



*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: A Decade of Dedication — And a Vision for the Future



Since 2011, I have poured my heart and soul into this society. What began as a love for orchids quickly grew into a passion for helping this organization thrive. Over the years, I've held nearly every

board position—some roles I embraced wholeheartedly, others came with challenges—but all taught me the skills necessary to serve as your president.

The board is designed like a ladder: with each step, you gain experience, insight, and a deeper understanding of what it takes to lead. I haven't skipped that climb. I've worked shoulder-to-shoulder with remarkable people, many of whom inspired me to stay when the road got tough. It's thanks to their encouragement and my commitment to this community that I am proud to serve at the helm today.

In my time as president, I've quietly but diligently improved many behind-the-scenes aspects of this society. You may not see them, but they matter:

- As webmaster I developed a more robust and secure website
- Secured the appropriate insurance coverage for the society, correcting an issue that had been in place for several years
- Corrected serious banking issues that had been out of date for more than 10 years

- An expansion in our usage of Wild Apricot, our member management system
- Efficient use of technology to enhance our meetings and communications
- Implemented membership engagement in society decisions
- Develop budget discipline and financial reporting

These foundational changes keep our society running smoothly and position us for future growth. But none of this would be possible without the talented and dedicated team that stands beside me. Each board member shares the same vision and values, and every one of them is climbing that same ladder with positivity, purpose and integrity.

Last month's meeting was a perfect example of how far we've come. A well-organized agenda, a fantastic guest speaker, engaging raffles, plant judging, and genuine camaraderie—this is the kind of community I've worked to build. I take pride in preparing slides each month, which many of you now reference and photograph. Attendance and membership are at all-time highs. That's no coincidence—it's the result of sustained effort and care.

I'm typically the first to arrive at our meeting space, setting up chairs, equipment, and ensuring everything is in place for our speaker. Often, I'm the last to leave—alongside Craig Barry—making sure everything is packed up properly. This isn't about recognition; it's about responsibility and pride in what we've built together.

I want to address a concern many of you have shared. The nominations at the April meeting were marred by an unfortunate outburst by my opponent. It was disappointing and beneath the spirit of our society. I believe leadership is earned not just through words, but through consistent, quiet, positive action. My opponent served as president in 2008 but was forced to resign before completing his term. Since I joined in 2011, I've not seen him volunteer in the kind of hands-on work that keeps this society running. I have only seen him at our meetings when he gets paid to be the auctioneer.

As we look to the future, I ask for your continued trust and support. I've given more than a decade of service to this community—not for recognition, but because I believe in what we're doing. With your vote, May 12, I'll continue to lead with transparency, teamwork, and a vision for growth.

Let's keep building something beautiful—together.

— **LUANNE BETZ**  
*President*

## 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.

# May speaker: Dr Courtney Hackney, “Re-blooming Orchids”



Dr. Hackney will be our May 12<sup>th</sup> speaker. He is Emeritus Professor of Biology and the former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Previously he was Professor of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Courtney began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery. He has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He grows many different genera, but his favorite is

the Cattleya Alliance. He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings, but his favorites are classic clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100 years ago. He makes 10-15 hybrids and species sib crosses per year in various genera.

He wrote a Growing Tips column for 20 years, which ended in December 2013. Growing Tips appeared in newsletters around the country. He has also published in the Orchid Digest and Orchids. In 2004, he published “American Cattleyas”, the culmination of a decade of study and interviews with many of the “Orchid Greats”, which summarizes in old photographs and print how all of the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also describes what we know about cattleyas and cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids. During the past decade he has been researching the coerulea (blue) color

form of cattleya species and hybrids, which was completed and published in 2018.

He is a member of the American, St Augustine, Jacksonville, and Cape Fear, NC orchid societies. During the Pandemic he has been hosting the monthly “Show Table” of the St Augustine Orchid Society via ZOOM, many of which are available on the society web site.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville, Florida adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose retired as a professional artist in 2017, but continues painting for fun. His orchids reside in a 24'x25' Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp. He grows many interesting orchids in the trees by the swamp.

– **LEN EMORY**  
**Program Chair**



## Growing Orchids With Olivier

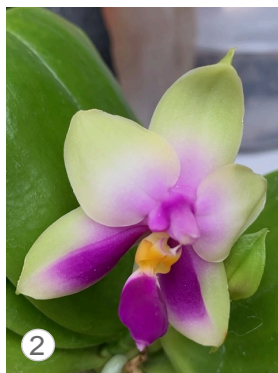
### The small fragrant *Phalaenopsis violacea* species

It might be counterintuitive since we all see the large flowered *Phalaenopsis* for sale at big box retailers, but 90% of the *Phalaenopsis* species are small plants with small flowers and the majority are fragrant, unlike most large *Phalaenopsis*.

