



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 10 OCTOBER 2021

Register for Oct. 11 annual auction

Our exciting auction is at 7 p.m. Oct. 11, via Zoom. Log in early and be ready to bid on more than a hundred gorgeous plants!

Registration is required at FLOS.org. After registering, you will receive a unique login link.

The orchid catalog will be posted online a few days before the auction. Please review it and send questions to wickirae@aol.com, as we will not be able to answer questions during the auction.

Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids once again is our auctioneer. An award-winning grower, Mac has the expertise to describe the plants and their culture during bidding.

Here's how the auction works: Register at

FLOS.org, then view the online catalog. Log in with your personal link promptly at 7 p.m. and be ready to bid using "Chat to Everyone" (microphones muted). Mac will confirm final bidders and prices. All sales are final with no shipping. Winning bidders will receive an email invoice on Oct. 12 with total owed, payment options and pick-up details. Pick-up times are 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 13-14; and 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 16. The Fort Lauderdale address will be provided in the invoice.



By the way, we love orchid donations! Please contact wickirae@aol.com to arrange drop-off before Oct. 6.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom Oct. 11!

— **VICKI HALLOCK,**
Program Chair

'Orchids Rock!' show update

The excitement is building for our annual orchid show on Jan. 21-23. Presale tickets are in the mail! We ask that each member sell their eight tickets (a \$5 savings on each admission) and then join us for free at the gala preview party on Jan. 20 at the Broward County Convention Center. Details are included with your tickets.

The American Orchid Society will judge our show, its exhibits and the hobbyist orchid to be awarded Best in Show, which garners a \$500 cash prize. Other prizes of \$250 will be reserved for FLOS members whose registered dendrobium, cattleya and cut flower arrangement are judged the best.

Vendors are signing up to show and sell their best, most unusual and beautiful orchids at our event. Every day the list of participating vendors grows.

The very best way you can help our show be a success is to volunteer to work a 4-hour shift on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Registered volunteers will receive a thank you orchid at our February meeting. Please sign up with Vicki Hallock at wickirae@aol.com.

Also, please share our show information from the FLOS Facebook page on your social media so we can spread the word!

Please contact me with questions at michaelschaberl@comcast.net or 954-683-9615.

— **MICHAEL SCHABERL**
Show Chair

President's message: Much to look forward to

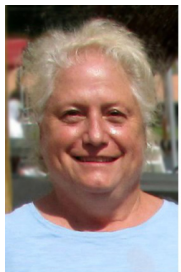
We have so many exciting things to look forward to over the next few months. First, our annual auction is Oct. 11 on Zoom (register today!). Our holiday party will be Dec. 12, so buy your tickets now (find more info on Page 4). Finally, our 2022 show is coming together. Michael gives an update, at right. Also, back by popular demand is Rich Ackerman's interactive presentation on tags, "What's in a Name!" Zooming to you on Oct. 9 and featured on Page 5. Please sign up on FLOS.org by Oct. 5.

Speaking of Rich, I have news to share about FLOS's wonderful Million Orchid Project. As this year's planting season

comes to a close, Rich has decided to step away from chairing the project after having installed more than 6,000 native orchids in South Florida over the past three years. We are indebted to Rich for his incredible service as he guided this extraordinary effort to restore endangered native species in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. I personally want to thank Rich for his passion, dedication and all the amazing work he has done. He leaves big shoes to fill. So, effective immediately, Allen Cogar and Sue Mitchell-Greig will co-chair the conservation committee so that this important work will continue.

In the meantime, happy bidding at the auction and I hope I'll be seeing you in person or on Zoom at our November meeting at the church, fingers crossed.

— **JOAN CONNORS**



Reach out and touch your orchids

If you are passionate about your orchids, you should observe them regularly. A good time is after watering them. Then, take some extra time to closely study your plants.

Regular observation is the key to developing your growing skills, but it also will help catch pests and diseases early when they are easier to treat. Observing is also fun as you discover new buds, new roots, new leaves and then you know you are doing something right!

