

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

The purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest, provide education, support conservation, and enable the exchange of information among those interested in all aspects of orchid culture.



Loving orchids since 1951

Volume 76

Issue 10

October 2026

FLOS.org

Presidents Message: Grab your paddles it's the FLOS Annual Auction



FLOS is heading into an activity packed fall season. With autumn's arrival, the Society's calendar fills up, culminating in early January with our Annual Show - this year's theme being **Orchid Odyssey**.

October marks one of the most anticipated events of the year: the Annual Auction. This lively

gathering offers members and guests the chance to bid on an impressive selection of orchids, ranging from rare species to exceptional hybrids that are donated by growers, vendors, and best of all, members. This year we also have a special rare hybrid beauty...

Dendrophylax Little Ghost (*Dendrophylex sallei* x *Dendrophylax lindenii*) from Springwater Orchids! The parent *sallei* is native to South Florida and is better known as the **Ghost Orchid**. Beyond the excitement of friendly competition to obtain that beautiful addition to your collection, the auction plays a vital role in helping fund the Society's initiatives.

As the holiday season approaches, the Society shifts from bidding paddles to festive cheer with our **December 11th Holiday Party** at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. This celebration is a warm, joyful tradition that brings members together to enjoy libations, delicious food, music, and dancing with friends and family, and of course everyone takes home a beautiful orchid! Prices are being finalized and will be on the website in the coming weeks. The party fosters a sense of community that extends beyond orchid growing by strengthening friendships and welcoming new members into the fold.

And finally, the new year begins with a flourish as the Society presents the January 2027 Orchid Odyssey Show at the War Memorial Auditorium. Preparation for

FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

Annual
AUCTION

7 P.M.
OCT. 12

Preview at 6:30 PM

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

Catalog and info at www.flos.org

this signature event started back in February but really kicks in to full gear this fall. The event showcases breathtaking displays, award winning blooms, and educational exhibits that highlight the beauty and diversity of orchids from around the world. Participating in the event is fun, very informative and a great way to learn! Please reach out to show chair Luanne Betz, volunteer coordinator Roger Triplett or myself to volunteer. We need you!

Happy Fall!

– **LEN EMORY**
FLOS President

INSIDE: Try something different with Olivier Pg. 2; Our Show "Orchid Odyssey" Pg. 3; Fakahatchee Strand Ghost Orchid. Pg. 4-5; Volunteers needed Pg 5; Holiday Party Pg. 6; AOS Pg. 7; Sept Ribbon Awards Pg. 8-9; Advertisers Pg. 10



Try Something Different

As seen on the YouTube channel
"Orchid House Fort Lauderdale"

Growing Orchids With Olivier

In the series "Try Something Different" I will feature today *Cycnoches cooperi* and *Peristeria elata*

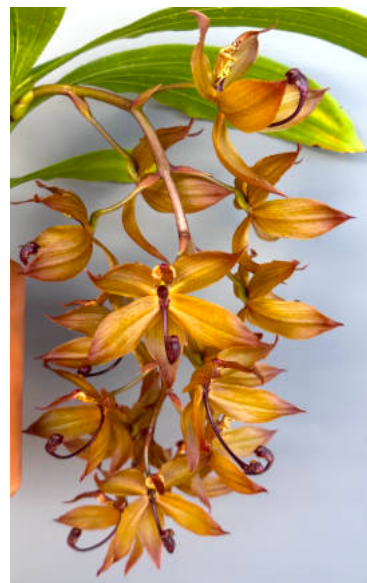
Cycnoches cooperi

Cycnoches are members of the Catasetum alliance and produce extremely gracious flowers which explains their nickname of "Swan orchids". *Cyc. cooperi* is the most attractive in my opinion. It is named after one Thomas Cooper, an English plant collector around 1900. The plant was discovered in 1913 and hails from Peru and Brazil. It was lost in cultivation for decades and then finally rediscovered. While its color is copper-like, the name is Cooperi and not Copperi !

Cyc. cooperi is a warm grower and is smaller in size than most Cycnoches and also needs less light although it will take up higher light. It is very floriferous and has the most flowers of any Cycnoches species (up to 45). It has a pleasant chocolaty fragrance and each bulb can generate 2 or 3 spikes at a time. It is grown like a catasetum and follows the same life cycle: dormancy (no water), new growth (repotting, no water), growing season (tons of water & fertilizing) and yellowing leaves (reduced watering and stop fertilizing).

They are rot prone and I recommend growing them in tree fern fiber and allowing the potting medium to approach dryness during the growing season but water and fertilize plenty during that phase.

