

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 76

Issue 4

April 2026

FLOS.org

## Presidents Message: Showing a plant at a FLOS meeting and judging



When I first joined FLOS, I proudly brought in blooming plants, only to leave without a ribbon. I'll be honest... it stung a little. But

instead of giving up, I asked the judges what I could do better. That simple step made all the difference.

Over time, I learned what judges look for and what not to bring in. It took a little courage to try again, but now I have a good sense of the quality of my plants. At this point, the real question isn't "Is my plant good enough?", it's "Will

someone bring in an even better one?"

Because here's something important to know: judging is comparative. You can bring in a pristine, stunning plant, but if another plant in the same category is judged to be superior, it may take the top ribbon. That's just how it works and part of what makes it exciting!

Once you get the hang of ribbon judging, you might even feel inspired to take the next step and enter your plants into American Orchid Society (AOS) judging which is a whole different level.

### Want to Participate? You Can!

Every meeting features a beautiful display of blooming orchids grown by members just like you. And yes, you're

absolutely encouraged to join in.

### What Should I Bring?

Almost any orchid in bloom is welcome, just follow these three simple rules:

1. You must have owned the plant for at least three months.
2. The plant must be free of pests and diseases.
3. You need to know the name of the plant. (Tip: Plants without tags can be brought in for help with identification—but they must be properly labeled to be judged.)

### How Do I Prepare My Plant?

A little grooming goes a long way in helping your plant shine:

*Continued on page 2*

## Fun Cattleya Species you can grow

### April presentation by Keith and Dina Emig of Winter Haven Orchids



Dina and Keith Emig

We are pleased to have Keith Emig from Winter Haven Orchid Nursery as our featured speaker at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting who will also be providing beautiful orchids for our raffle and plenty more for sale as well!

Keith Emig's orchid journey all started with a trip to the dentist where, on the receptionist's desk, there was a small plant with three leaves and an

inflorescence with twenty blooms suspended above in a beautifully presented fashion. When asked, the receptionist replied that the dentist grew this orchid, and he was an orchid hobbyist. This multi floral Phalaenopsis captured Keith's attention and it was on. As the passion grew, Keith joined his local orchid society as well as the American Orchid Society which opened

*Continued on page 2*

**INSIDE:** Volunteers needed Pg. 3; Growing with Olivier Pg. 4; Election Slate and Spring Ramble Pg. 5; March Ribbon Awards Pg 6-7; Keiki Graduation & AOS Corner Pg. 8; Divide & Donate Pg. 9



*Ctna Why Not*  
grown by  
*Damian Ruch*

- Wipe down the leaves
- Trim away any dead material
- Stake the flower if needed so it displays well
- Registering Your Plant

Arrive a little early when bringing in a plant. On the display tables, you'll find registration slips:

- Fill one out with the plant's name and category
- Ask an experienced member if you're unsure of the category
- Write your name on the bottom and fold it under so judges won't see it

Judging is done anonymously to ensure fairness.

### Understanding the Ribbons

Even if you don't win, bringing in your plant is still a win, you're sharing your success and contributing to the beauty of the meeting. And if you do win... enjoy those bragging rights!

There are three types of ribbons awarded:

**Red Ribbon** – A flower of distinction

**Blue Ribbon** – A flower of very high quality

**Green Ribbon** – A culture award for the overall growth and health of the plant

All ribbon winners are recognized in the next newsletter.

### Ready for the Next Level?

FLOS is affiliated with the American Orchid Society West Palm Beach Judging Center, where official AOS judging takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. If you're ready to take that step, it's an exciting opportunity to showcase truly exceptional plants.

And for our Keiki's, don't forget! You can learn even more about ribbon judging at the next Keiki meeting, April 18th. So go ahead, bring that blooming beauty to the next meeting. You might just surprise yourself!

**-- LUANNE BETZ**  
*FLOS President*

### April Speakers - Keith and Dina Emig - Continued from page 1

the orchid world's secrets.

