

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 5

May 2026

FLOS.org

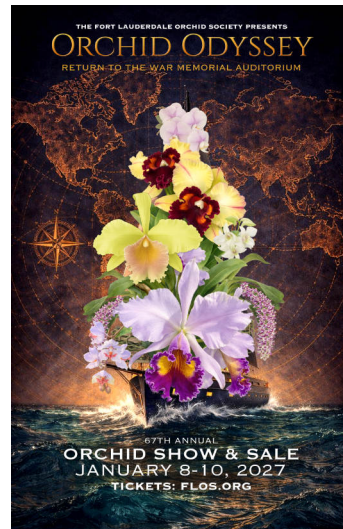
Presidents message: Passing the torch



As I write my final column as President, I can't help but reflect on what a truly rewarding 2 years it has been. Serving this society has been at times a challenge and an incredible privilege, one

I am especially confident as I pass the torch to Len Emory. The future of this organization is bright, and I know it is in excellent hands. As President, Len will be guiding us forward at the War Memorial for "Orchid Odyssey" as we return to our beloved long-time venue. It will be an unforgettable show! I would be remiss if I didn't express my heartfelt gratitude to the 2025-2026 Board. Their hard work, dedication and willingness to step up made all the difference this year. It has been an honor to serve alongside them, and I look forward to continuing to support the society in my new role as Past President.

On a personal note, one of the greatest gifts of this journey has been the relationships I've built. From meetings, to shows, to our rambles, I've had the



Artwork by Gretchen Denton

pleasure of getting to know so many of you better, and those connections mean more to me than I can fully express.

When I first joined FLOS, I didn't know the difference between a dendrobium and a phalaenopsis. I certainly never imagined that one day I would serve as President of this fine organization. This journey has been one of growth, both in orchids and in life, and I am deeply grateful for all

that I have learned along the way. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your shared love of orchids. It has truly been an unforgettable experience.

**--LUANNE BETZ
FLOS President**

that has stretched me, inspired me and deepened my appreciation for this wonderful orchid community. We have so much to look forward to in the months ahead. Our upcoming orchid show promises to be spectacular, and I know it will showcase not only beautiful blooms but the passion and dedication of our wonderful members. Alongside that, we have an exciting lineup of future speakers, the always-entertaining Orchid Bingo in July, and our festive holiday party in December. Each event is a reminder of how vibrant and engaged our society truly is.



Gabriel Cuesta

May presenter: Gabriel Cuesta

Standard cattleya hybrids and how they came about

Our May meeting will feature speaker Gabriel Cuesta of Quest Orchids who will be discussing the development of major lines of standard Cattleyas hybrids (US), and the important contributions of species to those hybrids that form the basis for modern Cattleyas. He will also be explaining the approach used by hybridizers of the 19th through the 20th century.

Gabriel was born into the family orchid business in 1988. He grew up in a home on property adjacent to the Quest greenhouses and was brought up and taught in a hands-on environment from an early age. After graduating from SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) in 2014, Gabriel went full time into the Orchid business. He's currently a manager at Quest Orchids where the Cuesta

Continued on page 3

INSIDE: Growing orchids with Olivier Pg. 2; Election Slate and Bonnet House Pg. 3; International Orchid Show Pg. 4-5; April Ribbon Awards Pg 6; Orchid Conservation & Holiday Party Pg. 7; Keiki's Pg. 8; May Orchid Growing Checklist Pg. 9



Large flowered Phalaenopsis species

Growing Orchids With Olivier

Most Phalaenopsis hybrids have big flowers and those are the ones you find at the big box retailers BUT the vast majority of Phalaenopsis **species** (over 90%) are of small stature and carry small flowers.

There are in fact only 6 species with larger flowers among Phalaenopsis species and most hail from the Philippines (often endemic) and are all the backbone of those large flowered hybrids.

There are 3 species with white flowers and *Phal. amabilis* and *Phal. aphrodite* are the two in the background of the majority of our hybrids. A third species, *Phal. philippinensis* is less known and less common as it is not great to hybridize with, tougher to grow but it has gorgeous flowers and is in my opinion the prettiest of the three white Phal. species.

