

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 73

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2023

President's Message

Prepare those divisions for our annual auction

Hot summer in Florida reminds me of frigid winter in Ohio. I just want to stay inside.

My Vandas, though, love the rain, heat, and humidity and are bursting with colorful flowers. I plan on donating several pieces to our Oct. 9 auction. Although potting season is past, I hope you'll donate divisions or



duplicates, too. The auction is a great way to increase your collection and the proceeds subsidize our holiday party, which will be held on Dec. 3. Once again, our celebration is at the lovely Coral Ridge Yacht Club overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. It is always a fabulous evening and everyone leaves with a blooming Cattleya.

In October, we will venture into the Fakahatchee swamp to observe orchids found nowhere else in the United States.

As Carlyle Luer describes in "The Native Orchids of Florida," available in our library: "The arching boughs of low-branching trees are still festooned with their treasures of epiphytic ferns, bromeliads, and orchids... to behold these sights, is an experience never be forgotten."

I can attest to that. I hope you will join us. More info coming next month.

– VICKI HALLOCK

Growing in the good old summertime

Grower and hybridizer Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids will be the speaker at our 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14th meeting. The topic will be "Summertime and the Growing Is Easy."

It was in the college days of 1979 when Jim first encountered orchids during a routine doctor's visit.

While there, Jim noticed a large cattleya on the desk. He asked the fateful question: "What kind of flower is that?" To which the physician laughingly replied, "You do NOT want to know!" A short story by the doctor about his all-consuming hobby ensued and within two days he had gotten two orchids of his own.

During his college years in Northfield, Minnesota, he was put in charge of the St. Olaf greenhouse and its repository of orchids. Jim knew little about the plants but read everything he could get his hands on.

After graduating, he moved to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands where he happened upon a sidewalk sale by the local orchid society. Jim joined the group, learned much about growing in a tropical arid environment, and about the native orchid species. He won his first American Orchid Society award for *Encyclia bifida* 'Loves Favor' AM/AOS.

After leaving the island three years later, he found himself trying to take 10 boxes of plants through customs back to Minnesota. Little did he know that the customs encounter would be the easiest part. It was a totally new experience trying to grow plants in a cold Midwestern state. Many plants did not survive. But many did, and Jim learned that orchids actually could be grown quite successfully in the stifling



environment of a house surrounded by ice and snow.

During those years in Minnesota, he worked in the horticulture industry, served in various capacities with orchid organizations and lectured at many garden clubs.

He also had the privilege of traveling extensively around the United States, Europe and Hawaii for his career, visiting all of the major orchid nurseries. It was during this time that he started to turn this avid hobby into a small business.

In 2001, Jim moved to Florida with a small collection of plants and his dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. He currently grows the beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000-square-feet of growing space near Myakka City, near Sarasota. Visit his website at floridasuncoastorchids.com.

Jim also will be providing plants for our raffle table and bringing an assortment of plants to sell.

– LUANNE BETZ
Program Chair

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Sections in the Phalaenopsis genus

This is the second in a two-part series.

I am obviously not a taxonomist nor a scientist. Today, I describe my understanding of the way the Phalaenopsis genus is usually classified in sections. Like all matters of classifications in the orchid world, it is subject to some level of difference of opinions but this genus is overall less controversial than most.



Within Phalaenopsis there is a subgenus Phalaenopsis which covers most of the commonly accepted Phals. There is also a smaller subgenus Parishianae which

has colder growing Phals which are typically not suitable for South Florida. There are a couple more very small subgenera with plants whose belonging to the genus is more recent and finally there is *Phal. lowii* which is a stand-alone species, gorgeous but tiny flowers and not easy to grow at all.

Below are all sections and subsections of the subgenus Phalaenopsis which are the ones you are most likely to encounter.

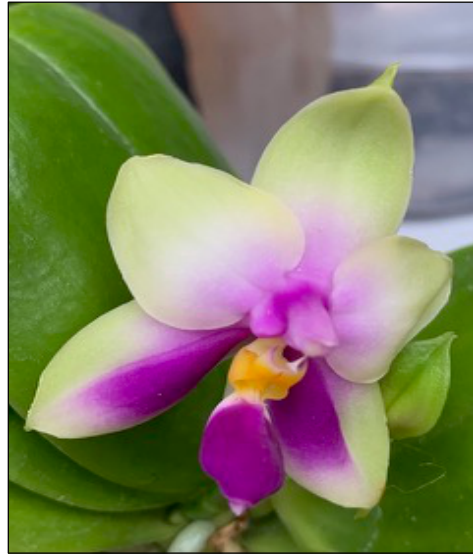
Section Phalaenopsis

It includes most of the larger flowers in the genus and the majority hails from the Philippines, some being endemic to those islands. The most prominent species in this section are *stuartiana*, *schilleriana/sanderiana*, *amabilis/aphrodite* and *philippinensis*. They are all spring bloomers and perfect for South Florida. I wrote articles about them in May and June 2020.

