

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

A whirlwind of activity before our 64th annual show



The holiday season is here, which means it is almost showtime. Jan. 5, 6 and 7 is a month away.

Envision a jungle filled with displays of blooming orchids and

tropical palms and plants as you enter the hall. Welcoming you will be the Keiki display, "Orchids are DeVine," surrounded with more displays of our 30 orchid vendors. Further inside are 40 sales booths and individual entries for American Orchid Society judging from FLOS members and other orchidphiles.

Start prepping your orchids now so they'll be ready for judging. For tips, see

Claire Garrett's Quick Tip in the [May 2023 newsletter](#). Registration will start at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines will provide us with a new, exciting location since War Memorial is still under construction. Yes, it is further west, but easy to reach and has ample free parking.

Set-up starts Tuesday, Jan. 2, with booth layout, tables, pipe and drape installation, tropical plant delivery, followed Wednesday morning with vendors and entry registration at 3 p.m. Thursday morning is for last-minute details, then an AOS luncheon and judging.

That evening is the highlight of our show, the Preview Party. You'll enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, coffee and

dessert, and the opportunity to view the lovely displays firsthand. Oh...and not to forget shopping before the show opens to public. Then 3 days for the show with teardown at closing 6 p.m. Sunday.

The board and committees have diligently worked for months on this monumental task and now we need your help. The show's success depends on you. It is a very busy 6 days requiring many hands. Please help us make this our best show ever. Contact Karen Fleisher at ispo3008@gmail.com to sign up.

Remember, there is no member meeting in December. I wish you a most wonderful holiday and will see you in January.

– VICKI HALLOCK

'Orchid Jungle' almost here

Time flies when you are busy getting everything in order for a show. I am happy to report that we are sold out. As of this writing, we have 30 orchid vendors and 10 nonorchid vendors that will be attending our show on Jan. 5-7. This is the largest Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society show ever, and, with your help, it will be the best!

If you have not done so, please consider volunteering for the show. We need volunteers in every capacity, from walking around helping our guests, covering entrances and exits, keeping our vendors' stock secure, and so much more. And don't worry – we won't leave you in one spot all day!

Setup begins Tuesday-Wednesday. After AOS judging on Thursday, it will be time for our 7 p.m. Preview Party, which will give you an opportunity to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while shopping for the newest additions to your collections before the show opens to the public on Friday.

If you haven't done so, don't forget to pay for your discounted show tickets in order to get your free Preview Party ticket. Contact Ginny Salus at ginny@salus.onmicrosoft.com with questions.

– SARA SINGER
Show Chair

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
presents
Orchid Jungle

64th Annual Orchid Show and Sale
January 5, 6, & 7, 2024
Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Blvd.
Pembroke Pines
Admission: \$15
Info: FLOS.org

Ample Free Parking!

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Pretty and fragrant Gongora genus

Gongora is the second largest genus in the Stanhopea alliance. Unlike Stanhopea plants, some of which can be quite large, most Gongora plants tend to be more medium sized but they are fast growers and can be turned into specimen-size fast, if grown well.



The ornate flowers are relatively small but numerous and produced in pendulous chains. One plant can bloom many spikes at once and create quite the show; the flowers seldom last more than a week but mature Gongoras can bloom for months on end (usually over the summer or fall). Their flowers typically grow at the base of the bulb unlike Stanhopeas which grow flowers downwards. So, you don't need to account for a spike that grows through the medium.

Gongora flowers are usually very fragrant. Strong color variability is common among many species and creates confusion. The only way to identify a Gongora correctly is the morphology of the lip which is always constant within each species (shape, location and angle of the basal horn as well as shape and size of the hypochile, mesochile and epichile).

Hybrids are not commonly found in the trade but very desirable and benefit from hybrid vigor.

Most Gongoras come from Colombia (which has approx. half of all species), Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Panama and Costa Rica. *Gga. atropurpurea* and *Gga. maculata* grow in Trinidad as well, which is an exception as no other Caribbean Island has Gongoras.

How to grow them

The majority are warm growers and will do well in South Florida. They usually grow well in shade or low to medium light. They should also never be allowed to dry fully but also never be soggy (very few orchids like soggy!). They are

also heavy feeders and should be fertilized like Vandas.

Classification

Most generas are grouped into subgeneras and sections which are subdivisions of the genus with groups of plants that are even more closely related. They are useful in the Gongora genus as they isolate some plants that are less suitable for our hot South Florida climate. Although subject to debate, the following seems to be most commonly accepted classification (Lankesteriana and Rudolf Jenny):

Subgenus Gongora with 5 sections

1) Section Gongora or Quinquenervis is the largest group (at least 50% of all species). All these plants are perfect for South Florida. Among the most commonly encountered here are:

Gga. histrionica, *Gga. chocoensis*, *Gga. aromatica*, *Gga. fulva*, *Gga. odoratissima*.

2) Section Gratulabunda has a few Colombian species, all suitable for South Florida. *Gga. gratulabunda* and *Gga. flaveola* are both commonly available and quite pretty.

