



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 11

NOVEMBER 2022



Joan Connors, left, will demystify the AOS judging process at the Nov. 14 meeting. Photo by Tom Kuligowski

## American Orchid Society judging coming to you

If you can't get to the regular monthly American Orchid Society judging at the West Palm Beach Judging Center at Flamingo Gardens in Davie, no problem! Judges will come to you at our 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 member meeting.

AOS judging centers offer outreach as part of their ongoing commitment to demystify orchid judging. This service, both practical and educational, is only available to AOS affiliated orchid societies. However, the public is invited

to attend, and can bring an orchid in for judging. Teams of qualified AOS judges will be at the meeting along with the official AOS photographer. So clean up your best plant and register it at 7 p.m.

There also will be an educational presentation on how the AOS judging system works given by your scholarship recipient and accredited judge Joan Connors.

– **LUANNE BETZ**  
*Program Chair*

## Holiday party tickets on sale through Nov. 20

Celebrate the festive season at the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the stunning Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$95 for guests at FLOS.org. The ticket deadline is Nov. 20.

The fun gets started at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails (open bar) and hors d'oeuvres on the veranda overlooking

the Intracoastal Waterway followed by dinner and dancing. Entree choices: Grilled Filet Mignon With Bearnaise; Pan Seared Mango Glazed Scottish Salmon; Stuffed Chicken With Thyme Madeira; Vegetarian plate.

Best part: Each attendee takes home a beautiful blooming orchid. That alone is worth the price of admission.

– **DOREEN CHRISTENSEN**  
*Holiday Party Committee Chair*

## President's message:

### Auction success

Wow, what an auction last month! Thank you everyone for making it so successful. I've included a list of member and vendor donors on Page 2. (My apologies if I missed anyone.)



Our annual holiday party tickets are on sale at FLOS.org. It will be a lovely evening of cocktails, a delicious dinner and dancing. If you need help

getting tickets, please contact Doreen Christensen, party chair.

I am looking forward to this month's meeting to learn about the American Orchid Society judging process. Our resident judge, Joan Connors, will explain the process. Bring in your blooming beauties. Who knows, you might have a worthy contender.

### Dues to increase

The Board of Trustees voted to increase dues by \$5 starting in January. Read more about that on Page 3.

### Volunteer at ATPF

The Equality Garden Club's "A Tropical Plant Fair" will be held Nov. 19-20 at 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. If you can help, please email me at wickirae@aol.com.

– **VICKI HALLOCK**

# Growing Orchids With Olivier

## Random tips on watering, repotting, pest control

Some random tips this month:

**BLOOMING:** There may be different reasons why an orchid does not bloom, but a likely culprit is lack of light. That should be your first clue when you try to figure out why a plant is not blooming (besides not being blooming size, obviously).



Moving it to a brighter location needs to be gradual though and NOT during the summer months when the sun is strongest.

**WATERING:** Watering needs vary tremendously based on humidity, light, length of day and temperatures. In the winter, when temperatures and humidity are lower and the days are short, orchids need a lot less water. When the weather forecast calls for cold nights below 55 F, I keep my orchids completely dry ahead of time, as a combination of moisture and cold can wreak havoc (rot, disease etc.).

When you water your orchids, you should always soak them well. This is particularly true for Vandas which are thirsty orchids. To make sure they are properly hydrated, make sure their roots turn green. That usually means coming back 2 or 3 times within a matter of minutes or staying on it for a little bit until the roots turn bright green. Why should you do this?

1) What we see are not the roots but the velamen that protects the root. Once the velamen is green, it is saturated and passes on the hydration to the roots.

2) You flush out excessive salt build up from fertilizers, which gets toxic after a while.

**LIGHT:** Red leaves (especially on Cattleyas and Vandas) and yellow leaves on Oncidiums usually mean excessive light. Moving the plant to a

less bright location usually solves the problem very quickly.

**TYPES OF PHALS:** Large-flowered Phals typically bloom in the spring and the bloom is triggered by a drop in temps while small-flowered Phals typically bloom over the summer and fall and their blooms are triggered by heat and length of day.

**REPOTTING:** Dendrobiums hate being repotted and you should postpone repotting as long as possible, or just break the previous pot and transplant into a new pot without disturbing the existing roots. They also should not be overpotted. As tight a pot as possible is best! Also, do not use copper fungicides on Dendrobiums.

Bifoliate Cattleya species are extremely unforgiving for wrong timing with repotting. Always wait until they are growing new roots and try to do it while the roots are small enough to avoid damaging them.

For most orchids, underpotting is usually better. They dry out faster this way and you reduce the risk of rot.

**PEST CONTROL:** A great time to inspect your plant and treat it (fungicide, insecticides) is right after flowering because treating while in bloom can damage your flowers. If you use fungicide or insecticide, it is best to rotate with two or more different products with different active agents as pests and disease can get resistant after a while if you keep on using the same product.

**KEEP IT CLEAN:** Always disinfect your cutting tools after EACH use. There are many ways to do so. I use a Mapp gas torch with blue flame (but many disinfectants are also available). Ask FLOS friends for their best practice. There are many.

*Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to [OlivierFTL@gmail.com](mailto:OlivierFTL@gmail.com).*

## Auction appreciation

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society would like to thank our members and vendors for their generous donations to our annual auction.

