



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 8

August 2025

FLOS.org

## Presidents Message: Bingo, blooms and a summer feast



What a winning evening we had at our July meeting! In the spirit of trying something new, we embraced the many member suggestions for a potluck — and paired it with a lively game of Bingo. Since opinions on a potluck-style holiday party were mixed, we thought a summer gathering would be the perfect time to test the idea — and it was a hit!

A big round of applause goes to our Program Chair, Len Emory, who served as a delightful Bingo host, and his spirited assistant, Doreen “Vandaceous” Christensen, for creating such a fun and engaging night. The room was filled with excitement, blooming orchids, handmade basket arrangements, and

the unmistakable joy of shared community. Many people went home with a lovely orchid!

Despite a little rain, we welcomed 80 members/guests who came out to

enjoy a wonderful evening of games and an incredible spread of homemade dishes. One standout was a shrimp dish brought by our very own “keiki,” Sonia Peña. It was a crowd favorite — you’ll find the recipe on page 5!

### Save the Date: Holiday Party Registration Now Open

Speaking of celebrations, registration is now open for our Holiday Party (<https://www.flos.org/event/december-19-2025-holiday-party/>).

Please note that seating is limited, so we encourage members to reserve their tickets early to ensure a spot at this popular event.

*Continued on next page*

## “Brassavola hybrids” with Rafael Romero



Rafael Romero will be sharing his extensive knowledge about Brassavola hybrids at our 7:30 PM Aug. meeting.

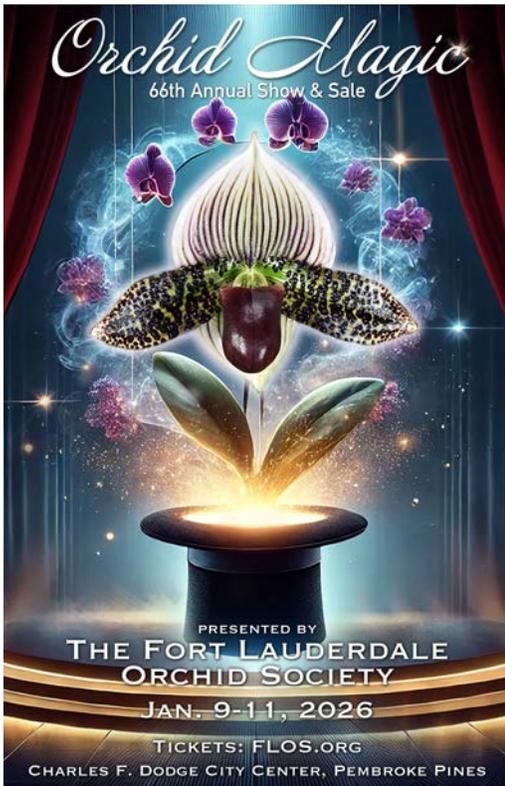
Rafael, a native of Caracas, Venezuela, studied for two years at the United World College of the Atlantic in 1978. He later graduated with a degree in biology from Universidad Simon Bolivar in 1984.

He started working with orchids in 1986 with his wife and her father, Henrique Graf, owner of the largest orchid nursery in Venezuela. In 2003, they moved to Sarasota, opening the 7,000-square-foot nursery Plantio La Orquidea ([plantiolaorquidea.com](http://plantiolaorquidea.com)) which specializes in warm-growing species and hybrids from all over the world. Because of political troubles in Venezuela, in 2015 they decided to open a small lab in Sarasota where they are now producing plants.

Rafael also will be selling plants at the meeting and supplying plants for our raffle table.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**– LEN EMORY**  
Program Chair



*Continued from page 1*

## Orchid Magic: Show planning in full bloom

Our Orchid Magic Show team has been meeting regularly, and the excitement is growing. Many new features and surprises are in the works for this year's event! To keep everyone in the loop, we've introduced a Show Information section in the newsletter, which will evolve as plans progress.

Ticket distribution will begin at our next meeting. Members who sell all their tickets will receive an exclusive VIP Early Shopping Pass for January 9, from 9-11AM. This early access comes with a special swag bag filled with orchid merchandise and raffle tickets — a fun perk for our dedicated sellers!

