

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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President's message: Just one more...

I became infected with orchiditis many years ago. It is a lifelong (but not life-threatening) disease which afflicts you after discovering orchids and getting hooked on them. Once you acquire one, you must have another, then another until you run out of space for them all. That doesn't stop you from acquiring more – just build another shade house, or, like me, go with minis.



At first, you don't have to know anything about orchids other than that you like them and want to learn about them. Eventually, you get to the stage where you want to grow them better and have fewer croak (I don't use died or killed,

just croak. That way no blame is placed on the grower for their demise.) There is a wealth of orchid knowledge available from books, the internet, hobbyists, professional growers and orchid societies. I quickly learned everyone will advise you differently. Even though experienced growers may not always agree, the important thing is to figure out what works best for you. Always consider the orchid environment where you grow your plants. That's part of the learning process and the challenge of successfully bringing orchids to bloom. Besides, orchid people are nice and eager to share their growing techniques. The social aspect of orchid societies cannot be overlooked, so get ready to ramble April 22 with Captain Allen and Best Mate Sabra for an orchid shopping expedition by bus to growers in Homestead.

This month's meeting topic by Omar Gonzalez is Encyclias, my favorite genus — well, one of my favorites. I like them all. When I first started on my orchid journey, I decided to buy every available Encyclia species until I learned there are 188 of them. I do have many and this time of year they are in spike. I'm looking forward to them blooming and learning more from Omar.

Our show is a go!

I'm excited to announce our annual show will return on Jan. 5-7. We will stage "Orchid Jungle" at the beautiful and spacious Charles F. Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines. Sara Singer will be our show chairman. Stay tuned for more info in the coming months.

– **VICKI HALLOCK**

Beautiful Encyclias

Please join us at 7:30 p.m. April 10 to hear our very own Omar Gonzalez speak about Encyclias.

Omar, who is a long-time Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society member, hails from Miami but spent time in the Midwest, attending Northland College in Wisconsin. He has a degree in chemistry and is a quality control chemist. Growing up, Omar loved all kinds of plants and had a particular interest in growing fruits and vegetables.

He found that growing the plants that he had cultivated in the Midwest was somewhat difficult in Miami, so his interest switched to subtropicals. He became friendly with David McLean, the late native plant horticulturist from Broward County, who introduced him to orchids – vanilla, stanhopea and other species.

As Omar's interest in orchids grew, he amassed a wealth of knowledge going to shows, attending meetings and learning as much as he could from local growers. He took a trip to visit his sister in California and extended his travels to Hawaii



to meet with Sheldon Takasaki of Carmela Orchids. Omar also volunteered at Bonnet House and has developed an interest in flasking. Currently, Omar is focusing on Brazilian Cattleyas and orchids of Central America. He is eager to share his orchid expertise with all of us and will be bringing some of his plants for the raffle table.

– **LUANNE BETZ**
Program Chair

Growing Orchids With Olivier

The Oncidium alliance

“Dancing Lady” might well be the most famous nickname for an orchid and refers to Oncidiums.

They have these elegant arching and branching spikes with a multitude of small yellow flowers, usually with some level of brown, red or black spots. Yet the Oncidium alliance is a fairly large



group of genera, many of which look quite different. It seems they are not very popular in South Florida and it may have to do with two factors: many species are intermediate or downright cold

growing orchids and they resent excessive moisture and rot easily.

Oncidiums are “typical” orchids which absolutely need dry and wet cycles. They rot quickly if overwatered. They have plump bulbs (when properly grown) that are a water reserve and they can typically withstand drought. Many species go through a long rest period and should be watered sparingly during that time. A good practice is that when they are not actively growing, leave them alone.

Oncidium species are often not in love with our hot weather. So, research before buying. A great choice is the commonly encountered *Onc. sphacelatum* or *Onc. ampliatum*. (The latter is now reclassified as *Rossioglossum* because of a lower chromosome count). As often is the case, some hybrids will thrive in our weather if they have a hot growing species in their background.

In terms of light, Oncidiums are said to prefer medium light, lower than cattleya levels. It is best to research

them though as some will take direct sunlight while other really need more shade. Oncidiums are among those orchids which do not need a lot of fertilizing.

Oncidiums behave differently when it comes to roots. They usually start rooting way after they are done blooming and often, they start rooting towards the end of a maturing growth, not when the growth starts. Then they often send tons of new roots. That is when they should be repotted.