Phal. stuartiana is a popular spring bloomer with white flowers with blotches. It is extremely floriferous and there is also a less common yellow variety called var. *nobilis*.

Phal. schilleriana is a spring bloomer with extremely fragrant (rose scented) pink flowers. It is also very floriferous and quite a show.

Phal. amabilis and *aphrodite* are your standard large white flowers which are in most large hybrids in the market



***Phal. bellina* is fragrant and popular, but not easy to grow.**

Section Stauroglottis

(Note some include this in the section Phalaenopsis.) This is a small group of sequential bloomers (the spike keeps on blooming for months on end), and the most prominent species is *Phal. equestris*, which blooms most of the year with many smaller flowers and several spikes in hues of white, pink and blue (purple).

Section Polychilos

For the most part, these are smaller flowered plants and they usually bloom in the summer and fall. Many are sequential bloomers and many will rebloom on the same spike for many years if successfully grown. This group has more than half of all known Phal. species and is split up in sub-sections.

I want to mention some of the most commonly encountered species in those sub-sections.

Sub-section Polychilos

Phal. cornu-cervi is a delightful plant with sequential blooming spikes. It can have many spikes that will rebloom over many years. The flowers are usually red with yellow lips. It grows drier and brighter than most Phals.

Sub-section Fuscatae

These are beautiful but less common species, usually in the yellows: *Phal.*

fuscata, *Phal. cochlearis* and *Phal. kunstleri*.

Sub-section Zebrinae

This is a very popular group of small plants which can bloom profusely with many spikes. There is some confusion among the species but the names you are most likely to encounter in the trade are *Phal. tetraspis*, *Phal. speciosa* (which might be a variety of *tetraspis*) and *Phal. zebrina*.

Sub-section Amboinensis

This is a huge group of small plants which has more than half of all Phal. species. It contains some very popular small Phals.

Phal. violacea and *Phal. bellina* are the most fragrant phals and among the most popular. The latter is not very easy to grow though, and used to be considered a variety of *violacea* until 1995. These are hot growers and crown rot is a common occurrence. You can check my article of August 2020 on the subject.

Phal. gigantea refers to the size of the plant, not the flowers. This is quite a spectacular plant but not very common and very expensive because it can take more than 10 years for the plant to bloom. This very slow grower is not for the beginner, but worth pursuing if you are an experienced grower.

Finally, I want to mention Subgenus *Hygrochilus* which is fairly recent and subject to much controversy. It has primarily two species which I consider extremely attractive but they are not very easy to grow.

Phal. japonica used to be called *Sedirea japonica* and is often still sold as such. This plant is really hard to bloom but quite pretty.

Phal. hygrochila (new name since 2015) was called many different names in the past including *Hygrochilus parishii* and *Phal. marriottiana* var. *parishii*. That is a stunning flower (in my opinion) but also somewhat challenging to grow.

Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Find Olivier's tips on growing orchids at [Orchid House - Fort Lauderdale, Florida](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) on YouTube.com.

Keiki Club News

Fascinating tag presentation

Although July has been exceptionally hot and steamy, the Keikis stayed cool, assembling at Keiki Mama Jill Smith's condo party room on July 15.

It has seemingly become an annual event since the summer months do not lend themselves to outdoor gatherings. Thirty eight Keikis and seven FLOS support board members attended. The uber-knowledgeable Olivier Turina gave his presentation on how to read orchid tags as well as understanding technical plant terminology. This included the differences between species, hybrid, primary hybrid, cultivar and grex and how they would appear on a plant tag. He included examples in his talk so that the Keikis could interpret the tags and they showed their interest with many questions. Thank you so much, Olivier!

Congratulations to our two Keikis, Doreen Christensen and Mary Jo Frick, who were presented with diplomas and a mini-phalaenopsis to celebrate



Karen Fleisher, left, Mary Jo Frick, Jill Smith and Doreen Christensen. Frick and Christensen were presented with a diploma and orchid.



Olivier Turina explained how to read orchid tags to a full house. Photos: Vicki Hallock

their graduation after two years of learning the ins and outs of orchid cultivation. Two other Keikis, Maribel Beas and Carolyn Cray, were to have graduated, but could not attend. They will be honored at our next graduation in January.

After the graduation, we had our popular raffle and everyone walked away with something. We had a wide variety of contributions to the raffle — books, sprayers, plants and cuttings, notebooks, plant hangers and ceramic orchid pots. Many thanks to all who donated these items! Your generosity is always so appreciated.

