

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 3

MARCH 2023

President's message: Time for Gardenfest

With orchid and plant events happening every weekend it's hard deciding which to attend. I caught orchid fever years ago and still really, really enjoy shopping for plants, except paying my credit card bill afterward. Two shows I won't miss are the Coral Springs Gardenfest March 18-19 and the Bonnet House International Orchid and



Garden Festival April 1-2 in Fort Lauderdale.

FLOS will have a booth at each event. Please volunteer to help us at these fun fests.

In Coral Springs, we will be recruiting new members and selling native orchids. Contact Sue Mitchell-Grieg at smg05kw@gmail.com; for the Bonnet House, contact me at wickirae@aol.com.

We always have an enjoyable time sharing the benefits of our society with visitors and can make time for shopping.

Get ready to ramble! Captain Allen is skipping another Homestead ramble April 22. Find all the info on Page 4. Don't delay purchasing your tickets because they sell out fast. Go to FLOS.org to secure your seat.

Later down the road, FLOS is participating at the Museum of Discovery and Science for an outreach program May 6. Keep your eye on the newsletter for more info and find signup sheets at the membership desk at our monthly meetings.

– VICKI HALLOCK



Repotting with Graham Ramsey

Our March speaker is Graham Ramsey, who will discuss "Repotting With New Zealand's Finest." His comprehensive lecture will cover using different orchid media as well as repotting and mounting techniques at 7:30 p.m. March 13.

Graham is an Asheville, North Carolina, native. Like many orchid enthusiasts, his first orchid was a white Phalaenopsis purchased at the local hardware store. It wasn't until Graham's mother-in-law sent him home with 18 orchids from her Florida home that he realized there was more to orchids than white Phals.

With his daughter off to college and a mix of orchids to care for, he co-opted her bedroom and attempted to create the perfect growing space. That is, until his wife objected to the humidifying of the bedroom! So it was off to the basement to create a full-blown growroom and, eventually, a 600-square-foot greenhouse.

A friend of Graham's mother-in-law, the founder of the Western North Carolina Orchid Society, insisted Graham attend a WNCOS meeting. In no time, Graham

joined the society's board serving for six years as president. Currently the vice president, Graham has served for 10 years as show chair for the society's annual Asheville Orchid Festival coming up on April 1-2.

During his orchid journey, Graham met his mentor and friend H.P. Norton of Orchidview. Next followed breeding and growing Phragmipediums, with a focus on kovachii influenced Phrags – one of Graham's favorites.

After 18 years, Graham has a propagation lab, a new indoor growroom and a greenhouse with about a thousand orchids. He has registered eight new hybrids and received 36 American Orchid Society awards. Graham serves on the AOS Membership and Marketing Committee and the Affiliated Societies Committee.

At this meeting, we will have Orchidata and tree fern mounts and media available for purchase at a significant discount.

– LUANNE BETZ
Program Chair

Growing Orchids With Olivier

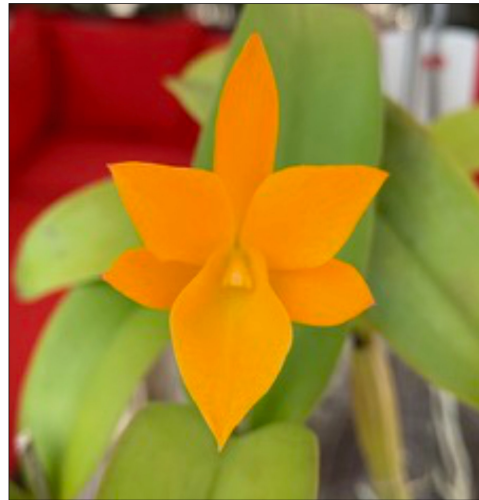
More on bifoliate Cattleyas

This is the second in a two-part series.

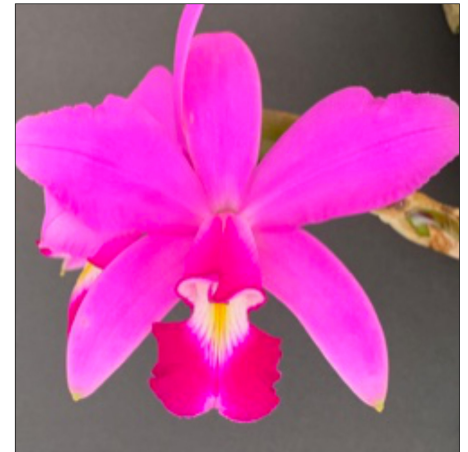
This month, we continue looking at some of the common bifoliate Cattleya species.

