



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 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

Learn secrets of the Fakahatchee Swamp

Award-winning naturalist and survivalist Roger L. Hammer will present “Orchids and Other Wildflowers of the Fakahatchee Swamp” at our 7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 meeting.

Roger is an instructor for the Discovery Channel’s reality TV show “Naked and Afraid,” and was the manager of the 120-acre Castellow Hammock Nature Center for Miami-Dade County Parks for 30 years. He retired in 2010.

Roger’s passion is finding and photographing Florida native orchids, and he discovered two species not previously known to occur in the state. In 1979, he discovered a population of *Atala* butterflies listed in 1965 as presumed extinct.

Roger has authored many books



and guides, including “Everglades Wildflowers,” “Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers,” “Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies in Tropical Florida” and “Florida Icons: 50 Classic Views of the Sunshine State,” available for purchase at the meeting.

Among his many honors, Roger received the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the Florida Native Plant Society in 1982 and the Charles Brookfield Medal from the Tropical Audubon Society in 1996.

Roger gave keynote speeches at the 1984 and 2008 World Orchid Conferences in Miami and was the opening speaker at the American Orchid Society’s centennial celebration held in Miami in April.

In 2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Florida International University.

He lives in Homestead with his wife Michelle.

— **LUANNE BETZ**
Program Chair

Swamp walk on Oct. 15

Save the date! Spot wild orchids on a swamp walk with Mike Owen, biologist for the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in Copeland on Oct. 15.

The adventure begins at 8 a.m. as we hop on a chartered coach to the park. Space will be limited. Look for details and tickets on FLOS.org.

— **ALLEN COGAR**

President’s message: Congratulations to our AOS judges

Providing orchid education is a core mission at the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society.



So it’s only fitting we take a moment to congratulate members Paul Gumos, Christine Morales and Alex Rodriguez for their elevation from student judges to certified judges in

the American Orchid Society judging program. Also, congratulations to member Sandi Brock-Brezner for her elevation to accredited judge. Becoming an AOS judge involves years of study and research along with numerous related expenses. Judges are volunteers

and are not compensated for their services or travel to judging events. As part of our commitment to this important mission, FLOS offers scholarships to student judges and qualified members. It is a feather in our society’s cap to have so many member judges.

Christine and Alex happily bring their expertise to our monthly ribbon judgments, and Alex also helps out with the raffle.

October auction

Get ready for next month’s lively in-person auction, which will be held in place of our monthly meeting on Oct. 10. Bidding can be fierce with all the blooming beauties from local growers and our members. Look for more details in next month’s newsletter and at FLOS.org.

Remembering Col. Kone

I am sad to report FLOS has lost another past president. Colonel Kenneth Kone, passed at age 92 earlier this month. He and his wife Dottie served many times as FLOS presidents. Ken was our show chair for several years and served at the helm of the World Orchid Conference in 1984, and as co-chair of the WOC in 2007. “Ken is one of the main reasons that FLOS still thrives and has a solid financial base,” said Nora Dyke, past president, and life member.

The society will make a contribution to the American Orchid Society in his memory, as we did for Gigi Granger and Janett McMillan.

— **VICKI HALLOCK**
President

Growing Orchids With Olivier Beautiful *Catasetums*

Catasetums are spiking.

This month, I will describe four of the most common and popular species. There are many more available.



Many hybrids have a somewhat round looking flower but the majority of *Ctsm.* species are actually quite diverse in their morphology and some are quite bizarre looking. The predominant hybrid look derives from the intensive use in

hybridizing of *Ctsm. pileatum* and *expansum* which are the two largest flowers of the genus and also among the prettiest shapes. Unlike most genera, *Ctsm.* species are no more difficult to grow than hybrids but their blooms usually do not last as long.



Ctsm. pileatum var. *imperiale* (red variety) is beautifully shaped.

Catasetum pileatum

This is the queen of all *Catasetum* species. The reason for its success is the flower's beautiful shape and large size (up to 5 inches) on a long inflorescence with eight to 13 big blooms. The majority of awarded *Catasetum* hybrids have *pileatum* in their background, which I learned at the WPB judging center.

Ctsm. pileatum's leaves are wider than most *Catasetums* and the plants tend to look a little "stockier." As is the case with many *Catasetum* species, blooms last less than one week, but a plant can bloom two to four times per year. The plant is a hot grower and grows below 200 meters in nature with a

wide geographical distribution in South America.