I also like to touch my orchids and by doing so, have developed a much better understanding of their health and needs.

The most obvious is touching a bulb to feel how plump it is. Obviously plump and hard bulbs are a sign that your orchid is properly hydrated and will be able to withstand some drought. Cattleyas, most dendrobiums, catasetums and oncidiums are all prime examples of genera where a hard bulb can tell you if your plant is healthy. A great time to check is right after a strong shower. Our watering sessions will never replace a real good soaking from Mother Nature. So, go feel your bulbs after a good soaking and you will notice the difference.

I also touch the leaves, especially oncidiums, phalaenopsis, aerangis and all terete orchids. A floppy leaf is often indicative of underwatering. If you don't think you are underwatering, check the roots of an orchid with floppy leaves. If the roots look good, then you are likely underwatering; if the roots look bad, it is time for emergency rehab. I discovered the importance of touching leaves with my Zelenkoa onusta which is a small

Oncidium (it used to be called *Oncidium onustum* and is often still sold under that name). *Zelenkoa onusta* has small bulbs that are tightly clustered and while you can easily tell if they are plump, it is really hard to grab them. This plant grows on cactuses and must be kept on the dry side. I discovered that the leaves became really turgid when the plant was properly hydrated. When leaves became floppy, it was time for more water. Since then, caring for this orchid is based mostly on how the leaves feel.

Phalaenopsis leaves should be hard, too. Phalaenopsis don't have bulbs, so the only way to inspect them is by the leaves. If you do this regularly, you will feel the difference. Mule ear oncidiums (now part of the *Trichocentrum* genus) will tell you best if you water them properly by how turgid their leaves feel. Terete leaves (pencil like) are very easy to monitor as they store water like a Cattleya bulb. Once your terete leaf is no longer hard, or starts deflating, you know it is time to increase the watering.

You may have to touch leaves and bulbs a few times, but you'll quickly develop a feel for this method of care.

While proper light, temperature and fertilizing are all important, a proper watering technique is the number one factor necessary to be successful at growing orchids, in my opinion. Knowing the difference in watering needs for all your plants is important. Too much or too little water is by far the most common cause of an orchid's demise!



Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Orchids are his passion, and he shares his growing experiences each month to help others broaden understanding of orchid culture. Send your growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.

Renew your membership

It's time to renew as memberships expire in December.

Members enjoy many benefits:

- Monthly newsletter, delivered via email or USPS.
- Monthly meetings on Zoom or socializing with other orchid lovers while enjoying a presentation, snacks, and orchid judging.
- Welcome packet.
- Free loans of books from our library.

Renewals are \$20 (single member) and \$25 (dual membership). Go to members.flos.org.

– **LUANNE BETZ**
Membership Chair

Volunteer at Tropical Plant Fair

The Equality Garden Club's "A Tropical Plant Fair" will be held Nov. 13-14 at beautiful Richardson Park in Wilton Manors. We need volunteers to staff the FLOS booth.

Saturday shifts are 9 a.m. to noon; noon to 3 p.m.; and 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday shifts are 9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m.

This is a great way to meet fellow orchid lovers and share information about our society.

If you can help, please email Sue Mitchell-Greig at smg05kw@gmail.com with preferred day and time. Get more info at EqualityGardenClub.com.

Delray Beach Orchid Festival

The festival runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 23 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 24 in the Fieldhouse in Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Admission is \$5.

Go to [DelrayBeachOrchid Society.org](http://DelrayBeachOrchidSociety.org) for more information.