Soon the passion of combining the attributes of two beautiful plants, by cross pollinating, stimulated the imagination. The flasking case was built and has been a fixture in Keith and wife Dina's kitchen for almost 20 years now. Over 1000 seed pods have been flasked to this point and it seems each season there is some new cross that has more exciting possibilities than anything before. Keith and Dina have now registered plants in the Oncidium, Cattleya, Phaleanopsis, Vanda, and Dendrobium alliances, and have created their own genera (Emigara).

In recent years they've enjoyed going to judging and seeing everyone's beautiful plants and bringing their own plants having received over 70 flower quality awards including 9 awards on their original crosses. In August 2024 Keith

became a student AOS judge. It has been a great pleasure for Keith to have served on the board of directors of the Ridge Orchid Society for over a decade, including at least 7 terms as President. The highlight is the fellowship of the membership and sharing the passion of orchids with the orchid community.

Be sure to check out Keith's article in the March 2017 Orchids magazine (pg 208). It is titled Luck of the Draw. Keith and Dina can be found on social media at fb.com/whorchids and IG.com/wh\_orchids.

**-- LEN EMORY**  
*Program Chair*

## Volunteer at the Bonnet House Orchid Festival

Volunteers are invited to join the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society team at the 16th Annual Bonnet House International Orchid & Garden Festival, taking place **April 11–12** in Fort Lauderdale. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your love of orchids, meet fellow enthusiasts, and enjoy a fun and festive atmosphere while representing our society.

Morning and afternoon shifts are available between **9 AM and 4 PM** on both Saturday and Sunday, making it easy to find a time that works for you.

If you'd like to be part of the fun, please contact Roger Triplett at [r.triplett22@gmail.com](mailto:r.triplett22@gmail.com) to sign up. We hope to see you there!

**--ROGER TRIPLETT**  
*Volunteer Chair*



Board member Roger Triplett with his spectacular "Grand Champion" Rlc. Golf Green Hair Pig at the March meeting.

**16th Annual INTERNATIONAL ORCHID & GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
9AM - 4PM

30+ Local and International Orchid and Tropical Plant Vendors  
Food Trucks and Libations • Garden Art • Live Music  
Orchid & General Gardening Workshops

**NEW - ZimSculpt** - Experience an outdoor exhibit of hand-carved stone sculptures by 150 artists from Zimbabwe throughout the grounds. Watch daily sculpture carvings, enjoy family friendly activities, and capture unforgettable moments.

**Experience ZimSculpt!**  
Admission: \$25  
Includes Orchid Festival, Self-Guided House & Grounds Tour, and the new ZimSculpt Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit!  
Children 12 & under are FREE. No Discounts or Group Rates Apply.

BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS  
900 N. BIRCH ROAD, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33304  
BONNETHOUSE.ORG | 954.565.5353

Scan Here to Learn More

**FORTY-FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ORCHID AND BROMELIAD SHOW**  
GARDEN OF ORCHIDS  
April 3, 4, & 5, 2026  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**NEW THIS YEAR**  
3 Full Days of Vendors and Displays!

Orchid show presented by **Fleming Gardens ORCHID SOCIETY**  
PRESENTED BY **6** **Fleming Gardens**



# Slipper Orchids Demystified: A Grower's Introduction to Paphiopedilums

Growing Orchids With Olivier

I have very recently tipped my toes in the water of Paphiopedilums (slipper orchids) thanks to the excellent AOS October 2025 supplement on the subject. **My article today is my own summary of many things I learnt from that highly educational reading material and also articles from Orchid Digest on the subject. Consider it a "Reader's Digest"**

As a general rule, Paphiopedilum is one the most shade loving genus among those that thrive in South Florida. They are also among the thirstiest orchids and it seems like many should never dry out... although my experience with Stanhopeas shows that approaching dryness for most orchids is a good thing, even for genera who should "never dry out".

They should be repotted yearly, in many instances, although I plan to try tree fern fiber which is a medium that requires very little repotting. They are intolerant of salt built-up (from fertilizers) and should be flushed regularly. The flowers are long lasting : one month or more for all.

