



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 3

MARCH 2022

President's message

Help spruce up our orchid tree

What a fantastic turn out for our February meeting! We had 97 members attend. It is so



important for us to meet in person and discuss our passion. Now that the show is behind us, we will have many opportunities to get together volunteering at upcoming events.

We need help preparing our society tree at 10 a.m. March 11 at Flamingo Gardens in Davie for the "Beauty of Orchids" event that runs from March 19-May 8. Contact Luanne Betz at luannebetz@gmail.com to sign up.

We also are working on a project with Kids in Distress in conjunction with our ongoing Million Orchid Project. Stay tuned for more on that in the newsletter and at our meetings.

The AOS Centennial Celebration is April 6-9. You can still register for the four-day event that includes a live auction, a full day of speakers and a banquet with live entertainment, music and dancing at the beautiful Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. Get details at AOS.org.

See you at the March meeting.
Happy orchiding!

– **JOAN CONNORS**

Mexican orchids are their specialty

Jim and Melana Davison, American Orchid Society Accredited Judges who have an extensive and diverse orchid collection, will speak at our next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on March 14 about orchids of Mexico. Many of these species are familiar to us and grow very well here.

The couple are not only involved in caring for their orchids, but also are active in several South Florida orchid societies and are past presidents of three.

Jim's appreciation for orchids stems from his scientific background as a Nuclear Chemistry Manager at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead. Melana is more



interested in the aesthetic qualities of orchids, especially the ones that look strange and other-worldly. She owns her own orchid maintenance business and is known as "The Orchidiva." After Jim retired, they opened their own retail nursery, Jim-N-I Orchids. They travel the show circuit, selling their Florida-grown orchids. Recently, their daughter joined the crew. You may have met her at our January show.

Jim and Melana will have many Mexican species on hand for sale and also will provide orchids for our raffle table.

– **VICKI HALLOCK**
Membership Chair

Claire's Quick Tip: Avoiding sunburn

Editor's note: This a new monthly feature by Claire Garrett.

It is liable to happen when you least expect it. The cool days of March feel so pleasant, so how could our orchids get sunburned when the air conditioning is off and the windows open?

There is something about the higher angle and strength of the sun in the March sky that hits leaves in such a way that sunburn suddenly appears out of nowhere. Thick, dark green leaves (Phals) absorb UV light and heat more readily than thin, light green leaves (Oncidiums), so they are the first to burn. But even tough leaved Myrmecophilas and other Cattleya alliance orchids can get burned unless they are gradually acclimated over a period of a couple months starting in winter.

The trimming of any nearby tree canopy or removal of a screen enclosure around a



patio growing area can expose your orchids to more light than they can tolerate. Even unloading new orchid purchases from the car and leaving them in direct sun for just 20 minutes can result in sun damage. While sunburn will not kill your orchids, the cosmetic damage cannot be undone until affected leaves are replaced by new ones, so it is better to be especially mindful of light exposure beginning this month.

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



‘Den. Aggregatum’ a spectacular bloomer

Dendrobium aggregatum is an extremely popular plant as its flower bursts are quite spectacular. Unfortunately, the plant only blooms once per year, usually around late March or early April (although some bloom outside of that range) and blooms are not long lasting, usually one to two weeks. What is so special is that all flowers open up practically at the same time and, for a well-grown specimen, it means a genuine burst of color that always generates a “wow!”



Den. aggregatum has bulbs rather than canes and is an evergreen unlike many *Dendrobiums*, which are deciduous and shed their leaves. Older bulbs may rebloom several times.

I don’t give mine too much light and surely less than many other *Dendrobiums*, but you will have growers telling you to give them plenty of light and they are successful too.

This plant needs plenty of water during the growing season but should dry out between waterings. Withhold water in late November or early December. I give mine practically zero water until it blooms (almost four months of drought), but some growers have good results with occasional watering during that time. It can tolerate low temperatures even in the 40’s.

Den. aggregatum belongs to the Callista section in the *Dendrobium* genus, which has dozens of sections. Knowing what section your plant belongs to (find it at Orchidspecies.com) is important to understand its growing needs. The *Dendrobium* genus is one of the largest of all, with plants growing in a multitude of habitats with different needs. Section Callista is also known as Section Densiflora, which makes things even more confusing!

