

Flamingo Gardens ORCHID SOCIETY

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

OCTOBER 2026

Meeting Information

Monday, October 12, 2026
Doors Open - 7:00 pm
NEWBIES Begin - 6:45 pm
Meeting Begins - 7:30 pm

Flamingo Gardens
Learning Center
3750 S. Flamingo Rd.
Davie, FL 33330

Parking is available at the Main
Entrance Parking Area

- Newbie Session
- Silent Auction
- Refreshments
- Show and Tell
- Members Choice
- Raffles
- And much more fun!

Contact Us:

FlamingoGardensOrchidSociety@gmail.com

Website:

<https://www.flamingogardensorchidsociety.com>

Meet our Guest Speaker:

**“From the Wild to Your Collection:
Growing Orchids with Nature”**

James Furst

By: Melissa Dolton, 1st V.P., Programs Chair

Join James Furst, an orchid collector and grower with more than 30 years of experience, for a fun, thought-provoking look at what happens when we let orchids do what orchids do best-- grow! With more than 2,000 orchids in his collection, James has spent decades experimenting, observing, succeeding, failing, and occasionally wondering what on earth he was thinking! This presentation moves beyond the traditional orchid bench to explore what happens when we bring orchids and nature together- using the lessons found in the wild to rethink where, how, and why we grow our orchids. From choosing the right environment to



understanding the obstacles that can stand in an orchid's way, we will look at what nature can teach us about creating better opportunities for our plants to thrive.

Exciting orchid videos throughout the presentation will bring these ideas to life, offering a glimpse into this very different approach to growing. Come ready to see orchids from a new perspective—and perhaps leave with a few ideas for your own collection. Let's Grow Together! Follow James on Instagram: @mr1st

President's Message



October is the start of our South Florida Fall where temperatures start dropping and begin our drier season. It also marks a new membership year. The FGOS Board continues with the addition of three newly elected Trustees. We are looking forward to finishing the year with great programs and topping it off with the members only Holiday Party in December.

Many thanks to Diane Rogers who has served on the board for the past 5 years as a Trustee and Corresponding Secretary. She will continue to be an active member in the society and as the Newbie Coordinator.

Thank you to E.J. Laviolette who has served on the board for the last 6 years a Trustee, Newsletter Editor and Recording Secretary. E.J. is our “Google Guru” and will remain an active member and volunteer wherever he is needed.

I encourage all of you to get involved – volunteer, bring a friend, or participate in the meetings. There are many opportunities to help throughout the year. Many of you filled out the recent membership survey which the board is reviewing for your ideas and suggestions and letting us know where you would like to volunteer your time. If you didn't get a chance to complete the survey, we are available to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Our email is flamingogardensorchidsociety@gmail.com.

We appreciate the entire FGOS Board and FGOS Members who have volunteered their time and energy in various ways so far this year. Whether you are a seasoned grower or just beginning your orchid journey, your presence enriches our society. **Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society is YOUR society. YOU** are what makes this society special.

Let's Bloom and Grow Together,

Alice



Alice Walker,

President, Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society

→MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027.

Official membership is valid upon payment of membership dues.

Renewing member dues are \$30.

New member dues are \$35 which includes a name badge.

- A benefit of membership is the FGOS Holiday Party with your gift of an orchid from the Society.
Please note that you must be a paid member to attend and receive your gift of an orchid at the holiday party.
- ****New members who join May, June, or July, gain membership through August of the following year**

Please print and complete the attached membership form and bring it, along with your check, to the membership table at the next meeting you attend. Dues can also be paid by cash, credit card*(+fee), or Zelle to flamingogardensorchidsociety@gmail.com, note Membership in the Zelle memo. If you have any questions, reach out to Annette Scardina at annescar@hotmail.com (renewing as well as new members require an application to ensure up-to-date information.)

FGOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

→ We are pleased to welcome six new members: Leisha Bulli-Morgan, Barbara Losada, Renee McGehee, Lana Nudel, Ana Ramirez, and Sherrie Smith.