There are two species with pink flowers: *Phal. schilleriana* and *Phal. sanderiana*, the latter is a lot less common nowadays and less popular.

Phal. stuartiana rounds up the party with white flowers that are heavily spotted. There is a yellow variety called var. *nobilis* that is now widely available.

These 6 large flowered species all need

a drop in temperatures at night in the fall to start spiking. Then the spike takes approx. 4 months to turn into flowers. This is why most bloom in late winter and spring. By contrast, a majority of the small flowered species need heat and long days to bloom, hence they tend to bloom over the summer and early fall. The large flowered hybrids usually follow the pattern of drop in nighttime temperatures and bloom in the spring.

The two species that you are most likely to encounter in the trade are:

Phal. schilleriana:

Phal. schilleriana is a delicate pink with an intoxicating rose fragrance in the morning (some plants do not have the fragrance though!). The older the blooms, the stronger the fragrance and it can carry several feet away! This species has a very aggressive root system that will attach to anything it finds. The roots flatten as they attach to the mount. Also, its inflorescence can be very long with hundreds of flowers for a very mature plant. Its mottled leaves indicate these are low light plants (lower than your average Phal.). They bloom in the spring and the flowers last one month on average. Like most species, they only bloom once per year. After

flowering, the plant usually takes a break for a few weeks.

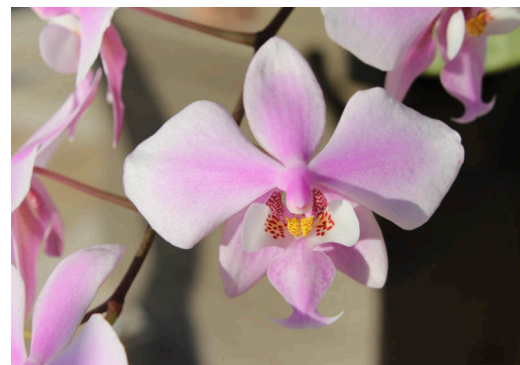
Phal. stuartiana:

Phal. stuartiana is white with reddish speckles (but there are many different variations) and the lip is usually yellow with red speckles. Like *schilleriana*, it can also carry hundreds of flowers when mature, it is fragrant and it has mottled leaves (indicating low light). The blooms last approx. one month and they bloom in the spring.

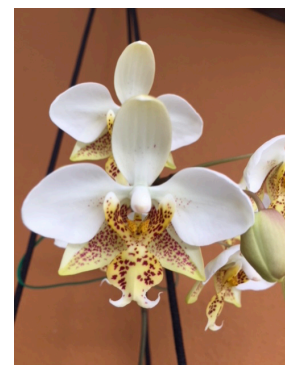
Phalaenopsis orchids typically grow nonstop, but *Phal. stuartiana* should get some rest after flowering as it will typically stop growing roots and leaves for a little while. Overall, they also need to dry out more than other Phals.

There is a yellow variety called *Phal. stuartiana* var. *nobile*. It has a reputation of being harder to grow but the beauty of the flower is amazing. Its color intensifies as days go by and then it fades towards the end.

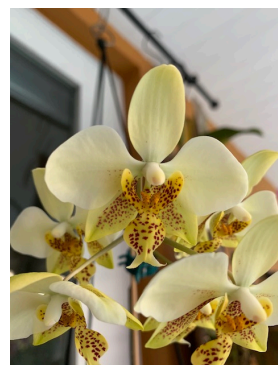
Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.



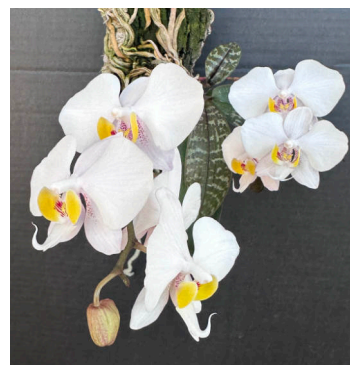
Phal. schilleriana



standard *Phal. stuartiana*



Phal. stuartiana var. *nobilis*



Phal. philippinensis

2026 Election at Members Meeting

This is the proposed slate for 2026-2027.

OFFICERS

President	Len Emory
First Vice President	MaryJo Frick
Program Chair	
Second Vice President	Rich 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

Thank you to our nominating committee for their hard work.

