

# Flamingo Gardens ORCHID SOCIETY

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

## MARCH 2026

**Meet our Guest Speaker:  
Mark Margolis**

***Catasetums***

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

### Meeting Information

Monday, March 9, 2026  
Doors Open - 7:00 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](mailto:FlamingoGardensOrchidSociety@gmail.com)

Website:

<https://www.flamingogardensorchidsociety.com>



Mark Margolis is a retired Miami-Dade County Public Schools middle and junior high school science teacher with a 40-year teaching career and a non-commercial orchid grower for more than 35 years. While he grows many types of orchids, his specialty—and favorite—is the *Catasetum* group. He jokingly refers to

*Catasetum* as the “Rodney Dangerfield of orchids” because “they get no respect,” noting their winter dormancy and misunderstood watering needs. Despite this reputation, he believes they are among the very best orchids to grow.

Mark was introduced to orchids by fellow teacher Phyllis Lerner, creator of the iconic *Clowesetum* *Raymond Lerner*, a highly awarded hybrid registered in 1983. Since September 2024, he has earned more than 150 awards from the American Orchid Society for his backyard collection of approximately 1,000 plants. A dedicated hobbyist and hybridizer, he will also bring divisions from his collection for sale. We look forward to Mark sharing the unique beauty and surprises of *Catasetum* at our March meeting.



## President's Message

Spring is here and it's a time of renewal. A time of renewed energy as we see new roots reaching out, buds emerging and flowers opening among our collection of orchids.

Spring brings us to The Flamingo Gardens Orchids & Bromeliad Show - April 3rd, 4th, & 5th with the Orchid Show presented by Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society.

We are looking forward to your participation in the show by volunteering or bringing your blooming beauties for judging, see the show and shop!

We plan to have a few table-top displays, cut flower and container arrangements at the show.

Get your Orchids ready for Ribbon or AOS judging.

- Color, Form, Presentation and the **WOW** Factor are basic criteria used by AOS judges.
- Is your plant healthy and strong? No evidence of pests or disease.
- Train flower spikes as they emerge.
- Staked properly for best presentation
- Leaves clean
- Flower color - pure not muddy

Rules and Regulations have been emailed to you and posted on our website [or view here](#).

Support your society by volunteering. We have several areas where we will need additional volunteers both inside the Learning Center and outside in the Garden. It's a great opportunity to get to know more about orchids, the vendors, and one another. Be sure to sign up at our meeting March 9th.

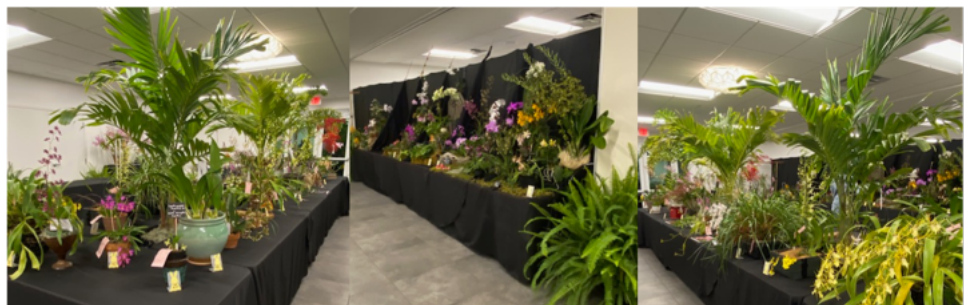
"May springtime bring you an array of color, healthy new growth and at least one orchid that decides to show off right when you need it most.

Let's grow and bloom together!

*Alice*

Alice Walker, President

Flamingo Gardens Orchid  
Society



**→MEMBERSHIP****Membership runs from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.**

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.***

**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. If you have any questions, reach out to Annette Scardina at [annescar@hotmail.com](mailto:annescar@hotmail.com) (renewing as well as new members require an application.)**

**FGOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

→ We are pleased to welcome six new members: Robin and Marty Cha, Bruce Goldner, Scott and Donna Peplin, and David Walker.

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, 6:45 - 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 March discussion topic is "Buying and Introducing Orchids into Your Collection." Do you know which orchid species will find success in your collection?

Come for the friendship, Learn some great orchid tips!

