

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 6

JUNE 2023

Learning about Vandaceous orchids

We are delighted to have Keith and Dina Emig, owners of Winter Haven Orchid Nursery in Winter Haven, present a program entitled “Vandaceous...But Not Vandas” at our 7:30 p.m. meeting on June 12.

Keith and Dina grow, hybridize and register plants in the *Oncidium*, *Cattleya*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, and *Dendrobium* alliances, and have created their own genera (*Emigara*). They have received more than 45 American Orchid Society awards, so far, including nine for their original crosses.

Keith’s orchid journey started with a trip to the dentist where, on the receptionist’s desk, was a small plant with three leaves and an inflorescence with twenty blooms suspended in a beautifully presented fashion.

He learned the dentist was an orchid hobbyist who grew the multifloral *Phalaenopsis*. It was on.



Orchid fever is infectious, and all possible information and plants were obtained. What resulted was a uncontrollable driving force of endless experimentation to better grow and flower these plants.

There is no substitute for the company of other enthusiasts, with whom to share this fever. Soon the passion of combining the

attributes of two beautiful plants, by cross pollinating, stimulated his imagination. A flasking case was built, and has been a fixture in their kitchen for over a decade. More than 1,000 seed pods have been flasked to date and it seems each season there is some new cross that has more exciting possibilities.

Keith’s passion also drew him to the Ridge Orchid Society in Lakeland and the American Orchid Society, revealing the orchid world’s secrets. Keith has served on the board of directors of the Ridge Orchid Society for more than a decade, including at least seven terms as president. Be sure to check out Keith’s article “Luck of the Draw” in the March 2017 “Orchids Magazine” (p. 208).

We are excited that Keith and Dina will be sharing their growing knowledge, bringing their plants for our raffle table and selling plants at our meeting.

– **LUANNE BETZ**
Program Chair

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Keeping track of your collection

Whether you have 25, 100, 500 or more orchids (and some hobbyists have a lot more than 500, believe it or not), you should keep track of your collection and if you don’t, you should start thinking about it. Believe me: When you catch the bug, the sky is the limit as to how many orchids you feel the need to own. It is an addiction, a healthy one at that, except for your wallet.



Of course, you may not care about the

ID of your plants and only care about how pretty they are and that is OK, but I do think that you should at least consider keeping track of the exact ID of your orchids because one day, maybe you will feel the need to, and if you don’t have the tags, you are out of luck. You’ll *never* be able to get an ID you can be certain of.

Also, consider that your plants might be more valuable down the road if you want to sell them, or if you want to get an award, or if you just want to donate them to an orchid friend who likes to know what he has.

Keeping tags is an important habit, but tags get damaged, lost or may fade in our harsh Florida sun. So, you need a back-up system to be able to retrieve the names if you lose the tag.

I know friends who number their pots, or put a number on a tag that refers to a database they have. In reality, there are many ways of going about achieving this goal, including software that you can buy. No one approach is better than the other. It just needs to fit your needs. I want to explain how I keep my own records of my orchids in what I came to

Continued on Page 2

Keiki Club news

Fun at Mac's Orchids

In May, the Keikis were invited to Mac's Orchids as guests of longtime FLOS member, commercial grower and auctioneer extraordinaire, Mac Rivenbark and his wife Helen. Under clear blue skies, Mac welcomed 34 of us with music, tents, tables, and chairs, as well as lots of plants and orchid accoutrements. His place in Southwest Ranches is the perfect spot to see lots of huge specimen plants in trees, mounted and in pots, and the Keikis marveled at the sheer size of some of these orchids. Mac's presentation centered around Dendrobiums, where they grow in nature and what will grow best

here in South Florida. He showed us these plants and explained all their growing needs, culture and how to grow them best — lots and lots of sunlight! There were many questions and it was so nice that the Keikis were able to take advantage of this chance to ask about things they're unsure of.

There was a big raffle and everyone walked away with something. We enjoyed refreshments and sweets provided by several Keikis and then Mac took us to the greenhouse where we were able to peruse his plants at leisure, ask him questions and shop. It was a wonderful morning and everyone had a terrific orchid-educational time.



Thank you, Mac and Helen, for giving us this super opportunity and for being such gracious hosts. And thanks to all who contributed!

NEXT MEETING: There will be no Keiki meeting in June, but we'll convene again on July 15 at Jill Smith's condo party room

for our annual tag presentation by Olivier Turina. There also will be a small graduation ceremony, complete with diplomas. Details will be provided in the email two weeks prior to the meeting. See you there!

— **JILL SMITH**
Keiki Club Chair

Keeping track of your collection

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call my "Bible." This is just what works for me personally but, maybe, some will think a version of this approach can work for them, too.

I use an Excel spreadsheet. It is versatile and I can program my database the way I want. (Other programs are Google Sheets and Apple Numbers.) Initially, my spreadsheet had one tab with a list of all my plants and date of purchase. Gradually, I started adding more information: who I bought plants from, when each orchid blooms, how many flowers each plant has. After a while, I started research on some plants: where they grow, description of color, fragrance and most importantly, cultural notes for each of my plants individually. Gradually, I felt the need to create new tabs to separate each genus or alliances (Cattleya alliance, Vandaceous etc.) because some have different characteristics and I wanted a different layout for each.

Eventually I started adding cultural notes about any subject related to orchids that I

found interesting through reading, lectures, videos etc., including about orchids I did not have...yet.

I also started keeping stats on my collection with breakdown of genera, species/hybrids, etc. The only stats I don't keep is how much I paid for each orchid. I *really* don't want to know!