NO AUGUST MEETING: However, there are meetings planned for the rest of the year with topics that will be of interest to all. There will be much information about the our January show in the coming months and the enthusiasm the Keikis are displaying so far is terrific.

We look forward to their participation and we're sure they will learn lots and have a great time. It is always a worthy endeavor. Stay cool and happy growing!

– JILL SMITH
Keiki Club Chair

Claire's Quick Tip

Weathering rainy weather

The rainy season is still here, causing problems in our outdoor orchid collections for at least another couple of months.

Too much rain can be damaging, causing roots to rot and plants to die back. We can't change the weather, but we can make more informed choices to help ensure our orchids do not drown during periods of prolonged wet weather.

Pot size: bigger is not better - do not overpot

Pot type: choose clay instead of plastic for most orchids

Potting media: choose a fast drain mix that incorporates clay pellets, lava rock, charcoal and sponge rock; coarse Orchiate bark holds up better and longer than other bark when exposed to chronic moisture

Decayed potting media: consider replacing media if it has been 3 or more years for bark or coco chips, and 1 year or more for moss

Drainage: use clay shards and/or fast draining clay pellets in the bottom 1/3 of the pot

Baskets: use open wood or plastic vanda baskets instead of pots for some orchids

Moss: limit its use to shallow open vanda baskets and intersperse the moss with sponge rock and charcoal (Catasetum types are an exception)

Mounting: attach orchids such as Cattleyas, Dendrobiums and Myrmecophilas to cork which never disintegrates, or to hardwood such as Live Oak and Cypress

Physical protection: relocate big pots to an area under an overhang out of the rain
Fungicide protection: keep up to date on a monthly systemic spray program and if overdue for a treatment, consider using topical Physan 20 for temporary protection

Rain gauges: get in the habit of checking them daily to monitor rainfall and adjust your watering accordingly

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

July Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Asctm. Sagarik x V. miniatum</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Bc. Sea Siren</i>	Omar Gonzalez	Blue
<i>Blc. Mickey's Freckles</i>	Doreen Christensen	Blue
<i>Blc. Irish Helen x B. nodosa</i>	Doreen Christensen	Blue
<i>Bulb. guttatum</i>	Karen Fleisher	Blue
<i>Bulb. tingabarinum</i>	Paul & Francisco	Blue
<i>C. Peckaviensis</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>E. Orchid Jungle</i>	Omar Gonzalez	Blue
<i>L. harpophyllia</i>	Ken S	Blue
<i>Rchg. Graf's Fantasia x Rchg. Honky Tonk Woman</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>Ren. storiei</i>	Paul & Francisco	Blue
<i>Rlc. Sandi Block Brezner</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>Ryn. coelestis</i>	Mark&Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>Trichocentrum Jason Fuchs</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>V. Ben Jasmine</i>	Mark&Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>V. Gordon Dillon</i>	Jill Smith	Blue
<i>Zygonisia Cynosure</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Bromecanthe Garnet Glory</i>	Zoe Bejar	Cultural
<i>C. purpurata h.f. rubra</i>	Karen Fleisher	Cultural
<i>E. angustiloba</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
<i>Phal. cornu-cervi</i>	Sara Singer	Cultural
<i>Trichocentrum stacyi</i>	Craig Barry	Cultural
<i>Aerides</i> NOID	Omar Gonzalez	Red
<i>Ctsm.</i> NOID	Gerritt Stryker	Red



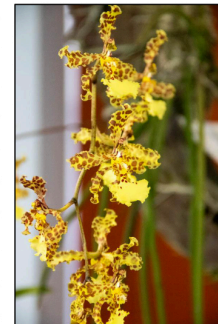
Asctm. Sagarik x V. miniatum
Vicki Hallock



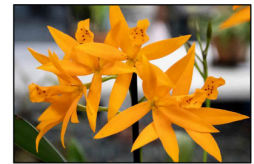
E. Orchid Jungle
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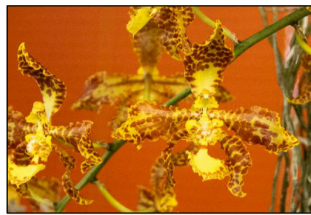
Trichocentrum Jason Fuchs
Olivier Turina



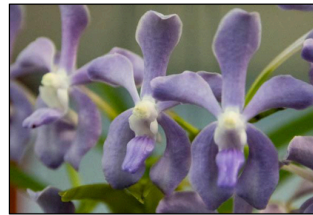
L. harpophyllia
Ken S.