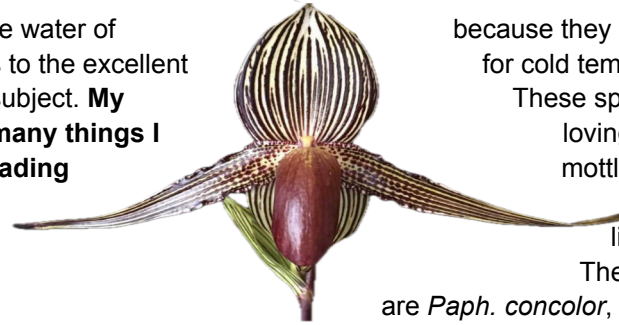
Paphiopedilums (Paphs) hail from Asia and those that are from South America are called Phragmipediums and are almost always sequential bloomers unlike most Paphs. It seems that Phrags require somewhat less water than Paphs. There is a small lovely Cypripedium genus but it seems like those orchids need much colder temperatures than what we can offer here.

From what I can tell, there are 2 "typical" Paphiopedilum looks: what I call the "concolor" look (check section Parvisepalum and Brachypetalum below) and the "Rothschildianum" look (the majority of the species)

Just like Dendrobiums, it is very important to understand which "section" each species belong to inside the genus. A section is a subdivision within the genus of plants that are even more closely related than the rest of the genus. Some sections are not ideal for South Florida and you should research that ahead of time!

**Brachypetalum section** is the one that I personally find most attractive and I am in luck as they seem to be very suitable for South Florida

Continued on next page



Rothschildianum look

because they LOVE heat and have zero tolerance for cold temperatures (below 60F at night).

These species are among the most shade loving as well. They have thick leathery mottled leaves whose underside is usually dark purple. There are usually litophytes (grow on rocks).

The most common and popular species are *Paph. concolor*, *Paph. niveum*, *Paph. godefroyae*, *Paph. leucochilum* and *Paph. bellatulum*, the last three being often confused with one another. *Paph. bellatulum* grows colder than all

the others. Hybrids within this section are considered highly desirable.

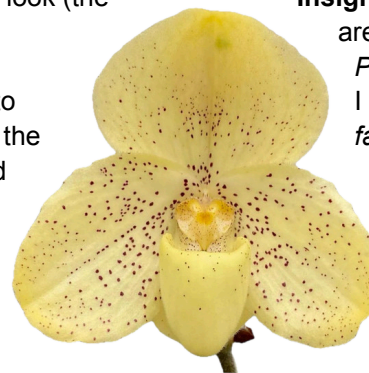
**Barbatum section** is another suitable section for our climate. Most are warm growing terrestrials in shady locations. Their leaves are mottled and they usually only bloom once a year but the flowers are very long lasting.

They include the "maudiae type" which are considered very easy to grow. Common species are: *Paph. barbatum*, *Paph. callosum*, *Paph. lawrenceanum*, *Paph. sukhalukii*, *Paph. mastersianum*

**Parvisepalum section** has popular species but unfortunately, they are not ideal for us as they need colder nights over the winter to bloom.... BUT after talking to some growers and vendors, it looks like some will grow here anyway! They are the most fragrant of all and don't want wet feet unlike most other Paphs. Popular species are *Paph. delenatii*, *Paph. armeniacum*, *Paph. hangianum*.

**Insigne section** is most unsuitable as most species are cool growing. It includes *Paph. fairrieianum*, *Paph. helenae*, *Paph. heryanum*. I have been told that you can grow *Paph. fairrieianum* in South Florida!

Then you have 3 sections with "multifloral Paphs" which are the most spectacular of all. They don't have mottled leaves and will tolerate higher light levels and drier conditions. For the most part, they seem suitable for our hot temperatures. It is not very clear to me that there are substantial differences



Concolor look

between these 3 sections.

**Cochleopetalum section** are sequential bloomers than can apparently bloom non-stop for up to 6 months. They include *Paph. glaucophyllum*, *Paph. primulinum*, *Paph. victoria-regina*

**Coryopedilum section** contains two of the most coveted species with ribbon-like petals: *Paph. rothschildianum* and *Paph. philippinensis*

**Pardopetalum section** are similar to the previous section

As always, hybrids are easier to grow, especially for beginners. It seems that unlike most genera, in Paphiopedilums, crosses are best done within the same section with one exception being Brachypetalum crossed with Parvisepalum giving great hybrids that are fertile. The "Maudiae" type hybrids are recommended for ease of care while the "Bulldog" type, while popular, are usually less suitable for us as they need cooler temperatures to bloom, except for the white types which are hard to come by apparently.