3) Section Grossa is another small group with suitable species. *Gga. grossa*, *Gga. atropurpurea* and *Gga. irmgardiae* are popular species.

4&5) Sections Truncata and Aceras have more obscure species which are suitable for South Florida for the most part.

Then there are two subgeneras with Gongora species who may be more challenging to grow here; the flowers also have a somewhat different morphology/look.

Subgenus Acropera

It has 2 or 3 sections depending on who you ask but only 7 species. They hail from Central America, have small pseudobulbs with thin, wiry inflorescences. The flowers have wider sepals than "regular" Gongoras. *Gga. galeata* is the most commonly encountered and the most suitable for South Florida. While they may be grown in South Florida, they are more challenging as they prefer more intermediate temperatures and definitely

want more shade than others. *Gga. cassidea* and *Gga. armeniaca* are two other popular species.

Subgenus Portentosa

It has only one section with *Gga. escobariana*, *Gga. sanderiana*, *Gga. portentosa* and *Gga. garayana* which are all challenging to grow in South Florida as they are cooler growers which is a shame as they have attractive flowers.

Your best bet to buy a Gongora is the Redlands and the Tamiami show from vendors from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru.

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 on YouTube.com.](#)



Gongora atropurpurea



Gongora histrionica



Gongora armeniaca

Winter resting season: Plant growth is slowing

By Sue Bottom
St. Augustine Orchid Society

Reduce Watering and Fertilizer. As the days get shorter and the light levels to your orchids are reduced, water and fertilizer requirements are also less.

A general rule of thumb is water once rather than twice a week as you do during the summer. Phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums like to be moist but not wet. Cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums like to dry between watering.

Check the medium several inches down in the pot to see if it is still damp. If is damp, delay watering. It is especially important to watch your largest pots since they are the slowest to dry out after watering, especially when it is cool.

Check Light Levels. Changing seasons mean changing light as the sun moves.

Make sure that your orchids, either indoors or in a greenhouse, are receiving adequate levels of light. Check your light exposure with a light meter to make sure that you're providing enough light for your orchid to bloom.

• **Indoor Growing.** Windows that were perfect during the summer may now not provide enough light. Take the time to check out the number of hours your orchids are receiving light to make sure it is enough. If not, consider adding grow lights to provide 6-12 hours of good light.

• **Greenhouse Growing.** By late fall the intensity and amount of daylight has been considerably reduced and shade cloth should be removed to provide adequate amounts of light. Be sure to rearrange your plants so that plants that had been receiving less light under the shade cloth are moved to shadier locations.

Air Circulation. Winter is a time when many fungus and rots will attack your plants. They grow wildly under high humidity and poor air circulation conditions.

Be sure to water in the mornings so that all plant surfaces have a chance to dry during the day.

Keep adequate air circulation going at all times, both to keep molds from forming and to keep the air from getting too hot or too cold in any particular spot.

In a windowsill area, those plants nearest the windows can become chilled even when the temperature in the rest of the house is in the 70s. Moving the air with a fan will help keep the temperature in any particular place more consistent.

Temperatures. Have a plan to protect your plant during the winter months.

• **Minimum Temperatures.** Protect your phals, vandas and phalaenopsis type dendrobiums when temps drop to 50° to 60°F and your other plants at 40° to 50°F. Get projected hourly night time low temperatures for your area from www.wunderground.com.

• **Temperature Differential.** Make sure that your orchids are getting some solar heat to get the day time temperature at least in the 80s. They will not grow well for you in a constant 65 to 70 degree environment.

You may have to move your plants to a window with more direct sun to accomplish this. If you have installed artificial lighting to increase light, this may provide enough warmth for your plants.

Reprinted with permission. Read more culture articles by Sue Bottom at staugorchidsociety.org.

Remembering Bill Crepage

William (Bill) Crepage, life member of FLOS, died recently at home after a short illness. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Bill was an Army veteran having served in Vietnam. His work in Ohio led to his interest in horticulture. He and his wife Christine joined the society in 1991. They both served in multiple capacities including past president, show chair and for their service, were awarded life memberships.



The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society has contributed to the American Orchid Society in Bill's honor.

Funeral services Dec. 2 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Oakland Park. Arrangements by Baird-Case Jordan-Fannin.

Fertilizing tips

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements." Which-ever of the fertilizer formulation you choose to use, it should contain little or no urea. If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.

—AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY



Keiki Club News

Working on the welcome display

The Keiki's have been most fortunate this fall with a series of meetings that have been informative and fun! Saturday, November 18th was no exception, as a group of 20 met at the growing area of Heather Petryk. Her newly renovated and beautiful home is in Coral Ridge and her orchid collection enhances her stunning patio and pool area. We welcomed brand new Keikis, Keith London, Juan Carlos Trivino Herrera and Cathy & Paul Roberts. Scott Peplin did the honors with a lively presentation on general orchid culture, talking about all the things he does to get his orchids thriving and blooming. He focused quite a bit on watering and fertilizing, especially as we enter the winter months and he also stressed the importance of keeping tools clean and sharp using TSP. Heather was proud to show off the two orchid environments that Scott had build for her and the Keikis seemed to really enjoy the opportunity to be able to ask lots of questions and share their own experiences growing orchids. Thank you, Heather and Scott for a beautiful morning!