Other popular orchids in the Callista section are: *Den. thrysiflorum* (huge thick spikes); *Den. chrysotoxum* (smells like honey); *Den. farmeri* (pink or white flowers); *Den. lindleyi*, also a synonym of *Den. aggregatum* and might be the name to use but there is confusion around that subject and I have no idea what the scientific consensus is, if any (often there is no consensus on orchid names); *Den. jenkinsii* (looks very similar to *Den. aggregatum*).

Den. aggregatum is available for purchase from many growers.

Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014. Send growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.

January Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
Angem. Crestwood	Francisco/Paul	Blue
Blc. Butterbur	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
Blc. Husky Boy ‘Romeo’	Luanne Betz	Blue
<i>Chysis limminghei</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
Cyn. Jumbo Puff	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Den. stratiotes</i>	Laura Metrick	Blue
<i>Den. White Grace ‘Sato’</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>Encyclia amanda</i>	Omar Gonzalez	Blue
<i>Lockhartia oerstedii</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
Onc. Twinkle ‘White Shower’	Roger Triplett	Blue
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
Pcv. Key Lime Stars*	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i> ‘Red’	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Tuberolabium kotoense</i> x <i>Amesiella monticola</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
V. Memoria Sylvia Walling Clark *	Brown/Lindsey	Blue
Vandachostylis Yen HKN Ng	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Den. peguanum</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	Gerritt Stryker	Red
Rl. Aristocrat *	Angie Bondarenko	Red

*Denotes a registered hybrid
Sorry, there are no January photos.

Graphic: JOHN WRENCH

Check It Out! Our new, improved library

Our library is back up and running. A list of our world-class collection of books on orchids is available at FLOS.org/library. While on the website, you can also access it in the menu “activities” and then select “library”.

For your convenience we also have grouped some books according to certain themes:

- Books for beginners (found under “Beginners”)
- Orchids from a certain geographic area
- Orchids from a

specific genus or alliance (“Genera specific”)

- Reference Books (“Reference books”)
- Pest and Diseases, Encyclopedia

If you wish to borrow a book, see Olivier Turina at the monthly meeting. You may keep the book for up to 2 months.

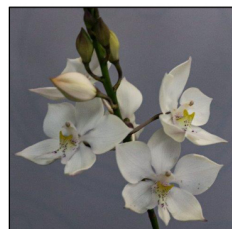
This is one of MANY perks of being a FLOS member and we have some pretty good books for you!

– OLIVIER TURINA,
Library Committee

February Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Caularthron bicornutum</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
Ctna Why Not (yellow)	Jill Smith	Blue
<i>Den. archipelagense</i> x sib	Claire Garrett	Blue
Den. Spring Dream	Laura Metrick	Blue
Epidendrum Serena O'Neill	Roderick Lewis	Blue
<i>Lepanthes telipogoniflora</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Maxillaria densa</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
Monnierara Millennium Magic	Claire Garrett	Blue
Paph. Datlight (Paph. Hidatsa x Paph. Nulight)*	Gustavo	Blue
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	Chris Morales/Alex Rodriguez	Blue
Phal. Surf Song 'OX Gold Orange' AM/AOS	Tim Russo	Blue
Procatovola Key Lime Stars	Gustavo	Blue
Rlc. Lawless Zauberflöte	Nanette Olson	Blue
Vandachostylis Roll on Red	Katia Sanchez	Blue
Brassavola David Sanders	Roderick Lewis	Cultural
<i>Coilstylis ciliaris</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
<i>Coilstylis ciliaris</i>	Rick Bellas	Cultural
Den. Little Atro	Olivier Turina	Cultural
Den. Snowflake	Gustavo	Cultural
<i>Encyclia sima</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
Phrag. x roethianum 'Chrysalis Ileana Morales' CHM/AOS	Chris Morales/Alex Rodriguez	Cultural
Den. Chocolate Chip	Justine Vishnesky	Red
Den. My Sweet 'Wink'	Paul/Francisco	Red
Pot Triple Love #6	Gustavo	Red
V. Nopporn White Diamond	Gustavo	Red