Cycnoches, like Catasetums, have the weird habit of producing male and female flowers, but unlike Catasetums, the female flower of *Cyc. cooperi* is very pretty and desirable. It is thicker, waxier and has a shorter and thicker column. There are always few female flowers when they appear but they last longer.



Peristeria elata

Peristeria elata (often misspelled Peresteria) is the national flower of Panama and exceedingly cute as it looks like it has a little dove inside the flower.

The plant is terrestrial in nature and is best cultivated in pots with 50/50 sand and peat and it gets quite large and its asparagus-like spikes can reach 6' and are upright with sequentially opening flowers over time. The flowers never last more than 2 weeks but the spike itself can bloom for over 2 months. They are very fragrant.

It is a warm grower, perfect for South Florida, needs plenty of light and water during the growing season. Reduce watering in winter unless the large egg-shaped bulbs shrivel. It is dormant in winter and then a new growth appears in spring and a new spike develops shortly after, but will only bloom once the bulb is mature. It is not always easy to tell them apart when they develop at first.

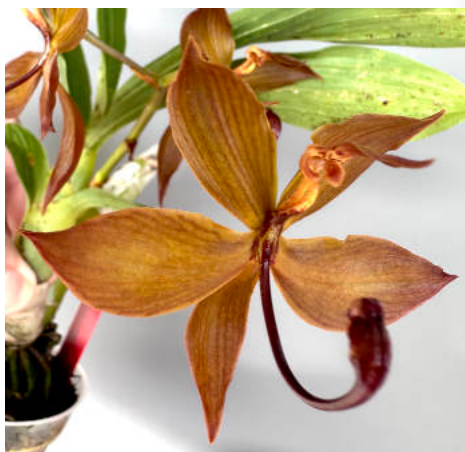
Olivier Turina became a FLOS member in 2014 and a board member in 2020. Send your growing questions to OlivierFTL@gmail.com.

Show your FLOS pride with an Orchid Odyssey T-shirt

Limited edition Orchid Odyssey shirts are available for order for \$20 on our members page. They are 100% cotton this year.



ORDER T-SHIRT HERE



Artwork by Gretchen Denton

Join the VIP Event

Purchase your show tickets in advance and your VIP entry is free!

BUY MEMBER TICKETS HERE

Join the Orchid Odyssey Volunteer Team

A spectacular orchid show doesn't happen without volunteers. FLOS members are the heart of Orchid Odyssey, helping welcome our guests and creating the friendly, exciting atmosphere our show is known for.

We need enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles, including:

Greeters: Welcome guests and set the tone for a fantastic day.

Exit Checkers: Help guests as they leave and provide a friendly farewell.

Raffle Table: Keep the excitement going while helping with our popular orchid raffles.

Conservation Table: Share FLOS's commitment to orchid conservation and help visitors learn more about protecting these extraordinary plants.

Available Volunteer Shifts

Thursday Setup

- 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- 1:30 to 5:00 PM

SHOW DAYS

Friday - Jan. 8th

- 9:00 AM to Noon
- Noon to 3:00 PM
- 3:00 to 6:00 PM

Saturday - Jan. 9th

- 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- 2:00 to 6:00 PM

Sunday - Jan. 10th

- 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- 1:30 to 5:00 PM

The success of our show depends on volunteers like you, who make our guests feel welcomed. Your time and talent will help create an unforgettable experience for all. Sign up today by emailing me r.triplett22@gmail.com to be a part of the Orchid Magic team. Please include your name and phone number. I will confirm by text message.

– **ROGER TRIPLETT**
Volunteer Chair

Keiki meeting at Richardson Historic Park



We had a wonderful start with our Keikis following our summer hiatus.

The group met at Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve in Wilton Manors to check on the progress of our Million Orchid Project plantings. Led by Conservation Chair Doreen Christensen, the Keikis observed how native *Encyclia tampensis* orchids were mounted on trees and learned what factors contributed to their

successful adaptation. We were also fortunate to spot another endangered Florida native orchid, *Trichocentrum undulatum* (mule ear orchid) that was also planted. Kudos to FLOS conservation efforts for helping restore these native species in Broward County!

Afterward, Karen Fleisher led a repotting exercise using *Cattleyas* generously donated by longtime FLOS member Tin Ly. Thank you, Tin, for sharing your plants and supporting the next generation of orchid growers. We displayed and discussed various potting and mounting supplies, media, and practical tips. Several Keikis volunteered to assist with the process, and these *Cattleyas* were then raffled off to some lucky meeting participants!

