

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 74

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2024

## All about presentation and color

For our first program of the New Year, we are honored to have Dave Off from Waldor Orchids be our speaker. He will present "Picture Perfect," an informative talk on how to look at flower presentation and color at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8.

Dave was born into the family orchid business in 1979. He grew up in a home on property adjacent to the greenhouses and was taught in a hands-on environment from an early age. He currently is a manager at Waldor Orchids ([Waldor.com](http://Waldor.com)) in Linwood, New Jersey, where the Off family has been growing plants since 1925.

In addition to his personal collection of several thousand plants, Dave oversees the care and maintenance of Waldor's renowned classic Cattleya collection.

Dave will supply orchids for our raffle table, and also be selling his beautiful plants.

– LUANNE BETZ  
Program Chair



## Final "Orchid Jungle" show update

Ready, set, showtime! This is the last newsletter you will receive before our January show, and I have important information for volunteers (have you signed up?) and growers.

Hopefully, you have been busy growing and grooming your orchids for entry in the show's "Hobbyist Grown" category. The award-winning plant will win a \$250 cash prize. **To enter your orchid, you must bring your plant to the Charles F. Dodge Center from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, to be registered.** There will be volunteers to help you with the process of entering plants. The more info you have about your entry, the easier the process will be. It is exciting to have one of your orchids judged to be the best, receive a prize and the honor that goes with it.

Don't be intimidated, join the fun! You have nothing to lose, so bring in your blooming, pest- and disease-free orchid for judging and you just may win.

If you have signed up to volunteer as a judging clerk, you will be contacted by Zoe Bejar, the head clerk. She will provide you with detailed instructions about when you need to be at the Dodge Center on Thursday, Jan. 4, and what your duties will be on that day.

For first timers, you will be paired with an experienced clerk. Listening to the judges' orchid conversations and comments will be very informative.

Those of you that have volunteered as hosts should arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your

scheduled shift. Craig Barry will issue you a volunteer badge which will help patrons identify you as someone from the show where they can direct their questions. If you are new to volunteering at our show, you may be asked to handle a variety of tasks such as handing out show programs or acting as a sentry at an exit, among There are

are other jobs, too. Each day we provide vendors with a different color adhesive dot that they are required to attach to all plants and merchandise that has been paid for by patrons. If you are stationed at an exit door, you will be responsible for checking that all plants and merchandise have the proper colored dot. You will, by virtue of your name badge, be asked about locations of bathrooms, food, our FLOS booth for information about

our Society.

Your main responsibility as a host is to be helpful and courteous to our patrons to ensure that they have a wonderful time and that they leave the show feeling positive about FLOS and our show. If you are asked a question and are not sure of the answer, please come find me, or any board member. We will always be around and ready to assist.

Let's have fun, enjoy and be proud of what we have created. Here's to a GREAT SHOW! Happy New Year!

If you have questions, please contact me at [singersara@aol.com](mailto:singersara@aol.com) or 954-873-8856.

– SARA SINGER  
Show Chair



# Growing Orchids With Olivier

## Caring for *Catasetum* after dormancy

You know your *Catasetum*s are preparing for dormancy when their leaves start turning yellow. That is when you reduce watering by half and stop fertilizing. Fertilizing at that point is useless because the plant prepares for dormancy and does not need any boost for growth or blooming.



It is important that your plant goes dormant with hard/plump bulbs. Heavily shriveled bulbs may mean the plant may not survive dormancy. If your bulbs are not plump enough when the first yellow leaves appear, you should really give them a real dry/wet cycle with a strong soaking followed by them getting totally dry and repeat if needed. This will tell the plant that dormancy is coming and it will try to conserve as much water as possible and store that extra water and plump up. Repeat until you are satisfied with the result. Please note that all back bulbs (older bulbs that will no longer carry leaves and bloom) die at some point. That is normal, but some of the back bulbs must be plump.

When all the leaves have fallen off, your *Catasetum* is dormant and you should withhold watering entirely. I move mine underneath an overhang where no rain can touch them.

How long does the dormancy last? It varies quite a bit.