**– LEN EMORY
Nominating Committee Chair**

May Speaker - Gabriel Cuest - Continued from page 1

family has been growing plants since 1984.

In addition to his personal collection of plants, Gabriel oversees the care, maintenance, and hybridizing of Quest Orchids Cattleya collection.

Quest Orchids is located in the Miami-Dade Horse Country since 1994. Quest currently grows Cattleyas and many other varieties of orchids, including Vandas. They are located off the Turnpike, on exit 23, 12110 SW 43rd St, Miami, FL. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 am – 5 pm.

**– LEN EMORY
Program Chair**

We ♥ FLOS volunteers

FLOS offers many opportunities to get involved and make new friends by having fun networking with members and acquiring knowledge in the culture of orchids at the same time.

We can always use help setting up the meetings, help with refreshments, or volunteering at events. We can always use extra hands. Please contact Roger Triplett if you would like to volunteer at r.triplett22@gmail.com

Volunteers growing our community at the Bonnet House Orchid show



Justine Vishnesky (left), Doreen Christensen and Roger Triplett setting up the FLOS booth at the Bonnet House Orchid Show.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who supported our community outreach efforts at the Bonnet House Orchid Show. The booth highlighted the Million Orchid Project showcasing FLOS's commitment to orchid conservation. Volunteers also invited people to our monthly meetings. We're pleased to welcome several new members as a result, please be sure to greet them warmly at our next meeting.

Welcome new members

- Sandra Andersen
- Phillip Bauder
- Annie Christ
- Carol Drucker
- Gayle Ianuzzi
- Jan Jonas
- Rusty Jones
- Feng Lin
- Marilyn Lorigas
- Carmen & Bob Sidbeck
- Kristyn Vorster

Member Spotlight: Sojourn to the Dresden International Orchid Show

An interview with FLOS member Doug Dourado



Trip overview

What inspired you to attend the International Orchid Show in Dresden?

My love and passion for orchids, without a doubt! I had been

away from the hobby for about 20 years and only recently returned to it. When I spotted the 2026 WOC flier at the 2024 Tamiami Orchid Show, I showed it to my wife, Ariane Cattes, and half-jokingly said, "We should go there." I never expected her to light up and say, "Yes! That would be an amazing trip." The idea stayed in the back of my mind, but it became real on Christmas Eve 2025 when Ariane surprised me with a full registration ticket to the 24th World Orchid Conference in Germany. I was over the moon—truly one of the best gifts I've ever received. That moment of excitement, combined with my renewed passion for orchids, is what got me on the plane to Dresden. Thank you, Ariane!

Was this your first time visiting Germany or attending an international orchid show?

I've been to Frankfurt, Germany a few times to visit my sister and a friend's wedding. However, this was my very first international orchid show. I've attended many wonderful U.S. shows, especially in South Florida, but nothing on the scale of the World Orchid Conference. Dresden was a fantastic introduction to the global orchid world—beautiful historic city, friendly people, and an event that delivered a truly world-class experience.

How would you describe the overall experience in a few words?

Overwhelmingly inspiring, pure orchid magic, and a truly memorable experience. The sheer scale, exceptional plant quality, and vibrant international community created an energy that left me energized and even more hooked on the hobby than before.

The orchids & exhibits

What were the most memorable orchid displays or exhibits you saw?

The main exhibition hall was breathtaking—over 53,820 sq ft filled with approximately 95 stunning displays from nurseries and societies around the world. The Tropiscape Orchids display (from Belgium) was one of my absolute favorites. They built these tall, crystal-clear half cylinders terrariums. Each one packed with miniature orchids, mosses, and epiphytes layered vertically like a rainforest cliff. The ring lights at the top gave each cylinder a subtle, almost futuristic glow, like tiny ecosystems



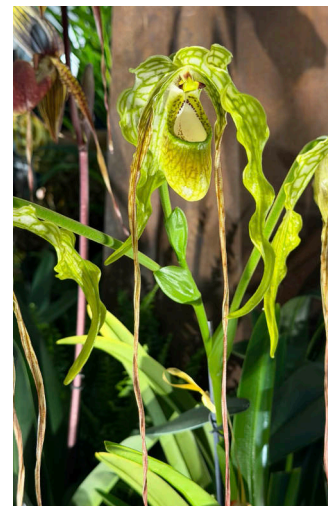
under observation.