I believe that among the most popular small species are the “violacea” type. There are actually three different violacea Phals:

1) *Phal. violacea* proper (first column) is from Sumatra; it has many different colors in the pink/purple hues but there is also an alba form (alba means white).

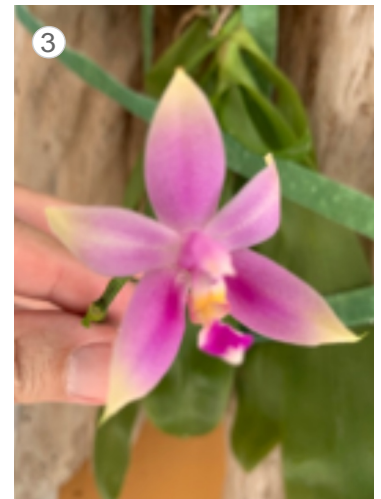
*Phal. violacea* 'Red' #1 X self



edges and a pinkish lip. It does not bloom as often as violacea and is somewhat harder to grow.

2) *Phal. bellina* is a variety that comes from Borneo and until 1995 it was called *Phal. violacea* var. *Borneo*. Its leaves are wider and the flower color are very striking with green

3) *Phal. mentawaiensis* is less common and comes from the Mentawai island (off Sumatra), hence its name. It could be described as a violacea with a much longer inflorescence and larger flower. *Phal. mentawaiensis* 'Pink Lady' x self





All three are among the most fragrant Phals. *Phal. violacea* has a spicy fragrance while *Phal. bellina* has a rather sweet fragrance.

“They bloom mostly in the summer and fall. Older inflorescences should never be removed as long as they are green as they can rebloom.”

The violacea Phals need true shade. Also, they rot easily from the crown in the winter; therefore, the medium should be kept away from the bottom of the crown and they should be kept drier when night time temperatures are in the 50's. Personally, I prefer mounting them to avoid rot. They are also hot growers and nights below 55 F should be avoided.

**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 Corner: Rich Ackerman on orchid conservation and growing Florida native orchids



Almost 30 Keikis spent a beautiful April morning at Rich Ackerman's home where he showed them over a dozen Florida native orchids, which

were fascinating to see together in one place. They also learned about Orchid Conservation and the necessity to restore native orchids back into the environment so future generations of Floridians can enjoy the beauty of our orchids. Rich answered many questions on how to care for these orchids and tips on how to spot them in the wild.

Everyone enjoyed roaming around the many areas of the garden. Some favorites were the Vanilla collection and seeing the orchids being grown for the Million Orchid Project. Keikis were also able to get some native orchids to install at their homes.

The group also enjoyed a great raffle, good food (thanks for the many donations) and meeting other FLOS members. Overall, it was a wonderful learning experience.

A big thank you to Rich for hosting the Keikis, donating a beautiful *Prosthechea cochleata* (Clamshell orchid) for the raffle and sharing so much of his orchid knowledge. Plus, thank you to the Board members who came out to help and to meet our Keikis.

**– KAREN FLEISHER  
Keiki Chair**



## Welcome new members

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

**- Olivier Turina  
Membership Chair**

## May Events

May 2-3, 9AM-5PM  
May 4, 9AM-4PM  
**Platinum Coast Orchid Society 60th Annual Orchid Show**  
“An Orchid Jubilee”  
[platinumcoastorchidsociety.org](http://platinumcoastorchidsociety.org)

May 3-4, 10AM-4PM  
**2nd Annual Miami Beach “Orchids & Arts Festival”**  
Miami Beach Botanical Garden  
[miamibeachorchidsociety.com](http://miamibeachorchidsociety.com)

May 10, 1 PM  
**West Palm Beach Judging Center Orchid Auction**  
Flamingo Gardens  
Mary N Porter Learning Center  
Davie, FL  
[wpbjc.org](http://wpbjc.org)

May 10-11, 9AM-4PM  
**Volusia County Orchid Society's “Orchids in the Eye of the Beholder”**  
Volusia County Fairgrounds

May 12, 7:30PM-9:30PM  
**FLOS Members Meeting**  
Dr Courtney Hackney, “Re-blooming Orchids”  
[FLOS.org](http://FLOS.org)

May 17-18  
**FLOS Bus Ramble**  
[GraceBoston2010@gmail.com](mailto:GraceBoston2010@gmail.com)

## Attend the May members meeting as it will be a Voting Meeting



Current Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Board and also slate for the upcoming new Board: *Roger Triplett, Karen Fleisher, Gretchen Denton, Luanne Betz, Olivia Turowski, Len Emory, Justine Vishnesky, Mary Jo Frick, Joe Akin, Doreen Christensen, Keith London, Joan Connors, Olivier Turina and Grace Boston.*

Current Board Bios on the FLOS website are [here](#).

The May Meeting will decide the next FLOS President. The two contenders are current President Luanne Betz and Mac Rivenbark.



