



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 6

June 2025

FLOS.org

President's Message: Looking ahead to our 2026 orchid show and beyond



I am thrilled to announce that the board has approved our next annual show to be held at the Charles F. Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines from Jan. 9–11. This venue has successfully hosted the Fort

Lauderdale Orchid Society's annual show for the last two years and offers excellent facilities for our event.

We understand the desire to host events in Fort Lauderdale and have exhaustively explored venues in our home base. While we couldn't secure a suitable location for 2026, we are optimistic about a promising option for 2027. We welcome any suggestions from members as we continue the search.

Our northern Ramble in May was a resounding success. Special thanks to

Grace Boston for her meticulous planning. The warm reception from orchid vendors and the camaraderie at our evening poolside luau made the trip truly memorable. We raffled numerous plants generously donated by vendors, and many of us returned with beautiful additions to our collections along with enhanced knowledge of orchid cultivation. Our visit to the Naples Botanical Garden was a perfect conclusion to the trip. The LaGrippe Orchid Garden, showcasing nearly 2,000 orchids, was particularly impressive. We extend our sincere thanks to Odom's Orchids, Krull-Smith, Orchids in Bloom, and Ecuagenera for their participation and support.

Finally, I am honored by your confidence in re-electing me as your president. I remain committed to propelling our society forward, focusing on enriching our meetings, advancing education, promoting conservation, embracing technology, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

— LUANNE BETZ

June meeting CANCELED

The June general meeting has been canceled due to renovations at the church. On the bright side, new flooring will be installed in the social hall.

We look forward to seeing you at 7:30 p.m. July 14 for ORCHID BINGO! We will kick off this fun event where you can win orchids with a giant potluck picnic, so start planning what you'll bring now. We will provide spiral sliced ham, drinks and paper products.

More details will be shared in the next newsletter.

See you in July!

- LEN EMORY
Program Chair



Volunteers needed

We are in need of volunteers to manage the refreshment committee at our meetings. If you would like to help please speak to any board member.



FLOS members ready to start their exciting ramble adventure.

INSIDE: Orchid Pests: Pg. 2; Bag Babies Pg. 3; Overnight Ramble: Pg. 4; May Ribbons: Pg. 5



Orchid pests: Tips for thrips and more

Today, I will explain what I am using to combat pests (mites, thrips, mealybugs and scales).

Please note I am no specialist of this matter (but it is a lot less complicated than orchid diseases) and I am not advocating any of the products here. This is what I use personally and while it works for me, you may find it does not work in your environment. So, at your own discretion....

True experts are Ron McHatton and his wonderful AOS webinars (you need to be an AOS member to see them) and Sue Bottom from the St. Augustine orchid society. You can find plenty of her material online.

One very important thing to keep in mind is that pests develop resistance to products if you keep using one single product all the time. **So, you should always alternate products.**

Personally, my biggest issue is thrips. [These pesky insects are so tiny that it is](#) almost impossible to spot them, but they go for your buds and damage the flowers or kill the buds. They also go after the roots (notably your vandas).

I treat all my buds every single week and I alternate Orthene (active ingredient acephate) which is readily available and cheap (but stinky) with Conserve (active ingredient spinosad) which is more expensive but considered environmentally friendly; other insecticides labeled for thrips you find at Home Depot should work too.

Another big issue I have is spider mites. I encounter them first and foremost on my Catasetums because they have soft leaves, but they have also devastate my Phalaenopsis collection. They are easy to spot on Catasetum leaves as they eat away at the chlorophyll and your leaves start having translucent spots. They are much tougher to notice on Phals which have thick leaves. I always have red mites on my Phals and they hide in the axle of leaves which makes them hard to spot.

It is tough to get rid of mites once they get a foothold. So, controlling the population is usually the goal. Mites thrive in warm and dry weather. So, spring time is the worst part of the year. This is also when Catasetums start growing new leaves.

Mites are spiders, not insects. So, you cannot use an insecticide to get rid of them. You need a "miticide".



A severe mite infestation on a Catasetum.

I spray pure 70% isopropyl alcohol which kills them on contact but you need to use stronger products if your infestation is growing. You can also spray water on them; it kicks them off the plant but does not kill them. Sue Bottom says that Avid (active ingredient abamectin) is the best and is also systemic rather than just a killer on contact. Bayer 3 in 1 (one of the 3 is miticide) works also and you can drench the rootball as it gets through the root system.