Were there any species or hybrids that really stood out to you? Why?

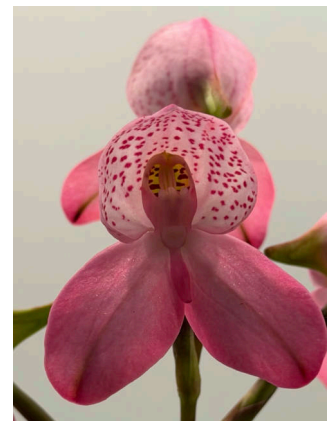
Basically all of them. Most of the orchids I saw there, I had never seen before (even in pictures). Here are a few of them to the right:



Pleione Sunisa



Phragmipedium caudatum



Disa Kewensis 'Pinkie'

Were there any orchids you had never seen before?

Absolutely—many! Some rare Phragmipedium and Bulbophyllum species, several cold growers like Pleione, Den. cuthbertsonii and Disa, unusual ones like Diuris jonesii and Phalaenopsis natmataungensis.

Global orchid community

Did you have a chance to meet growers or vendors from other countries?

Yes, and that was one of the best parts! I met growers and vendors from Germany, Thailand, Taiwan, and several South American countries. Everyone was incredibly welcoming and generous with advice. It was wonderful to talk face-to-face with people whose plants I had only seen online.

What differences did you notice between European growers and those in South Florida?

European growers specialize in cooler-growing genera. What really stood out to me was how they perfected greenhouse climate control to an impressive level of precision. They can fine-tune temperature, humidity, and light with remarkable consistency, and it clearly shows in the uniformity, substance, and overall pristine finish of their plants.

Were there any unique growing techniques or setups that caught your attention?

Yes, the Tropiscape Orchids display (mentioned above) really stood out for its creative and artistic approach. It gave me several practical ideas for displaying and growing miniatures at home, especially in Florida's climate. That whole setup was one of the most inspiring things I saw at the entire show.

Did you bring any orchids (or orchid-related items) back home? If so, how did that process go?

Yes, I brought back 12 carefully chosen

plants (mostly small hybrid seedlings to make customs easier). The process to get the proper CITES documentation was a bit lengthy and confusing at times, but a few helpful vendors guided me through it. All the plants were properly bare-rooted and cleaned before packing. I used clear plastic bags and they traveled very well in my checked luggage. Everything arrived in excellent condition with no issues at all. It was definitely a learning experience, but overall much smoother than I expected.

Takeaways

What advice would you give to FLOS members considering attending an international orchid show?

Go! Save up, make the trip, and don't hesitate. Register early, attend some lectures if you can, and leave extra room in your suitcase (or ship plants). Talk to everyone! You'll learn so much in just a few days. It's not just about the plants, it's about the orchid community. Even if you go solo, you won't feel alone at all.

Would you go again and if so, what would you do differently?

Absolutely! I'd love to attend the next one in Japan in 2029! Next time, I'll plan more days in the host city to explore the culture and botanical gardens, and attend more lectures. Also, I'll do all my plant shopping on the first day so I can get the CITES paperwork started early and avoid the crowd/last-minute rush. It was such a fantastic experience that I definitely want to do it again, hopefully with my wife next time!

Any final thoughts you'd like to share with the society?

The orchid world is truly global and incredibly welcoming. Events like the WOC remind us how special our hobby is and how much we can learn from each other across borders. I came home inspired to grow better, share more, and support our local society even more. Thank you for letting me share my experience!

Doug joined FLOS in 2025 and as a keiki he has already demonstrated excellence in orchid growing and culture.

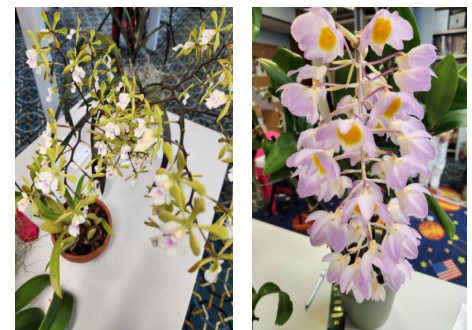
--GRETCHEN DENTON
Newsletter Editor

What's Blooming ?

