



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 72

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2022

## President's message: Gazing ahead

As your new president, it is my sincere honor to serve the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, an organization dating back to



1951. I follow in the footsteps of 46 former presidents whose hard work and dedication have made this the outstanding society that it is today. I hope with your help to continue this tradition. My enthusiasm, however, is tempered by the recent death of

Gigi Granger, president from 2017-2019. We will miss her ever-present smile.

I have so much pride in the accomplishments of this society. We have the distinct honor of being the only orchid society in the world to have received two Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award (DASSA) from the American Orchid Society. Those are the logos you see on our website.

In the coming months, the Conservation Committee will continue with our mission of re-establishing native orchids in Broward County through our partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Million Orchid Project. Plantings are scheduled throughout the summer. There is an upcoming installation on June 10 at Red

Lichen Sanctuary, 8095 Wiles Road in Coral Springs. Sign up to volunteer by contacting Sue Mitchell-Greig at

[smg05kw@gmail.com](mailto:smg05kw@gmail.com).

Another planting will be in July at Richardson Park in Wilton Manors.

The Keikis, our newcomers' group, is so popular no one wants to graduate. Learning how to become a successful grower in a relaxing, interactive environment is fun. When I first became a member, I refused to believe epiphytic orchids should not be potted in dirt. Of course, none of mine survived. Thanks to informative speakers at the meetings, our library books, and helpful members, my growing success greatly improved. Thank you, Jill Smith, for bringing the Keikis to us. Maybe it is time for an intermediate group.

The June 4 Homestead ramble sold out so quickly another is planned for November, along with a home ramble when the weather cools. Our auction will be in October, with the proceeds helping offset the cost of the annual holiday party. We are always hopeful to stage our annual show, but our home venue, the War Memorial, will not be ready for our return until 2024.

The longevity and success of our orchid society is because of you, our members. I thank everyone for their dedication and hard work. Here's to another 71 years.

## Service for Gigi Granger on June 12

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society mourns the tragic loss of Gigi Granger on May 21. Gigi was past president of our society, teacher, friend and a lovely lady inside and out.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m. June 12 at Sunshine Cathedral, 1480 SW Ninth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. A potluck reception will follow the service in the social hall. Please bring a dish to share along with a serving utensil.

Condolences may be sent in care of Omar Gonzalez, 1301 SW 18 Ave., Fort Lauderdale 33312.



## All about Dendrobiums

John Romano will be speaking on Dendrobiums at our monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on June 13.

John started growing orchids in 1977 at age 11. He has worked at Waterloo Gardens in Exton, PA. and JEM Orchids in Delray Beach as its grower from 2002-2005. John specializes in Sobralias, Dendrobiums and Catasetinae,

among other unusual species. In 2014, a new species of Sobralia was discovered in Guatemala and named after him, *Sobralia romanoi*.

A third year American Orchid Society student judge, John is an active member of Facebook's "Florida Orchid Growing" and "Newbie Florida Orchid Growing" groups. He also administrates the groups "Sobralia & Brasolia," "Dendrobium" species and "Let's Talk Orchids." He also runs [dendrobiumspecies.com](http://dendrobiumspecies.com), a site dedicated to dendrobium culture and education.

John is co-owner of J&J Unique Orchids (<https://j-juniqueorchids.com>) with his business partner, John Melecio. He has been a licensed healthcare provider since 1986 specializing in pain management and sports therapy. In January 2020, John won Fort Lauderdale's Best of 2020 for Healthcare providers.

— **LUANNE BETZ,**  
Program Chair

# These orchids thrive on heat and neglect



A majority of *Oncidium* species are intermediate or downright cool- or cold-growing orchids. So, those will not thrive outdoors in our South Florida climate. There are still plenty of warm growers, and among the most commonly available here are *Onc. sphacelatum*, top left, and *Onc. ampliatum*.

*Onc. sphacelatum* is one of the most common *Oncidium* species available locally. It turns into a monster plant and thrives in lots of light, heat and neglect. I seldom water mine. If the plant does not bloom, it likely needs more light. Mine grows in full sun part of the day and the leaves are yellow, which typically indicates excessive light, and yet it thrives.