**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).**

## FLOS Ramble delivers: sunshine, orchids, community

The recent FLOS ramble was a wonderful success from start to finish. The weather was perfect, setting the tone for a relaxed day.

Special thanks to the Ramble vendors: Quest, Banjong, RF orchids and OFE for their hospitality. They were exceptionally welcoming and generous. Many contributed raffle items for our group, and a few even went the extra mile by providing refreshments, gestures that were truly appreciated by everyone. All in all, it was a safe, smooth, and thoroughly enjoyable excursion.

– Grace Boston  
FLOS Board Trustee

## Notice for nominations for FLOS board of trustees

In January, the Board of Trustees appointed a Nominating Committee in accordance with the society bylaws, Article XI, Section 1. Members are Chair Len Emory, Joan Connors, and Doreen Christensen.

In accordance with Article XI, Section 2 the slate of Officers and Trustees proposed for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 is:

### OFFICERS

President: Len Emory  
First Vice President: MaryJo Frick

- Program Chair  
Second Vice President: Rick Ackerman  
- Membership Chair  
Recording Secretary: Doreen Christensen  
Corresponding Secretary: Justine Vishnesky  
Treasurer: Olivier Turina  
Past President: Luanne Betz

### TRUSTEES

One Year Trustees: Roger Triplett  
Karen Fleisher  
Two Year Trustees: Gretchen Denton  
Grace Boston  
Three Year Trustees: Joan Connors  
Bob Brach

The committee would like to thank all the members we contacted during our search for considering the opportunity to serve and give back to the society. We would also like to thank our current and former board members who helped make this task a successful endeavor.

Election will take place at the general meeting on May 11.

– LEN EMORY  
Nominating Committee Chair



# March Ribbon Awards

| #  | Orchid  | Winner          | Award            |
|----|---|-----------------|------------------|
| 1  | <i>Bulb. Annadalei</i>  | Douglas/Ariane  | Blue             |
| 2  | <i>C. labiata</i>   | Rosa Brouillet  | Blue             |
| 3  | <i>C. Pure Soul</i>   | Glenda Connolly | Blue             |
| 4  | <i>C. x dolosa</i> h.f. alba  | Roderick Lewis  | Blue             |
| 5  | <i>Ctna. Why Not</i>  | Damian Ruch     | Blue             |
| 6  | <i>Ctt. Belairensis</i> * ( <i>C. intermedia</i> x <i>Gur. skinneri</i> )     | Keith London    | Blue             |
| 7  | <i>Den. anosmum</i>   | Damian Ruch     | Blue             |
| 8  | <i>Den. lindleyi</i>  | Eugenie Johnson | Blue             |
| 9  | <i>Den. Red Emperor</i>   | Francisco/Paul  | Blue             |
| 10 | <i>Den. speciosum</i>   | Hung Tran       | Blue             |
| 11 | <i>Eny. Golden Sunburst</i>   | Keith London    | Blue             |
| 12 | <i>Guarechea Black Comet</i>  | Gretchen Denton | Blue             |
| 13 | <i>Rhyncholaelia glauca</i>   | Francisco/Paul  | Blue             |
| 14 | <i>Rth. Bouton D'Or</i>   | Roderick Lewis  | Blue             |
| 15 | <i>Tolu. Jairak Firm</i>  | Gretchen Denton | Blue             |
| 16 | <i>V. Motes Adorbs</i> * ( <i>V. ampullacea</i> x <i>V. christensoniana</i> ) | Sara Singer     | Blue             |
| 17 | <i>Yamadaara Redland Sunset</i>   | Keith London    | Blue             |
| 18 | <i>C. Gulf Green 'Hair Pig'</i>   | Roger Triplett  | Blue             |
| 19 | <i>Clo. Lou Lodyga</i>  | Olivier Turina  | Blue             |
| 20 | <i>Rlc. Nuggett Digger</i>  | Olivier Turina  | Blue             |
| 21 | <i>Cym. atropurpureum</i>   | Hung Tran       | Blue/<br>Culture |
| 22 | <i>Den. Spring Bird</i>   | Mary Jo Frick   | Blue/<br>Culture |
| 23 | <i>Gur. Guatemalensis</i>   | Damian Ruch     | Blue/<br>Culture |
| 24 | <i>Ludisia discolor</i>   | Gretchen Denton | Blue/<br>Culture |
| 25 | <i>Phaius tankervilleae</i>   | Zoe Bejar       | Blue/<br>Culture |
| 26 | <i>Ansellia africana</i> h.f. alba  | Rich Ackerman   | Culture          |