We're thrilled with the momentum and community spirit — thank you all for continuing to make our society such a vibrant and joyful group. Happy blooming!

— **LUANNE BETZ**  
President

## Support “Orchid Magic” - our 66th Annual Orchid Show and Sale

### The value of Orchid Magic

The nonprofit Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society will present “Orchid Magic,” show and sale, with dozens of vendors at the Charles F. Dodge City Center, 601 City Center Blvd., Pembroke Pines. January 9 - 11, 2026.

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's annual show and sale is recognized as one of the largest and best juried orchid shows in the country. This highly anticipated show is filled with breathtaking orchid exhibits, exotic orchids and related items available for purchase. There also will be free orchid educational classes to help your plants thrive.

“Our amazing show and sale will feature thousands of rare blooms from around the world along with stunning displays at the Dodge City

Center. This spacious state-of-the-art venue has loads of free parking and a covered area for drop off and pick up.”

This well-attended show will include a gathering of thousands of orchid enthusiasts, hobbyists, award-winning growers and hybridizers from around world. Growers will exhibit and sell thousands of orchids of every variety at this breathtaking public event. Vendors will create artistically designed exhibits following the theme “Orchid Magic” Orchid gift items, books, educational materials and orchid supplies also will be available for purchase. Society members will be on hand to answer orchid growing questions. Hourly prize drawings will add to the excitement. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

## Sponsorships and donations

We are seeking product and sponsorship donations to support the raffle fundraiser at our upcoming Annual Orchid Show and Sale. Contributions from businesses or corporations you are affiliated with would be greatly appreciated and will help make this event a success. If you have a contact or company in mind that may be interested in supporting our efforts, please let me know—we'd be happy to discuss the best way to approach them.

**Send your support inquiries to John Soto. [Jayso@aol.com](mailto:Jayso@aol.com)**

— **JOHN SOTO**  
Show Committee  
Corporate Outreach

### Sponsorship Levels

- Presenting/Corporate Sponsor
- VIP Early Entry Sponsor
- Gold Sponsor
- Silver Sponsor
- Bronze Sponsor
- Patrons of the Orchid Society
- Friends of the Orchid Society
- Media Sponsor

### Silent Auction Donations

- Orchid related products
- Restaurant gift cards
- Home Décor/Retail
- Spas and Services

## In memoriam



It is with sadness that we share that member Pat Ellson passed away on June 29 after a valiant 16-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband John.

Pat loved her orchids, and all plants. She also was a member of Equality Garden Club in Wilton Manors and served for several years as the club's point person in our collaboration to plant native orchids in Richardson Park.

There will be an informal celebration of life at 2 PM Aug. 5 at Rebel Wine Bar, 3520 NE 12 Ave., Oakland Park.

## Upcoming events

8AM - 4PM, Aug 9<sup>th</sup>

### Orchid Symposium 2025

Members \$45

Non Members \$65

Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County

[Mounts.org](http://Mounts.org)

7:30PM Aug 11<sup>th</sup> - FLOS Meeting

**Rafael Romero on Brassavola Hybrids**

7:30PM Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - FLOS Meeting - Dr.

**Juraj Kojis, Developing an Orchid Collection**



Growing Orchids With Olivier

## Key factors in successful orchid growing

There are many factors that come into play to be a successful orchid grower. I am mentioning here just a few - in no particular order- that I think are important.

### Buy healthy plants

Plants you buy must be suitable for your growing area. If you grow outdoors in South Florida, you must acquire hot and warm growers. Some intermediate growers might work but no cool or cold growers for sure. When you buy a plant at a show, inspect the leaves for diseases and pests, try to check the root ball if possible (you want plenty of new roots and surely no mushy mess). Also feel the bulbs: they should be plump and hard, not weak and mushy.

### Observe your plants regularly

I like to do it at night in the dark with a flashlight as it is easier to spot problems and surprises (new roots, new buds etc.). Close observation will allow you to tweak your practices and improve them; it will also allow you to spot diseases and pests that must be dealt with immediately. Procrastinating with orchids is a terrible approach as problems can rapidly spread like a wildfire.