September Ribbon Awards

October 2021

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	Scott Peplin	Culture
<i>Brassavola</i> Little Stars	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>C. Bactia</i> x <i>Blc.</i> Gale O'Connor	Jill Smith	Culture
<i>C. Monte Elegante</i>	Luanne Betz	Culture
<i>Myrmecocattleya</i> Victor Elliott's SunCoast*	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Rth.</i> Phinyophan Boy 'NN'	Olivier Turina	Blue
(<i>Rlc.</i> (<i>Blc.</i>) Mem. Helen Brown x <i>B.</i> Little Stars) 'Limon'	Gerritt Stryker	Red
<i>Trichoglottis atropurpurea</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>Catasetum</i> Edgardo A. Pauneto	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Catasetum</i> Frilly Doris	Karen Fleisher	Red
<i>Coel. pandurata</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Coel. mayeriana</i> 'Robert Bailey' CHM/AOS	Ginny Salus	Red
<i>Bulbophyllum medusae</i>	Karen Fleisher	Blue
<i>Blc.</i> George King 'Southern Cross' AM/AOS	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>C. Memoria Martin Cleary</i> x <i>C. walkeriana</i> h.f. <i>coerulea</i> 'Medalha Azul'	Craig Barry	Blue
<i>Rlc.</i> Amazing Thailand	Jill Smith	Blue
<i>Gombrassiltonia</i> Hilo Ablaze	Scott Peplin	Blue
<i>Perreiraara</i> Hot Lips 'apricot'	Sue Mitchell-Greig	Red
<i>V. Dr. Anek</i> x <i>Ascda.</i> Thai Spot	Shelly Jones	Blue

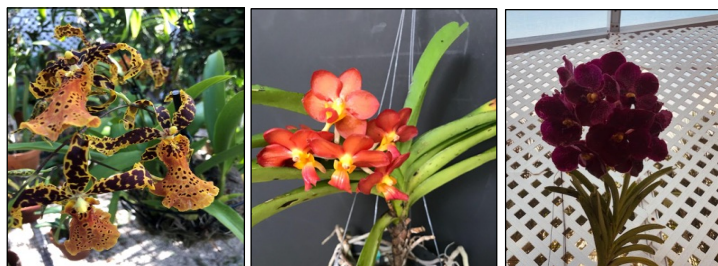
*Denotes a registered hybrid



Blc. George King
'Southern Cross'

C. Memoria Martin Cleary
x *C. walkeriana* h.f.
coerulea 'Medalha Azul'

Rlc. Amazing Thailand



Gombrassiltonia Hilo
Ablaze

Perreiraara Hot Lips
'apricot'

V. Dr. Anek x
Ascda. Thai Spot



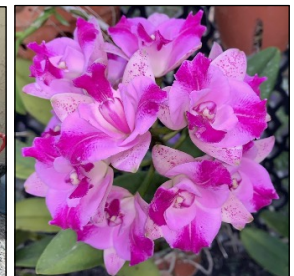
Brassavola nodosa



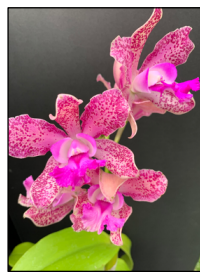
B. Little Stars



C. Bactia x *Blc.* Gale O'Connor



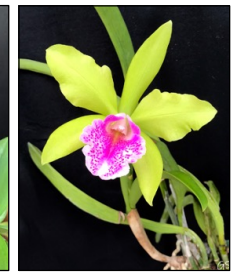
C. Monte Elegante



Myrmecocattleya
Victor Elliott's
SunCoast*



Rth. Phinyophan
Boy 'NN'



(*Rlc.* (*Blc.*) Mem. Helen
Brown x *B.* Little Stars)
'Limon'



Trichoglottis
atropurpurea



Catasetum Edgardo
A. Pauneto



Catasetum
Frilly Doris



Coel. pandurata



Coel. mayeriana
'Robert Bailey'
CHM/AOS



Bulbophyllum medusae

**There will no Ribbon Judging in October.
Judging will resume Nov. 15.**

Graphic: JOHN WRENCH

FLOS Annual Holiday Party

*Join us at the Beautiful
Oceanic Pompano Beach
250 N. Pompano Beach Blvd
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm*



Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
(Open Bar from 6:30 - 8:30)
Cocktails & dancing will be on the Outdoor Patio overlooking
the Atlantic Ocean

Featuring your choice of Entree:
Sea Salt Roasted Chicken
Simply Grilled Sixty Street Salmon
6 Oz. Certified Angus Filet Mignon
Grilled Roasted Cauliflower Steak

After Dinner Dancing and Orchids!