While it is a hot grower in nature, I left mine outside over the winter when temperatures dipped to 40 degrees and it did not seem to mind.

The description of the flower by Baker and Baker includes:

Bright yellow flowers with dark red-brown or brown blotches on the lower half of the sepals and

petals. Sepals and petals are somewhat reflexed at the tip. Callus is white with a sprinkle of light brown.

Any hybrid with *Onc. sphacelatum* in the background will have floriferousness and heat tolerance.

*Onc. ampliatum* is less common but quite beautiful and perfect for South Florida as it also likes heat. It needs plenty of bright light, but less than *Onc. sphacelatum*.

It has striking flattened bulbs that can be quite big. It needs plenty of water when growing in spring and summer but very little in winter. The flowers are lemon yellow at the front but white at the back of the petals and sepals. It typically blooms in the spring.

*Onc. ampliatum* has been reclassified as *Rossioglossum ampliatum*, mainly because it has a lower chromosome count similar to *Rossioglossum*. Unfortunately, *Rossioglossum* are typically colder growing orchids, while this one is a hot grower. So, it is somewhat of a confusing renaming.



*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.*



## 2022-2023 Officers Board of Trustees

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Terms run June-May.

## American Orchid Society webinars

### Webinars-Coming Attractions!

			
<b>When</b>	June 07, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	<b>RECORDED WEBINAR</b>	June 28, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	Bulbophyllums of the Philippines A Survey of Endemic Species	Judging Bulbophyllums The Finer Points of Judging this Diverse Genus	Greenhouse Focus Mounting Orchids Made Easy
<b>Presenter</b>	Jim Cootes Australia-based Botanist, Author, Lecturer and Orchidologist	Charles Wilson Use Webinar Filter JUDGING	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer
			<b>RECORDED WEBINAR</b>
			Mounting Orchids Prepping, Care, and Best Practices
			Michael Coronado Use Webinar Filter CULTURE

**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.  
**Check out the timeless collection of Recorded Webinars on the AOS website.**  
 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)

**Orchid Ailments: The AOS's Pests and Disease Series:** "Orchids" magazine's popular Orchid Ailments series provides readers with information and images to help them identify orchid ailments and grow healthier plants. From aphids to virus, the series explores the finer points of insect pests, rots, disease and cultural challenges, and offers advice on prevention and treatment.

Go to: [AOS.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases.aspx](http://AOS.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases.aspx)

# May Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Brassia</i> Edvah Loo 'Nishida'	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>Brassia</i> Rex V. 'Waiomao Spotless'	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>C. tigrina tipo x albescens</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Chysis limminghei</i>	Deborah Rauch	Blue
<i>Coelogyne</i> Burfordiensis x <i>Coel. parishii</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>Den.</i> Miva Abracadabra	Elly Meisler	Blue
<i>Den.</i> QF Makani* ( <i>Den.</i> Dawn Marie x <i>Den.</i> Peng Seng)	Elly Meisler	Blue
<i>Den. tragerinum</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Onc.</i> Dancing Lady	Bob Isaacs	Blue
<i>Pleurothallis chamensis</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Coelogyne</i> Burfordiensis	Francisco/Paul	Culture
<i>Ctsm.</i> Penang ( <i>susan fuchs</i> x <i>pileatum</i> )	Sue Mitchell	Culture

\*Denotes registered hybrid



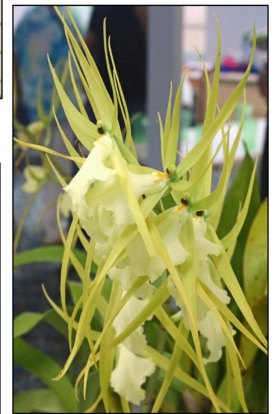
*Pleurothallis chamensis*  
Vicki Hallock



*Brassia* Edvah Loo 'Nishida'  
Francisco & Paul



*C. tigrina tipo x albescens*  
Olivier Turina



*Brassia* Rex V. 'Waiomao Spotless'  
Francisco & Paul



*Coelogyne burfordiense* x  
*Coelogyne parishii* Claire Garrett



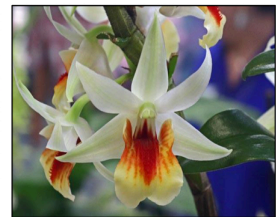
*Coelogyne* Burfordiense  
Francisco & Paul