The Keikis are in high gear over the prospect of actively participating in our Orchid Jungle Show in January. Many have signed up to volunteer for setup before the show as well as taking an assignment for a shift during the event. Several are on board to build the Welcome Display which is always a Keiki project. There was a meeting to help them with all the intricacies of building the exhibit, a packet of instructions and suggestions from AOS judges, and lists of all the components that will be necessary. They are now ready to get creative, put together a masterpiece and have some fun at the show!

Graduation is also coming up in January and we will have at least 13 faithful Keikis who will become full fledged FLOS members. For the past two years they have attended most of the Keiki meetings as well as the general meetings, gone on the Rambles, won ribbons, participated fully and made lots of good friends.



We'll see you ready to rock the Orchid Jungle right after the 1st of the year! Happy Holidays!

– JILL SMITH
KEIKI CLUB CHAIR

Books of the month

“Orchid Species Culture - Dendrobium” and “Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance” by Margaret L. Baker and Charles O. Baker

Baker and Baker were a husband and wife team. Their most famous book is about Dendrobiums which is a vast and complicated subject but we have two of their books: the one about the Dendrobiums and the one about the Oncidium alliance. Each book has a spec sheet for practically every known species in each of these two genera. Great reading for those who grow a lot of Dendrobium or Oncidium.

– OLIVIER TURINA
Library Chair

Welcome Wagon

Juan Carlos Triviño Herrera
Keith London and Kim Sheckman
Sandra Pickut
Cathy and Paul Roberts
Philip Salin
David Porter and Aaron Kinchen
David Dunlap and Todd Zoellick
Jim Johnson

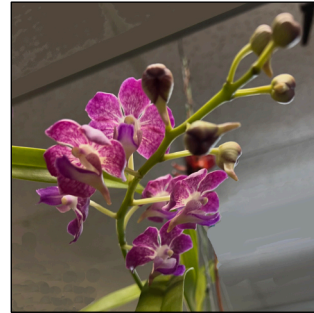
– OLIVIER TURINA
Membership Chair

Happy
Holidays
from
FLOS!

November Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Cattleya</i> Bob Betts	Rod Lewis	Blue
<i>Cattleya Gravesiana</i> <i>Venezuela</i>	Dr. Ken Salzsieder	Blue
<i>Encyclia cochleata</i>	Mark/Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>Perreiraara</i> Wuttiplianaia Manoouya ? (name is questionable)	Anja Hessert	Blue
<i>Cahuzacara</i> Graf's Cuaima	Zoe Bejar	Cultural
<i>Cattleya skinneri</i>	Bernie Fallon	Cultural
<i>Dendrobium</i> Ya Ya	Doreen Christensen	Cultural
<i>V. Kulwadee</i>	Mark/Sherrie Smith	Cultural
<i>Aerides</i> Robshan's Gem	Mark/Sherrie Smith	Red
<i>Dendrobium</i> NOID	Rosa Brouillet	Red
<i>Procatavola</i> Key Lime Stars* <i>Epc.</i> Lime Sherbert x <i>B. nodosa</i>)	Elly Meisler	Red

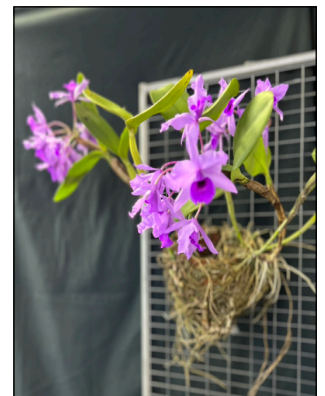
*Denotes registered hybrid



Aerides Robsan's Gem
Mark & Sherrie Smith



Procatavola Key Lime
Stars* Elly Meisler



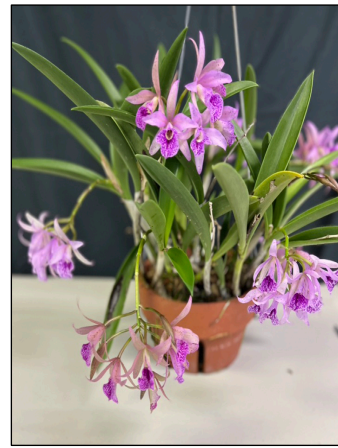
Cattleya skinneri
Bernie Fallon



Cattleya Bob Betts
Rod Lewis



Dendrobium Ya Ya
Doreen Christensen



Cahuzacara Graf's Cuaima
Zoe Bejar



Encyclia cochleata
Mark & Sherrie Smith



Cattleya Gravesiana Venezuela
Dr. Ken Salzsieder



Perreiraara Wuttiplianaia Manoouya
Anja Hessert



Dendrobium NOID
Rosa Brouillet



V. Kulwadee
Mark /& Sherrie Smith

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Thank you to our wonderful kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Debbie Johnson and Fran Renguso.

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Corresponding Secretary: Karen Fleisher
Treasurer: Brian Boyle

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.

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

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