

*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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ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

## Exposito's 'Orchid Survival Guide'

Jose Exposito of Soroa Orchids in Homestead will present his "Orchid Survival Guide" at 7:30 p.m. March 11. Members will learn basic growing information with emphasis on water, light, air and fertilizing with tips on repotting and pest control. There will be a short Q&A session at the end.

Jose, who founded Soroa in 1985, was born in Cuba and emigrated to America during the 1980 Mariel Boat Lift.

He is a well known grower who has won numerous awards for his Phalaenopsis breeding program. He is a

senior judge of the American Orchid Society as well as a world lecturer who has given presentations at the World Orchid Conference in Brazil and Malaysia.

He is a past board member of the South Florida Orchid Society, past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society and the Coalition for Orchid Species. He also is the Orchid Curator at the Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale.

Soroa Orchids, at 25750 SW 177th Ave. in Homestead, is a wonderful grower to visit. The front entryway is full of



award plaques from the American Orchid Society.

Jose will be bringing plants to sell as well as supplying our raffle table.

— Luanne Betz  
Program Chair

## Growing Orchids With Olivier *Vanda tessellata*: Gorgeous flowers, musky fragrance

*Vanda tessellata* is not just a gorgeous flower but the species has some very attractive features.

- Unlike most *Vanda* species, this one can bloom several times per year when mature. It typically blooms from spring till fall.
- The flowers are very well spaced, which makes for a nice presentation and they also have a strong, pleasant, musky fragrance during certain times of day.
- The plant is smaller than most *Vandas* which is valuable as many are quite large.
- The flowers usually have a lip color that is strikingly different from the petals/sepals; there are many different varieties.

*Vanda tessellata* has a very wide geographical distribution which indicates it is more tolerant of various



growing conditions. That includes higher tolerance for colder nights (mid to high 40's) and very high temperatures. In winter, it tends to slow down a bit, and watering needs are (somewhat) lower.

Hybrids which have *V. tessellata* in the background usually bloom most of the year and can withstand colder nights. That is an extremely desirable feature obviously.

From a presentation I attended at the West Palm Beach Judging Center, I got the following added bit of information on varieties:

Northern plants (from the Himalayas) are different from southern plants but they share remarkably similar lip structures. Southern plants (subspecies *tessellate*) are larger, have larger flowers and fewer flowers on shorter spikes. They are extremely variable in color but gray flowers with blue lips are the most common color form. Northern plants (subspecies *tesselloides*) are much smaller, with longer spikes and more flowers and their color range is very limited: creamy white overlaid with distinct tessellation in shades of pink or reddish brown.

*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.*

# Keiki Club News

## Keikis launch a new year

Saturday, Feb. 3, was a spectacular morning and the perfect place to meet was at Scott and Donna Peplin's for yet another superb presentation for our Keikis, both seasoned and brand new! Twenty seven eager orchid hobbyists gathered at the "Orchid Bar and Grill" to oooh and aaaah over Scott's numerous blooming beauties.

Of the 27, 11 were attending their first meeting and the remaining members of the group, as well as several board members, welcomed them warmly. Scott gave a talk on culture, focusing on his cork coozies as a new and innovative way to get your orchids thriving without a lot of work and the need to repot. He talked about

watering frequency, especially in the winter months and touched a bit on fertilizer, fungicides and pest control. Everyone had lots of questions and the general consensus was that everyone walked away with tons of useful information and suggestions. We had a wonderful raffle with everyone winning something — live orchid keikis, plants, books, tools and orchid "opportunities!" The refreshment table was full of goodies and we extend our thanks to all who contributed! This was the eighth Keiki meeting hosted by the Peplin's and we are so grateful to them for their on-going, gracious hospitality. Thank you, Scott and Donna! Our next meeting will be on March 23 at Olivier Turina's.

If you have never been to his growing area, you are in for a real treat — it is stunning! Vicki, Jill and Olivier will be presenting a fun talk (with lots of Olivier's examples) to familiarize everyone with all the confusing terminology and jargon you hear when you first become immersed and get bitten by the orchid bug!

There will be handouts and you might want to bring a pad and pen to take notes. And of course, there will be ample opportunities to ask questions. An email will go out a couple of weeks prior so be on the lookout.

Happy growing, everyone!

— *Jill Smith*  
*Keiki Club Chair*



## Volunteer at Bonnet House orchid fest

Volunteers are needed to help staff the FLOS booth at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Bonnet House International Orchid & Garden Festival on April 6-7 in Fort Lauderdale.

There are morning and afternoon shifts from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Please contact Doreen Christensen at [cneerod@gmail.com](mailto:cneerod@gmail.com) to sign up.

## Books of the month

"Cattleyas and Their Relatives" by Carl Withner

The six volumes cover most of the genera in the alliance, but since they are from the 1990s, the nomenclature is not current.

## Welcome Wagon

Join us in welcoming our new members:

**Diana McKay**  
**Ellen Schachter**  
**Ruth Schachter**

— *Olivier Turnia*  
*Membership Chair*

## AOS Webinars

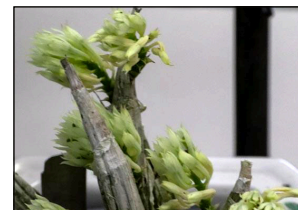
**AOS Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton**, 8:30 p.m. March 5: Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your question and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by March 3.