(\*) Denotes Registered Hybrid  
 Photos by Gretchen Denton  
 Orchid Identification by Joan Connors

## Keiki's graduated at the March meeting



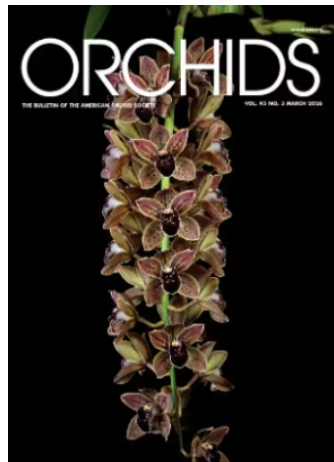
Front row: Keith London, Glenda Connelly, Bruce Connelly Second row: Karen Fleisher, Anne Marcovich, Alicia Farrington, Louise Appelman Back row: Phil Salin, David Sweeten Not pictured: Jennifer Farrington, Matthew Pfeiffer, Sandra Pickut, Tracy Slusher, John Soto

At our March general meeting we held a Keiki graduation for 13 outstanding Keikis who participated in our extra educational activities for the past two years. We will miss their enthusiasm about orchids and hope that they will grow into very active members who continue to enjoy participating in our numerous FLOS activities, committees and events.

It is so sad to see each one of them leave the Keikis, but I am proud to have been a part of their evolution into such passionate orchid enthusiasts and growers. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

-- KAREN FLEISHER,  
Keiki Chair

## AOS Corner



### Featured this Month

A jewel of the orchid world returns for its 78th outing the 20th–22nd of this month - The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. In commemoration, this month features the first of a two-part article on the Grand Champion cymbidiums of this spectacular show. Part 1 chronicles the first 40 years

with color pictures of all of the award winners and part 2 will take us from 1986 to the present. Juraj Kojš continues his series on *Cattleya violacea* and its hybrids with a discussion of the hybrids made prior to the 20th century and Esteban (Steve) Gonzalez-Costa presents the second in a series of articles on recent outreach judging in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Rounding out our features this month, Graham Guest begins a series of articles on the hybridizing legacy of Andy Easton who passed away early last year.

The American Orchid Society  
2026 Spring Conference

In conjunction with the Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival  
Apopka, FL

April 8th - 11th

Featuring:

- Expert Orchid Speakers
- Hands-On Workshops
- Meeting of the Members
- Award Presentations
- AOS Elections
- Top Quality Vendors
- AOS Judging
- Welcome Reception
- Live & Silent Auctions
- Sumptuous Gala Dinner

For more information visit <https://aos.org/members-meetings> or email [TheAOS@aos.org](mailto:TheAOS@aos.org).



As we enter the peak season for repotting our orchids, I encourage every member to consider setting aside a division or two for donation to our **October auction**. Auction proceeds play an important role in supporting the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's activities, including our annual show, holiday celebration, and ongoing operational expenses all, of which significantly exceed the Society's income from membership dues.

Our members consistently bring outstanding plants for judging, and divisions from these well-grown specimens are always highlights of the auction. There is something especially meaningful about adding a plant to your collection that was nurtured by a fellow society member. Not only can you feel confident in the plant's quality, but you also gain a valuable resource for advice on its care and growing conditions.

Sharing divisions also provides a measure of security for your collection. If you ever lose a cherished plant, there is a chance that a fellow grower who received a division may be able to share it back with you. Most

importantly, our auction's success depends on the generosity and participation of our talented members.