C. loddigesii

This is a smaller plant and it requires less light than most Cattleyas. It blooms during winter. The flower looks very similar to *C. harrisoniana* but the latter roots before it blooms and is unscented. This Cattleya will tolerate cold nights (even into the 30s according to Sue Bottom of the St. Augustine Orchid Society).



***Gur. aurantiaca*, top, is tolerant of temperature extremes. *Gur. skinneri*, top right, and *C. violacea* are perfect to grow in South Florida.**



C. violacea

This orchid is supposed to be one of the easiest bifoliate species to grow as it does not need any type of rest and its small size makes it also very manageable in terms of space. The plant needs heat and water year-round but its roots must dry quickly after each watering, hence mounting is recommended for this species in our South Florida climate. It is probably the warmest growing Cattleya and while it is perfect for South Florida, when we have cold nights in the winter (below 55 F), it is best to bring it inside.

C. granulosa*, *C. schofieldiana* and *C. porphyroglossa

If you like copper flowers, there is a group of three less commonly encountered species that you can choose from: *C. granulosa*, *C. schofieldiana* and *C. porphyroglossa*, the latter grows in much less light than most Cattleyas. These 3 species are fairly similar and create some confusion.

C. aelandiae

This is a dwarf species and each bulb carries usually one or two flowers. The flowers are very fragrant. It is

recommended to mount this species in South Florida as it does not like to be kept soggy and also it is extremely unforgiving for root disturbance. It has a very aggressive root system. It should be watered plenty when growing and very sparingly when dormant. It needs high light and is a warm grower.

C. walkeriana* and *C. nobilior

These two species are popular. They require high light and should be mounted in South Florida. Technically, *walkeriana* is a unifoliate and *nobilior* a bifoliate. Both species are closely related. They both need a rest period and colder night-time temperatures are supposedly needed for them to bloom, although mine did bloom with 70s F at night. (I may have a hybrid rather than a species as per the label.)

Guarianthe skinneri

Gur. skinneri is Costa Rica's national flower and a perfect pick for South Florida's weather; mature plants are extremely floriferous, some might look like an azalea bush! This orchid should always dry out between watering and requires an extensive dry rest in winter to trigger blooms come spring. The new bulbs emerge over the summer and come late fall they are mature. The plant must then be kept extremely dry and it

must have very high light. The sheaths will turn brown which is normal as the flowers come out of dried sheaths.

Guarianthe aurantiaca

Gur. aurantiaca – as the name indicates – has orange flowers and most yellow bifoliate Cattleya hybrids have this plant in their background. It is extremely tolerant of temperature extremes and it needs very high light. The plant should dry out between watering as it rots easily but never for long and it does not need any rest. I find the flower shape particularly pretty.

Guarianthe bowringiana

This plant has new growth in May or June, they mature over the summer and bloom in the fall. The flowers resemble those of *Gur. skinneri* but are larger and more numerous. Also, *skinneri* blooms in late winter/spring instead. This is an easy plant to grow as it comes from many different environments and is therefore adaptable, unlike many species. A small plant will bloom even it only produces one flower. This plant needs plenty of water during growth and high light, even full sun.

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

February Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Blc. Melody Fair</i>	Chris Crepage	Blue
<i>Blc. Pamela Heatherington</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Bulb. sumatranum</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>C. Blushing Boy</i>	Rod Lewis	Blue
<i>C. Dolosa</i>	Rod Lewis	Blue
<i>Ddc. yuccaefolium</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>Den. Rosy Cluster</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Debbie Litchmore	Blue
<i>Oncidium Noid</i>	Gloria Easton	Blue
<i>Phal. Chia E Yenlin</i>	Gretchen Denton	Blue
<i>Phap. Storm Cat *</i>	Sara Singer	Blue
<i>Rhy. gigantea</i>	Zoe Bejar	Blue
<i>Trichocentrum sprucei</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Epi. Stamfordianum</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Blc. New River</i>	Les Corbin	Blue
<i>Bulb. lasiochilum</i>	Francisco/Paul	Cultural
<i>Ctna. Why Not</i>	Debbie Alley	Cultural
<i>Max. densa</i>	Vicki Hallock	Cultural
<i>Rhy. gigantea 'Claire de Lune'</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
<i>Specklinia recula</i>	Vicki Hallock	Cultural
<i>C. percivaliana 'Merrie'</i>	Doreen Christensen	Red
<i>Ctna. Why Not</i>	Les Corbin	Red
<i>Den. pendulum</i>	Karen Fleisher	Red
<i>Gct. Renate 'S&W'</i>	Chris Crepage	Red
<i>Lc. Breen's Jenny Ann</i>	Debbie Alley	Red