### Practice good hygiene

Disinfect tools in between every cut. I use a map-gas torch but there are many alternatives. It also means spraying hydrogen peroxide on cuts you make to avoid diseases and also adding a bit of powdered cinnamon as that prevents fungal infections.

Clean your growing area: dead leaves are a source of diseases. Try to avoid clutter as plants that are too cramped tend to share bugs and diseases.

### Proper watering

Most of our orchids are epiphytes and you must learn to master the alternation of wet and dry cycle for your orchids which means most orchids should dry

out in between watering but how long depends on the genus and the plant. That is an art you need to master asap when you start growing orchids.

When you water your orchids, you should always soak them good. It is particularly true for Vandas which are thirsty orchids. To make sure they are properly hydrated you should make sure their roots turn green. That usually means coming back 2 or 3 times within a matter of minutes or staying on it for a little bit until the roots are turning really green. Potted plants need to be flushed once a month with water pouring out of the hole to wash away excess fertilizer salts that are toxic to the roots.

### Repot at the right time

Repotting may be the second reason for an orchid's demise after overwatering. Repotting is stressful for the plant and should be done usually at the onset of new root growth because the plant is then in full growth mode and will produce enough roots that will quickly reestablish the plant in its new environment.

### Have a dedicated work area for your orchids and supplies available

Having an organized space where everything you may need is available will reduce the risk of procrastinating which is a deadly sin in orchid growing. Any issue needs immediate attention as problems evolve exponentially very quickly.

### Research

Spend time reading, learning and exchanging good practices with fellow orchid lovers. It is an endless search!

**Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to [OlivierFTL@gmail.com](mailto:OlivierFTL@gmail.com).**

# Keiki Club update



We had a great turnout of 21 new members for our rare Sunday July Keiki meeting at Olivier Turina's Orchid House in Fort Lauderdale. Olivier gave a wonderful beginners lesson about reading the information on the tags that come with our orchids that can reveal culture hints and descriptions of what to expect from its flowers when the plant is purchased not in bloom. This was just the tip of the iceberg of information that help us understand our orchids.

It was wonderful to actually see Olivier's growing areas and his impeccable orchids in person... being there was even better than watching his YouTube channel, if that is even possible. The orchid envy was palpable! Thank you Olivier for hosting such a fantastic orchid experience, thank you to the Board members who joined us to help and thanks to all who

contributed snacks for our enjoyment! We hope you love growing your raffle plant prizes!

Our orchid hobby makes us lifelong learners in order

to be successful growers. Like all good things it is ending for some of our Keikis who have been participating for the past two years. Time flew by and we have some exceptional growers that have been through this extra Keiki educational experience that FLOS provides to its new members. We hope you made some great friends along the way and that we gave you the confidence to grow your orchids and participate in the many opportunities FLOS offers. We will have a Keiki Graduation at our August general meeting to recognize those who participated!

The next Keiki meeting will be held in September, so be on the lookout in August for the email about what we have in store for your orchid enjoyment!

**- KAREN FLEISHER**  
*Keiki Club Chair*

# Conservation update

We extended for another two years FLOS's agreement with EGC and the City of Wilton Manors to continue with the Native Orchid Project through 2027. The first 2-year term of the agreement will expire on Aug. 23.

**Interested in orchid conservation?**  
**Contact Doreen Christensen at [cneerod@gmail.com](mailto:cneerod@gmail.com) to get involved.**

## Annual orchid auction

Prep your plants for donation

[See the April Newsletter for details](#)

Monday, Oct. 13  
Live bidding begins promptly at 7 PM

Preview at 6:30 PM  
Catalog and Info at **FLOS.org**

## Welcome new members

Pam Segal  
June Palomino  
Jose Hernandez  
Lisa Bosini  
Randy Schull

**- JOE AKIN**  
*Membership Chair*

# FLOS members bring their A game to bingo night!





**FORT LAUDERDALE  
ORCHID SOCIETY**

You're invited to our Annual Holiday

# Celebration

6:30-10:30PM Dec 19<sup>th</sup>  
Coral Ridge Yacht Club

2800 Yacht Club Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Complementary valet parking provided

Enjoy cocktails & hors d'oeuvres

Dinner & drinks

Guests receive a blooming/budding orchid

Entertainment provided by Nu-sound

**PURCHASE TICKETS - \$130**

Deadline for ticket sales Dec 1st

Send inquiries to **Joe Akin - Holiday Party Chair**  
[harddrive813@aol.com](mailto:harddrive813@aol.com) or 954-325-8036

## Get your FLOS t-shirt



Stylish polo shirts with the FLOS logo are available for purchase for \$20 on our members page at

[FLOS.org](http://FLOS.org)

They are available in blue and white, with unisex sizing, 50/50 cotton polyester blend. Shirts can be picked up at meetings. No shipping. Get yours now while supplies last.



