

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.

Loving orchids since 1951

Volume 75

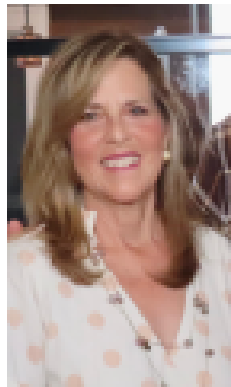
Issue 4

April 2025

FLOS.org

President's Message: Dividing orchids for auction donation

As we enter prime time for repotting our orchids, I encourage you to set aside a



division or two for our auction in October. The proceeds help offset our society's expenses, including our holiday party, annual show, and general operations, which far exceed our income from dues.

I've seen the incredible plants our members bring in for judging, and divisions from these well-tended specimens are always exciting additions to the auction. There's something special about having a plant in your collection that was nurtured by a fellow member — you know its quality and have someone to consult about ideal growing conditions.

Sharing divisions is also a great way to safeguard against plant losses. If a beloved orchid doesn't thrive, you may be able to reclaim a piece from a fellow grower who acquired your donation. Plus, our auction is always more successful when we have contributions from our talented members.

Here are some tips to ensure a successful auction donation:

Tips on dividing orchids

When mature orchids outgrow their pots, that makes them perfect candidates for division. Dividing your orchids not only rejuvenates the plant but also allows you to share your prized specimens at auctions. Follow this guide

to ensure healthy divisions ready for their new homes.

Timing is key

The best time to divide orchids is after they have finished blooming and are entering an active growth phase. This allows the plant to recover quickly and establish itself before the next blooming cycle.

Gathering the right tools

To ensure a clean and successful division, gather the following supplies:

- Sharp, sterilized pruning shears or knife
- Fresh potting medium appropriate for the orchid species
- New or sanitized pots
- Cinnamon, alcohol, or fungicide (to prevent infection)
- Labels for identification

Removing orchids from pots

Carefully remove the orchid from its pot, taking care not to damage the roots. If the roots are tightly bound, soak the pot in water for 10–15 minutes to ease removal. Gently shake off excess potting medium to expose the root system.

Find natural division points

Look for natural separation points in the orchid's growth structure. Most sympodial orchids, like Cattleyas and Oncidiums, grow in pseudobulbs. Each new division should have at least **three to five healthy pseudobulbs** to ensure continued growth. For monopodial orchids like Phalaenopsis, consider taking basal keikis (baby plants) or cuttings with at least three leaves and strong roots.

Cutting and treating divisions

Using your sterilized tool, make a clean cut between divisions. Dust the cut areas with cinnamon, alcohol, or fungicide to prevent bacterial or fungal infections. Trim away dead or damaged roots.

Repotting

Choose appropriately sized pots for each division. Use fresh potting medium suited to the orchid type, unless you are mounting the orchid. Position the division securely in the pot, ensuring roots are in contact with the medium. Avoid burying pseudobulbs too deeply.

Post-division care

- Water sparingly for the first week to prevent root rot
- Keep the plant in a warm, humid environment with indirect light.
- Monitor for signs of stress or disease
- Avoid fertilizing for at least two weeks to allow the divisions to establish

Preparing for the auction

Ensure your orchid divisions are healthy and well-rooted and pest free before auction day. Provide clear labels with species or hybrid names and any special care instructions. A visually appealing presentation increases interest — clean pots, trimmed leaves, and vibrant foliage make a difference.

By following these steps, you'll maximize the success of your orchid divisions and contribute beautifully to our next auction. Happy growing!

— **LUANNE BETZ**
President

April speaker: Discover the beautiful world of vandas



Serena Roman, also known as Lady Vanda of Lady Vanda Orchids will hold an interactive discussion about vanda cultivation in South Florida at 7:30 p.m.,

Monday, April 14th. Spring has arrived and it's a great time to celebrate by diving deep into the showy world of Vandas. Lady Vanda will cover multiple topics to help us cultivate healthy, beautiful plants, focusing on watering, fertilization, light, temperature to promote healthy roots, leaves and of course the gorgeous flowers. As always, we encourage participation as the presentation is intended to be interactive.

Serena was always drawn to nature and plants but her love for orchids truly blossomed through her grandmother's extensive Phalaenopsis collection and it was she who gave Serena the nickname 'Señorita Vanda' and 'Señorita de las Orquideas. Serena's husband encouraged her to start the business and Lady Vanda Orchids was born.

Lady Vanda Orchids is located in Homestead (ladyvanda.com) where the

mission is to help both seasoned enthusiasts and newcomers start, grow, and enjoy their very own orchid collections.

