

*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 75

Issue 2

February 2025

## President's Message: A warm welcome to new members



Thank you to all of our volunteers who pitched in to make our "Orchid Renaissance" show a huge success. Not only did we have a great time, but our Keikis Club of new members shined so brightly, receiving an artistic award from the American Orchid Society for their stunning welcome display. Bravo.

At the show, we signed up more than 40 new members who are automatically inducted into the Keiki social group. These exclusive monthly meetings give new members the opportunity to bond with other new members for two years. The meetings ease newbies into the sometimes intimidating world of orchid growing, teaching the basics while visiting various growing areas. Keikis also will deepen their knowledge at our general meetings as well, where our expert speakers often present more advanced topics. All this is in pursuit of never-ending orchid education provided by our wonderful society. I look forward to getting better acquainted with all of our new members at the next Keiki meeting in early February. Keep an eye on your email for the invite.

**As for our seasoned members who have not yet renewed, please remember that our membership database will purge on March 1. If you have not paid your 2025 dues, please do so as soon as possible. We value your participation in the society and would hate to lose you!**

Here's to more growth and blooms ahead.

Luanne Betz, FLOS President

### In This Newsletter:

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Mac's Orchids display  
at the show



2019



2001



When you buy an orchid species, you should research its growing needs and that includes researching where it grows in nature and at what altitude (it is usually referred to in meters).

Altitudes below 1,000 meters (3,000') in tropical countries usually indicate warm or hot growing species (although that may not be true everywhere). Altitudes from 1,000 to 2,000 meters (3 to 6,000') are more intermediate growers and above that you are dealing with cool and cold growing orchids. These are rule of thumbs, not 100% guaranteed.

Where it grows also teaches you about geography and if you learn what climate reigns in that area (if it is homogeneous at all), then you can keep that in mind for other orchids which grow in the same area.

I bought a *Gongora chocoensis* a few years ago and discovered it was endemic to Colombia and more specifically the Department of Choco, hence its name since names ending in -ENSIS typically denote a geographical origin (Costaricensis e.g.). I researched it and discovered Choco was in NW Colombia abutting Panama. That led me to realize that Colombia has Departments while I knew that Brazil had States like us. I also identified Antioquia as a major department with many orchids.

Later I read that most orchids growing in Choco are exposed to warm temperatures year-round and extremely wet weather but while night-times are high (in the 60's and higher) day-time seldom exceed low to mid 80'ies. I also bought *Embreea rodigasiana* (which is basically a one flowered Stanhopea) which is also endemic to Choco. Now I know that both plants coming from Choco should preferably not stay outside if night-temps drop below 50 F and should be dry if temps drop below 55 F (a dry medium is critical when night-time temps are lower than 55/60 F). It also means that our summer temps can be too high, hence the need for proper ventilation, fans and also more shade, both plants growing in fairly shady conditions to begin with.

By the way, Colombia has apparently the greatest number of endemic species of orchids according to Orchid Digest (David Haelterman, Q4 2024).

I also have several *Catasetums* originating from the State of Mato Grosso in Brazil. I have learned that the State enjoys a very protracted dry season and hence I know these *Catasetums* will have long dormancies and are very resistant to drought. You must make the same assumption for any orchid coming from that State.

The island of Borneo is the ultimate tropical destination. It enjoys year-round temperatures in the 80's and low 90's and heavy rainfall most of the year. So, you know that any plant coming from there (ALL four *Paraphalaenopsis* are endemic to Borneo e.g.) should be watered heavily and will thrive in our weather but you should be wary when night time drops below 65 F.

So, the beauty with orchid growing is that you also learn about geography and climatology and plenty of other stuff.



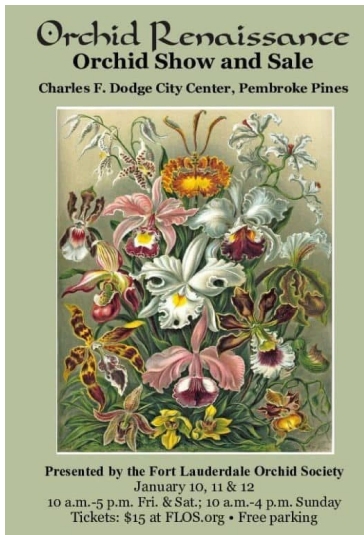
Orchid Renaissance, an amazing, successful 65th anniversary show for the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society!