Some beautiful orchids that are blooming this month:

- Cattleyas
- Coconut Orchids
- Encyclias
- Vandas (just getting started!)
- Some Dendrobiums

Take a moment to enjoy them, this is the transition into a more growth-focused season.

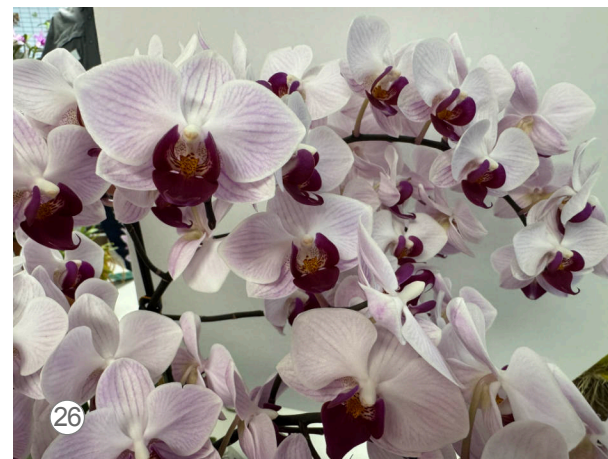
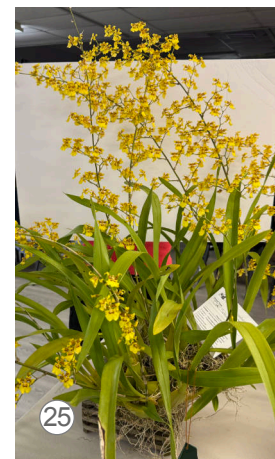
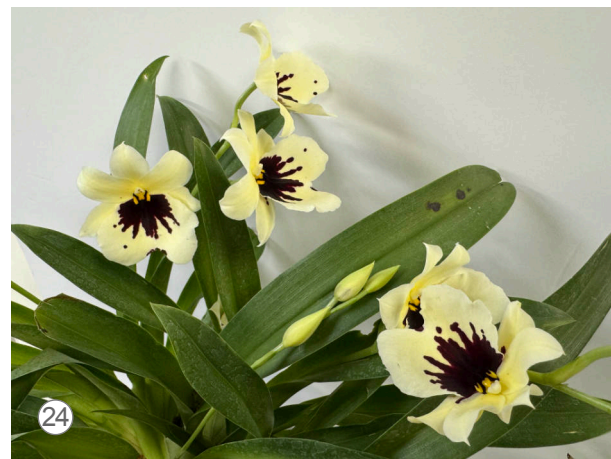
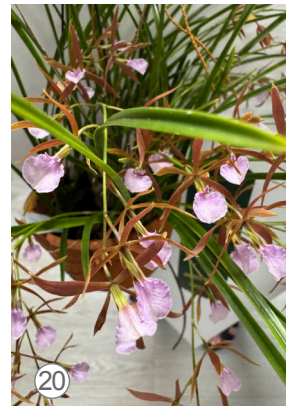
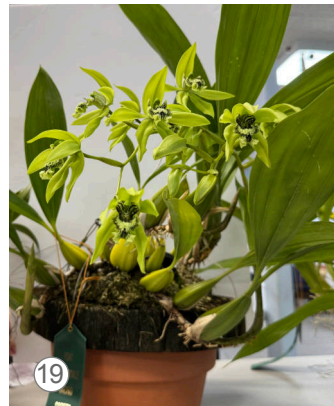
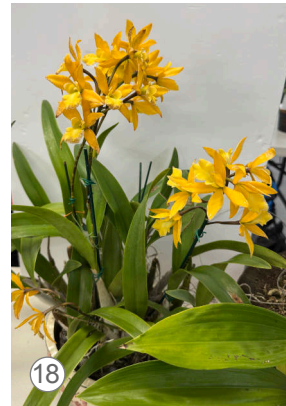


Top left: RLC Yuan Dung Python Passion Fruit; Top right: Den unicom x sib; Middle left: Den. Pulchellum; Middle right: Max Tenuifolia "Amada" Yellow; Bottom left: Enc. Mabel Kanda; Bottom right: Den Amabile.

April Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Winner	Award
1	Brs. Rex	Paul/Francisco	Blue
2	<i>C. Hamana Egret*</i> (<i>C. Dubiosa</i> (1890) x <i>C. walkeriana</i>)	David Sweeten	Blue
3	<i>C. Intermedia</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
4	<i>Den. farmeri</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
5	<i>Den. Hanna Lake</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
6	<i>E. bractescens</i>	Claire Garrett	Blue
7	<i>Gga. powellii</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
8	<i>Lc. Amethyst Star</i>	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
9	<i>Max. variabilis</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Blue
10	<i>Morm. rolfeana</i>	Dourado/Cattes	Blue
11	<i>Phal. Chi Yueh Four Peace</i>	Dourado/Cattes	Blue
12	<i>Phal. stuartiana</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
13	<i>V. falcata</i>	David Sweeten	Blue
14	<i>V. Leurcharusmee</i>	John Soto	Blue
15	<i>V. S W New Year Red*</i> (<i>V. Doctor Anek</i> x <i>V. Wilas</i>)	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
16	<i>Z. Debbie De Mello</i>	Jacqueline Nunez	Blue
17	<i>Zns. Cynosure</i>	Veronica Castro	Blue
18	<i>C. Golden Sunburst</i>	Rodrick Lewis	Cultural
19	<i>Coel. mayeriana</i>	Olivier Turina	Cultural
20	<i>E. bractescens</i>	Keith London	Cultural
21	<i>Max. tenuifolia</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Cultural
22	<i>Microtrangeris hariotiana</i>	Claire Garrett	Cultural
23	<i>Onc. sphacelatum</i>	Eugenie Johnson	Cultural
24	<i>Mps. Lemon Drop</i>	Elly Meisler	Cultural
25	<i>Onc. sphacelatum</i>	Keith London	Cultural
26	<i>Phal. Little Gem Stripes</i>	Dourado/Cattes	Cultural

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid
 Photos by Luanne Betz
 Orchid Identification by Joan Connors



Orchid conservation project SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 23
Location: Richardson Park, Wilton Manors

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



BE PART OF SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.



We're partnering with the Equality Garden Club for a special planting event and we'd love your help!

Join us as we come together to enhance a shared community space with orchid plantings. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, support a local partnership, and get your hands dirty for a meaningful cause. No experience is necessary, just bring your enthusiasm! We recommend wearing comfortable clothing, sun protection, and gardening gloves if you have them.

If you're interested in participating, Contact Doreen Christensen via email at cneerod@gmail.com to let us know you plan to attend.

Save the date
Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's Annual Holiday Party
6-10 PM
December 11th
 Coral Ridge Yacht Club
 2800 Yacht Club Blvd
 Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Complimentary valet parking
Cocktails & appetizers
Dinner & drinks
Guests receiving a blooming/budding orchid

Keiki's visit to Orchid House, Fort Lauderdale

Our April Keiki meeting, hosted by Olivier Turina, was a smashing success. Olivier and Joan Connors discussed all aspects of orchid judging, from award ribbons to AOS awards, helping the Keikis understand how to present their plants most effectively. Thank you, Olivier and Joan, for sharing your insights and vast orchid knowledge; we expect great results from our future growers following your outstanding presentation. Additionally, the Keikis enjoyed seeing Olivier's spectacular growing areas, which provided many ideas and future goals for their own gardens. Thank you to the board members who assisted with the event. FLOS member Les Corbin generously donated many reed-stem epidendrum keikis (*Epidendrum radicans*), so everyone attending got one to add to their collection. Thank you Les and Karen for your continued support of the Keiki Club, it is very much appreciated. Overall, it was a very informative and fun day for our Keikis!