The classification of species inside the alliance has been in turmoil for 20 years (like many other genera) and there is still quite a bit of disagreement on the proper classification. I am no specialist in this complicated matter, but to me the typical “Dancing Lady” will likely be labeled “Oncidium” or “Gomesa.” Crosses between both are “Oncidesa.”

Many *Odontoglossums* (which look very different) are now also reclassified as *Oncidiums* and they are practically all unsuitable for South Florida’s hot weather.

Among the most popular orchids in this alliance seem to be hybrids of many shapes and colors that usually are a cross between *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidiums* and a few other genera like *Rhyncostele*, *Brassia*, *Miltonia* and *Cochlioda*. They have names like *Odontocidium*, *Oncostele*, *Miltassia*, *Aliceara*, *Colmanara* etc. While I don’t grow them, I believe those are typically suitable for indoor growing. The big star is obviously the *Oncidium* Sharry Baby with its intoxicating chocolate fragrance!

Besides *Oncidium* (and *Odontoglossum*) proper, here are a few more genera commonly encountered:

■ *Tolumnias* (and *Rodriguezia*) have tiny colorful flowers and are usually twig epiphytes that are endemic to one or a few islands in the Caribbean. They are often tough to grow as they live in very dry environments and/or are constantly exposed to strong winds that dry them out fast. This is an orchid that typically thrives on total neglect.

■ *Psychopsis*. They are usually



Tolumnias thrive on total neglect.

referred to as “Butterfly orchids” but they belong to this small genus of four species that have been crossed and back-crossed among themselves. These are orchids with one single flower per spike (they can have many spikes) that rebloom regularly and often for years on end.

■ *Trichocentrum* now include what used to be called “mule-ear” *Oncidiums* and “rat-tail” *Oncidiums* (with the terete leaves which look like pencils). These are drought resistant plants that should not be overwatered.

■ *Miltoniopsis* are sometimes for sale at shows and while they are gorgeous with their pansy look, they are usually totally unsuitable for our climate which is way too hot. You may be able to grow them indoors though.

■ *Miltonia* is a small genus often confused with *Miltoniopsis* – because of the name – but are quite different and usually suitable for South Florida.

■ *Brassias* and *Adas* have flowers which look like spiders. I have little experience with them, but I believe that *Brassias* are usually warm growers while *Adas* are typically cold growing.

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

Book of the month

“Ortho’s All About Orchids” will be raffled at the April meeting. This is a PERFECT book for beginners.

– OLIVIER TURINA
Library Chair

How to treat common ailments and pests

Bugs, fungus and bacterial infections can affect the health of our plants. Here are a few tips on treating problems from the American Orchid Society.

Bud drop

There are many reasons why buds fall off before flowering. Under or over watering, temperature extremes and rapid temperature changes (heating vents, air conditioning blowing directly on the plant). Other causes include fumes from natural gas leaks, paint, other chemicals; low humidity and genetics. Most common causes are aphids, thrips and some mites.

Also, changing growing locations can make buds drop. If you want to change a plant's location so that it will be enjoyed, wait until the flower opens



first.

Aphids, mealybugs and scale insects

Although mealybugs can multiply rapidly, they are not difficult to control.

The following advice has been provided by Paul J. Johnson of the Insect Research Collection of South Dakota State University.

Probably the most popular home remedy against this group of pests is to swab and daub plants with a cotton swab or ball of cotton dipped in 70 percent or 90 percent isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Do not use other alcohols, such as ethanol or methanol, that will penetrate the plant tissues and cause considerable damage. On hard-leaved plants, gentle rubbing with the fingers, a cotton ball, or a soft infant's toothbrush is effective. Treat the

affected area with alcohol. With scale insects (as shown in the photo) and mealybugs you will still need to repeat the alcohol treatment to remove the tiny yellowish spots which are the recently hatched crawlers. Spraying of alcohol solutions is not always effective against eggs which are often well-hidden, hence the need for thoroughness and repetition. Pay particular attention to the folds, crotches, branch bases, midrib areas, and roots. Spraying the alcohol with a misting bottle or small pump sprayer is effective, but dribbling alcohol into tight areas is necessary. Once hard scale is established, it can take several treatments to eradicate it.

Rots and spots

Wet foliage and high humidity encourages the spread of fungal and bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases do not respond to fungicides and vice versa so it's important to know which disease you are dealing with. Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between the two is by smell. The most common bacterial disease in orchids produces a foul smell often likened to dead fish. If you've ever had cut flowers stand too long in water you know the sort of smell we're talking about.