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](https://www.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](mailto:GraceBoston2010@gmail.com) with questions.

## Wild Orchids in South Florida

If your calendar isn't already full with orchid shows, repotting tasks, and checking on your tropical beauties, here's one more must-do for May: get out and see our native orchids in the wild—yes, right here.

South Florida is home to an impressive variety of native orchid species, many of which are blooming now or just about to. While it's easy to get wrapped up in caring for our exotic collections, we sometimes overlook the remarkable orchids growing naturally all around us—in hammocks, swamps, and even along shaded trails just minutes from home.



April kicks off prime orchid-spotting season in the region. Species like the *Encyclia tampensis* aka Florida butterfly orchid (shown left) and *Eulophia alta* might be found depending on habitat, while eagle-eyed adventurers may be lucky enough to spot a ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) if conditions are right later in the season. Even some of the lesser-known terrestrial species

like *Spiranthes* can be real gems.

To plan your local orchid outing, check with Florida Parks for guidance on where native species are likely to be found—and remember, many native orchids are protected, so take only photos and leave the plants undisturbed. If you are going to be traveling a great online resource is [Go Orchids](#), where you can search by state and season to find which species are blooming and how to spot them.

Taking a break from potting benches and humidity trays to immerse yourself in a native orchid habitat isn't just refreshing—it reconnects us with the bigger picture of orchid appreciation and conservation. Plus, a little time in nature has been shown to boost mental clarity and energy, which we can all use this time of year.

So grab your camera, hat, and bug spray, and hit the trail—your local orchids are waiting!

– **GRETCHEN DENTON**  
Newsletter Editor

### FLOS on the web



**Join** the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Facebook Group for members.



**Follow** the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society on Instagram to view our updates and posts.

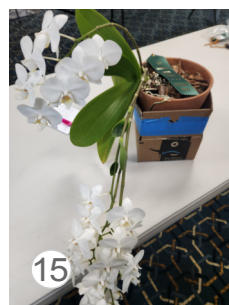
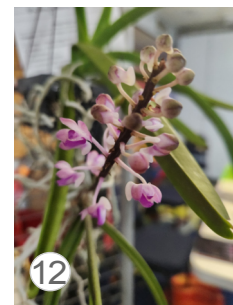
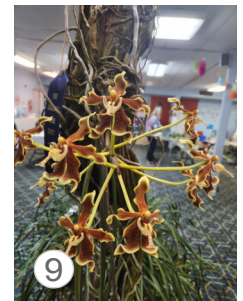
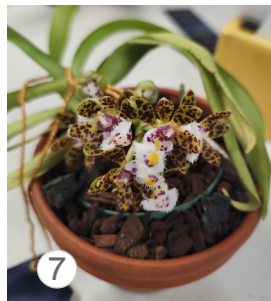
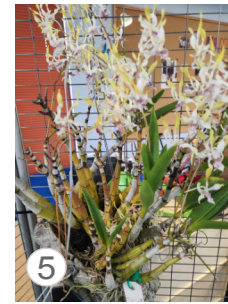


**Go** to our web site [FLOS.org](https://www.flos.org) to see what's new



# 🌿 April Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Grower	Ribbon
1	Asctm. miniatum	Luanne Betz	Blue
2	<i>Brassia Rex</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
3	<i>Ctna. Why Not</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Blue
4	<i>Den. anosmum</i>	Keith London	Blue
5	<i>Den. Lowana Nioka</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
6	<i>Enanthleya Pixie Charm</i> ( <i>Cattlianthe Pixie</i> x <i>Encyclia alata</i> )	Luanne Betz	Blue
7	<i>Gastrochilus bellinus</i>	Craig Barry	Blue
8	<i>Gram. scriptum</i> (small)	Luanne Betz	Blue
9	<i>Paraphalaenopsis labukensis</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
10	<i>Phal. King Car Dalmatian</i>	Deborah Dugan	Blue
11	<i>Rth. Haw Yuan Gold</i>	Luanne Betz	Blue
12	<i>Seidenfadenia mitrata</i>	Keith London	Blue
13	<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Jennifer	Culture
14	<i>Onc. sphacelatum</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Culture
15	<i>Phal. Noid</i>	Melissa Walker	Culture
16	<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Red
17	<i>Oncidium Noid</i>	Jackie Nunez	Red
18	<i>Phal. Noid</i>	Jennifer	Red



Photos by Gretchen Denton

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kitchen volunteers:  
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Debby Johnson  
Fran Renguso

We appreciate the  
wonderful food donations  
from:

Sonia Pena  
Justine Vishnesky  
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Joan Conners  
Douglas Dourado  
John Soto  
Haydee Valor  
Zoe Bejar  
Glenda Connolly  
Kathy Homann  
Debbie Johnson  
Anja Hessert  
Norma Jean Flack

**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](http://www.flos.org)