### FLOS members:

Les Corbin  
Kate Donahue  
Nora Dyke  
Claire Garrett  
Omar Gonzalez  
Paul Gumos  
Scott Peplin  
Sara Singer  
Jill Smith  
Bob Stroozas  
Judy Tkacs  
Olivier Turina  
Sheri Weidenbaum  
John Wrench

### Vendors:

Allen Black  
Jim-n-I Orchids  
Quest Orchids  
Mac's Orchid  
Mickey's Orchids  
Miranda Orchids  
Soroa Orchids  
Springwater Orchids  
Redhawk Orchids  
R F Orchids  
Broward Orchid Supply  
Greenbarn Orchid Supply  
OFE Orchid Supply

## Keiki Club news

There was no Keiki meeting in October because there were so many other orchid activities for members to enjoy such as the Redland festival, our auction and Captain Allen provided a wonderful day roaming about the Fakahatchee Strand.

We will not be meeting for a presentation this month, but rather are encouraging Keikis to join Captain Allen again for the Homestead Ramble on Nov. 5. Go to [FLOS.org](http://FLOS.org) to get your ticket. Don't forget to get your holiday party tickets, too!

On Nov. 6, Flamingo Gardens will host the Flutter 5K Walk-a-thon for the new butterfly pavilion they are building. The event is 7 to 10:30 a.m.; tickets are \$20 at [FlamingoGardens.org](http://FlamingoGardens.org).

Our next meeting will be at Scott and Donna Peplin's in February. If you haven't been to their magnificent growing area, you'll be in for a real treat. More information will follow with dates and times. We hope to see you all at these events!

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

# Claire's Quick Tip: Three strikes rule

Saving tags from dead orchids may seem to be the most extreme form of hoarding, but there can be some useful information in that box or bag of tags. Beyond the sentimental value of remembering the dearly departed, it can be helpful to find out just how many times we have killed a specific orchid before learning to grow it successfully or finally giving up on it. If you are in the habit of recording detailed information such as repotting/pest/disease history, these tags can also give a hint as to what to do differently next time.

Some growers live by the "three strikes rule" – after three failures it is time to give up on that orchid. Maybe it becomes obvious that you cannot succeed with that cool growing *Masdevallia*, *Miltoniopsis*, *Dracula* or *Cymbidium* in your South Florida shadehouse. Maybe you finally realize that no amount of misting can prevent those cloud forest *Maxillarias*, *Lepanthes* and *Pleurothallis* from frizzling up on the coffee table in your air conditioned living room. Maybe the automatic irrigation in your growing area prevents that *Catasetum* and noble *Dendrobium* from getting the dry winter rest that they need.

It is inevitable that all of us will lose some orchids. Don't be too critical or tough on yourself, but do study each failure to try to discover what can be learned. If you really loved

that orchid and still miss it, do try again, but first do your homework to find out if you can realistically provide what it needs to flourish. What can you do differently next time?

One of the first orchids that I fell in love with was a *Rhynchostylis* in the greenhouse at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. I had to have one of my own! The first two did not survive my well-intentioned amateur care, but by the third attempt I had learned what these orchids need, and so my new *Rhynchostylis* not only survived but eventually grew up to bring home an AOS award. *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* was another orchid that enchanted me when it bloomed and so when it died I was determined to get a replacement. Research led me to find out that as a cool growing *Epidendrum* it is not suitable for South Florida. Although disappointed, I also discovered that *Epidendrum nocturnum* is a South Florida native with a flower that closely resembles the cool growing *parkinsonianum* species, so I replaced the cool grower with the Florida native species, and expect to have better results. Examining the past and paying attention to cultural requirements can help us keep more of our orchids alive and thriving. *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.*

# Discovering the secrets of the Fakahatchee

Adventurous members set out on Oct. 15 to discover the mysteries of the swamp, a swamp that is alive with a myriad of plants and animals, a swamp that is flowing and moving and quickly washes away evidence of each step taken. The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve is a slough that constantly regenerates itself with fresh water and feeds the needs of its hungry inhabitants. Stop in one place long enough and appreciate a miniature metropolis residing on the side of a Pop Ash tree, or an entire community of rarities taking up residence on a floating Cypress log, felled long ago at the hands of a WWII lumberjack.



Take a few minutes to observe and you will find orchids that one usually sees in botanical journals and old lithographic prints. We spotted the elusive ghost orchid, *Epidendrum*

*nocturnum*, leafless ribbon orchids and even a vanilla with bean pods. These are the native orchids of Florida! We found what we had come to see. We boarded a large coach and plunged deep into the heart of nature, seeking its treasures. Kudos to the driver who dared to traverse the old one-lane dirt road that more resembled a tunnel than the remnants of a narrow gauge railway that long ago was used to quarry mammoth cypress logs during the war. Bravo to the people who made the trek through this wet and wild habitat. As one participant said to me, "this is a life changing trip."  
– ALLEN COGAR

Linger and you will discover the orchids that evade orchid shows and supermarket chains.

## Welcome Wagon

Please join in welcoming our new members:

**Jose Laverde**  
**Margarita Laverde**  
**Jason Wessell**

– SUE MITCHELL-GREIG  
Membership Chair

## Membership dues increasing

For many years, the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society has enjoyed the benefit of reasonable dues. As everyone is aware, costs and prices have increased in almost every part of our lives, and FLOS has also felt the pinch. We want to continue to provide top-notch speakers and a large raffle table with quality orchids. The price of orchids, snacks and printing costs have also risen. We have invested in equipment upgrades with new microphones and internet service in the meeting room, both desperately needed. Therefore, it is with reluctance the Board of Trustees voted to increase the yearly dues to \$25 for a single membership and \$30 for duals. We feel this is an acceptable amount for the value our society provides.

If you already renewed your membership before Nov. 1, this will not affect you and we extend our appreciation for being an early bird. Also, anyone joining for the first-time during October, November, or December, your membership is good through the next calendar year.

Thank you for your continued support.

– VICKI HALLOCK  
President

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**Thank you for food donations and to our wonderful kitchen volunteers:  
Kathy Homann,  
Debby Johnson and  
Fran Renguso.**

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

**Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society**  
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