I don't have aphids and rarely see scales or mealybugs but they are around. Orthene, 70% isopropyl alcohol, Bayer 3-1 works for those too.

There is also an insect growth regulator called Distance (active ingredient pyroproxyfen) which you can spray twice per year (max) and it is great at preventing such insect issues (not the mites).

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

Behold the unassuming bag baby

About five years ago my daughter moved into a townhouse. The lady who had lived there previously had left a couple of nice vandas on a tree out in front and a couple of sad looking orchids on the living room window sill. Knowing very little about orchids, my daughter was happy for me to take them off her hands and I was delighted at the chance to welcome some new adoptees into my collection. I looked at the two orchids of unknown provenance as opportunities and I was particularly excited because one of them actually had a tag with a viable name! I looked it up and it was Blc. Jami Hollingsworth 'Sun Bulb' Orange and the picture was of a plant with glorious, red orange clusters. Now fired up, I was determined to get this baby going. I yanked it out of its existing home and anchored it bare root in a clay pot, hung it up and promptly forgot about it.

Lo and behold, every February Jami H. produced some small clusters of those stunning red orange flowers and it was gratifying that she was happy and growing successfully. This year, when I spotted numerous brown, withered sheaths, I knew the time was near for her to start showing off. After a few weeks, the buds started emerging from the sheaths and before I knew it, there were five or six spikes with lots and lots of buds. The clusters opened and each individual flower was

perfect—the theory of benign neglect had produced a gorgeous, impressive plant. I took lovely Jami to our March general meeting and I was elated that the judges deemed it worthy of a cultural ribbon. I was asked where the plant came from and as I related the story of randomly finding it in my daughter's townhouse, AOS Judge Joan Connors proclaimed it was a Bag Baby. Then, after recalling that my friends and colleagues talk about the great successes they've experienced with the Bag Baby, I decided to write about this sometimes overlooked treasure.



We all see them in the garden sections of the big box stores, hanging unceremoniously on a rack against the wall, non-blooming plant inside a net bag with a stunning picture of what is to come (if you don't water it

with an ice cube). I had never bought one other than to raffle off at a Keiki meeting. I didn't even know I owned one. I was informed by my experienced friends that bag babies are often a great buy and can produce hardy plants with beautiful blooms. So, if you get the chance, grab one and pot it because you'll be in for a real treat. I highly recommend Jami Hollingsworth.

– JILL SMITH
FLOS Life Member

Welcome new members

Ariane Cattes
Tad Donovan
Penny and Wes Mussio
Jacqueline and Enrico Nunez
Barbara Sutton and Marlene Koszo

– JOE AKIN
Membership Chair

FLOS goes paperless

After thoughtful consideration and continuing our efforts to be more environmentally conscious, protect our members' information, and make the most of our resources, our newsletter and membership directory will be fully digital and will no longer be provided in print.

By transitioning to a digital-only format, we can reduce expenses and significantly lessen our paper usage, aligning with our mission and values. You'll still be able to access the current and past newsletters anytime through the FLOS website. It will be delivered via email once a month. The directory will continue to be available to all members through our secure membership management system.

If you need any help accessing the digital versions, we're here for you — just reach out and we'll gladly assist.

Thank you for embracing this sustainable step forward and for your continued support!

– FLOS BOARD

May election results



On May 12, Luanne Betz was elected to a second term as president by members of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Here is the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees. The term runs from June 1 through May 31.

President - Luanne Betz

1st Vice President - Len Emory (Program Chair)

2nd Vice President - Joe Akin (Membership Chair)

Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski

Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen

Treasurer - Mary Jo Frick

Trustees

Past President - Joan Connors

1 Year Trustee - Roger Triplett

1 Year Trustee - Justine Vishnesky

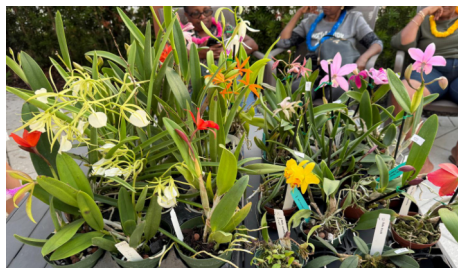
2 Year Trustee - Gretchen Denton

2 Year Trustee - Olivier Turina

3 Year Trustee - Grace Boston

3 Year Trustee - Karen Fleisher

Spring overnight ramble adventures



FLOS turns 74 this month

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society (FLOS) is set to celebrate its 74th anniversary this month. FLOS was founded in June 1951 by Jim Bloom, an avid orchid hybridizer. In its early days, the society's meetings were held in members' homes. As membership grew, gatherings moved to larger venues, including the Birch State Park Garden Center and later various community halls, reflecting the society's expanding presence in the local community.

In 1983, FLOS was officially recognized as a nonprofit organization, affirming its commitment to education and community engagement in orchid culture. Over the years, FLOS has hosted numerous events, including its first orchid show in 1957, and has grown to become one of the largest orchid societies in the region.

As FLOS commemorates this milestone, members and guests are encouraged to reflect on the society's rich history and ongoing commitment to orchid culture. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the world of orchids, the 74th anniversary is a perfect opportunity to celebrate with a community passionate about these remarkable plants.

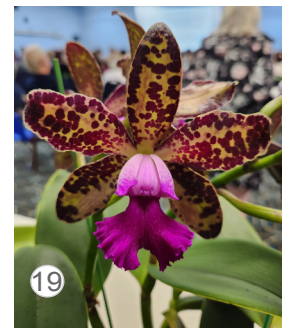
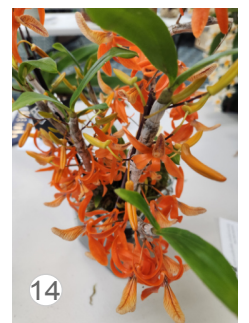
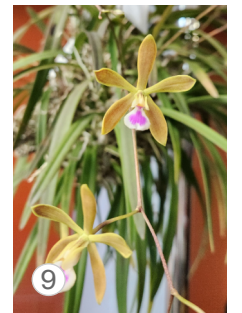
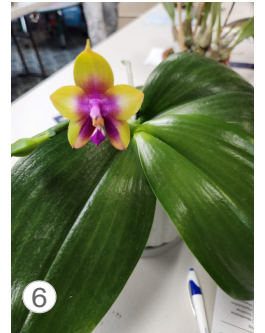
– GRETCHEN DENTON
Newsletter editor



🌿 May Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
1	<i>E. Cindy</i>	David Sweeten	Blue
2	<i>Epi. Mabel Kanda</i>	Carolyn Metcalf	Blue
3	<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Francisco/Paul	Blue
4	<i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i>	Carolyn Metcalf	Blue
5	<i>Paph. randsii</i>	Hung Tran	Blue
6	<i>Phal. Chienlung Happy Queen</i>	Douglas Dourado	Blue
7	<i>Rhy. Jimminey Cricket</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
8	<i>V. SW New Year Red*</i>	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
9	<i>E. tampensis</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
10	<i>Den. Jairak Bushy</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Cultural
11	<i>Den. amabile</i>	Helen Rivenbark	Cultural
12	<i>Den. densiflorum h.f. albo-luteum</i>	Helen Rivenbark	Cultural
13	<i>Den. pulchellum</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Cultural
14	<i>Den. unicum</i>	Gretchen Denton	Cultural
15	<i>Max. hennisiana</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
16	<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Cultural
17	<i>Chiloschista parishii</i>	David Sweeten	Cultural/ Blue
18	<i>C. Sea Breeze x C. gaskelliana</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Culture
19	<i>RLS. Yuan Dung Python</i>	Douglas Dourado	Culture

Photos by Gretchen Denton
* Indicates hybrid



advertisers.



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Thank you to our retired kitchen volunteers:
Kathy Homann
Debby Johnson
Fran Renguso.



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Realtor, GRI

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We appreciate the wonderful food donations:
Idan & Rob Doerfler-Eckstein
Zoe Bejar
Ryan Strauss
Judy Tkacs
Norma Jeanne Flack
Joan Armbrister
Fran Renguso
Kathy Homann
Deb Johnson
Joe Akin

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

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Newsletter Editor - Gretchen Denton

Website - www.flos.org