Make your reservations on the FLOS website
Members \$55.00 Guests \$70.00
All reservations must be made by Nov. 15, 2021

For additional information, please contact Sue Mitchell-Greig at
smg05kw@gmail.com

<https://members.flos.org/event-4506378>

Keiki Club News: Popular tag presentation is Oct. 9

All FLOS members are invited to join our next Keiki Club Meeting for Rich Ackerman's popular annual presentation, "What's in a Name!" at 10 a.m. Oct. 9, on Zoom.

This interactive talk is a must for all orchid growers and will help you understand the basics of orchid naming — that's why we have opened the event to everyone. From the tag in the pot, you can tell whether the orchid is a species or a hybrid and a whole lot more. This will help you to select orchids when shopping for your collections and to keep accurate records of your plants. Rich always gives a lively presentation and makes it fun and educational for everyone.

Registration is required and must be completed at FLOS.org by Oct. 5.

After registering, you will be sent a unique set of tags to use during the Zoom workshop. The meeting will open at approximately 9:40 a.m. so everyone can get settled and acclimated. The link will be provided on the website.

We look forward to welcoming our Keikis to the annual FLOS Auction on Oct. 11! It is always a super success and lots of fun — and the orchids are beautiful.



Another email will be sent out to the Keikis later in the month with information regarding the FLOS show, "Orchids Rock!" to be held in late January. There are many opportunities for volunteering. One of the highlights is helping to create the welcome orchid display. There will be several meetings to formulate ideas and plan a spectacular exhibit, so start brainstorming! For more info, contact: jsmith8146@Comcast.net, willbell@aol.com or ispo3008@gmail.com.

— **JILL SMITH, RICK BELLAS, KAREN FLEISHER**
Keiki Club Chairs



Growing spotlight: Perfectly petite orchids

Vicki Hallock loves itty-bitty orchids.

The FLOS program director, who lives in Fort Lauderdale, has a huge collection of mini orchids that she grows in groovy looking electric terrariums. The round gizmos, called biOrbs, are about two feet across and automatically control humidity, air circulation and irrigation. The plastic bubbles give Vicki complete environmental control, which ensures her petite plants thrive, and most importantly, bloom. Many of the 75 small species in her collection prefer cool climates and are not suited to South Florida's relentless heat and humidity.

"It would be extremely difficult to grow these mini orchids without an air conditioned greenhouse," says Vicki, an award-winning grower. "The biOrbs fulfill that function, with a built-in fan system, humidity control and a 12-hour lighting system." They cost \$479 at Amazon.com. (See if you can spot them in the

background when Vicki attends our monthly meetings on Zoom.)

Vicki landscapes the three 16-gallon containers to resemble tiny tropical jungles. She also adds ferns, driftwood and cute props, such as flamingos and alligators. She transfers blooming orchids to a glass orchidarium to enter juried orchid shows, as no electric devices are allowed. American Orchid Society judges awarded Vicki two AOS artistic certificates, one in 2018 and another in 2019 at our show for her entry "A Tiny Point of View," complete with magnifying glass, pictured at far left.



"It's a miniature rainforest in the house," Vicki says. "All my life I have loved miniatures. It's fun, especially when they bloom."

Send growing stories to cneerod@gmail.com.

— **DOREEN CHRISTENEN**
Newsletter Editor

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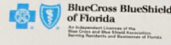


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2nd Vice President: Luanne Betz (Membership)

1st Vice President: Vicki Hallock (Programs)

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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.

P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338
Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