Species can have zero or little dormancy if they come from areas that have no real dry season in nature. The best example is the most popular of all *Catasetum*s: *pileatum* which often does not go dormant at all. Other popular species that have very little or no dormancy are *saccatum*, *tenebrosum*, and *lucis*.

Another group (the largest) comes from areas with a definitive dry season and they will usually go dormant for between 1 and 3 months. Popular species in that group are: *expansum*,

*fimbriatum*, *schmidtianum*, *tabulare*, *osculatum*, *incurvum*

The last group are *Catasetum*s that grow in areas with protracted dry seasons and they can stay dormant between 3 and 6 months. Among the most well-known are: *spitzii*, *vinaceum*, *denticulatum*, *tigrinum*.

If you have a hybrid, they typically stay dormant for 1 to 2 months but you can check the background of your hybrid at [OrchidRoots.com](http://OrchidRoots.com). Obviously if your hybrid is heavy on *denticulatum* and *tigrinum*, like *Ctsm.* *Dentigrianum*, expect a longer dormancy

The *Catasetum* alliance has four main genera: *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cynoches* and *Mormodes*.

*Clowesia* is a very small genus of seven species and there are two types:

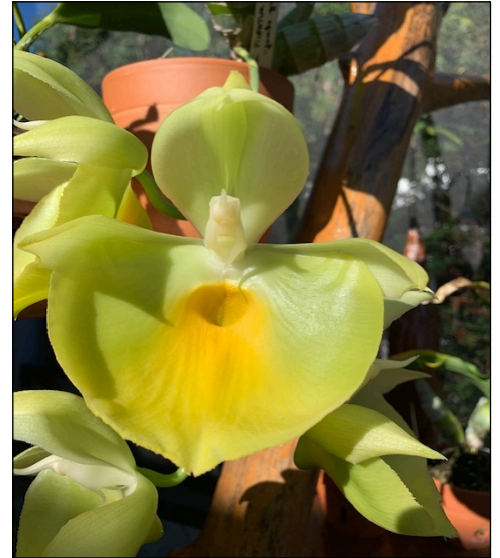
- \* Green flowers which bloom once in June/July
- \* Pink flowers which bloom once in winter on leafless bulbs

The pink flowers (Rebecca Northen and Grace Dunn are VERY common in cultivation) bloom in January or February on leafless bulbs and go dormant afterward. They come out of dormancy quite late.

*Cynoches* usually only blooms once in the fall or early winter and will go dormant early winter with dormancies lasting often around 2 months.

*Mormodes* are tough plants to grow and if you are not experienced, you should probably stay away from them until you master *Catasetum* growing.

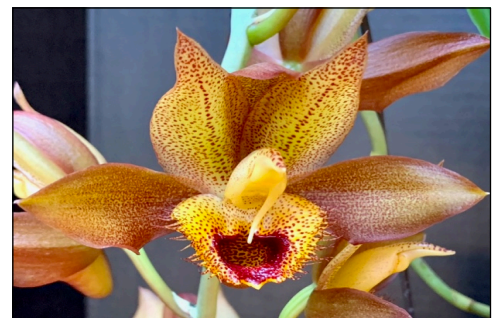
When the plant comes out of dormancy, it is time to repot immediately before the roots come out; keep withholding water until new growth is at least 3" tall and has roots 3" long or more. Watering too early means you will likely have the new growth rot. Hold off! The longer you wait, the stronger the new root system will be and the better your growing season will be. If your plant went dormant with plump bulbs, it can withstand a prolonged drought without a problem.



*Ctsm. pileatum* has a short dormancy or no dormancy at all.



*Ctsm spitzii* has a very long dormancy.



*Ctsm. schmidtianum* has a typical dormancy of around 1-2 months.

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](http://Orchid House - Fort Lauderdale, Florida) on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

# Keiki Club News

## Keikis through the years

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Keiki Club has been wildly successful since its inception in 2016. The implementation of a newcomer's group in FLOS helps foster new friendships, helps newbies learn about orchid culture by visiting members' growing areas and having hands-on gatherings in an environment that encouraged asking questions and orchid education.