The final accounting is not complete. However, the compliments and comments from the patrons, the smiles on the faces of

the vendors and the breathtakingly beautiful show itself, proves that TOGETHER we once again accomplished producing a really smashing show!

The FLOS welcome display, designed and built by our Keiki's, WON the award for the best display in the show! Congratulations to the Keiki Committee and members who participated in the creation of such a beautiful display!

A Big THANK YOU to all the FLOS Board and members which volunteered tirelessly in the planning and production of the show. Without you all, it would not have been possible. Whatever your contribution, it was much appreciated and helped to ensure our success!



## February Speaker

Our speaker this month is Judy Bailey, AOS Senior Judge and Master Gardner. Her presentation **"Orchid Problems: What You Need To Know", will continue us on our journey of improving our skills as orchid growers. It will be insightful!**



Judy has always been an enthusiastic plant aficionado and stumbled across her first orchid show more than thirty years ago while seeking a warm indoor respite during a particularly cold, snowy winter day in Northeast Ohio.

As a long time Master Gardener, both in Ohio and Florida as well as a Senior Judge with the American Orchid Society, Judy embraces opportunities to learn, share and teach plant knowledge, frequently speaking with many local South Florida orchid societies, garden clubs, botanical gardens and Master Gardener classes.

You are sure to find her at most local plant events and orchid shows as she continues to explore all things plant related here in beautiful South Florida while encouraging others to do the same.

### Welcome New Members

Lucy and Allan III Abess

Joan Armbrister

Tara Bezak

Juan Bravo and Steven Acosta

Francis Buckley

Barbara Cartaya

Marilyn Diaz

Douglas Dourado

David Farrell

Carol Gibson-Stern

Michael Gray

Kelley Mae Gibbs

Raymond Griffis and Mark Tews

Kathleen and Wiener Kernisan

Joey and Anastasia Lampert

Carol Lebischak

Alan Merola

Deniece and Jeff Morse

Sharon Nitzberg

Kristine & Julio Ortega

Eudes Oliveira

Eyup Osman

Mark Pagano

Hillary Putman

Patti Rhodes

Gabriella Scherer

Tonia Sledd

Grace Redden

Derek Reeder

Hector Samada

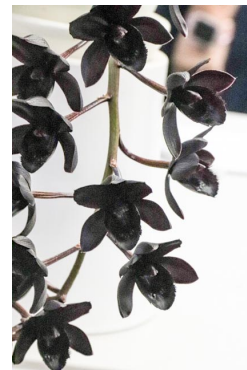
Pamela Segal

**Olivier Turina,  
Membership Chair**

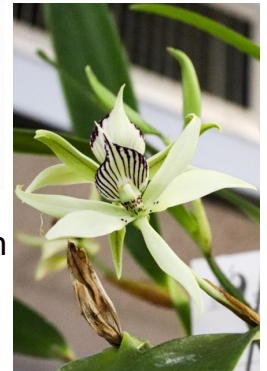


# Ribbon Awards for January 2025

<i>Blc.</i> King of Taiwan	Doreen Christensen	Blue
<i>Brs. lawrenceana</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
<i>C.</i> Hisining Pink Doll	Anja Hessert	Blue
<i>Den.</i> YaYa	Anja Hessert	Blue
<i>Fdk.</i> After Dark	Gretchen Denton	Blue
<i>Psh. chimborazoensis</i>	Seth Shealer	Blue
<i>Rl.</i> Aristocrat ( <i>Rl. glauca</i> x <i>Rl. digbyana</i> )	Judy Tkacs	Blue
<i>Bct.</i> Booth Lee	Kit Rivers	Cultural
<i>Blc.</i> George Herbert Walker Bush	Roger Triplett	Cultural
<i>C.</i> Toshie Charm	Les Corbin	Cultural
<i>V.</i> Petite Bouquet	Claire Garrett	Cultural
<i>Bc.</i> Maikai	Philip Salin	Red
<i>Bc.</i> Yellow Bird	Judy Tkacs	Red
<i>Bc.</i> Yellow Bird	Julie White	Red
<i>Oncostelopsis [Osp.]</i> Brazilian Sun	Mike/Debbie Alley	Red
<i>V.</i> NOID	Julie White	Red



