



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: Four seasons of fun

Happy New Year orchid lovers! Normally in January we would be diligently preparing for our show, but sadly we will have to wait until next January when we return to the renovated War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale. We can take this less-than-active time to plan for the future. I appeal to all of you for your input and



assistance as we set up committees for our many worthy endeavors. In the months ahead, there are many fun activities planned.

Captain Allen Cogar has a luxury motor

coach reserved for a spring ramble to Homestead. There will be another walk through the Fakahatchee waters in search of native orchids, and I am hoping we can organize a home ramble to visit members' growing areas. I like seeing how other hobbyists grow their orchids. I often learn a few tips to become a more successful grower myself.

The Conservation Committee will again be installing native orchids throughout the county this summer. Please consider getting involved in this highly successful program. Besides, it's fun.

I think we all agree the holiday party was a blast, so we will be returning to the yacht club in December.

A star is born

Congratulations to Olivier Turina for reaching the milestone of over 100,000 views on his YouTube channel "[Orchid House](#)." He has 59 videos on how he successfully grows orchids in South Florida. Tune in Turina!

– VICKI HALLOCK



All about Catasetums

Our first meeting of 2023 will feature our very own Olivier Turina discussing "The Catasetum Alliance" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9. He will give a description of each genus along with tips on how to grow them. Orchids have become a passion. Olivier focuses on growing species and primary hybrids, which are 75 percent of his collection. He grows many different genera, but he is particularly fond of Catasetums, Trichocentrums and Stanhopeas.

Olivier has been a Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society board member since 2020 and has been a newsletter contributor since 2018. He also started the "[Orchid House Fort Lauderdale](#)" YouTube channel two years ago which features growing tips for specific species or genera. Olivier has received two AM/AOS and one FCC/AOS award from the American Orchid Society.

He has a bachelor degree in finance and economics, and has been a Fort Lauderdale-based Realtor since

2013.

As a special treat, we will have some of the featured plants included in the raffle, sourced from Fred Clarke, along with a variety of other blooming orchids.

– LUANNE BETZ
Program Chair

Membership renewal

It's time to renew your membership for 2023. If you need help logging into [FLOS.org](#) to renew or buy event tickets, we will be offering one-on-one training sessions on navigating our website at our January meeting. We will help you log on, create a user name and password and show you how to pay for memberships and events with just a few keystrokes. Bring your iPad or laptop or use one of ours. Sessions will start at 6:45 p.m. Please call or email Sue Mitchell-Greig at 305-905-6807, smg05kw@gmail.com to schedule your time slot with one of our trainers.

– SUE MITCHELL-GREIG
Membership Chair

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Swan Orchids can be tricky to grow

Cycnoches are nicknamed “Swan Orchids” because of their exceptional grace and beauty. It is a small genus with approximately 35 species from Central and South America and it belongs to the Catasetum alliance.



Cycnoches go through the same life cycle as Catasetums and are mostly grown the same way. So, they go through

dormancy during which time they do not need any water.

Just like Catasetums, they have separate male and female flowers but unlike Catasetums, the female flowers are attractive.

Female flowers are few per spike and last much longer while you have a lot more male flowers per spike but they are short-lived.

The easiest way to distinguish male and female Cycnoches flowers is the column which is longer and more slender for male flowers. Also, female flowers have very heavy substance.

There are two “sections” (groups) in the genus:

Section EUCycnoches

Most species have green flowers with



white lips; the male and female flowers look very similar. They are extremely fragrant. They are the most common in trade, especially *Cyc. chlorochilon* and *Cyc warscewiczii*, pictured at top.

Section Heteranthae

These have a large variety of colors and even shapes; male and female flowers look clearly different but the female

flowers are attractive, too. Male flowers are often much smaller and in many cases the petals and sepals are twisted. Female flowers are more like the ones from EUCycnoches section.

A favorite is *Cycnoches cooperi*, pictured at bottom, with its copper tones and chocolate fragrance. It is very floriferous. It also is extensively used in hybrids. The most awarded species is *Cyc. warscewiczii* because it has great shape.

While these are highly desirable plants, they are not easy to cultivate as their favorite pastime seems to be “rot, rot, rot.” My recommendation would be to first master Catasetum cultivation before trying out Cycnoches.

During the growing season, my recommendation would be to let Cycnoches dry out between waterings, unlike Catasetums. Also, they surely should never be overpotted.

Even if you master their cultivation, it is unlikely that you will have more than one or two backbulbs as they wither away and rot naturally.

Hybrids are easier to grow than species. So, you should try hybrids first.

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

“Vandas and Ascocendas and Their Combinations With Other Genera” by David L. Grove is the featured book this month. It will be raffled off at the January meeting.

This is a great book for any Vanda enthusiast.

Please note that Ascocendas are now merged with Vandas.

Judging Center orchid auction in February

The West Palm Beach Judging Center is holding an orchid auction at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Learning Center at Flamingo Gardens in Davie. Funds raised will be used to cover expenses, such as rent, photographer and speaker fees and travel expenses.

As an Affiliated Society Member we are inviting FLOS members to attend this auction and bid on some exciting orchids sourced from our judges’ private collections and grower donations. There also will be orchid

books, growing supplies and memorabilia. The judging center is not subsidized by the American Orchid Society, so all money raised will be used by the WPBJC for judging expenses.

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 26. Additional information will be sent out closer to the date.

For more information, contact Jackie Wood at bocaorchidlady@aol.com

Claire's Quick Tip

Better growing with these New Year resolutions

Besides the usual vows to lose weight, exercise more and tackle household clutter, we should also try to remember our orchids in the New Year with these resolutions:

- * Renew orchid society memberships (including the American Orchid Society)
- * Sterilize orchid cutting tools and pots before reusing
- * Substitute Epsom salts and Potassium Nitrate for regular fertilizer at least twice during the winter

- * Feed weekly weakly throughout the remainder of the year
- * Acquire only as many orchids as we have sufficient space and time to care for
- * Replace old orchid tags before they fade or disintegrate
- * Perform monthly preventive insect and disease control treatments
- * Spray toxic chemicals only when bees are not foraging in the flowers
- * Peel back dry sheaths on cattleyas

- * Get a prompt start repotting and dividing in the spring
- * Donate extra divisions to the FLOS October auction

It is, of course, impossible to keep every New Year resolution, but even just *trying* is a good resolution to start with.

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

Another graduation ceremony in January

After a few months off, the Keikis will be back in the orchid fray once again in the New Year. There will be a graduation in January for 16 faithful and active Keikis (due to space constraints, this event is for the graduates, the FLOS Board and select guests).

In February we'll all be gathering for our annual meeting at Scott Peplin's Orchid Bar and Grill at 10 a.m. Feb. 11. This is one of the most educational and fun meetings of the year, so mark your calendars. Look for more information, including the address and further instructions, in the February newsletter.

Even though there haven't been any formal Keiki meetings for several months, it has been great to see so many Keikis participating in our many FLOS activities and events. Captain Allen's Ramble in November was a huge success and attended by a substantial number of Keikis. They also were well represented at our wonderful holiday party in early December. So many were amazed by the lavish soiree and thrilled to go home with a gorgeous, blooming orchid.

As we press forward in 2023, we'll let you all know about our forthcoming events and opportunities to join in the FLOS fun.

**– JILL SMITH
Keiki Club Chair**

Highlights of the FLOS holiday party



About 100 members danced the night away at the Dec. 11 Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's holiday party at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale. There were cocktails overlooking the Intracoastal, a yummy dinner and everyone took home a beautiful blooming orchid.



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Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
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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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