– **KAREN FLEISHER**
Keiki Chair

A Ghost Orchid Adventure in the Fakahatchee Strand

Seven Hours, 21 Ghost Orchids, and 1 Unforgettable Discovery

Some orchid adventures begin with a leisurely walk through a botanical garden. Others require determination, endurance, and a willingness to become a buffet for thousands of mosquitoes. My recent expedition into the Fakahatchee Strand was definitely the latter!



Left: Russ and Blanca Clusman
Right: Douglas Dourado

It all began when Russ Clusman invited me to join him and his wife, Blanca, on a hike in search of the rare and elusive **ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*)**, one of Florida's most fascinating native orchids. At 8:30 a.m. on June 27, we set off, eager to explore the heart of the Fakahatchee wilderness and, with any luck, find one of these remarkable orchids in bloom.

We quickly discovered that the mosquitoes had their own plans for our visit.

The hike became a true test of endurance. For approximately seven hours, we battled intense heat, relentless humidity, and what seemed like an endless mosquito army. Thousands swarmed around us, and I lost count of the bites. At one point,

my face became so swollen that the adventure took on an entirely new level of intensity!

But we had a mission: find the ghost orchid in bloom.

As we explored the strand, Russ shared his knowledge of the area and guided us toward hidden locations that he has carefully guarded since 1998. His experience and familiarity with the landscape gave us access to places where some of Florida's most remarkable orchids grow, often concealed in the trees and easy to miss unless you know exactly where to look.

Along the way, he introduced me to several extraordinary orchids, including a **huge *Prosthechea pygmaea*** that covered an entire tree branch. We also encountered ***Dendrophylax porrectus*** and the endangered species ***Stelis gelida***. Each discovery added something special to the experience and reminded me just how much botanical treasure can be found within Florida's natural habitats.

After hours of searching, we had located 21 ghost orchids—but the first 20 were not in bloom. With each sighting, our anticipation grew, yet the elusive flower continued to escape us.

Then came the moment that made the entire journey worthwhile.

The very last ghost orchid we found was in bloom, and **I was the one who discovered it!**



Ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*)

After spotting a root tip, I walked around the trunk of a tree and moved a branch out of the way. Suddenly, there it was. I couldn't contain my excitement and shouted:

"It's in bloom! It's in bloom!"



Douglas spots *Dendrophylax lindenii* in situ

After hours of walking, sweating, swatting mosquitoes, and searching through the dense vegetation, seeing that delicate white flower was an unforgettable moment. The discovery felt like a reward for every step, every bite, and every drop of sweat.

The ghost orchid's beauty is easy to appreciate in photographs, but finding one in its natural habitat is an entirely different experience. Hidden among the trees, surrounded by the sounds and challenges of the swamp, it feels like discovering a secret that nature has carefully protected.

Despite the extreme humidity, the heat, and the mosquito bites that I will not soon forget, this was an incredible journey. Russ's knowledge, the fascinating orchids we encountered, and the thrill of finding that final blooming ghost orchid made the adventure truly special.

I can't wait to return to the Fakahatchee Strand for another adventure. Hopefully, next time, the mosquitoes will have a different hiking destination in mind!

Thank you, Russ and Blanca, for an unforgettable experience!

– DOUGLAS DOURADO
FLOS Member



The West Palm Beach Judging Center of The American Orchid Society

Meets the 4th Saturday of every month
(3rd Saturday in November & December)

Flamingo Gardens Botanical Gardens & Wildlife Sanctuary
3750 S Flamingo Road
Davie, FL 33330

Education Session begins at 12:30 PM
Judging Begins at 2 PM



EGC EQUALITY GARDEN CLUB Presents 13th Annual A TROPICAL PLANT FAIR

Nov. 7 Saturday	9am-5pm	Admission
Nov. 8 Sunday	9am-3pm	\$7.00

In Historic
Richardson Park & Nature Preserve
1937 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

FREE Parking & Shuttle from Wilton Manors City Hall

Enjoy shopping a diverse selection of orchids, aroids, hoyas, native & exotic plants, succulents, bromeliads, herbs, bamboo, flowering shrubs, fruit trees & gifts

More Than 40 Vendors
Educational Speakers



Volunteers needed for membership drive

Saturday, November 7 9AM-5PM
Sunday, November 8 9 AM-3PM

Meet new people and make friends at a Tropical Plant Fair, Wilton Manors' largest plant festival and sale. It's a wonderful weekend destination for gardeners, collectors, and anyone who loves plants. The event will feature plants and garden supplies for sale, food and drinks, Master Gardeners, plant societies, gardening experts, and much more.

If you would like to attend or help at the FLOS booth, please contact Roger Triplett at r.triplett22@gmail.com. We'd love to have you join us and help introduce more plant lovers to FLOS!

