

Flamingo Gardens ORCHID SOCIETY

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

February 2022

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Meet the Guest Speaker: Mac Rivenbark

By Lucy Matos Lodato, V. P. Programs

Mac Rivenbark of Mac's Orchids will host our meeting/field trip at ...you guessed it... Mac's Orchids. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m. Mac's is located off Sterling Rd. (6800 Appaloosa Trail, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330). The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and should end at approximately 12:00 noon. Afterwards, for those interested, we'll drive north on Flamingo Road to the Quarterdeck on 12310 W. Sunrise Blvd. in Plantation 33323, for lunch at 12:30 pm.



We need to sign up so Mac can know how many of us to expect. We also have to make a reservation for lunch outdoors at the Quarterdeck. Email Flamingogardensorchidsociety@gmail.com and let us know if you will be attending the meeting. Please also let us know if you will join us for lunch. Any questions call Lucy Matos Lodato @ 305-308-6531.

Many of you have seen Mac as he is a regular orchid vendor and grower at almost all the local shows! He will speak to us about exotics that are easy to grow in south Florida and explain where and how to grow them. His lectures always have information for beginners and more experienced growers.

Mac started his business more than 20 years ago after fascinating trips to the Philippines with his wife Helen. With extensive study, Mac has become an expert in Philippine and other Asian orchid species and hybrids. Together Mac and Helen grow and bloom over 300 different types of orchids from all over the world. He was president of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and enjoys giving lectures and educating others about orchids. Mac also served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mac will provide a raffle table and open his beautiful greenhouse for us to tour and purchase orchids. Reminder– Please email flamingogardensorchidsociety@gmail.com to let us know if you will be attending.

FGOS Membership Drive

Please print out a copy of the application and complete it accordingly. Once it is completed, please return the application and your membership dues either in-person or by mailing the completed application and your dues to Mary Lathrop. Membership for the 2021-2022 years will be extended to run from May 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. Dues for those 16 months will remain \$25.00. With membership renewal in the future, the membership year will return to 12 months. Your membership dues are used to cover the cost of room rental, speaker fees, raffle plants and other expenses associated with meeting in person. Feel free to share the membership application with your own orchid community and friends. We are open to all new members. [Membership Application](#)

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
Topic	A Guide to Modern LED Lighting How to set up an indoor grow area	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	The Story of Jewel Orchids Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Nicholas Rust Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

Your Orchid Society is on Facebook!

Here's the link to our Facebook Group: [Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society](#). Please stay in touch and update us throughout the growing seasons. Join the page and post photos of your blooming orchids there.

Become an AOS Judge

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is willing to teach you to become an AOS Judge and is actively seeking orchid enthusiasts. If you have a love of orchids, want to learn more about them, are willing to contribute to the long-term health of the AOS and its Affiliated Societies, and have a desire to teach the public about orchids, then contact the AOS Judging Program at judges@aos.org for more information about how to become an AOS Judge!

EXCITING REASONS TO JOIN THE AOS TODAY...

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The graphic features a central image of an orchid with the text "American Orchid Society Education. Conservation. Research." and a green button that says "JOIN TODAY AND SAVE".

Are you a member of the American Orchid Society?

[Click here to join today.](#)



Orchid Marketplace

Brought to you by the American Orchid Society, the [Orchid Marketplace](#) is a curated collection of the world's top orchid vendors. The Orchid Marketplace launched August 1, 2021 to give you easy access to everything you need to grow and care for your orchids in one convenient location. You'll find everything from thousands of orchid species and hybrids to rich nutrients, the latest orchid supplies, books, equipment, handmade orchid pots, greenhouses, and even orchid jewelry. Those of you who are AOS members will save a minimum of 5% from every Orchid Marketplace vendor. AOS members that renew for a 2 year term will receive a \$30 coupon from EACH Elite Marketplace Partner upon renewal on purchases of \$100 or more - that's hundreds of dollars in

savings. If you aren't an AOS member yet, this would be a great time to join the AOS and enjoy all the benefits including the exclusive savings from Orchid Marketplace vendors.

Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Board of Directors through Aug. 31st, 2022

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from Florida Orchid Growing — Month by Month

Cold Temperature Tolerance of Different Orchids

One major obstacle for neophyte growers is in understanding the diversity of cultural requirements of various genera of orchids. Orchids are such a vast group of plants which have succeeded in nearly every conceivable habitat on earth, that knowledge of a specific genus's cultural requirements, rather than a general knowledge of what "orchids" like, is necessary to successfully cultivate the various types. Most cultivated orchids come from tropical regions but differences in elevation and other geographic features of their native habits can mean dramatic differences in the response of orchids to various external conditions. Most emphatically these differences can be seen in different genera's tolerance of cold. While some orchids are native to regions where frost is more the norm than the exception, others are hyper-tropical plants for whom 50° F (10° C) is far too cool. Knowing which is which is essential in a mixed collection of orchids. A great irony for beginners is to discover that their extra nurturing efforts to protect certain orchids have in fact done more harm than good. Dendrobiums are among the most confusing for new orchid growers. This huge genus, well over a thousand species divided usually into 15 sections, ranges over nearly a quarter of the planet. Found from western Indian all the way to Micronesia, dendrobiums inhabit an incredible variety of ecological niches. Ironically, the two sections most common in horticulture are diametrically opposite in cold tolerance. Section Dendrobium, the soft bulb or "nobile types" whether in their pendulous forms like *D. anosmum* and *aphyllum* or in the upright types like *D. nobile* and its hybrids, positively relish the cold. Temperatures right down to frost are the best culture to produce the most prolific blooming of these plants. Without cold and drought stress in winter these plants will retain their leaves and produce an abundance of vegetative growths but few if any flowers. Stressed by cold and dried out properly these plants lose all their leaves and in spring the bare bulbs are covered in flowers. The opposite is true for the "hard cane" dendrobiums of sections *Spathulata* and *Phalaenopsis*. Loss of leaf on *D. phalaenopsis* types is usually indicative that they have suffered from too much cold. Temperatures below 60° F (15° C) can produce this undesirable effect. *D. phalaenopsis* and evergreen types should receive

the maximum cold protection. Other sections of the genus have slightly different tolerances. Section Callista, *D. farmerii*, *D. lindleyi* (aggregatum) and their relatives can take temperatures nearly as low as the nobile types and will bloom all the better for exposure to temperatures in the 30s (3- 5° C). Section Formosae, *D. formosum*, *D. infundibulum* and the new hybrids prefer slightly warmer conditions but are quite happy with temperatures in the 40s (6-9° C). Other sections of *Dendrobium* in cultivation such as *Pedilonium*, *Latouria*, and the Australian hybrids of section *Dendrocorne* have slightly different requirements and those growing these more “exotic” will succeed best in researching them. Try B. Lavarack et al. *Dendrobium and its Relatives*, Timber Press. After the cold sensitive “hard cane” dendrobiums, *Phalaenopsis* are the most tender of commonly grown orchids. *Phalaenopsis* will be strongly induced to bloom by temperatures in the mid 50s (12-13° C). A few exposures to temperatures below 60° F (15° C) will produce the desired spikes and thereafter the plants will be happiest if they are kept above 60. One or two nights down to 50 or slightly below will do little harm but are to be avoided in the best kept collection.

Vandas come next on the scale of sensitivity. Like *Phalaenopsis* they are stimulated to bloom with sharp drops of temperature into the 50s at night, especially when the temperature can be induced to climb into the 80s (27-32° C) by day. *Vandas* will tolerate brief excursions into the upper 40s but are best kept above 50 degrees. Temperatures below 50 for very long or very often will produce the tinkling sound of falling *Vanda* leaves, turning the plants into palm trees. *Trichocentrum*s of the “mule ear” type with thick fleshy leaves (*Trctm. luridum*, *lanceanum* etc.) have warmth requirements similar to *vandas*. The thinner leaved *Oncidinae* will usually take temperatures into the 40s with aplomb. Many of the hybrids in this group have been bred to *Miltoniopsis* and to cool growing species to increase their cold tolerance. A caution with this group is the ability of wind to strip heat rapidly from their thin leaves. The cold tolerance of these will be much greater in still air.

With the exception of some species of Amazonian origin like *Cattleya violacea*, most *cattleyas* can take quite cool temperatures. Most growers have few concerns for them even in temperatures down to the upper 40s (8-9° C). They must, however, be protected from both frost and freeze. Be extra cautious on those clear still nights when the temperature drops to the 30s (3-4° C). In addition to the cold loving nobile dendrobiums, certain other genera from the high Himalayas such as deciduous *Calanthe* and *Cymbidium* species and hybrids, actually require quite cold temperatures to stimulate them to their best bloom. Even “warm growing, temperature tolerant” hybrid *cymbidium*s flower best when chilled repeatedly into the low 30s. All orchids tolerate cold best when they have proper nutrition. Avoid too much nitrogen which might stimulate too soft of growth and increase the dosage and frequency of application of both magnesium and potassium in colder weather.