If you see them at one of our meetings, please take a moment to introduce yourself and make them feel at home

Annette Scardina, Membership Chair

→WELCOME FGOS NEWBIES!

Newbies meet before the FGOS meeting begins promptly at 6:45 to 7:15 pm.

Join the Newbies, open to all orchid enthusiasts with less than two years' experience, or those who are new to FGOS. Our October discussion topic is:

"Preparing For Winter in Your Orchid Garden - Part I"

We'll help you find answers to your orchid care questions.

Article from the Sept 21st meeting: [Understanding Orchid Tags](#)

Come for the friendship, Leave with some great orchid tips!

Diane Rogers
Newbie Session Moderator
Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Corresponding Secretary



2026-27 ORCHID EVENTS

October 10-11	Southwest Florida Orchid Society - Orchids, Cacti, & Tillandsia Show Edison & Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft Myers, FL more info
October 12	FGOS presents: James Furst: "From the Wild to Your Collection: Growing Orchids with Nature"
November 8	Flamingo Gardens 5th Annual 5K Walk in the Wild to raise funds for our Wildlife Sanctuary: walk , volunteer to help, donate....
November 9	FGOS presents: Gabriel Cuesta from Quest Orchids: "Standard Cattleya Hybrids"
November 14-15	Deerfield Beach Orchid Show "Orchid Obsession" for information Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton, FL
December 12-13	Ft Pierce Orchid Society Show and Sale: Orchids on the Beach River Walk Center N Indian River Dr, Ft Pierce for information
December 14	FGOS HOLIDAY PARTY - mark your calendar! details to be announced
January 8-10 '27	Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society: "Orchid Odyssey" Ft Ldle War Memorial Auditorium 800 NE 8th St, Ft Ldle for information
	Ever wonder how many Orchid Societies are in Florida? https://www.aos.org/community-events/affiliated-society-lookup
CALENDAR OF EVENTS - AOS	Community Orchid Events

→ MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Learning what others do to care for their orchids helps us all become better growers.

If you have a blooming orchid please bring it to the meeting to show for this month's Members Choice Award. The owner must have had the orchid for a minimum of **6 months**. Winning plants are chosen from meeting attendees who cast a ballot. Selected plants are eligible for first, second, third and Speaker's Choice ribbons. At our Holiday Party, whoever has won the most ribbons, gets a monetary prize.

I have never won a ribbon!

We want to encourage you to bring in your blooming orchid to share with us. Seeing your success is gratifying to us all. We will have a special section of our Show and Tell table specifically for growers who have never won a ribbon. The owner must have had the orchid for a minimum of **6 months**.

→ **Win an Orchid!** The more you do, the more raffle tickets you get!

Bring something for the Refreshment Table

Get a Raffle Ticket!

Bring a Blooming Orchid for "Members Choice"

Get a Raffle Ticket!

Purchase \$5.00 or more of Raffle Table Tickets

Get a Raffle Ticket!

Wear your name badge

Get a Raffle Ticket!

→ **NEW** Show your A.O.S. membership (phone OK)

Get a Raffle Ticket!



→ SILENT AUCTION

Any member may bring up to **THREE** orchid plants or related items to sell.

Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society 2026-27 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Alice Walker	President
Melissa Dolton	1st Vice President and Programs Chairperson
Annette Scardina	2nd Vice President and Membership Chairperson
Alison Rials	Recording Secretary
TBD	Corresponding Secretary
Theresa DiRocco	Treasurer
Lucy Lodato	Past President
Gail Santini	Trustee - 3 years, Newsletter Editor
Jacquie Sowash	Trustee - 3 years serving 2
Keryn Bober	Trustee - 2 years
Wendy Gonzalez	Trustee - 2 years
Mayra Martinez	Trustee - 1 year
Jacqueline Nordman	Trustee - 1 year
Mary Lathrop	Refreshments Chairperson
Ilene Shatkin	Silent Auction Committee Chairperson
Mike Vaupel	AOS Representative, Member's Choice Chairperson

SEPTEMBER MEMBER GARDEN TOUR

Our September Member Garden Tour was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy beautiful orchids, learn from fellow growers, and spend time together outside of our regular monthly meetings. A special thank-you to Vicki Hallock and Dr. Ken Salzsieder for graciously opening their gardens to our members and sharing their impressive collections with us.