**Building Home Greenhouses** at 8:30 p.m. March 14: Join Jean Allen-Ikeson to learn about the tricks of the trade for designing and installing home greenhouses from foundations, floors, ventilation, shading and benches you can make yourself and keep your orchids happy.



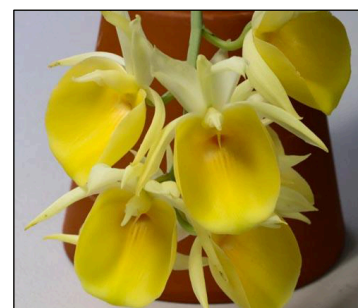
# February Ribbon Awards

Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
<i>Bc. Richard Muller</i> x <i>Rlc. Little Toshie</i>	Anja Hessert	Blue
<i>Blc. Carlos Alvarez</i>	Bob Isaacs	Blue
<i>C. Carole Cowan*</i> ( <i>C. Orpetii</i> x <i>C. rupestris</i> )	Mark & Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>C. labiata</i>	Debbie & Michael Alley	Blue
<i>C. lueddemanniana</i> var. <i>rubra</i>	Haydee Valor	Blue
<i>Ctsm. pileatum</i> h.f. <i>aurantiacum</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Ddc. yuccaefolium</i>	Francisco & Paul	Blue
<i>Den. mimiense</i>	Francisco & Paul	Blue
<i>Den. Niitaka</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
<i>Den. pendulum</i>	Omar Gonzalez	Blue
<i>Den. Winter Pixie</i>	Doreen Christensen	Blue
<i>Gur. skinneri</i> 'Heiti Jacobs' FCC/AOS	Olivier Turina	Blue
<i>Lhta. oerstedii</i>	Vicki Hallock	Blue
<i>Onc. syn. Odcdm. Sunny Daze</i>	Mark & Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>Pot. Hawaiian Prominence</i> 'America'	Mark & Sherrie Smith	Blue
<i>V. Pakchong Blue</i>	Zoe Bejar	Blue
<i>Bulb. lasiocochilum</i>	Francisco & Paul	Cultural
<i>Din. polybulbon</i>	Bob Brach	Cultural

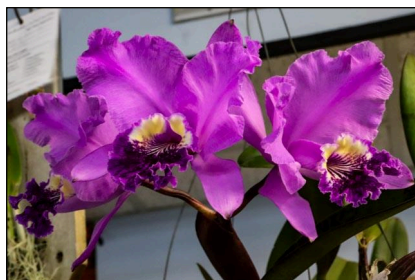


*Dendrobium mimiense*  
Francisco & Paul

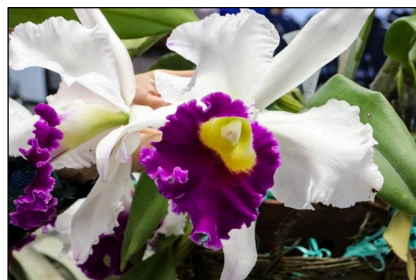
*Dendrochiluaulm yuccifolium*  
Francisco & Paul



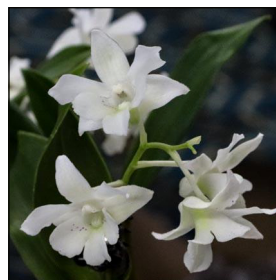
*Ctsm. pileatum* h.f. *aurantiacum*  
Olivier Turnia



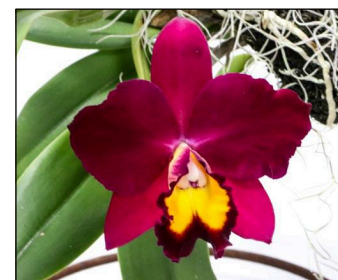
*Cattleya*  
Haydee Valor



*Blc. Carlos Alvarez*  
Bob Isaacs



*Den. Winter Pixie*  
Doreen Christensen



*Pot. Hawaiian Prominence*  
'America'  
Mark & Sherrie Smith



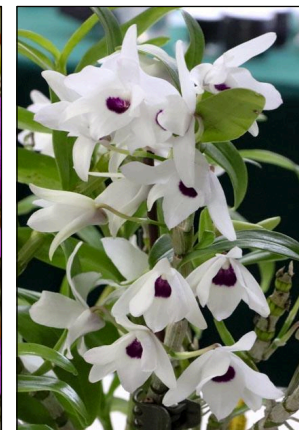
*Epidendrum Polybulbon*  
Bob Brach



*Lockhartia oesrstedii*  
Vicki Hallock



*Den. Niitaka*  
Mary Jo Frick



*Den. Niitaka*  
Mary Jo Frick

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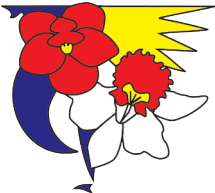


Scott Peplin

Orchid Structure Consultant  
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(954) 629-3627  
[www.orchidenvironments.com](http://www.orchidenvironments.com)

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

**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 Hallcock  
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)