*Dendrobium tangerinum*  
Olivier Turina



*Dendrobium* Miva Abracadabra  
Elly Meisler



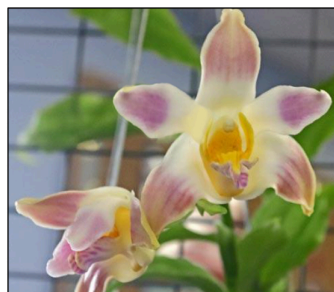
*Dendrobium* Dawn Maree x  
Peng Seng  
Elly Meisler



*Ctsm.* Penang (*Ctsm.* Susan Fuchs x *Ctsm.* *pileatum*)  
Sue Mitchell



*Oncideum* Dancing Lady  
Bob Isaacs



*Chysis limminghei*  
Deborah Rauch

**Graphic: JOHN WRENCH**  
**Photos: GINNY SALUS**

# Orchid Q&A: From repotting to fertilizing

The following is reprinted from the "All About Orchids" page on the American Orchid Society website. Find more tips at [AOS.org/orchids/orchid-care.aspx](http://AOS.org/orchids/orchid-care.aspx).

## How do I water my orchid?

**A.** Overwatering leads to the demise of many more orchids than underwatering. Constant wetness will cause the roots to rot, which leaves the plant without a means for taking up nourishment which then causes the leaves to droop and will eventually kill the plant. The classic advice is to water the day before the plant dries out. If you have to let the plant go dry to figure out what a dry plant weighs, it will not kill the plant and will make you a better grower. Another measure is to use the pencil trick: the point of a sharpened pencil, when inserted into the medium, will darken with moisture if the plant has enough water. And, there's always the old standby – put your finger in the mix. If it feels wet, it is wet. If you aren't sure whether it is time to water, wait one more day.

"Evenly moist," is the most commonly given advice on watering but is the least easily explained. Because most plants are grown in plastic containers a good diagnosis is the weight of the plant: heavy means it does not need watering; light means it does require water. With a little practice, one can easily tell the amount of moisture remaining in the container.

Water your orchid early in the morning. This insures complete water evaporation on the foliage as well as the crown by nightfall. If your home is very warm or has low humidity you will most likely need to water more often. The best place to water your plant is in the kitchen sink. Use lukewarm water (do not use salt softened or distilled water) and water your plant for about 15 seconds and be sure to thoroughly wet the media. Then allow the plant to drain for about 15 minutes. It may appear dry but it has had enough water. After the plants are watered, they should be placed so that the pots do not stand in water. Some people like to place the pots on



**Insufficient light is the most common cause of orchids failing to re-bloom. Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate.**

"humidity trays" or in trays or saucers of gravel or pebbles and water. The pot is placed on the pebbles above the water line. This helps to insure that the base of the pot is not immersed in water, increases humidity for the plant, and provides some air circulation under the pot.

## How do I feed my orchid?

**A.** Experienced orchid growers fertilize their orchids weakly and weekly.

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all necessary trace elements. Regardless of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea. If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers apply a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month.

## When should I repot?

**A.** When an orchid plant starts to grow over the edge of the pot, it is time to repot it. Plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breaks down, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing

the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required, simply replace the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage.

## Why won't my orchid re-bloom?

**A.** Like all plants, orchids require sufficient light in order to produce flowers. Insufficient light is the most common cause of failure to re-bloom your orchid. Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

## Are all orchids the same?

**A.** Quite the contrary. No plant family is more diverse. After all, the orchid family is the largest plant family, occupying almost all possible environments. From the thimble-sized *Mystacidium caffrum* to the 20-foot-tall *Renanthera storei*, orchids exhibit amazingly different shapes, forms and growth habits. Some orchids produce blossoms no larger than a mosquito; other orchid flowers are as large as a dinner plate. Your familiar corsage is just one of the thousands of attractive types that can be grown with ease, given the proper culture. And with today's propagation methods and current hybridizing trends, there are more choices to choose from than ever before.



