



*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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## Renew your membership

Emails to renew memberships, due Jan. 1, went out in November. Check your inbox or, go to [FLOS.org](http://FLOS.org), and click “Membership,” and “Renew.” It’s that simple.

Membership dues are increasing in 2023. Single memberships will be \$25 and dual memberships \$30.

There are numerous perks for members. You will receive our informative monthly newsletter with orchid insights and growing tips, attend monthly meetings where you can meet other orchid lovers, enjoy snacks and a great presentation, and peruse our free library full of wonderful orchid-related books.

Please note, memberships that have not been renewed by the end of March will be archived, so please get your renewal in by the end of February.

If you need assistance renewing online, stop by the registration table at the monthly meeting and someone will help you.

### Get help logging in

If you are frustrated and need help logging into FLOS.org to renew memberships or buy event tickets, we have just the solution to your problem. We will be offering one-on-one training sessions on navigating our website at our Jan. 9 meeting. We will help you log on, create a user name and password and show you how to pay for memberships and events with just a few keystrokes.

Bring your iPad or laptop or use one of ours. Sessions will start at 6:45 p.m. Please call or email Sue Mitchell-Greig at 305-905-6807, [smg05kw@gmail.com](mailto:smg05kw@gmail.com) to schedule your time slot with one of our trainers.

– **SUE MITCHELL-GREIG**  
*Membership Chair*

## President’s message: It’s a wonderful (orchid) life

What a wonderful year this has been. We met in person starting in January after a 20 month hiatus due to Covid.



It is so nice seeing everyone again and reconnecting through our joy of orchids.

There’s a saying that we come for the orchids but stay for the people. This is so true of our society. The rambles are always a blast and a wonderful opportunity to shop together for more orchids. Our Conservation Committee has so much to be proud of after planting nearly 3,000 native orchids throughout South Florida. Next year promises even larger numbers. Please consider helping with this worthwhile project. We will be launching a Conservation Corps to help with plantings.

I am so looking forward to our holiday party at the newly remodeled Coral Ridge Yacht Club. It’s going to be a fun evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing and partying with all our FLOS friends. Plus, everyone leaves with a gorgeous blooming orchid. See you at the party, and happy everything to you and yours.

– **VICKI HALLOCK**



**No meeting in December. See you Jan. 9!**

## Growing Orchids With Olivier

# Why your Potinara is no longer a Potinara

If you have a Potinara in your collection, as many people do, that name is no longer valid. Also, your beautiful Yellow Bird may have a tag that says “*Bl.* Yellow Bird” but the accepted name is now “*Bc.* Yellow Bird”. Your *Cattleya aurantiaca* is now *Guarianthe aurantiaca*, and the list goes on and on. Below is a bit of background information on name changes in the orchid world.



There have been three main reasons for name changes ever since orchids started getting registered and described in the first half of the 19th century.

The first reason for a name change has to do with species names, and is usually relating to orchids that were named long ago by two or more people.

The rule is that a valid/accepted name is the one given by the first person to describe and register the orchid. In the early days, adventurers and explorers hunting for orchids for wealthy collectors in England, Germany, Belgium and France brought back thousands of orchids, most of which were unknown, had never been described and had no official name.

Since orchid science was in its infancy, the knowledge was not widely shared and you could have two different people describing the exact same orchid and giving it a different name. The rule is simple: The oldest description always prevails regardless of any supposed merit of an alternative name.

If you read “The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World’s Most Beautiful Orchid” by Craig Pittman, you will learn the sordid tale about *Phragmipedium kovachii*. The slipper orchid’s name is controversial because Michael Kovach, who named the orchid after himself, illegally smuggled the plant out of Peru and rushed to describe and name it at the Orchid Identification Center at Selby Gardens in Sarasota. Although he ended up going to prison for his misdeeds, and the Peruvian government was furious as it wanted the orchid named *Phrag. peruvianum* in honor of its country of origin, the rules were clear: It was described and named *Phrag. kovachii* first. Nothing can be done about that, even if it happened with illegal means. (The book is in our library, by the way.) The idea is to keep good order in the nomenclature or else things can turn into a jungle pretty quickly. Dates don’t lie.

The second reason for name changes usually has to do with which genus an orchid belongs to and that is an ongoing problem for which there will be no resolution any time soon.

There is no ironclad scientific definition of what a genus is and, in some instances, there is persistent disagreements among specialists as to which genus a specific orchid

belongs to. Some orchids have been reclassified between genera many times, and some still are the subject of disagreements.

Sometimes, the validity of a genus itself is in question and some genera have been absorbed by another genus. This is the case with *Sophranitis*, which has been merged with *Cattleya*, which explains why your Potinara is no longer a valid name. Another example is *Ascocentrum*s which were merged with *Vandas*. This is somewhat unfortunate, because *Ascocentrum*s were floriferous but small flowered *Vandas* and that was an easy way to separate them from other *Vandas*.