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid



Blc. Pamela Heatherington
Sara Singer



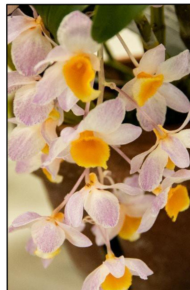
Paph. Pon Lomando
Sara Singer



Specklinia recula
Vicki Hallock



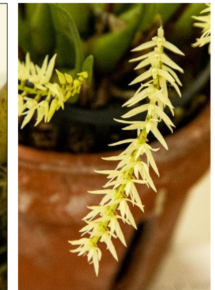
C. percivaliana 'Merrie'
Doreen Christensen



Den. Rosy Cluster
Fransico and Paul



Bulb. sumatranum
Fransico and Paul



Ddc. yuccaefolium
Fransico and Paul



Epi. Stamfordianum
Olivier Turina



Trichocentrum sprucei
Olivier Turina



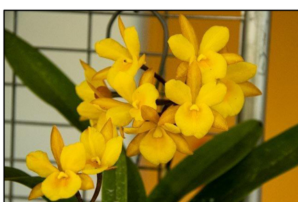
Maxillaria densa
Vicki Hallock



Rhy. gigantea
Zoe Bejar



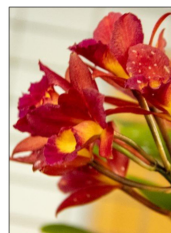
Rhy. gigantea 'Claire de Lune'
Claire Garrett



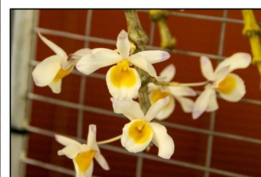
Ctna. Why Not yellow
Les Corbin



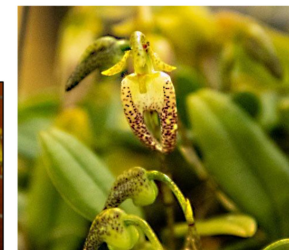
Ctna. Why Not
Debbie Alley



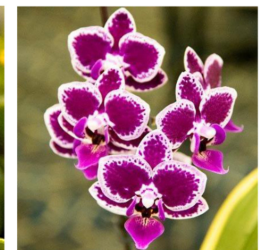
Blc. New River
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Den. pendulum
Karen Fleisher



Bulb. lasiochilum
Fransico and Paul



Phal. Chia E Yenlin
Gretchen Denton

Graphic: JOHN WRENCH; Photos: GINNY SALUS

Keiki Club news

More fun at the Orchid Bar & Grill

Just a month after hosting Keiki Graduation, Scott and Donna Peplin generously opened up their glorious gardens to the active Keikis.

Twenty four Keikis, all eager to learn, gathered around the Orchid Bar and Grill, joined by several board members.

Scott shared some of his tried and true orchid growing tricks with the group and fielded many questions, stressing that there's no set way to grow orchids — it is of utmost importance to use the method that's best for you, your growing area, what kinds of plants you enjoy and what seems to work most effectively.

The group was particularly fascinated by the Cork Coozies that Scott uses to keep much of his extensive collection thriving and blooming. These are actually sections cut from tubes of cork that we use for mounting, with holes drilled on the sides and wire hangers inserted into the holes. The plant is inserted, bare root

or perhaps with a small wad of coconut coir. This method of potting orchids is quite convenient, sustainable and requires little or no maintenance.

Scott had a number of coozies for sale and they were immediately snapped up by Keikis anxious to try them out.

There also was a raffle of assorted plants and orchid paraphernalia and everyone left with something.

The group thoroughly enjoyed strolling around the gardens, taking in all the beautifully tended orchids and hundreds of other types of tropical plants and trees. It is always a joy to be at the Orchid Bar and Grill! Thank you, Scott and Donna, for opening your beautiful home to the FLOS Keikis! And thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle and refreshments.

Our next meeting will be on March 11, at Olivier Turina's "Orchid House" and it is

sure to be a super educational experience. Newbies will learn more orchid vocabulary and understand that orchid growing has its own kind of foreign language—that is, words and expressions that you may have never heard before. Olivier will show us some of his amazing examples of "orchid speak" and your orchid knowledge will grow like your plants! Again, we always ask for donations for our raffles so if you have anything you no longer want or need, it could serve as an "opportunity" for a Keiki!

In the coming months there will be many activities and opportunities for volunteering. Please consult the calendar and newsletter, listen for announcements at the general meetings and sign up! We promise it will be great fun, your collections will be enhanced and you'll meet lots of like-minded orchid enthusiasts.

— **JILL SMITH**
Keiki Club Chair

Remembering Bob Henley

Bob Henley, life member of FLOS, passed away Feb. 5 at home, just as he wanted, with family present.