# Keiki Club News



**FLOS President Vicki Hallock, left, presents Jill “Keiki Momma” Smith with an American Orchid Society award for her service.**

The Keikis typically do not meet in May, but this year we had an opportunity to go to Zoe Bejar’s lovely home for a garden tour and to learn about “growing gizmos.” Zoe has hundreds of plants blooming everywhere, peeking out from the dense foliage, festooning her huge trees and in her personally created landscape gardens.

Several board members attended and many gave their two cents about their favorite gizmos, hose sprayers, pump sprayers and siphon mixers. They provided valuable information on how to properly use the tools to apply fertilizer, fungicide, pest control and just plain drenching. Of course, there were many questions. A wonderful raffle, including plants, books and orchid supplies, followed and everyone walked away with something. Special thanks to Olivier Turina for his contribution of beautiful and well-cared for orchids.

It was wonderful to have student AOS judge Chris Morales with us to facilitate and share her expertise. Also attending was Brian Spitzler, an AOS judge from Cincinnati. He is a friend of Zoe’s, and he provided some valuable insight as well. Thank you, Zoe, for being so gracious to open your home and magnificent gardens to us. Upon arrival, one special Keiki looked around, incredulous, and said, “this is so beautiful I have tears in my eyes!” That says it all.

The Keikis will be taking June off but we’ll be back in mid-July so watch for more information in our next newsletter. Happy growing!

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

# Claire’s Quick Tip: Summer Survival Guide

A noxious Trifecta of problems can hit our orchids each summer:

- root rot
- fungal and bacterial diseases
- insect explosion

A combination of climatic conditions including unrelenting high heat and humidity, less air circulation and periodic monsoon rains is responsible for cooking up this witches’ brew that can threaten the orchids that we grow outdoors.

It is a wise idea to take proactive steps before leaving home for an extended summer vacation so you don’t come home to a catastrophe. Here are some steps to take:

### To avoid root rot:

- For orchids growing in moss or old media that is breaking down, move them to an area out of the rain, or replace the media with a faster draining mix.

### To avoid fungal and bacterial diseases:

- Be sure that you are up-to-date on preventive fungicide treatments, and add a spreader sticker product to ensure durable uniform coverage.
- Increase spacing between orchids.
- Consider adding an outdoor fan if the growing area is not breezy.

### To avoid an explosion of insects that reproduce exponentially when temperature rises:

- Use systemic pesticides for longer lasting protection.
- Peel back dry sheaths on Cattleya alliance orchids to eliminate attractive breeding grounds for scale.
- Add soap to combat mites when you spray liquid fertilizer.

As it has been said: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

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



# Honor for Connors







Past President Joan Connors was presented with the American Orchid Society Diamond Award for her service to the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Joan presided during difficult times during the pandemic, and helped successfully transition our meetings to Zoom to keep our members safe. An American Orchid Society judge and board member, Joan has served as president of FLOS four times. Congratulations, Joan!

# MARKETPLACE

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Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile that donates .5% of your purchase price to a non-profit if you join the Smile program. FLOS is on their list of nonprofits, so you can choose to support us while you shop!

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 <p><b>Diana Waterous Centorino</b> Attorney at Law, P.A.</p> <p><small>Also Member of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C. and Nebraska Bars</small></p> <p>1230 Southeast 4th Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1912 Tel 954.462.7760 Fax 954.462.7761 DWC@dianawaterouscentorino.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Orchid Environments</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scott Peplin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Orchid Structure Consultant Collection Restoration Transplanting &amp; Dividing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(954) 629-3627 <a href="http://www.orchidenvironments.com">www.orchidenvironments.com</a></p> 	 <p><b>Olivier Turina, P.A.</b> Realtor, GRI</p> <p><b>C 954-591-1487</b> OlivierFTL@gmail.com 3432 N Ocean Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308</p> <p><b>Français • Italiano</b> <b>Deutsch • Nederlands</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Atlantic</i> <small>PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL</small></p>

Thank you for the many food donations at the May meeting and to our wonderful kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Debby Johnson and Fran Renguso.

**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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2nd Vice President: Luanne Betz (Membership)  
Recording Secretary: Sue Mitchell-Greig  
Corresponding Secretary: Jill Smith  
Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Newsletter Editor: Doreen Christensen

Website: [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)