Location
Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve
1937 Wilton Drive Wilton Manors, Florida



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society's Annual Holiday Party

Save the Date

6-10 PM
Friday December 11th
Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Complimentary valet parking

Cocktails & appetizers
Dinner & drinks
**Every guest receives a
blooming/budding orchid**

Music by Andre World Music



Explore the Tiny Treasures of the Orchid World



Serena Roman

Small orchids can bring a surprising amount of variety to a growing space. The American Orchid Society's next virtual Orchid Culture Day, "Tiny Treasures of the Orchid World," will explore how to choose, grow, and enjoy miniature orchids at home. The program begins Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 11 a.m. Eastern.



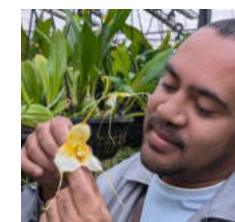
Tomas Bajza

Four presentations will cover different approaches to growing these little plants. Serena Roman, co-founder of Lady Vanda Orchids, will present "Petite Bulbophyllums: Fun to Grow and Not Too Stinky!" She'll share practical advice for helping these miniature orchids grow and bloom.



Vicki Hallock

Tomas Bajza, who specializes in micro, mini, and small orchids, will join horticulturist and past FLOS president Vicki Hallock for "Orchid Universe: Selecting and Growing Orchids in BiOrbs." Their talk will cover orchid selection, culture, and simple setups that growers can try at home.



Julien Cedric Anne

For those curious about cloud forest orchids, accredited AOS judge Julien Cedric Anne will explain the conditions these plants need in "Cloud Forest in a Box: Engineering a Highland Habitat at Home." Luis Ortiz Jordan, orchid collection curator at McKee Botanical Gardens, will follow with "Chilling Out: How to Keep Cloud Forest Orchids Happy in a Heated World." His presentation will focus on cultivating cool-growing miniatures in warmer locations.



Luis Ortiz Jordan

A Q&A session will follow each talk, giving attendees a chance to ask the speakers about their own growing challenges. The event will be held online through GoToWebinar, and registrants who cannot watch live will receive a link to view the recording later. Door prizes are also planned.

Registration is \$50, or \$40 for AOS members using the code AOSmember. Members should click "Apply" after entering the code to receive the discount. The event is open to everyone, so invite a fellow orchid enthusiast to join you.

REGISTER FOR ORCHID CULTURE DAY

AOS Corner



Featured This Month

Orchids magazine delights its readers with monthly issues filled with invaluable insights into orchid care, species profiles, conservation updates, and the latest developments in the orchid world. Each edition educates and inspires, from the novice grower to the seasoned expert, featuring contributions from renowned orchid specialists and breathtaking imagery that showcases the beauty and diversity of orchids.

[Sept AOS Magazine](#)