C. purpurata h.f. rubra
Karen Fleisher



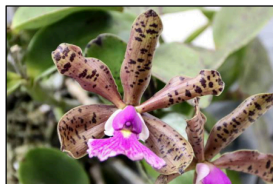
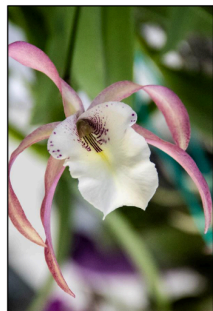
Trichocentrum stacyi
Craig Barry



V. Ben Jasmine
Mark & Sherrie Smith



Ryn. coelestis
Mark & Sherrie Smith



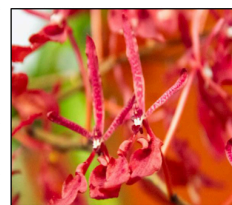
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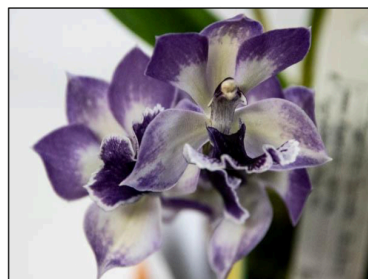


Ren. storiei
Paul&Francisco



Bulb. tingabarinum
Paul & Francisco

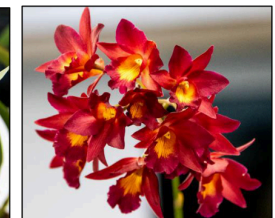
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Zygo. Cynosure
Olivier Turina



Blc. Irish Helen x B. nodosa
Doreen Christensen



Brm. Garnet Glory
Zoe Bejar

How to treat pesky, persistent thrips

By Susan Jones
American Orchid Society

Many species of thrips feed on orchids; some of the most common include western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), Cuban laurel thrips (*Gynaikothrips ficorum*), greenhouse thrips (*Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis*) and flower thrips (*Frankliniella bispinosa*).

Thrips are a common problem on vandaceous plants, dendrobiums and to a lesser extent, cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Because they are quite small (about 1/16 to 3/8 inch [1 to 5 mm] long), they are difficult to see with the naked eye. Much more easily detected is the damage to plants, deformed foliage and injured floral tissues caused by their feeding. They most often attack buds and new growths with their rasping mouthparts, sucking the plant sap.

Symptoms

Much like aphids, thrips feed in buds and flowers by using their mouthparts to pierce the surface of the plant tissues and suck up juices from leaves, stems and flowers. Blooms may become prematurely brown, and their



petals spotted, streaked, silvery or discolored. Damage to leaves appears as chlorotic spots, wilting and eventually dropping. Plant growth can be stunted, and a severe thrips infestation will kill an orchid. If you suspect that thrips are present, gently blow into an open flower and watch for the insects crawling around inside the blossom.

Because of their method of feeding and ability to travel from plant to plant, thrips, like aphids, may introduce and spread virus through an orchid collection.

Life cycle

Each female is capable of producing 25 to 50 eggs at a time, and many species

reproduce at a rate of three to five generations per year. Their reproduction rate is more rapid in warmer temperatures, making thrips a more difficult pest to control in southern climates.

Controls

The nature of the thrips' life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages fairly well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest.

Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, malathion and acephate (Orthene) are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well.

If your growing area is enclosed and is not part of your living space, such as a greenhouse, biological control with a predatory mite is an option. The female *Amblyseius cucumeris* deposits eggs in thrips. When the young hatch, they parasitize their hosts, killing them.

The use of insecticides is not compatible with employing predatory mites for control, as the insecticides are harmful to the mites as well as the thrips. As always, adhere strictly to the manufacturer's instructions for safe application and use of chemical pesticides.

As with any spray-on pest control measure, any orchid plants infested with thrips should be managed to allow easy and thorough pesticide application. Arrange the plants in the growing area so that they have adequate space for air circulation and ease of spraying, and be sure to cover all plant surfaces, such as those between and on the undersides of leaves, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment

Reprinted from the September 2003 issue of "Orchids" magazine. Find more culture info at AOS.org.

Book of the month "The Scent of Scandal" by Craig Pittman

This riveting book tells the incredible story of a new species of Phrag discovered in Peru, which was smuggled illegally into the U.S. and registered at Selby Gardens in Sarasota, nevertheless. The unusual and beautiful color of the Phrag made the smuggler, Mr. Kovach, do crazy things, which sent him to jail.

Look for the book on the raffle table.

– OLIVIER TURINA
Library Chair

Roster correction

The annual directory did not identify Treasurer Brian Boyle as a

lifetime member. Also, his phone number is 202-321-4329.

Welcome Wagon

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Jean Ackerman
Jacqueline Brubaker
Heather Petryk
Patty Doukas
Bernie Fallon
Nydia Menendez,
Steven Monk
Guillermo Orbos
Evangeline Ott
Aaron Roberts
Nathalie Ziesemer

– OLIVIER TURINA
Membership

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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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