



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

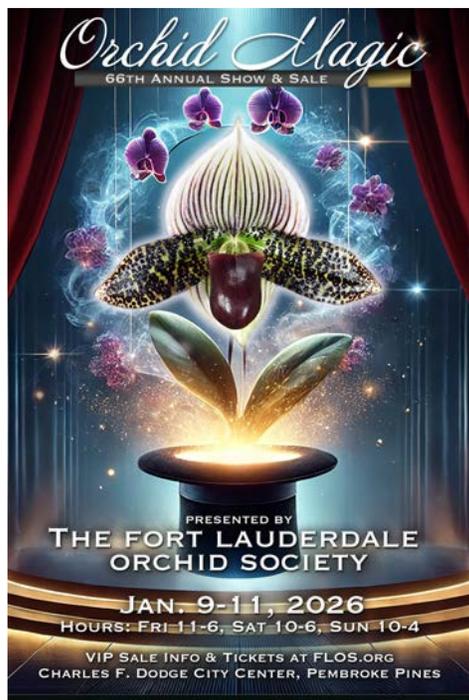
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FLOS.org

President's Message



I'm happy to announce that our Show Committee has met, and we're off to a fantastic start preparing for our **Orchid Magic Show and Sale**, taking place January 9–11, 2026. Invitations are already going out, and we encourage you to share your ideas with myself, Joe Akin, or any committee member. Your input can help make this show our best yet!

FLOS meeting space gets a makeover



As the summer heat settles in, we've turned our attention to some indoor maintenance. During our unexpected meeting break, we inspected the chairs at the church and discovered that 65 of them were in need of repair. A big thank you to members David Thompson, left with Les Corbin, and helper Skip Bown, above right, for getting the job done. We'll have a chance to test out their handiwork at our July Orchid Bingo meeting.

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July Meeting: Summer fun with potluck & orchid bingo



After an unanticipated June break, our July 14th meeting will have a fun, new, twist: ORCHID BINGO! But first, we will kick things off with a yummy summer potluck and then get down to B-I-N-G-O business!

What better way to celebrate the dog days of summer than having an indoor picnic surrounded by orchids? We ask each member to please bring a dish with serving utensils — entree, appetizer or dessert — to share. We plan on eating at 7:30 p.m. during announcements. Then, our inaugural big Orchid Bingo event will begin.

Here's how it will work:

Bingo cards will be available for purchase when you arrive: \$5 for 1 card, \$15 for 3 cards and \$20 for 5 cards. Please bring cash to purchase bingo cards. Prizes for winners of each game will, of course, be wonderful orchids, and we have a great array of very cool plants to award. Please bring bingo ink daubers if you have them (we will provide them if you don't). Since this is a new event, we will explain the details about how Orchid Bingo will work while we eat.

In order to get in as many games as possible, there will be **no orchid judging this month, and no membership/renewals** will be processed at the meeting either. As always, memberships can be managed at FLOS.org/membership, and Membership Chair Joe Akin will be available to answer questions.

We look forward to seeing you at Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall, 1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

– LEN EMORY
Program Chair

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Repotting season is nearly behind us, and I hope you've set aside some of your favorite divisions for our upcoming auction. Member donations are always a highlight!

Below is the current list of 2026 Show Committee Chairs and Members. Thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm:

Show committees

Show Chairs: Luanne Betz, Joe Akin

Tickets: Grace Boston

AOS Judging (Awards, Clerking, Plant Registration): Olivier Turina (Chair), Claire Garrett, Joan Connors

AOS Table: Joan Connors

Publicity, Advertising, Corporate Outreach, Sponsors: John Soto (Chair), Timmothy Russo, Gretchen Denton, Joe Akin, Doreen Christensen

Show Floor Design/Layout: Craig Barry

Setup: Craig Barry, David Thompson

Hospitality Desk: Craig Barry

Artwork and Program Design: Gretchen Denton

Keiki Welcome Display: Karen Fleisher and our Keikis

Website: Luanne Betz, David Thompson

Food & Hospitality: Joe Akin

Raffle: John Soto

Budget: Len Emory, Mary Jo Frick

Volunteer Coordinator: Roger Triplett

Education: Justine Vishnesky

Student Art: Zoe Bejar

Signs: Les Corbin

We will need additional members to volunteer for the show. Sign-up will be available in the future. Let's keep the momentum going!

— **LUANNE BETZ**
President



Growing Orchids With Olivier

Reclassifying Trichocentrum



Trichocentrums are still often referred to as "mule-ear Oncidiums" and "rat-tail" Oncidiums", but they are no longer called Oncidiums, but rather Trichocentrums with the big reclassification wave of orchid genera due to better genetic understanding of orchids at the outset of the 21st Century. Their leaves look quite different: mule-ear have leaves that resemble a horse's or mule's ear while rat-tail are terete (pencil-like) leaves like some you encounter in the Vandaceous alliance (Paraphalaenopsis, Seidenfadenia etc.).