## Mexican shrimp cocktail recipe

Sonia Peña brought her delicious summer shrimp dish to bingo and everyone wanted the recipe. Enjoy.

### INGREDIENTS

2-3 lbs extra large shrimp  
2-3 celery stalks, chopped  
1-2 jalapeño peppers, seeded & chopped  
1-1.5 English cucumber, chopped  
1-3 avocados, chopped  
1/4+ c cilantro, chopped  
1/2 red onion, chopped  
2-3 Roma tomatoes, seeded & chopped  
2 limes, grated rind & juice  
1 orange, grated rind & juice  
1 c tomato juice  
3/4 c ketchup, chilled  
2 garlic cloves, grated  
1 T hot sauce (or more)  
1/2 t salt  
1/4 t pepper, freshly ground

### INSTRUCTIONS

Start by boiling shrimp 2-3 min, drain and cool them in ice water. (You can opt to buy shrimp already cooked)

Cut the shrimp into bite-sized chunks

Combine in a large bowl chopped celery, jalapeños (seeded), cucumbers, tomatoes and finely chopped onion.

For the sauce, mix the juice and zest of 2 limes and 1 orange, 1 cup tomato juice, 1/2 cup tomato ketchup, 2 grated garlic cloves; hot sauce, salt, and pepper to taste.

Pour the sauce over the shrimp and veggies, stirring to combine.

Add chopped cilantro

Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour. Serve cold.

Garnish with chopped avocado & a sprinkle of cilantro

SERVES: 15+ as appetizer

### NOTES

Use precooked, thawed shrimp (21-25/lb)

Prep veggies a day ahead; store in a sealed container

Make sauce a day ahead

Assemble 1-2 hour ahead

Chop avocados just prior to serving & store in a sealed container. Add some lemon juice/slices to avoid discoloration.

# Rainy season orchid survival tips

✔ **Don't Overpot!**  
Smaller pots  
= faster drying

✔ **Use Clay or slatted pots**  
They "breathe"

✔ **Fast-Draining Mix**  
Lava rock, charcoal,  
Orchiata bark

✔ **Repot Regularly**  
Bark = every 3 years  
Moss = yearly

✔ **Use Open Baskets**  
Especially for Vandas



✔ **Limit Moss**  
Mix with  
spongerock  
and charcoal

✔ **Mount Orchids**  
Use cork or  
hardwood for  
faster drying

✔ **Relocate Pots  
Undercover**  
Protect from  
constant rain

✔ **Spray Fungicide**  
Stay on a monthly  
treatment program

✔ **Check Rainfall**  
Adjust watering  
accordingly

## Our potluck and orchid bingo night

Graphic by Gretchen Denton



## Advertisers

**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

**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

*Atlantic*  
PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL

**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

**MANLEY  
TREE SERVICE**

Licensed and Insured  
Certified Arborists  
30+ years experience  
Our Services

- Trimming
- Removal
- Stump Grinding ☎ 954-566-7220
- Installation 📍 manleytrees.com

**MauI Orchid Whisperer**

Live sales & giveaways  
808-268-1277  
On facebook  
@themauiorchidwhisperer

## Meeting Info

When - 2nd Mon. of each month.

🕒 Time - 7:30 - 9:30PM

📍 Location - Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,  
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

[Google Map](#)

## FLOS Organization

President - Luanne Betz

1st Vice President - Len Emory (Programs)

2nd Vice President - Joe Akin (Membership & show co-chair)

Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski

Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen

Treasurer - Mary Jo Frick

Newsletter Editor - Gretchen Denton



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society | P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338 | [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)