-- KAREN FLEISHER
Keiki Chair

Amazing Thailand Rainbow Orchid International Festival



Keikis on the move: A ramble to remember

The Keikis (left) enjoyed a special treat in March during their first Keiki Ramble to the Amazing Thailand Rainbow Orchid Festival in Homestead. This experience was made possible courtesy of Pam Waters of Orchids in Bloom and the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. Pam organized an outstanding outdoor event characterized by peace, tranquility, and beauty. The Thai experience that she created was perfect—featuring a personal tour of the Thai temple and Thai history she shared with us—to the gorgeous orchid displays she created, a delicious Thai lunch, and Thai dancing. We really felt transported to Thailand! The variety of orchid vendors further contributed to make it a special day, and our Keikis came back with a busload of orchids and supplies. Some lucky Keikis also returned with huge, gorgeous orchids from our surprise raffle on the way home! Our day ended with one additional surprise adventure when our bus developed an issue and we had to wait for another bus to take us back to our cars. It truly was a day to remember!

-- **KAREN FLEISHER**
Keiki Chair

AOS Corner

Featured this Month



[April AOS Magazine](#)

Lifetime FLOS member and FLOS past president, **Vicki Hallock's** terrarium is featured on the cover of AOS Orchids Magazine. This April's issue is, in a word, lavish. Carol Klonowski presents the 2025 FCCs - all 116 of them! If that

weren't enough, Nile Dusdieker's article entitled "Orchid Championship" presents the Society's 25 special annual awards in living color. In addition, this issue contains Part 3 of Graham Guest's series entitled "The Easton Dossiers"

May growing checklist for South Florida orchids

Transitioning into heat, humidity, and rapid growth

May is when things start to literally heat up. Longer days, stronger sun, and rising humidity mean your orchids are waking up and growing fast. A few small adjustments now will make a big difference as we head into the summer months. Here's what to focus on.

Give them the right light

The sun is getting stronger, and some orchids will start to feel it. Add a little extra shade if plants are getting too much direct sun.

Watch for yellow or bleached spots because that's sunburn starting. If a plant suddenly looks "faded," it's asking for less sun.

Cattleyas and Vandas like brighter light, but even they need a little protection in peak heat.

Water more often (and early)

As temperatures rise, your orchids will dry out faster. Check your plants more frequently as many will need water every 1-2 days with vandas getting water every day.

Water in the morning, so roots are hydrated before the heat of the day. Give pots a good soak and let water run through completely.

When in doubt, check the roots and media not just the top of the pot.

Feed for Growth

This is active growing season, so your orchids are ready to eat. Fertilize lightly and regularly ("weakly, weekly" is a good rule). A balanced fertilizer works well for most orchids right now. Don't forget to flush with plain water occasionally to avoid buildup.

Keep the air moving

Humidity is climbing, and orchids love it, but only with airflow. Make sure plants aren't packed too tightly together and use fans if you're growing in a covered or enclosed space. A little spacing goes a long way because good airflow helps prevent rot and keeps pests in check.

Stay ahead of pests

Warmer weather means pests are becoming more active, so check plants once a week, under leaves, along stems, and on new growth. Look for early signs like speckled leaves or tiny bumps.

Treat early as small problems are much easier to manage.

Wrap up repotting

If you've been meaning to repot, now is a good time to finish up. Repot while you see active root growth. Avoid repotting during extreme heat unless necessary. Replace old, broken-down media before it causes root issues.

May is all about adjusting by making some small tweaks. A little more shade, a little more water, a little more attention and your orchids will be set up for a strong summer.

If you're not sure what your plant needs, just spend a few extra minutes observing it. Orchids are pretty good at telling you when something's off.

-- **GRETCHEN DENTON**
Newsletter Editor

Refreshment donations

We appreciate the wonderful food donations for our meetings.

Thank you:	Roger Boone
Justine Vishnesky	Maura Mitzner
Elaine Jordan	Sue Mitchel Greig
Sona Peña	Peppe Troche
Zoe Bejar	Bill Hinton
Les Corbin	Norma Jeane Flack
John Soto	Joan Connors
Judy Tkacs	Eugene Johnson
Ernesto Zopota	Maria Supple
Doreen Christensen	

Upcoming events

May 1-3

Rare Plants & Orchid Festival (Miami)

Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds

May rounds out the season of big public orchid shows.

Upcoming FLOS Members Meetings

June 8 at 7:30

Julien from Krull Smith

Bulbophylums

July 13 at 7:30

Orchid Bingo/Potluck

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Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society
P.O. Box 4677
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338
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](#)