*Denotes a registered hybrid



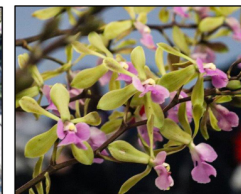
Caularthron bicornutum
Olivier Turina



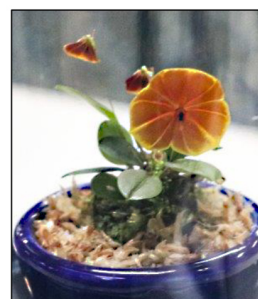
Ctna Why Not (yellow)
Jill Smith



Den. Spring Dream
Laura Metrick



Epidendrum
Serena O'Neill
Roderick Lewis



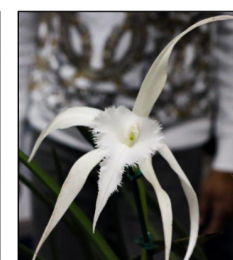
Lepanthes telipogoniflora
Vicki Hallock



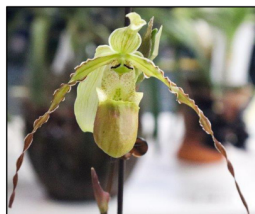
Monnierara Millennium
Magic
Claire Garrett



Paph. Datlight (Paph.
Hidatsa x Paph. Nulight)*
Gustavo



Brassavola David Sanders
Roderick Lewis



Phrag. x roethianum
'Chrysalis Ileana Morales'
CHM/AOS
Chris Morales/
Alex Rodrigues



V. Nopporn
White Diamond
Gustavo



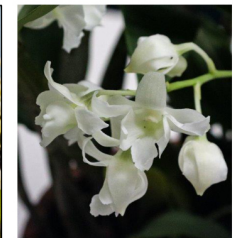
Encyclia sima
Claire Garrett



Rlc. Lawless Zauberflöte
Nanette Olson



Den. Little Atro
Olivier Turina



Den. Snowflake
Gustavo

All about potting media, from stones to bark

By Stephen R. Batchelor
Orchids Magazine

Healthy roots are essential to orchids. Without a substrate conducive to root establishment, growth and function, an orchid cannot absorb the nutrients and water it requires. What are the properties of a suitable growing medium? It should be firm and yet well aerated. Having these two characteristics, such a medium can offer a foundation to which the roots can attach themselves, while at the same time allowing the aeration necessary for their proper function.

Quite a diversity of materials is suitable for orchid culture.

Sticks

Naturally enough, parts of trees and other plants, in the form of branches or plaques (cork or tree fern), come closest to duplicating conditions of epiphytic orchids in the wild. Once mounted and established, any number of epiphytic orchids, especially species, prefer the airy conditions and rapid drying tendencies of such surfaces. Pendent orchids, or those with rambling rhizomes may leave the grower little alternative but to resort to mounting. A plant with lengthy rhizomes can leave its pot in no time flat!

An increasing number of growers are “slabbing” many of their orchids with encouraging results. Even so, mounted orchids can pose a number of difficulties, particularly for the beginning indoor grower. These include plant establishment, positioning in a windowsill area or under lights, and watering. In addition, orchids attached to slabs are more likely to react adversely to the low humidity conditions often found indoors than those grown in pots. These words of caution aside, every orchidist with a diverse collection eventually comes across a plant which would profit from slabbing. For the benefit of these orchids, a grower should make use of this alternative medium.

Stones

Several problems inherent in using a more conventional, organic potting medium can be avoided by using inorganic potting material. To begin with, competition for nitrogen by the decay organisms usually found in woody media is all but eliminated. Secondly, because inert materials do not decay, as potting media they remain porous and intact indefinitely, unlike woody media which typically break down into a fine, relatively airless humus. In this way, the risk of root decay resulting from anaerobic conditions is considerably lessened. Inorganic potting media — synthetic or naturally occurring gravels, and the like — are also reusable, after sterilization.

Conventional potting mix ingredients

By far the growing medium most commonly used for orchids is a mixture of organic, and frequently synthetic, materials. Gone are the days when osmunda fiber was used almost to the exclusion of every other possible medium. With the inevitable scarcity and high price of osmunda came experimentation with, and eventual use of,



other more available alternatives, principally fir bark and, to a lesser extent, tree fern. These are occasionally used as the sole ingredient of a potting medium, but are more commonly mixed with other materials: peat moss, perlite, etc.