Both gardens offered plenty of inspiration, from beautiful specimen plants to creative ways of growing orchids in the South Florida environment. It was a pleasure to slow down, explore, ask questions, and appreciate the time and care that Vicki and Ken have put into their collections.

Thank you to Vicki, Ken, and everyone who joined us for such an enjoyable day!



SEPTEMBER MEETING PHOTOS



Kelly Coulson, Donor Relations Manager at Flamingo Gardens, came to talk to us about the '5th Annual 5K Walk in the Wild'. Kelly will be joining us again in our October meeting.

FGOS has been the top fund raising group for the past 2 years. Let's keep the tradition going!

Register to: [walk](#) then join our team.

To donate to the FGOS Team:
[donate....](#)

Proceeds to benefit Animal Care



Mike Vaupel is our American Orchid Society Representative. He presented us with the benefits of joining AOS, whether a digital member, or join to receive the printed AOS magazine. He is shown here showing the schedule of the AOS Webinars.

GUEST SPEAKER - Nelson Viera

Why Orchid Selection Matters

- Orchids vary widely in care needs
- The wrong plant = frustration or failure
- The right plant = long-term success and blooms
- Goal: Match the orchid to your environment and experience



Know Your Growing Conditions

- Light: Bright, medium, or low?
- Temperature: Warm, intermediate, or cool
- Humidity levels
- Grow Space: (windowsill, greenhouse, covered patio, outdoor growing, etc.)



Inspect Plant Health

Look for:

- Firm, green leaves (not wrinkled or yellowing)
- Healthy roots (white/green, not mushy)
- No pests (check under leaves!)
- No black spots or rot (Fungus)

Avoid: Wilting, soft, or damaged plants



Check the Roots (Very Important!)

- Roots are the best indicator of health
- Clear pots help you see root condition
- Healthy roots = plump and firm
- Dead roots = brown, mushy, hollow



Size & Growth Habit

- Compact vs large-growing orchids
- Some orchids can outgrow small spaces quickly
- Check mature plant size before buying



After You Bring It Home

- Quarantine new plants to prevent pests or fungal diseases from spreading to your collection
- Allow the plant time to adjust before repotting
- Gradually introduce to your environment (light, humidity, temperature)



Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Buying based on flowers alone
- Ignoring care requirements for specific types of orchids
- Not checking roots
- Overbuying too quickly



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MEMBERS' CHOICE



HAPPY RAFFLE WINNERS





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★ **Join the American Orchid Society**

- ★ Are you a member of the American Orchid Society?
- ★ Use this link for exciting reasons to join AOS: [Learn about AOS.](#)

★ **AOS Webinars**

- ★ Do you want to learn more about your orchids through **Webinars**? Check out the upcoming webinars [here](#). Some are for Members Only, others open to the public. Webinars are recorded so you have access to older ones.

★ **Orchidist's Word of the Month** from the AOS

- ★ *Brassolaeliocattleya* (brass-oh-LEE-lee-oh-KAT-lee-ah;
- ★ A hybrid genus derived from *Brassavola*, *Laelia* and *Cattleya* created in 1897.
- ★ If you hear a term during a presentation and don't know the meaning, you can get your answers in the [Orchidist's Glossary](#).

Visit the AOS website [AOS.org](https://www.aos.org) for information about orchids, orchid culture, judging, and much more...



OCTOBER AOS CORNER WILL BE ON THE FGOS WEBSITE WHEN AVAILABLE

[LINK TO THE FGOS WEBSITE FOR PREVIOUS AOS CORNER NEWSLETTERS](#)