This species tends to have a much shorter dormancy than most and sometimes no dormancy at all. It also needs more water and fertilizer than other *catasetums*. It supposedly blooms early in the season, but mine are doing the opposite! Like many *Catasetums*, there are several colors available ranging from white to yellow, green and even red.

Catasetum expansum

This is the second most-used species in hybrids and it has the second-largest flowers of the genus behind *pileatum*. They are easy to identify with their distinctly broad and usually flat and often somewhat square lip. This species is endemic to Ecuador and will tolerate cooler temperatures as it grows between sealevel and 1500 meters in the wild.

There are a large number of colors available with dominance of yellows and greens. These flowers seldom last more than a week.

Catasetum fimbriatum

The name of this orchid derives from its fimbriated lip which is very popular in hybrids as this is a very strong gene that carries over to most progeny.

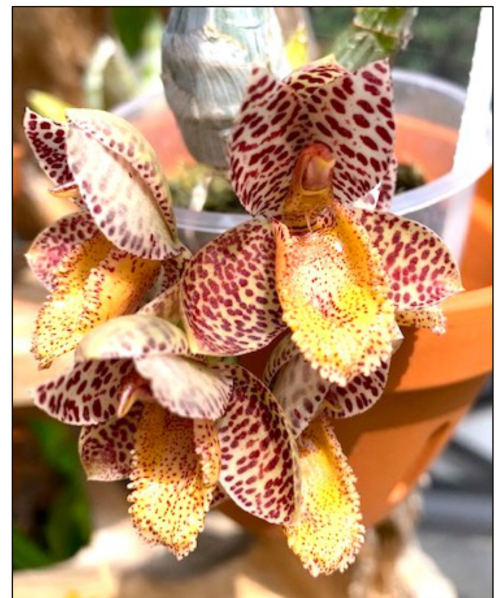
This species is a fast grower. My two *fimbriatum*s tend to produce several new bulbs (four or five instead of the typical one) per year and I saw people stating the same on Facebook. The dominant color is yellow, brown and green but there are reds as well. It is spicily fragrant although a relatively rare dark red form called var. *morrenianum* smells like sweet cake.

These flowers last quite a bit longer than most species of the genus and some can last more than two weeks.

Catasetum denticulatum

This is a miniature species which produces a large number of flowers. It starts flowering as the leaves are growing (most *Ctsm.* bloom after the leaves are fully grown). Its name is derived from the tooth-like edges of the flowers ("Denti"). The color is in the red/oranges but there are some with less saturated colors that are truly gorgeous as well. This plant needs strong light.

Alongside *Ctsm. kleberianum* (which is hard to find and possibly extinct in nature according to Fred Clarke) and *Ctsm. tigrinum*, these are the three main "mini"



Ctsm. denticulatum produces many flowers.

Catasetums that are used heavily in hybridizing when a smaller stature is desired.

All *Catasetums* grow either male or female flowers which is a rarity in the orchid kingdom. Sometimes they will grow both on the same spike and sometimes you have a hybrid form called "hermaphrodite." The male flowers are the showy ones. Female flowers have a strange helmet shape and are usually mostly green and look fairly similar across all species while male flowers are wildly different between species. Male flowers are more common, there are more of them per spike, but they don't last long. Female flowers are rarer, there are fewer of them per spike and they last up to six weeks. Female flowers are believed to come from higher light exposure and more mature plants. While people typically desire male flowers, in the *Cynoches* genus which is part of the *Catasetum* alliance, *Cynoches cooperi* has a stunningly beautiful female flower which exceeds the male flower's beauty in my opinion.

To learn more on care, visit my Youtube channel by searching for "OrchidHouse-Fort Lauderdale, Florida." Titles include:

"*Catasetum* orchids growth stage and watering;" "Repotting a *Catasetum* orchid;" "A *Catasetum* orchid that grows male, female & hermaphrodite flowers on the same spike/inflorescence;" "Hardening *Catasetums* in the Fall ahead of dormancy" and "Mites on *Catasetums*."

Send growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.

Claire's Quick Tip: Root rot

Wet feet can be uncomfortable for people, but chronic dampness can be deadly for potted orchids. Without adequate drainage, potted orchids cannot thrive. Orchid pots that are shorter than they are wide, and that have slits, slots and holes are a good starting place, but using drainage material at the bottom provides extra protection. It is especially critical if the potting media includes organic material such as coco chips, coco coir, bark, tree fern or moss that can stay soggy at the bottom and contribute to root rot.