*Fdk.* After Dark  
Gretchen Denton



*Psh. chimborazoensis*  
Seth Shealer



*Blc.* George Herbert Walker Bush  
Roger Triplett



*Brs. lawrenceana*  
Claire Garrett



*V.* Petite Bouquet  
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*Bc.* Maikai  
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*Blc.* King of Taiwan  
Doreen Christensen



*Rl.* Aristocrat  
Judy Tkacs



*Bc.* Yellow Bird  
Judy Tkacs



*Oncostelopsis [Osp.]* Brazilian Sun  
Mike/Debbie Alley





## Keiki's Corner - Vicki Hallock, Chair

Congratulations to our Keikis for the honor and accomplishment of winning the sought-after American Orchid Society Show Trophy at our recent Orchid Renaissance show. The tabletop display contained elements in line with the theme including a pedestal, columns, and stone. The colorful and assorted orchid genera accented with moss and foliage welcomed show attendees entering the hall. Thank you to all the Keikis involved with the planning, prop building, set-up, and for sharing your beautiful orchids. Special thanks to Keiki Nana Jill Smith for spearheading the installation. Although the holidays seem distant now, back in early December over 30 Keikis kicked off

the season with a wonderful holiday celebration at Scott and Donna Peplin's orchid oasis. The festive dining table was decked out with scrumptious sweet and savory treats all provided by the Keikis. The weather was delightful, and many new friendships made as we celebrated the season. Our hosts provided each Keiki with a parting gift of 3 different orchid divisions along with a succulent vine. Everyone left with a smile upon their face. Thank you Scott and Donna.

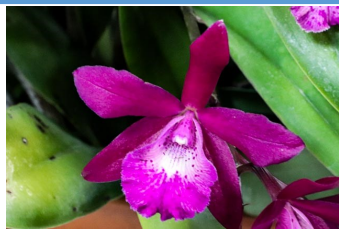


The award winning Keiki display and Les Corbin's \$200 award for Hobbyist best flower for his *Brassavola nodosa* and Best *Brassavola* species or hybrids for the same plant

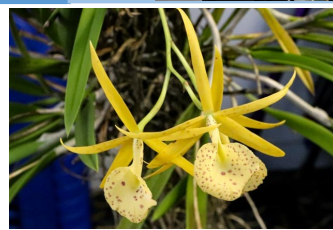
Long time society member, artist, sculptor, and a well-known in the local art scene Tin Ly donated three of his paintings to the society with the stipulation they be presented to three outstanding and deserving members. The Board of Trustees easily selected Chris Crepage, Claire Garrett, and Jill Smith as the recipients for their contributions to the society. All three ladies have served for many years and in numerous capacities. We thank them and Tin Ly for his thoughtful donation.



*C. Toshie Charm*  
Les Corbin



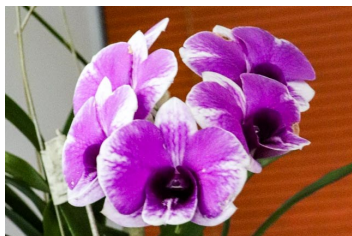
*Bct. Booth Lee*  
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*Den. YaYa*  
Anja Hesser



*C. Hisining Pink Doll*  
Anja Hesser

January ribbon winners continued from page 4



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Thank you to our kitchen volunteers: Kathy Homann, Debby Johnson and Fran Renguso. And thanks to our members who brought in wonderful snacks: Chris Crepage, Carrie Ackerman, Norma Jeanne Flack, Anja Hessert, Fran Renguso, Kathy Homann, Deb Johnson, Ginny Salus, Richard Chavis, Claire Garrett

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

Newsletter Editor: Ginny Salus

Treasurer: Mary Jo Frick

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2nd Vice President: Olivier Turina (Membership)

1st Vice President: Sara Singer (Programs)

President: Luanne Betz

20th Ave.

Directions: From I-95 take East Oakland Park Blvd., go 2.4 miles, turn left on NE 20th Ave. Or take US 1 (Federal Highway) to Oakland Park Blvd. west for two blocks, turn north on NE 20th Ave. Park in the rear to the church which is on the NW corner of Oakland Park Blvd. and NE

1955 East Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

Place: Christ Lutheran Church School Hall,

Time: 7:30 pm

Regular Meetings: Second Monday of each month.

P.O. Box 4677, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

**Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society**