### Tips for Successfully Dividing Orchids

When mature orchids outgrow their containers, they become excellent candidates for division. Dividing not only rejuvenates the plant but also provides an opportunity to share prized specimens with others.

### Timing Matters

The ideal time to divide orchids is after flowering, when the plant is entering an active growth phase. Divisions made at this stage recover more quickly and establish well before the next bloom cycle.

### Gather the Proper Supplies

Before you begin, assemble the following:

- Sharp, sterilized pruning shears or a knife
- Fresh potting medium suited to the

- orchid type
- Clean or new pots
- Cinnamon, alcohol, or fungicide to protect cut surfaces
- Labels for accurate identification

Removing the Plant from the Pot  
Gently remove the orchid, taking care to avoid damaging the roots. If the plant is tightly bound, soaking the pot in water for 10–15 minutes can help loosen the root mass. Shake away excess medium to clearly expose the root system.

Locate Natural Division Points  
Most sympodial orchids, such as *Cattleyas* and *Oncidiums*, grow in sequences of pseudobulbs. Each division should include at least three to five healthy pseudobulbs to support continued growth. For monopodial orchids like *Phalaenopsis*, divisions may involve removing basal keikis or cuttings with strong roots and at least three leaves.

- Make Clean Cuts and Treat Wounds
- Use sterilized tools to separate divisions cleanly. Apply cinnamon, alcohol, or fungicide to cut surfaces to reduce the risk of infection. Remove any dead or damaged roots.
- Repot Carefully
- Select appropriately sized pots and use fresh medium suited to the orchid's needs, unless you are mounting the plant. Position the division securely so roots are in good contact with the medium, and avoid burying pseudobulbs too deeply.

### Provide Thoughtful Aftercare

- Water lightly during the first week to prevent rot
- Maintain warm temperatures, humidity, and bright indirect light

## Refreshment donations

We appreciate the wonderful food donations for our members meetings.

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Thank you:         | Bruce Connoly      |
| Luanne Betz        | Anne Marcovich     |
| Robert Romani      | Elly Meisler       |
| Karen Fleisher     | Denise Mangini     |
| Zoe Bejar          | Bill Mortan        |
| Justine Vishnesky  | Pepe Troche        |
| Mick Randich       | Norma Jeanne Flack |
| Doreen Christensen | Bob Brach          |
| Debbie Alley       | Elaine Jordan      |
| Sona Pena          | Ryan Strouss       |

- Watch for signs of stress or disease
- Delay fertilizing for at least two weeks to allow roots to establish
- Preparing Your Donation for Auction

Before auction day, ensure your divisions are healthy, well-rooted, and free of pests. Clearly label each plant with its species or hybrid name, along with any specific cultural notes. Presentation matters — clean pots, trimmed foliage, and vibrant growth will make your donation more appealing to bidders.

By taking the time now to divide and prepare your orchids, you will help ensure a vibrant and successful auction while sharing the beauty and camaraderie that make our society so special.

**GRETCHEN DENTON**  
– Newsletter Editor

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**Diana Waterous Centorino**  
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*Also Member of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C. and Nebraska Bars*

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

### Meeting Info

2nd Monday 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 Officers

President - Luanne Betz  
1st Vice President - Len Emory (Programs)  
Recording Secretary - Olivia Turowski  
Corresponding Secretary - Doreen Christensen  
Treasurer - Mary Jo Frick  
Past President - Joan Connors

### Board of Trustees

1 year Trustee - Roger Triplett  
1 year Trustee - Justine Vishnesky  
2 year Trustee - Olivier Turina  
2 year Trustee - Gretchen Denton  
3 year Trustee - Grace Boston  
3 year Trustee - Karen Fleisher

AOS Representative - Joan Connors  
Parliamentarian - Keith London  
Newsletter Editor - Gretchen Denton  
Social Media - Gretchen Denton  
Plant Raffle Table - Francisco Lambert and Paul Gebrian  
Webmaster - Luanne Betz

For a full list of FLOS Committees and Bios go to our website - [Committees List](#)