The third reason for a name change is more recent and is the same concept as the second reason, but instead of empirical debates, it is genetic research that proves or disproves a classification of a species or a genus.

In the 21st century, many changes happened in the *Cattleya* alliance:

- Mexican *Cattleyas* were renamed *Guarianthe*
- In 2008, *Sophranitis* disappeared as a genus and was absorbed by *Cattleya*
- Two species of *Brassavola* (*B. digbyana* and *B. glauca*) were reclassified in a new genus made of two species called *Rhyncholaelia*
- Some *Laelia* have become *Cattleya*

The list goes on. These name changes have annoying and far-reaching consequences for names of hybrids. So, let’s go back to your Potinara and your *Bc.* Yellow Bird

Potinara was a nothogenus with four genera in the background: *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, *Laelia* and *Sophranitis*. Since *Sophranitis* no longer exists, Potinara can no longer exist either, but what it becomes depends on what happened with the other three components of your Potinara. If no other changes happened with the other components, then your Potinara is now a *Brassolaeliocattleya* (*Blc.*). Still with me? If your Potinara has *digbyana* (commonly encountered) in the background, the *Brassavola* component is replaced with *Rhyncholaelia* etc... So, a Potinara can be many different things: *Rlc.*, *Rth.*, *Rby.*, etc.

As to your Yellow Bird, it is *B. nodosa* x *Bc.* Richard Mueller. Richard Mueller today is *C. milleri* x *B. nodosa*. BUT: *Cattleya milleri* used to be a *Laelia milleri*. This is why your *Brassolaelia* (*Bl.*) is now a *Brassocattleya* (*Bc.*).

Enjoy the holidays and Happy New Year!

*Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.*

## Claire's Quick Tip: Less is more this time of year

The holiday season can be a time of excess, but at this time of year with our orchids, less can be more appropriate when it comes to water and fertilizer. Daylight is not only of shorter duration, but it is weaker too. The sun is lower in the sky at midday instead of overhead, causing nearby trees and structures to cast longer and deeper shadows, further reducing the light that is available to our plants.

With reduced light and cooler temperatures that accompany the start of the holiday season, orchids grow more slowly and so they use less water and fertilizer. Reduce the frequency and amount of water to avoid root rot in sympodial orchids such as cattleyas. Monopodial orchids such as vandas have no pseudobulbs for water storage so do not be too stingy with them to prevent their leaves shriveling.

Some growers eliminate fertilizer entirely during the middle of the winter while others maintain normal frequency but reduce strength by half. Some switch to a combination of Potassium Nitrate and Epsom Salts for a couple months.

Catasetums and dendrobiums such as anosmum, aphyllum, aggregatum (lindleyi), and the nobile types require a winter dormant period in order to bloom well next season. Avoid exposure to rain or the garden hose by relocating them to a dry area for their winter rest. While it is sad to watch their leaves slowly yellow and drop off, they will awaken in the spring with vigorous new growth that will support eventual new blooms. Provide the occasional light misting if the pseudobulbs show signs of excessive shriveling.

Time saved by less frequent watering and fertilizing will be well spent reorganizing orchid work areas and getting a head start scrubbing and disinfecting used pots in anticipation of all the spring repotting that is right around the corner

*Claire Garrett has been a FLOS member since 2011 and has received one FCC (91 points), one HCC and five CCM awards from the AOS. Send questions to [clairegarr@aol.com](mailto:clairegarr@aol.com)*



Photo by Tom Kuligowski

## Congratulations to Angie Bondarenko

At our November meeting, the American Orchid Society awarded Angie Bondarenko a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) for her *Pvc. Key Lime Stars 'Liubov.'* Her plant received a score of 79 points out of a possible 100.

### Webinars-Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>  
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry.  
 Register now and view on your time schedule.

Greenhouse Chat Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.  
 Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)

When	December Winter Break	January 04, 2023 8:30pm EST Wednesday	January 05, 2023 8:30pm EST Thursday
Topic	Choose Your Topic From RECORDED WEBINARS	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos &amp; Questions by Jan. 02</i>	New Directions In Zygopetalinae
Presenter	Expert Growers, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, Conservationists and more	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Tim Culbertson Historian, AOS Judge, Hybridizer for SVO, SOA Board Member

## Keiki Club news

Reminder: We will not be meeting for the next two months. Our next meeting will be in February at Scott and Donna Peplin's. If you haven't been to their magnificent growing area, you'll be in for a treat. More info will follow.

– JILL SMITH  
Keiki Club Chair

## AOS honors judges

FLOS's own AOS certified judges Alex Rodriguez and Chris Morales have received the American Orchid Society President Award for their tireless work on this year's Centennial auction. Congratulations!

– JOAN CONNORS

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1230 Southeast 4th Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1912  
Tel 954.462.7760  
Fax 954.462.7761  
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**Thank you for food donations and to our wonderful kitchen volunteers:  
Kathy Homann,  
Debby Johnson and  
Fran Renguso.**

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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.

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

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