Fir Bark

Fir bark is marketed by grades. Fine-grade bark, composed of small pieces which tend to make a more water-retentive mix, is generally used for seedlings and some moisture-demanding terrestrials. Medium-grade bark, containing intermediate-size chips, is the typical major constituent of mixes used for the orchid of average size and watering needs. Coarse-grade bark, with its relatively large chunks, creates a very porous medium more subject to quick drying, even in a large, specimen-size container. It is frequently used for large specimen plants, and for those which prefer a very open, rapidly drying mix.

Tree fern

Though also in fluctuating supply of late, tree fern has had wide application in orchid growing, both as the major constituent of potting mixes, and in the form of slabs. Like bark, tree fern is available in grades from coarse down to fine. Unlike fir bark, tree fern does not generally require extra nitrogen when used in orchid culture. It is not as woody as bark, though it decomposes at a similar rate.

Peat Moss

Peat moss has long been a recommended ingredient of terrestrial mixes. Peat moss sold in garden centers and mass market outlets is Canadian (Sphagnum) peat. It is finely milled and designed to be added to soil as an amendment to hold water. It is also the basis of most so-called “soiless” mixes. Sphagnum peat, in contrast, is a fine-grade peat. Even in small amounts it tends to finely disperse, only to rise and coalesce, forming an impervious mat on the surface of the mix. With such a “cap” across its top, a potting mix cannot “breathe” properly. Orchid roots under such anaerobic conditions will languish, as will, consequently, the plant itself.

Editors note: This is an excerpt from an article that first appeared in the American Orchid Society Bulletin, which later became Orchids Magazine.

Keiki Club news

A lively presentation at the Orchid Bar & Grill

The Keikis gathered on Feb. 19 at Scott and Donna Peplin's world famous "Orchid Bar & Grill," their magical growing area where orchids and all sorts of other tropical foliage abound.

This backdrop provided the perfect setting for a Keiki meeting and Scott, as always, delivered a wonderful presentation. He talked about general orchid culture, potting medium, mounting on cork or using cork koozies, pest control, what to do in the event of a cold snap or a hurricane and gave tips on the best time to repot.

It was most educational for our new members to see all the different possibilities for venues to grow their plants and to be given new ideas to make them better growers.

Everyone enjoyed the casual atmosphere and were able to ask lots of questions. Plants and orchid supplies were raffled off, which is always great fun. Thank you so much, Scott and Donna, for being such gracious hosts and for providing such a beautiful venue for our Keiki meeting. Thanks to our seasoned members who came and helped to facilitate and answer questions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our next meeting will be at 10 a.m. March 19 at the home of Sara Singer, so mark your calendars. Sara's multiple growing areas are lovely and her large collection is amazing. On April 24, we will be meeting at John Budree's house and he will give a presentation on fertilizing and pest control. John's



Scott Peplin in his magical growing area in southwest Fort Lauderdale.

extensive knowledge of orchids is impressive and he always gives a terrific talk.

Happy growing!

Jill Smith, Chair (jsmith8146@comcast.net)

Rick Bellas, Co-Chair (willbell@aol.com)

Karen Fleisher, Co-Chair (ispo3008@gmail.com)

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

Welcome wagon

Please join in welcoming our new members:

**Lynn Fisher
Patricia Rodgers
Diane Giacobbi
Kevin Wargula
Janet Chrystie-Wargula
Vida Jasaitis
Barbara Johnson
David Lefebvre
Daniel Oren
Jaime Tejada
George Williams
Mario Gonzalez**

**– LUANNE BETZ,
Membership Chair**

Go to AOS.org to register

Webinars-Coming Attractions!






When	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	April 19, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	April 27, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday
Topic	The Story of Jewel Orchids Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	More on Modern LED Lighting Answering Your Questions	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Nicholas Rust Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

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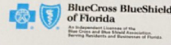
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Thank you for food donations and to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson, Fran Renguso, Debbie Alley, Joan Connors, Jeri Monical, Norma Jeanne, Roberto Ibarra and Laura Metrick.

Website: www.flos.org

Newsletter Editor: Doreen Christensen

Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Corresponding Secretary: Jill Smith

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2nd Vice President: Luanne Betz (Membership)

1st Vice President: Vicki Halllock (Programs)

President: Joan Connors

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