Orchid Event & Sale

October 24 and 25, 2026

Sat 10-5pm and Sun 10-4pm • Admission \$5.00

Held Inside Vintage Gym at Old School Square

51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444

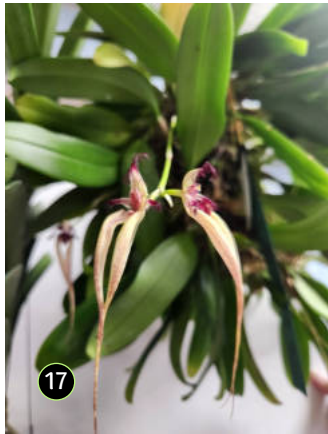
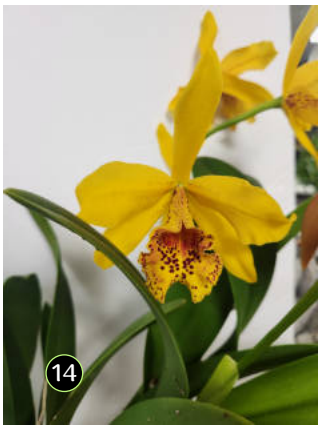
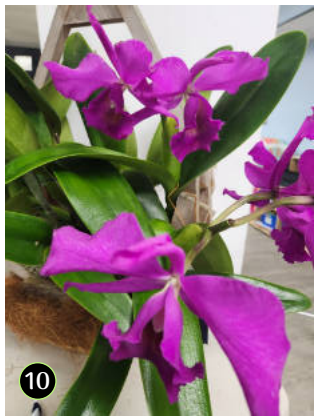
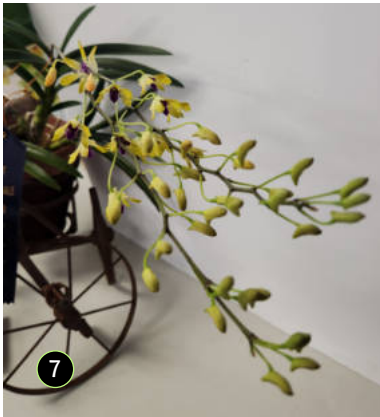
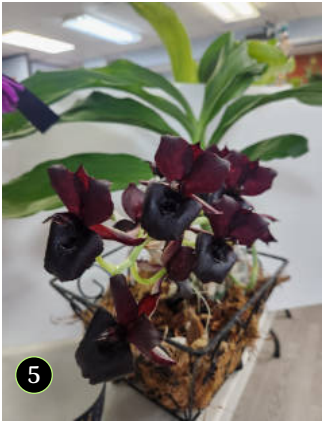
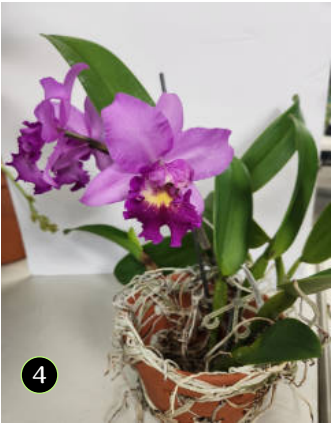
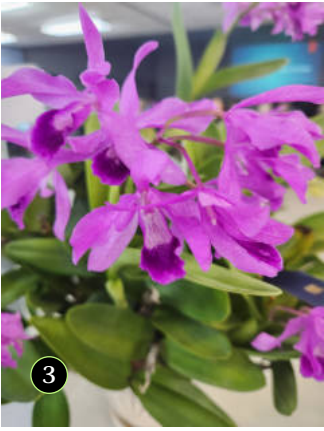
(N. Swinton Ave and NE 1st Street)

www.DelrayBeachOrchidSociety.org
Call 561-573-7633

September Ribbon Awards

#	Orchid	Winner	Ribbon
1	<i>B. nodosa</i>	Heidi Rubin	Blue
2	<i>B. nodosa</i>	Paul/Francisco	Blue
3	C. NOID	John Soto	Blue
4	<i>Cahuzacara</i> Hsinying Pink Doll	Debbie/Mike Allen	Blue
5	<i>Catasetum</i> John C. Burchett	Aixa Roversi	Blue
6	<i>Clowesetum</i> Lou Lodyga	Olivier Turina	Blue
7	<i>Den.</i> Pixie Princess	Keith London	Blue
8	<i>Den. wassellii</i>	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
9	<i>Fredclareara</i> Kelly Longley	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
10	<i>Guarianthe skinneri</i>	Keith London	Blue
11	<i>Luisanda</i> Robert Husted	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
12	<i>Procatavola</i> Key Lime Stars	Angie Bondarenko	Blue
13	<i>Prosthechea radiata</i>	Keith London	Blue
14	<i>Rlc.</i> Copper Queen	Randy Schull	Blue
15	<i>Vanda</i> Teacher's Fantastic *	Doreen Christensen	Blue
16	<i>Gongora cruciformis</i>	Olivier Turina	Blue
17	<i>Bulb.</i> Doris Dukes	Luanne Betz	Cultural
18	<i>Ornithophora radicans</i>	Gretchen Denton	Cultural
19	<i>Stanhopea jenischiana</i>	Gustavo	Cultural

(*) Denotes Registered Hybrid
Photos by Gretchen Denton
Orchid Identification by Tony Millet and Joan Connors





While we love our furry friends, Christ Lutheran church has requested that dogs are not permitted at our general meetings. Thank you for understanding and helping us maintain a good relationship with our venue.

Refreshment Donations

Special thanks to those who brought food donations to our September meeting.

Ryan Strauss
Justine Vishnesky
Grace Boston
Karen Fleisher
Marilyn Diaz
Zoe Bejar
Doreen Christensen
Glenda Connolly
Keith London
Bob Brach

John Soto
Robert Romane
Maura Mitzner
Aixa Roversi
Gary Bremen
Peppe Trouche
Colleen Taylor
Norma Jeanne Flack

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(Programs)
2nd Vice President - Rich Ackerman
(Membership Chair)
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Christensen
Corresponding Secretary - Justine
Vishnesky
Treasurer - Olivier Turina
Past President - Luanne Betz

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Gretchen Denton
Grace Boston

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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](#)



Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society

P.O. Box 4677
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338
www.flos.org

Meeting Info

2nd Monday of each month.
Time 7:30-9:30 PM
Location

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

[Google Map](#)