The business is built on offering a diverse range of high-quality orchids. From popular vanda hybrids to rare miniature species, all plants are blooming size — most of which have already bloomed several times and are well-established. Plants are a combination of imports and those grown from flasks purchased from reputable growers and hybridizers with a focus on bringing unique new orchid crosses to the market, especially vandaceous intergenerics.

Lady Vanda will be bringing a nice selection of plants for sale so plan to spend time perusing the colorful selection.

– **LEN EMORY**
Program Chair



Growing Orchids With Olivier

The unique Paraphalaenopsis genus of Borneo

Paraphalaenopsis (abbreviation "Pps.") is a small genus of four species with fascinating terete leaves (pencil-like) with beautiful, colorful flowers.

The first Paraphalaenopsis was discovered in 1925. It was *Pps. Denevei*, but back then it was classified as Phalaenopsis.

All four species are endemic to the island of Borneo which means that is the only place on earth you will encounter them. Borneo is a huge island (slightly larger than the state of Texas) and none of the four species cross path in the wild! As a matter of fact, they all come from a different corner of the island and all have a fairly small geographical distribution explaining their status as endangered species. *Pps. denevei* is from SW Sarawak, *Pps. laycockii* is from SE



Kalimantan, *Pps. serpentilingua* is from West Borneo and *Pps. labukensis* from Sabah (north).

“There are primary hybrids available which cross all four species but also crosses with other genera from the Vandaceous group.”

General cultural requirements are strong light and especially tons of water but they need to dry out every time, hence a strong preference for mounting them. The terete leaves may make you think they are drought tolerant like Trichocentrum but they are NOT. Also, good air circulation is important. All species are true hot growers and should not be exposed to night time temps below 60 F (preferably).

Continues on next page

Pps. labukensis was discovered in 1981. It is a giant plant (when mature... which takes



time) and is the largest of the genus (at least 6' long leaves but could be up to 12'?). In the wild, it enjoys massive rain year-round. I soak mine once a day in winter and twice in summer. It is mounted. It got awarded for flower quality (AM/AOS) and culture (CCM/AOS).

Pps. laycockii was discovered in 1935. This is supposed to be the easiest to grow and the fastest grower in the genus. Once established it is supposed to flower freely year-round.

Pps. denevei was discovered in 1925 and is the type-species (the first species described in any genus is called "type-species"). It can be 30" long. Once established, this plant can bloom 3 or 4 times per year and the flowers last long. So, it can be described as "free flowering". This is the species most used in hybrids as the flowers are well arranged and of good substance. I personally think it is the most beautiful flower of the four but until recently was hard to find.

Pps. serpentilingua was discovered in 1933 and is the smallest plant of the genus (at 1' max) with the smallest flowers. The flowers are very distinctive

because of the shape of the mid lobe of the lip which looks like a snake tongue (hence the name serpentilingua which means "snake tongue").

The structure of the flower had them classified at first as Phalaenopsis but then it was discovered that they have genetically little in common. Actually, Paraphalaenopsis cannot even be crossed with any Phalaenopsis species as they are genetically incompatible while they can be crossed with most Vandaceous! The reclassification from Phal. to Pps. happened in 1963 but one wonders why they did not choose a vastly different name that would have removed any confusion between both genera.

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

Holiday Gala - Save the date - Friday Dec 19

We are excited to announce that our annual Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Holiday gala will be held once again at the beautiful Coral Ridge Yacht Club on Friday December 19, 2025 from 6:30 to 10:30pm. Please SAVE THE DATE NOW to celebrate the season with your friends. Ticket sales will be announced later in the year.

Thanks to all who completed the survey regarding last years event. We listened to your comments and have made some enhancements based on your feedback. We will have additional passed appetizers on the veranda overlooking the amazing intracoastal

waterway with an open bar with premium liquor. We will have music during our cocktail hour with a new DJ from Nu Sound entertainment. He is highly sought after and will add a special touch for the evening. The other change is that everyone will leave with a large blooming orchid for you to enjoy during the holiday. We will continue with the chef inspired plated dinners with your choice from one of three different entrees including the most requested Grilled Filet Mignon.

– **Joe Akin**
Holiday Chair

The Importance of air movement for orchids

Air movement directly affects watering frequency. The more air circulation you have, the more often you'll need to water. While this might seem like a drawback, proper airflow is essential, especially in humid environments or areas with frequent rainfall. It helps dry plants, preventing fungal infections that thrive in overly wet conditions. Stagnant air allows moisture to linger, creating the perfect environment for fungi to spread. Even in high humidity, good air circulation keeps fungal spores from settling on your orchids by continuously moving them along.

How to Improve Air Movement

Enclosed spaces: Use waterproof fans, such as computer fans, to maintain airflow. Position them to create a gentle breeze rather than a direct blast.