Bob and his wife Dot joined the society in 1986. Since that time, Bob served in multiple capacities within our organization. He began in various committees (plant table, program, scholarship) and started board service in 1987 as a Trustee. He remained on the board for more than 20 years. He served two-terms as president (1989-1991), and later assumed the duties of treasurer from 2005-2010. His knowledge as an auditor helped the Society stay within its 501(c)(3) guidelines as a non-profit organization, taking care of all the necessary tax forms each year. In addition, Bob was the annual show chairman from 1990 until 2007. During the 19th World Orchid Conference, held jointly with the South Florida Orchid



Society in January of 2008, Bob was appointed co-chairman of exhibitions.

Bob was an Air Force veteran, trained as a mechanic and pilot. He enjoyed those days thoroughly, but regretted never being assigned to serve overseas. Although they were friends from college days, Bob and Dot didn't get married until 1975 when Dot was a biology teacher at Cardinal Gibbons High School and Bob was employed with the Internal Revenue Service.

Both of them helped FLOS grow over the years through the many hours devoted to the betterment of the society.

There will be no services. Send condolences to Dot Henley, 4508 NE 21 Lane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308.

— **CHRIS CREPAGE**

April Ramble to Homestead

Take a day trip to Homestead orchid growers aboard a luxury coach on April 22. Cost is \$50 at FLOS.org. Space is limited.

We will leave Christ Lutheran Church at 8 a.m. sharp. Bring a cardboard box or crate with your name printed clearly to secure purchases. Also, bring a boxed lunch. Water will be provided.

We will visit Quest, Soroa and RF Orchids, among others.

For info, contact Allen Cogar at 954-553-1351 or email him at tacogar@gmail.com

Book of the month

"Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month" by Martin Motes

The title is self explanatory and a must-read for a Florida orchid growers.

— **OLIVIER TURINA**
Library Chair

Members have many interests and talents



Just pop an orchid plant inside and hang it up. No media is required. Smith says orchids she inserted in the coozies grafted to the cork within days.

“I wrote the piece to share this idea with other orchid enthusiasts around the country,” Smith says. “This is an innovative way to grow and there is no maintenance. You never have to repot and the cork is sustainable. They are lovely and last forever.”

Prices start at \$15. Find them on Peplin’s webste at

OrchidEnvironments.com.



Second Emerald Award for Betz, Thompson
Program Director Luanne Betz and husband David Thompson recently were awarded Broward County NatureScape’s Legacy Emerald Award. The honor “recognizes homeowners, business and municipalities that create and maintain model Florida-friendly landscapes or completed exceptional projects that demonstrate visible ecological practices,” according to the county’s website at Broward.org.

Turowski photo lands on magazine cover

Our members have a host of talents and varied interests that include not only orchids, but wildlife and the environment. Here’s a few notable examples of recent accomplishments.

Board member Olivia Turowski, of Hollywood, was happy as a lark to have a her photo of a Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) land on the cover of the spring issue of “[Florida Gardener](http://FloridaGardener.com).” The quarterly magazine is published by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

“It was very exciting to have my photo published,” Turowski said. “This is my first published photo ever.”

When the colorful feathered fellow visited her newly installed feeder, she grabbed her camera and got the perfect shot.

In addition to being FLOS members, Turowski and her husband Steve also belong to the Hollywood Garden Club and Better Understanding Through the Study of Horticulture (BUSH). They enjoy taking birding vacations in Ohio as birds migrate south in May. To read the magazine, go to FFGC.org.

Smith published in ‘Orchids’ magazine

Keiki mama Jill Smith has an article featuring Scott Peplin’s Cork Coozies in the March issue of the American Orchid Society’s “Orchids” magazine.

Jill has 10-12 of the crafty creations, which Peplin makes using tubes of cork and wire hangers. They’re easy to use.

Betz, who is a Florida Master Gardener Volunteer, grows nearly 500 orchids, maintains a large organic vegetable garden and puts an emphasis on Florida native plants at her Coral Springs home. She also composts and employs best water management practices by using drip irrigation and saving rainwater.

“I’m very excited to get this award,” Betz says. “I’ve studied and created my landscape to do my part to have a beautiful yard that has the least negative impact on our planet.”

Betz and Thompson, pictured below, received their first Emerald Award in 2017. The Legacy award is bestowed upon previous winners that have continued to maintain a sustainable landscape and/or have enhanced landscape for five or more years.

– **DOREEN CHRISTENSEN**
Newsletter Editor



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Thank you for food donations and to our wonderful kitchen volunteers:
Kathy Homann, Debby Johnson and Fran Renguso.

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1st Vice President: Luanne Betz (Programs)
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Recording Secretary: Sara Singer
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Fleisher
Treasurer: Brian Boyle

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.

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
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