The first Keiki meeting was held in April, 2016 and 40 newcomers attended. Our second meeting had 52 people join in the fun and we were worried that things were getting out of control! As time went on, several people dropped out but most kept on coming, eager to get together and anxious to learn more about how to make their orchids grow and bloom. The Keikis began to participate in Rambles, they brought their plants in for ribbon judging at meetings and eventually they were asked to create the welcome display for the FLOS show. Although the time limit for being in the Keiki Club was set at two years, many Keikis kept on coming to the meetings and we had to start having a Keiki Graduation! We have

had four so far and we'll have another one in January at the Orchid Jungle Show. Watching the Keikis forge friendships over the years has been most rewarding for everyone!

The Keikis have been so fortunate to have been to so many members' homes for meetings and they've also been invited to many other venues. Scott and Donna Peplin hold the record for Keiki meetings—they've hosted seven and two graduations and a holiday party. Scott has also presented at meetings for other hosts. Sara Singer, John Budree, Rich Ackerman and Olivier Turina have opened their patios and growing areas on multiple occasions. We have had four "how to read a tag" presentations, one of which was via Zoom. We've been to Flamingo Gardens sponsored by the Orchidteers to hear Mac present and watch him mount a huge *grammatophyllum* in a tree. The Keikis were also invited to the AOS Judging Center at Flamingo Gardens for a lesson on building orchid displays, they have been able to avail themselves of purchasing orchid supplies at a local vendor, they attended a meeting at the Bonnet House

and observed Jose Exposito of Soroa Orchids give a repotting presentation and tour of the greenhouses there. A repotting class was held at the Together We Stand farm in Hollywood and we have toured the beautiful, extensive gardens of the venerable Lori Parrish twice. Although we had a long break due to the pandemic, the meeting started up with two sessions in a day with a limited number of Keikis present. This was a bit taxing for the hosts but they were most gracious to all. Many of our hosts have given seedlings to the Keikis and we also try to have a raffle of donated plants and supplies as often as possible.

So many kind and generous folks have donated their time and efforts to the Keikis and we certainly appreciate their interest and support. As we begin the new year, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who have been there to ensure a successful orchid journey for our new members, the Keikis!

— JILL SMITH  
KEIKI CLUB CHAIR

## Holiday party fun

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society got the holiday season off to an amazing start with our annual holiday party on Dec. 3. We had 104 people celebrate, which was a record turnout...and celebrate we did!

What a night we had at the beautiful Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale with great food, new and old friends, and of course, fabulous orchids! The music got us on our feet all night and a fun time was had by all.

What a way to end the FLOS 2023 year!

— KAREN FLEISHER  
Holiday Party Chair



# MARKETPLACE

Please support our advertisers.  
They help pay for our newsletter.



**Diana Waterous Centorino**  
Attorney at Law, P.A.  
*Also Member of New Hampshire, Massachusetts,  
Washington, D.C. and Nebraska Bars*

1230 Southeast 4th Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1912  
Tel 954.462.7760  
Fax 954.462.7761  
DWC@dianawaterouscentorino.com



**Norma Jeanne Flack D.O.**  
Board Certified Eye Surgeon

Glaucoma Specialist  
Cataract & Laser Surgery  
Oculoplastics  
Eye Exams  
Botox / Fillers

Cross Medical Building  
2334 NE 53rd Street • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-776-0292



**Olivier Turina, P.A.**  
Realtor, GRI

**C 954-591-1487**  
OlivierFTL@gmail.com  
3432 N Ocean Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

**Français • Italiano  
Deutsch • Nederlands**



*Orchid  
Environments*

Scott Peplin

Orchid Structure Consultant  
Collection Restoration  
Transplanting & Dividing  
(954) 629-3627  
www.orchidenvironments.com

**Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society**  
P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338



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.

President: Vicki Halllock  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Luanne Betz (Programs)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Olivier Turina (Membership)  
Recording Secretary: Jill Smith  
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Fleisher  
Treasurer: Brian Boyle

Newsletter Editor: Doreen Christensen

Website: [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)