots. Are there signs of new growth, flower spikes, or keikis? The better the root system, the better your chances of success. Some hobbyists prefer bare root plants for that reason. If it's a small plant, ask when it will be ready to bloom. If you are buying a division that has been potted up, ask the vendor when it was potted and how well-rooted the division is. If you are buying a large plant, ask the vendor to confirm that it is a single plant and not several smaller ones potted together.

Be careful buying an orchid at a big box store, through Amazon, or another online grower. It's "buyer beware," but you can save money. I've had good luck at my local Home Depot and Lowe's with some *Dendrobiums*, *Oncidiums*, *Encyclias*, and ever-present *Phalaenopses*, but they rarely have ID tags.

Make sure the plant has a tag that is legible and complete. If not, ask the vendor to give you one. If they can't, don't purchase it.

Finally, if you have a bad buying experience, talk to the vendor immediately. If they won't make it right, don't buy from that vendor again.

Reference Books:

Don't try to read them cover to cover or you will overload. Just look through them, noting what information they contain so you can refer to them as needed.

The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture, Mary E. Gerritsen & Ron Parsons, Redfern Natural History Publications, Poole Dorset, England. **Available for ½ price through richackerman@gmail.com while they last.** Also available through AOS.org.

Florida Orchid Growing – Month by Month, Martin Motes, PhD, New Second Edition with updated information, Redland Press, Redland, FL. Also available at Broward Orchid Supply. Includes specific month-to-month culture, weather, and disease and pest control for our unique South Florida growing conditions.

Orchids to Know and Grow, Thomas J. Sheehan and Robert J. Black, University Press of Florida.
American Orchid Society Guide to Orchid Pests and Diseases, American Orchid Society, aos.org.

Online Resources:

Culture Sheets are available on our FLOS website and on AOS.org. Sometimes you can just search for the orchid name online.

International Orchid Register: apps.rhs.org/uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister

Orchidspecies.com

Bluenanta.com: Research the parentage of a hybrid.

MARKETPLACE

Please support our advertisers.
They help pay for the expense of this newsletter.



Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile that donates 0.5% of your purchase price to a non-profit if you join the Smile program. FLOS is on their list of non-profits, so you can choose to support us while you shop!



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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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1st Vice President: Vicki Hallook (Programs)
2nd Vice President: Luanne Betz (Membership)
Recording Secretary: Zoe Bejar
Corresponding Secretary: Jill Smith
Treasurer: Brian Boyle
Newsletter Editors: Kate Donohue, Gerritt Snyker
Website: www.FLOS.org