Diseases can spread quickly. Bacterial diseases kill plants especially rapidly and time is of the essence. Both bacterial and fungal diseases are spread by splashing water and this includes rainfall. Use a clean cutting tool like a single-edge razor blade, cut off the infected tissue as well as at least an inch of clean, green area and then treat the cut surface with a fungicide. Even if the problem is bacterial, you don't want a fungal infection to start in the wound. Cinnamon is effective against fungal diseases and this can be used to coat the cut surface. It's perhaps not as effective as a chemical fungicide but it's readily available and does work.

Black Rot, a fungal disease characterized by soft, rotted areas that begin on leaves or new growth, then spread to rhizomes and roots. Infected areas are at first a purplish brown, then turn black. The outer margins of the infection site are yellowish. Black rot can spread quickly through an orchid

collection.

Root rot, a fungal disease that usually enters the plant through the roots. Infected plants are stunted and wilted. Brown to black areas may extend from the roots into the rhizomes. As the disease advances, leaves will become twisted, wrinkled and yellowish.

Bacterial Brown Spot is a bacterial disease that begins as a sunken, water-soaked lesion on the leaf. Lesions will eventually turn brown or black and exude a dark liquid.

Erwinia, a bacterial disease that begins as a water-soaked, chestnut to chartreuse lesion on leaves or pseudobulbs. These lesions exude a yellowish liquid with a characteristic foul smell. The disease is most prevalent on plants that are seriously stressed and is a very common problem in Phalaenopsis during hot, prolonged summers.

Sunburn

Sunburn is usually caused by plants suddenly being exposed to much brighter light, such as the change of seasons can bring. The sudden appearance of white or brown areas on leaves that dry and subsequently turn black may be sunburn. Sunburn, while not in itself a serious problem, is irreversible and will make your plants look ugly. In serious cases the plant can be killed outright and any leaf damage is an invitation to a secondary infection in the damaged area.

Orchid foliage should be a light yellow-green. The first sign of too much light is often yellow foliage. If left alone, this yellow foliage will eventually turn white and then dark brown and dry as the sunburned area dries out. If the problem is caught before the chlorophyll has been completely destroyed it is often possible to reverse the damage. Once white spots or sunken areas have appeared, the damage is irreversible and the best thing one can do is stop further progression with more shade.

Find more culture information at AOS.org.

March Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Den. Country Girl</i>	Haydee Valor	Blue
<i>Den. farmeri</i>	Debbie/Mike Alley	Blue
<i>Den. Love Memory</i>	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>Den. nobile</i> 'white'	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
<i>Guaricyclia</i> Atomic Kyoguchi	Doreen Christensen	Blue
<i>Phal. Sogo Berry Sweetheart</i>	Paul Gumos	Blue
<i>Rhyncholaelia glauca</i>	Zoe Bejar	Blue
<i>V. Fantastic Fanfare</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Blc. Carolina Orange D'Or</i>	Debbie/Mike Alley	Culture
<i>Blc. Picotee Flight 'SVO'</i>	Doreen Christensen	Culture
<i>C. Irene Finney</i>	Elly Meisler	Culture
<i>Den. anosmum</i> 'Touch of Class'	Paul & Francisco	Culture
<i>Den. lindleyi</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Culture
<i>Gur. guatemalensis</i>	Zoe Bejar	Culture
<i>Lnt. dulatiaca</i>	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>Maxillaria hennisiana</i>	Claire Garrett	Culture
<i>Paph. Michael Koopowitz</i>	John Wrench	Culture
<i>Platystele apoloae</i>	Vicki Hallock	Culture
<i>Pot. Love Passion</i> 'Orange Bird'	Zoe Bejar	Culture
<i>Den. aggregatum</i>	Paul & Francisco	Culture
<i>C. Mary Ann Barnett</i>	Chris Crepage	Red
<i>Lc. Susan Holguin</i> 'Forgetful'	Paul Gumos	Red
<i>Phal. Mini Mark 'Holm'</i>	Paul Gumos	Red
<i>Phal. tetraspis f. imperatrix</i>	Olivier Turina	Red

*Denotes registered hybrid



C. Mary Ann Barnett
Chris Crepage



C. Irene Finney
Elly Meisler



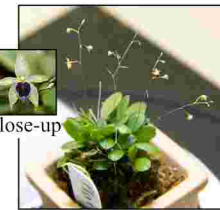
Rhyncholaelia glauca
Zoe Bejar



Phal. tetraogtis
Olivier Turina



Paph. Michael Koopowitz x
Paph. Mount Toro
John Wrench



Close-up

Platystele apoloae
Vicki Hallock



V. Fantastic Fanfare
Sara Singer



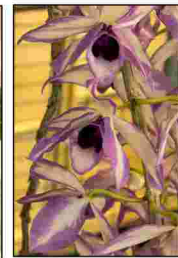
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Atomic Kyoguchi
Doreen Christensen