Diane Rogers  
 Newbie Session Moderator  
 Flamingo Gardens Orchid Society Corresponding Secretary



*Newbies: From  
 buds to blooms*

## 2026 ORCHID EVENTS

<b>March 6-8</b>	<a href="#"><u>Martin County Orchid Society’s “Orchids at the Disco”</u></a> Martin County Fairgrounds, Bldg G, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL
<b>March 7-8</b>	<b>FLAMINGO GARDENS:</b> <a href="#"><u>“Exotic Plant Festival &amp; Bonsai Show”</u></a>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>FGOS presents: Mark Margolis: “Catasetums”</b>
<b>March 20-22</b>	<a href="#"><u>Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance’s “Orchid Jungle”</u></a> N Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Rd, Naples, FL
<b>March 27-29</b>	<b>Orchids in Bloom presents: “Amazing Thailand Rainbow Orchid Festival”</b> 15200 SW 240th St, Homestead, FL For more info: 407-242-0619
<b>APRIL 3, 4, 5</b>	<b>FLAMINGO GARDENS:</b> 44th International Orchid & Bromeliad Show <a href="#"><u>“GARDEN OF ORCHIDS”</u></a> 9:30am - 4:30pm AOS Judging April 3rd
<b>APRIL 8-11</b>	<a href="#"><u>American Orchid Society 2026 Spring Conference</u></a> In association with the Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival, Apopka FL
<b>APRIL 13</b>	<b>FGOS presents: Annette Scardina “Brassias”</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>FGOS presents: Scott Peplin: “Why did my orchid die?”</b>
<b>June 8</b>	<b>FGOS presents: John Finer: “Growing Orchids from Seed”</b>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>FGOS Annual Auction</b>
<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS - AOS</b>	<a href="#"><u>Community Orchid Events</u></a>

Catasetums



## 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 2025-26 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

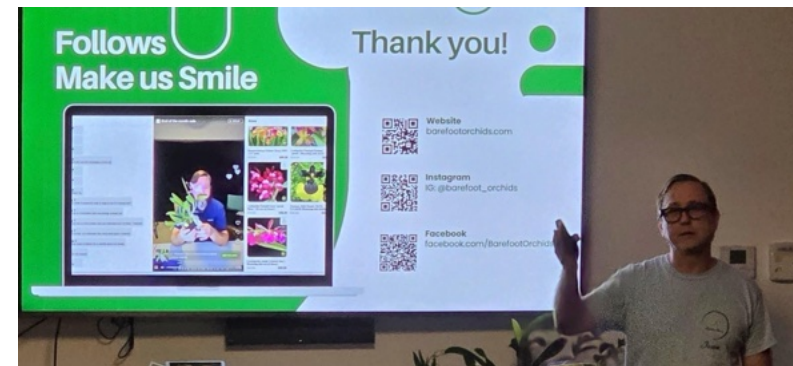
Alice Walker	President
Melissa Dolton	1st Vice President and Programs Chairperson
Annette Scardina	2nd Vice President and Membership Chairperson
Alison Rials	Recording Secretary
Diane Rogers	Corresponding Secretary
Theresa DiRocco	Treasurer
Lucy Lodato	Past President
Gail Santini	Trustee - 3 years, Newsletter Editor
OPEN	Trustee - 3 years
Keryn Bober	Trustee - 2 years
Wendy Gonzalez	Trustee - 2 years
Mayra Martinez	Trustee - 1 year
EJ Laviolette	Trustee - 1 year
Mary Lathrop	Refreshments Chairperson
Ilene Shatkin	Silent Auction Committee Chairperson
Mike Vaupel	AOS Representative

## FGOS Hike Saturday, 2/21/26 Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

We were thrilled to see Native Orchids, Bromeliads and Wildlife in one of Florida's most extraordinary ecosystems. Our friendly and knowledgeable guides, Lynn Thompson and Esther Muram, are members of the Florida Trail Association local chapter -"Happy Hoofers".



# FEBRUARY MEETING PHOTOS



## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

1st Place and Speaker's Choice  
*Dendrochilum cobbianum*  
Lucy Matos Lodato



2nd Place  
*Rhy gigantea* - peach  
Scott Peplin



3rd Place  
*Encyclia* hybrid  
Judy Goos



## WORKSHOP - TABLE AND CONTAINER DISPLAYS - March 1

Thank you to Wendy Gonzalez for presenting her program on how to create a winning orchid display!! And thank you David Sweeten for sharing his knowledge and experience in designing displays!! Thank you to Alice and Lucy for making it possible.





★ **Join the American Orchid Society**

★ Are you a member of the American Orchid Society? [Click here to join today.](#)

★ **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

- ★ **Catasetum** (kat-a-SEE-tum) A genus of around 100 species of chiefly epiphytic orchids from tropical America, allied to *Mormodes* and *Cycnoches*. It was established by L.C. Richard in 1822, the name derived from the Greek and referring to the antenna-like processes of the column of the flowers. The genus is unusual in having unisexual flowers (separate male and female flowers).
- ★ 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](http://AOS.org) for information about orchids, orchid culture, judging, and much more...



The March AOS Corner is not yet available but will be added to the FGOS website.