I have been getting good results since I started filling the bottom third of the pot with coarse inorganic drainage material before positioning the roots and filling in with the chosen media.

Save and disinfect broken clay pots, and use a hammer to smash them into suitable sized shards. I like to add coarse charcoal and lava rocks.



Charcoal is thought to neutralize the pH and lava rocks are said to contribute mineral elements when roots attach to them. Although some people use Styrofoam pellets for drainage, this is not my preferred material. While Styrofoam is free and lightweight, eventually it can stay wet and it is very difficult to extricate from the roots without damage when it comes time to repot.

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

Keiki Club news

In August, the Keikis were treated to a beautiful morning at the Bonnet House, courtesy of Steve Bessellieu. Although our host was unable to share the day with us, José Exposito from Soroa Orchids took the reins and provided us with a lively presentation under the shade in the picnic area. We had a record number of attendees, and everyone learned so much about orchid culture. José shared many of his growing techniques and showed how to remove an overgrown cattleya from a pot, divide it, treat it for infections and repot it in his special mix. Then he took one of the divisions and demonstrated how to properly and securely mount it on a large piece of cork. He also explained the use of time release fertilizers. After the presentation, José took us to two of the greenhouses for a tour to see many of the orchids in the Bonnet House collection. It was quite impressive and everyone was

amazed at the sizes and varieties of plants. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning and everyone left with a number of great ideas to help them grow their orchids better and more efficiently. The monkeys and raccoons on the property also supplied the entertainment! Special thanks to Steve for arranging this meeting and also to José. We are also grateful to the Bonnet House staff for accommodating us and providing rides to and from the parking areas.

Our next Keiki gathering will be at Broward Orchid Supply on Sept. 24. Sandi Jones will give a presentation and demonstration and give the Keikis an opportunity to shop! Attendance will be limited so watch for the email invitation.

Email questions to jsmith8146@comcast.net.

**- JILL SMITH
Keiki Club Chair**

August Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>B. nodosa</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
<i>Bc. Yellow Bird</i>	Elaine Jordan	Blue
<i>C. violacea</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
<i>C. violacea</i> 'Red' #1 x self	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Phal. cornu-cervi</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>V. Huifen Chan</i> * (<i>V. Painter's Dream</i> x <i>V. Kulwadee Fragrance</i>)	Mercedes Rodriguez	Blue
<i>V. Lucknow</i>	Elaine Jordan	Blue
<i>V. Noid</i>	Rosa Brouillet	Blue
<i>V. Somthawil</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>B. Little Star</i>	Mercedes Rodriguez	Culture
<i>Trichoglottis brachiata</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
*denotes registered hybrid		



B. nodosa
Francisco & Paul



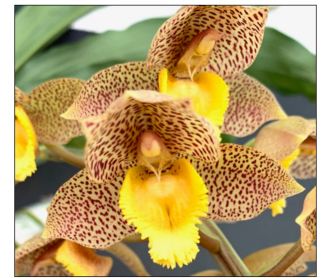
Vanda Noid
Rosa Brouillet



Trichoglottis brachiata
Claire Garrett

Award for Olivier

Congratulations to Olivier Turina for a July AOS Award of Merit for his stunning *Ctms. Dentigrianum* 'Memoria Amedeo Turina,' named after his father who passed away in June.



Roster corrections

Please note on Page 3 of the annual roster, Sara Singer is our recording Secretary. Also, Brian Boyle and Ginny Salus were omitted from the list of Life Members.

Book of the month

"The Cattleyas and Their Relatives" by Carl L. Withner is a series in six volumes. Volume V is great for growers interested in Brassavola and Encyclia with extensive descriptions and cultural information. Volume IV relates to Bahamian and Caribbean species (notably Encyclia and Broughtonia). These books are not for novice growers. Both volumes IV and V will be raffled off at our September meeting. All six volumes are in our Library and are available for members to borrow for up to two months.



Phal. cornu-cervi
Francisco & Paul



C. violacea
'Red' #1 x self
Olivier Turina



V. Somthawil
Olivier Turina



C. violacea
Francisco & Paul



B. Little Star
Mercedes Rodriguez

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Welcome to **amazon** smile
Prime

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!

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

Website: www.flos.org

Newsletter Editor: Doreen Christensen

President: Vicki Hallcock
1st Vice President: Luanna Betz (Programs)
2nd Vice President: Sue Mitchell-Greig (Membership)
Recording Secretary: Sara Singer
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Fleisher
Treasurer: Brian Boyle

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.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
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