Blc. Carolina Orange D'Or
Debbie & Mike Alley



Den. Anosmum
Touch of Class
Paul & Francisco



Phal. Mini Mark 'Holm'
Paul Gumos



Gur. guatemalensis
Zoe Bejar



Den. Love Memory
Les Corbin



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Olivier Turina



Den. aggregatum
Paul & Francisco



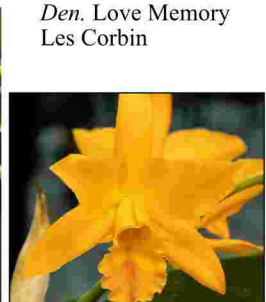
Lc. Susan Holguin
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Zoe Bejar



Den. farmeri
Debbie & Mike Alley



Blc. Picotee Flight 'SVO'
Doreen Christensen

Graphic: JOHN WRENCH; Photos: GINNY SALUS

Claire's Quick Tip

Springing forward into action

Advancing our clocks ahead one hour is a reminder to add these tasks to our springtime to-do list:

- Re-evaluate the light in our growing areas and add shade cloth or relocate some orchids to gentler light as needed
- Scrub and disinfect pots
- Take inventory of orchid supplies and restock as needed
- Re-organize your work area and start repotting
- Make divisions for the FLOS October auction
- Resume monthly preventative fungicide treatments
- Be on the lookout for insect pests that reproduce more quickly now
- Peel back dry sheaths on cattleya pseudobulbs to find and treat scale
- Replenish time release fertilizer in teabags and pots, or increase water soluble fertilizer



Despite all these new chores we should also make time to visit local orchid shows to soak in all the beauty and add some new orchids to our collections.

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

Learning orchid lingo

On March 11, 26 Keikis enjoyed yet another educational and fun filled morning hosted by Olivier Turina. His patio and dock on the Middle River is stunning and his orchids are strategically placed to provide an atmosphere of sheer beauty.

Everyone assembled under Olivier's newly constructed chickee hut and were given handouts of "Greenhouse Etiquette" and "Orchid Speak," a list of many of the terms newcomers hear when they enter the orchid world! Often baffled by all this new vocabulary – inflorescence, sheath, catts, phals, paphs, epiphyte, pseudobulb, etc., Keikis can be overwhelmed and we wanted to explain and familiarize them with the terms that they'll be hearing from experienced growers. As Vicki Hallock and Jill Smith proceeded through the list, Olivier used his plants as examples so the Keikis could actually see what we were talking about. They took notes feverishly and asked a myriad of questions, clearing up

misconceptions and gaining perspectives. There was no doubt that they all learned a lot of useful information. After the presentation, everyone was treated to a tour of Olivier's greenhouse to see his magnificent plants. A raffle followed and everyone went home with a prize.

Thanks to all who brought refreshments and special appreciation to both Olivier and Tommy for being such gracious and excellent hosts. It is always a pleasure to visit their "Orchid House!"

Our next meeting will be held on April 15 at Sara Singer's so please mark your calendars. Karen Fleisher will be giving a presentation on a couple of topics that will directly impact the Keikis as they embark on upcoming orchid shopping opportunities. See you there.

– JILL SMITH
Keiki Club Chair



Three wise kitchen ladies

Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff Fran Renguso, left, Debbie Johnson and Kathy Homann.
Photo: Doreen Christensen

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

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

Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org
Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	March 09, 2023 8:30 pm EST Thursday	March 16, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Thursday	April 04, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Tuesday	April 12, 2023 8:30 pm EDT Wednesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 07</i>	Dracula — Whimsical Monsters of the Orchid World	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by April 02</i>	Heirloom Cattleyas Bringing the Past into the Present
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Tom Etheridge AOS Judge, former AOS Trustee and Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	David Toyoshima Longtime AOS member, former chair of AOS Public Relations

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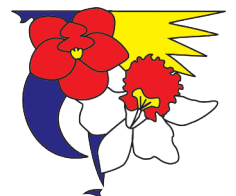


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Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month.
Time: 7:30 pm. Place: Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306
Directions: From I-95 take East Oakland Park Blvd., go
2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave. 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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