Greenhouses: Install powerful waterproof fans near the roof, running at high speed during the day and lower at night. Oscillating fans can also help ensure even airflow throughout the space. *This excerpt was reprinted with permission from the American Orchid Society. For more culture information, go to AOS.com.*

April Events

April 5-6, 9am - 4 pm
International Orchid & Garden Festival
Bonnet House Museum & Gardens
900 N Birch Rd, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
Info: 954-563-5393
BonnetHouse.org.

April 14 7:30PM - 9:30PM
FLOS Members Meeting
Lady Vanda, Serena Roman, The beautiful world of Vandas!
FLOS.org

April 11-13 9AM - 5PM
The Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival
Krull-Smith
2800 Ponkan Rd, Apopka, FL
krullsmith.com

April 18-20 11AM - 6PM
The Rare Plant & Orchid Festival
Miami Dade County Fair Expo Center
Fuchs Pavilion-10901
SW 24th St, Miami, FL 33165
rareplantfestival.com.

April 19-20 9:30 - 4:30
43rd International Orchid & Bromeliad Show
Flamingo Gardens
3750 S Flamingo Rd, Davie, FL 33330
FlamingoGardens.org

Keiki Corner: How to grow your orchid collection

What a glorious spring day we had for the March Keiki meeting hosted by President Luanne Betz in her award-winning garden.

More than 30 Keikis were wowed by the tour Luanne gave around her property, where she pointed out and named her spectacular orchids and gave tips on how she cares for them. Everyone learned so much and loved seeing how orchids grow in an environment other than their own.



President Luanne Betz, who is a certified Master Gardener, gave a tour of her extensive Florida-friendly gardens in Coral Springs.

In addition, with the orchid show season upon us, I gave a presentation on “How to Grow Your Orchid Collection” by first carefully considering your orchid environment and individual growing needs and habits. We then delved into different types of venues to purchase new plants and explained

what to look for while shopping for new additions. Several ways to research information about orchids new to us and their care requirements were also discussed. Our raffle giveaways were awesome and made for some very happy Keikis.

Many thanks to our board members and the Keiki Crew that came out to meet our newest FLOS members to welcome them into our great orchid society.

– **KAREN FLEISHER**
Keiki Chair

Notice for nominations for board of trustees

In January, the Board of Trustees appointed a Nominating Committee in accordance with the society bylaws, Article XI, Section 1. Members are Chair Mary Jo Frick, Luanne Betz, and Joan Connors.

In accordance with Article XI, Section 2 the slate of Officers and Trustees proposed for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 is:

OFFICERS

President:	Luanne Betz
First Vice President: - Program Chair	Len Emory
Second Vice President: - Membership Chair	Joe Akin
Recording Secretary:	Olivia Turowski
Corresponding Secretary:	Doreen Christensen
Treasurer:	Mary Jo Frick
Past President:	Joan Connors

TRUSTEES

One Year Trustees:	Roger Triplett Justine Vishnesky
Two Year Trustees:	Gretchen Denton Olivier Turina
Three Year Trustees:	Grace Boston Karen Fleisher

The committee would like to thank all the members we contacted during our search for considering the opportunity to serve and give back to the society. We would also like to thank our current and former board members who helped make this task a successful endeavor.

Election will take place at the general meeting on May 12.

– **Mary Jo Frick, FLOS Treasurer,
Nominating Committee Chair**

Overnight bus ramble

Pack your bags and join us May 17-18 for a fun-filled orchid adventure on our Spring overnight bus ramble. The fare is \$160 per person payable on the FLOS.org web site.

At the link, you also can reserve your hotel room as soon as possible. If you would like to share a room at the Hilton Garden Inn, we will do our best to pair single, same gender members. Stops include Odom's, Krull-Smith and the Naples Botanical Garden, among others.

For more info, contact Grace Boston at GraceBoston2010@gmail.com with questions.

Welcome new members

Aaron Barber
Sonia Pena and Joanne Harris
Marisabel and William Harding
Mick Randich and Tony Palma
Olga Zamora