There are actually three types of Trichocentrums: The "true" (original) Trichocentrum is a group of small sized "mule-ear" looking orchids that have one flower at a time that open successively but they can have multiple spikes and therefore multiple flowers. The flowers tend to be large compared to the small stature of the plant itself and they are colorful and usually fragrant. They



Trt. albo-coccineum

usually need more water and less light than the previous 2 groups. Popular species in this group are *Trt. tigrinum* and *Trt. albo-coccineum*

Formerly known "rat-tail" Oncidiums (aka. Cohniella for a while) have terete leaves. Those leaves store water and if your leaf is plump and firm, your plant will be able to withstand a lot of drought. The name "rat-tail" is an unfortunate turn-off name in my opinion. Who likes a rat??? Those plants have gorgeous orchid/dancing lady like flowers that emerge from the base of the leaves and their colors are usually in the yellow/gold/beige/white range. They really should be mounted as their roots cannot be disturbed, and especially as they are really rot prone. Most have a defined rest period in winter when they should not be watered at all, unless the leaf is shriveling. If you don't see any root activity, do not water them.... Easy enough! Over the Summer, they need a lot of water but should always dry out in



Trt. ascendens

between. They like Cattleya type of light. Popular species in this group are *Trt. stacyi*, *Trt. cebolleta*, *Trt. ascendens*

Formerly known "mule-ear" Oncidiums (aka. Lophiaris for a

while) have thick leaves that look like a mule or horse's ear. Their leaves store water and they are also extremely intolerant of sogginess and should be protected from daily summer rains. Their care is similar to rat-tail Oncidiums but they usually take higher light, especially in winter. A good soaking followed by extensive dry time is usually the best watering technique. The color range



Trt. undulatum

includes reds as well. Popular species in this group are *Trt. undulatum* (a native species in South Florida) and *Trt. lanceanum*

Orchids of the orchidium family can be tricky to grow in South Florida because many are cold or intermediate growers. Trichocentrums on the other end are mostly hot to warm growing orchids and South Florida's temperatures are ideal for them. What is less ideal are the daily summer torrential rains because any constant moisture will quickly make them rot and die. They are very drought tolerant, especially in winter when they rest. Give them a try, they are readily available.

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

Conservation update: Native orchids blooming around South Florida

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Conservation Committee assisted the Equality Garden Club with a native orchid installation at Donn Eisele Park in Wilton Manors on June 7. About 18 volunteers mounted 75 endangered *Encyclia tampensis*, *Tricocentrum undulatum* and *Brassavola nodosa* into this lovely park tucked off of Andrews Avenue.

Meanwhile, we are delighted to report that many *E. tampensis* mounted several years ago at Richardson Park, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Miami and the Garden Club of Coral Springs, among others, have finally matured and bloomed! These wonderful partners made multi-year commitments to restore native orchids into the South Florida landscape as part of Fairchild's Million Orchid Project.

Since 2019, FLOS has planted more than 10,000 plants into the South Florida urban landscape to fulfill this core mission of our nonprofit. We are so thrilled to see these butterfly orchids thriving in the wild.

— **DOREEN CHRISTENSEN**
Conservation Committee Chair

Interested in orchid conservation? Contact Doreen Christensen at cneerod@gmail.com to get involved.



Welcome new members

Kenneth and Jerylann Decker

- **JOE AKIN**
Membership Chair

Upcoming events

8:30-9:30 P.M., July 2nd

Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton

aos.org/webinars

5:30P.M.-6:30 P.M., July 8th

Orchids Under Lights–Greenhouse

Not Required with Sarah Hurdel

aos.org/webinars

8A.M.-4P.M., Aug. 9th,

Orchid Symposium 2025

Members \$45

Non Members \$65

Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm

Beach County

Mounts.org

There's an app for that!



FLOS isn't just about growing orchids, it is also about making friends and being active in the orchid community. For this reason, we make it easy to find phone numbers and emails for other members.

Go to your phone's app store and install Wild Apricot for Members. Visit members.flos.org in your browser if you need your membership password. Then just look up the name you want and you'll get the phone number and email address.

On the app go to:
Members.flos.org>Members>Directory

Be prepared: Include orchids in your hurricane planning



Editor's note: This feature by member Claire Garrett was originally published in the July 2022 newsletter.

Now is a good time to make a hurricane plan for your outdoor orchids if you do not already have one from previous seasons. Plans should address both before and after the storm. Here are some things to consider.

Before the storm

- Take inventory of supplies, and purchase items that may be hard to get after the storm (Physan 20 or SA20 disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide, fungicides, pesticides, shade cloth etc.)
- Decide where you will move plants and how you will prepare the area.
- Spray for pests and disease a couple days ahead.
- Relocate vulnerable plants the

day before the storm is expected to hit

- Remove shade house canopy if it can be moved and stored.

Relocating orchids

- Bring them into the house, garage, carport or a sheltered outdoor alcove if such space is available
- Lower them to the ground and tightly cover the entire group with strong mesh or flexible construction fencing that is securely pinned into the ground.

I know someone who installed artificial turf in his orchid growing area for this purpose. Recommend to lay a water pervious substrate such as weed barrier cloth below the orchids to minimize colonization by insect pests such as worms, beetles and ants that live in the ground.

- Return orchids outdoors as soon as it is safe to do so
 - Use a disinfecting spray, especially if plants are waterlogged, or if plants were packed together tightly with poor ventilation
 - Be on the lookout for bacterial rot and crown rot; remove all affected parts ASAP, drench the wounds with hydrogen peroxide, apply cinnamon to the cuts and spray fungicide
 - Hang or drape shade cloth over the orchids if you lose tree canopy in the growing area or if the shade house was damaged. Should a storm come our way, having a plan will lessen the anxiety associated with hurricane preparation.
- Claire Garrett has been a FLOS member since 2011 and has received one FCC (91 points), one HCC and five CCM awards from the AOS.**

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Meeting Info

When - 2nd Mon. of each month.

🕒 Time - 7:30PM - 9:30PM

📍 Location - Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall,
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

[Google Map](#)

FLOS Organization

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1st Vice President - Len Emory (Programs)

2nd Vice President - Joe Akin (Membership)

Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski

Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen

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