Currently, my Excel spreadsheet contains anything relevant on my collection, but also on any type of orchid I have some remote interest in. I improve it constantly, every time I read or hear something relevant.

Since repetition is the mother of learning, I read my notes on a regular basis. Sometimes, my notes don't match what I observe in real life, so I update them. I put my Bible on Google Drive so I can easily check what I own when shopping at shows so I don't rebuy orchids I already own.

My approach is probably a bit extreme, because I am really into orchids, but my system is flexible. You don't need to gather as much information as I do. Your spreadsheet can be just a few tabs. The

beauty of it is that you can determine exactly what info you want and how you want to organize it.

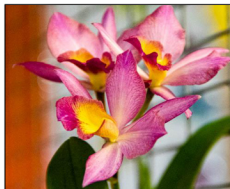
Also, remember that orchid growing is not an exact science and you get contradictory advice all the time on many aspects. This is not to say that there are not standard growing practices, but specific needs for a specific orchid are not absolute. Of course, a shade-loving plant will fry in full sun, but sometimes you might realize that a plant that you gradually acclimate to higher light will thrive.

Regardless of how you do it, keeping a record of some sort is good practice if you have a collection of 25 or more orchids. Usually when you get to 50, it means you will end up with hundreds of them at some point. Trust me!

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.](#)

May Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>C. intermedia</i>	Chris Crepage	Blue
<i>C. Sea Breeze</i>	Jill Smith	Blue
<i>Den. aggregatum</i>	Marley/Bob	Blue
<i>Den. Jiaho Deligh</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
<i>Jackfowlieara [Jkf.] (syn. Iwanagara)</i> Apple Blossom	Chris Crepage	Blue
<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
<i>V. Golden Doubloon</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>V. Somari Glory</i>	Elly Meisler	Blue
<i>Coelogyne [Coel.] Burfordiense</i>	Francisco/Paul	Culture
<i>Phal. equestris f. cyanochila</i>	Olivier Turina	Culture
<i>V. Robert's delight</i>	Les Corbin	Culture
<i>Bc. Yellow Bird</i>	Rosa Brouillet	Red
<i>C. Mossman x C. aelandiae</i>	Jill Smith	Red
<i>C. noid</i>	Norma Jeanne Flack	Red
<i>Ctna. New River</i>	Richard Aronson	Red
<i>E. cordigera</i>	Deborah Dugan	Red
<i>Max. tenuifolia</i> (yellow)	Rosa Brouillet	Red
<i>V. Kulwadee Fragrance</i>	Elly Meisler	Red



Ctna. New River
Richard Aronson



Den. Jiaho Delight
Mary Jo Frick



C. Sea Breeze
Jill Smith



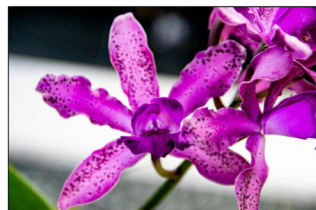
V. GoldDoubloon
Olivier Turina



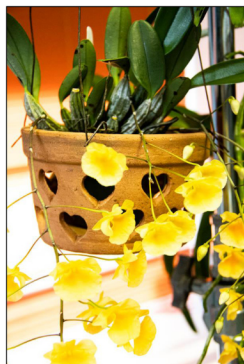
Phal. equestris f. cyanochila
Olivier Turina



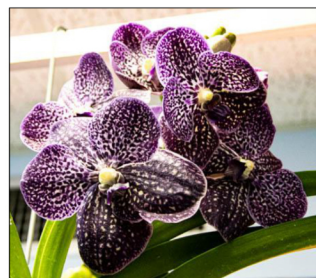
V. Kulwadee Fragrance
Elly Meisler



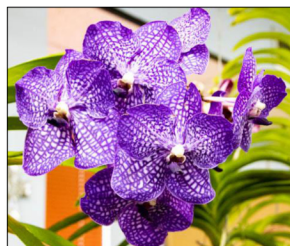
C. Mossman x C. aelandiae
Jill Smith



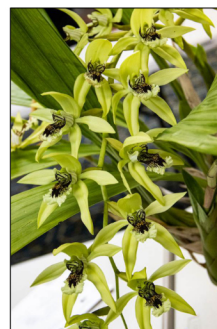
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Marley/Bob



V. Robert's Delight
Les Corbin



V. Somari Glory
Elly Meisler



Coelogyne [Coel.] Burfordiense
Francisco/Paul

Graphic: JOHN WRENCH; Photos: GINNY SALUS

Book of the month

“*Dendrobium: Orchid Species culture*” by Margaret and Charles Baker

This reference book is an absolute must for anybody who grows *Dendrobiums*. It has culture sheets for every single species.

– **OLIVIER TURINA**
Library Chair

Welcome wagon

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Joe Akin
Larissa Artemieva
Berri Forman and
Hal Karas
Joann Weinstein

– **OLIVIER TURINA**
Membership Chair

AOS website refresh

The AOS Board of Trustees recently approved a Capital project to refresh our website, aos.org. Our core objective for the refresh is to improve our user experience both for members and visitors. This includes updated content which is easier to find on a site which is faster, intuitive to navigate, more mobile friendly and has a far more visually appealing design.

As we move into the implementation phase, we're soliciting applications for a part time project manager. This role is a paid, contract position of up to 20 hours per week. The expected duration of this project is 6-10 months. If you're semi retired and have a background in project management, or you know a recent graduate that is looking to add a capstone project to their resume, please send an email with resume and cover letter to wbodei@aos.org.

– **AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY**

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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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