– **Olivier Turina**
Membership Chair

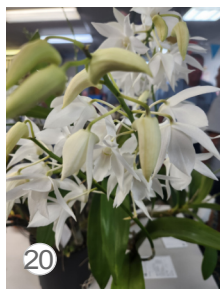
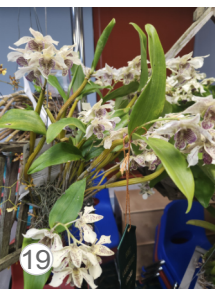
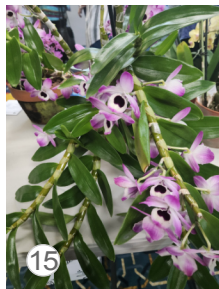
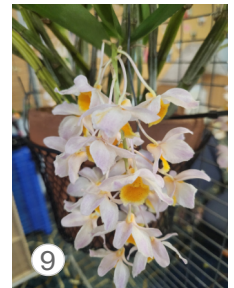
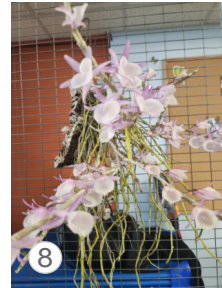
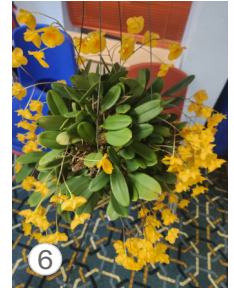
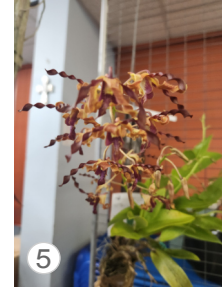
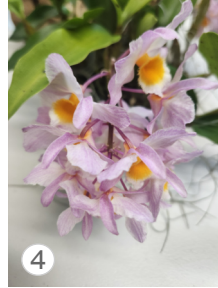
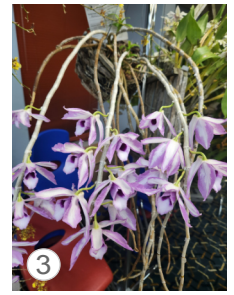
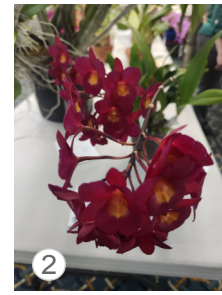
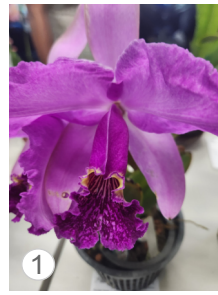
We ♥ FLOS volunteers

FLOS offers many opportunities to get involved. Have fun networking with members and acquiring knowledge in the culture of orchids. We can always use extra hands. After many years of dedicated service our Hospitality team is retiring from the FLOS meetings. We are in need for some new volunteers to manage the refreshments. If you would like to help please speak to any board member.

March Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
1	<i>C. lueddemanniana</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
2	<i>Ctt. Why Not</i>	Damian Ruch	Blue
3	<i>Den. anosmum</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
4	<i>Den. farmeri</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
5	<i>Den. Honey Gold Spin</i>	Doreen Christensen	Blue
6	<i>Den. lindleyi</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
7	<i>Den. lindleyi</i>	Olivier Turina	Culture
8	<i>Den. primulinum</i>	Damian Ruch	Blue
9	<i>Den. Rosy Cluster</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Blue
10	<i>Grc. Black Comet</i>	Randy Schull	Blue
11	<i>Paph. Hsinyng Majakun</i>	John Soto	Blue
12	<i>Paraphalaenopsis labukensis</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
13	<i>Pot. Shion Free</i>	Mary Jo Frick	Blue
14	<i>C. Sarah Sears St. Augustine Orchid Society</i>	Les Corbin	Culture
15	<i>Den. Angle Love</i>	Gretchen Denton	Culture
16	<i>Den. lindleyi</i>	Angie Dondarenko	Culture
17	<i>Den. Little Atro</i>	Olivier Turina	Culture
18	<i>Den. Memoria Ted Brattstrom*</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Culture
19	<i>Den. Micro Chip</i>	Vicki Hallock	Culture
20	<i>Den. White Grace Sato</i>	Linda Dawkins	Culture
21	<i>Den. jenkinsii</i>	Debbie/Michael Alley	Culture
22	<i>Onc. sphacelatum</i>	Jim Johnson	Culture
23	<i>Onc. splendidum</i>	Zoe Bejar	Culture
24	<i>Phiaus Tankerville</i>	Zoe Bejar	Culture

*Denotes hybrid
Photos by Gretchen Denton



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Diana Waterous Centorino
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Thank you to our terrific kitchen volunteers:
Kathy Homann
Debby Johnson
Fran Renguso

We appreciate the wonderful food donations from:

Julie White
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Judy Tkacs
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Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338



Meeting Info

Member Meetings - Second Monday of each month.

🕒 Time - 7:30pm - 9:30PM

📍 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.

FLOS Organization

President - Luanne Betz

1st Vice President - Len Emory (Programs)

2nd Vice President - Olivier Turina (Membership)

Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski

Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen

Treasurer - Mary Jo Frick

Newsletter Editor - Gretchen Denton

Website - www.flos.org