



# ORCHIDS

## GVOS Online

Keep up with the latest news and announcements

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandValleyOrchidSociety>

### Email

[grandvalleyorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:grandvalleyorchidsociety@gmail.com)

### Instagram

<https://instagram.com/grandvalleyorchidsociety>

## Calendar

### Feb 20th

Sam Tsui - Multifloral Paphs

### March 20th

Bob Fuchs - Vandas

### April 17th

Harry Gallis - Dendrobiums

### May 15th

Dr. Randall J Bayer - Dendrobiums

### June 19th and 20th

GLJC June Seminar – Slipper Orchids

## GVOS Board

### President

Gordon Griffen

### Vice-President

Mei Ling Clemens

### Secretary

Tara Rietberg

### Treasurer

Joan Shipaila

### Members-At-Large

Jerry Ambrose

Jill Wood



RF Orchids Showroom. Photo taken off their website [frorchids.com](http://frorchids.com)

## March

This month's speaker is Robert Fuchs from RF Orchids, located in Homestead, Florida. RF Orchids has been in business for more than 50 years and specialize in growing fine orchids. They are particularly well known for their large and healthy vandas. We are also invited to participate in the GLJC

March Education Meeting at 10AM on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The information for both meetings is listed below. If you have orchids in bloom you would like to include in the virtual table, email those to Ioana at [ioanamsona@gmail.com](mailto:ioanamsona@gmail.com) by Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

<p><b>Topic</b></p> <p><b><i>Vandas</i></b></p> <p>Vandas are beautiful monopodial orchids that are popular in cultivation.</p>	<p><b>Zoom information</b></p> <p>Topic: Bob Fuchs</p> <p>Time: March 20, 2021 7PM</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/701683513?pwd=REQzYnpxaTZjb3p6dDNZNWxCOS8xUT09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/701683513?pwd=REQzYnpxaTZjb3p6dDNZNWxCOS8xUT09</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 701 683 513                  Password: 20-Orchids                  If you need to use your phone for access, the number to call is: +1 929 205 6099</p>
<p><b>Topic</b></p>	<p><b>Zoom information</b></p> <p>Topic: GLJC March Education Meeting</p> <p>Time: Mar 20, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84769781609?pwd=S0l2YUp5dzJOSFFMKzBDblpweTd4QT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84769781609?pwd=S0l2YUp5dzJOSFFMKzBDblpweTd4QT09</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 847 6978 1609                  Passcode: 611179                  One tap mobile                  +13126266799,,84769781609#,,,,*611179# US (Chicago)                  +16465588656,,84769781609#,,,,*611179# US (New York)</p> <p>Dial by your location                  +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)                  +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)                  +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)                  +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)                  +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)                  +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)</p> <p>Meeting ID: 847 6978 1609                  Passcode: 611179                  Find your local number: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keAGAexve6">https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keAGAexve6</a></p>



Vanda lamellata v. boxallii 'Crownfox' FCC-CCE/AOS (TK)  
From rforchids.com gallery

## Robert Fuch



Bob Fuchs is a third-generation orchid grower, born and raised in Home-stead, Florida. He has been involved in growing orchids since childhood.

Bob was 10 years old at the time of his first experience collecting orchids in the wild. He accompanied his grandfather, Fred Fuchs, Sr., in exploring some of the many swamp and wilderness areas which were then abundant in South Florida. Grandpa Fuchs would tie a rope around Bob's waist, attach it to his own belt, and off they'd go. Bob remembers falling many times and his grandfather using the rope to pull him out. That rope served a double purpose; it prevented him getting lost, and it kept him out of the 'gator holes.

He was 14 when he went on his first salvage collecting trip out of the country. Bob, his father Fred Fuchs, Jr. and two friends flew in a small two-engine plane from Homestead airport to the Dominican Republic. The plane was running short on fuel so they had to land in Santiago rather than go on to the capital Santo Domingo. They had been unable to contact the Santiago tower but landed anyway as the fuel problem was critical. The plane had an escort of military jeeps with soldiers holding machine guns, but when it stopped on the runway, Bob's father held out a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken to the soldiers. They smiled, put down their guns, escorted the Americans to the authorities, and then allowed them to stay and salvage orchids for three days.

Since then, Bob has made many trips to Central and South America in search of orchids in the wild. On one of many trips to Nicaragua he spotted an unusual orchid flowering on a large rock outcrop. He climbed through the ravines to get a better look and found a 4-foot diameter clump of the plant. He was sure the plant was a natural hybrid of *Schomburgkia wendlandii* and *Laelia rubescens*, so he photographed it carefully, collected a sample and pressed an inflorescence for later identification. The pressed inflorescence was submitted to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and was later identified as *Schombolaelia fuchsii* in honor of its discovery. Two years later when Bob returned to the same area to collect additional divisions of the plant, he discovered that the area had burned and the original plant was lost forever.

Bob and his father discovered another new species in Bolivia, *Catasetum fuchsii*.

Bob's interest in orchids grew and by the time he graduated from high school he had amassed quite a collection. His parents gave him a greenhouse for his graduation gift. His involvement with orchid societies began during this period. He and his three brothers placed their first orchid exhibit at the 1959 Miami Show, sponsored by the South Florida Orchid Society, and "The Fuchs Boys" display won a trophy. Bob joined the society as a member in 1960.

After graduating from Florida State University in 1970 Bob embarked on a career in teaching. He taught Art at Homestead Junior High School and was chairman of the school's Enrichment Department. On weekends and after school, he worked in his grandparents' greenhouses trying to clean and renovate them and began his own orchid business on their property.

After 15 years of teaching Bob retired to devote his efforts full time to R.F. Orchids and incorporated the business.

Bob spent many years collecting and studying orchids in different areas of Central and South America. Currently he is involved in conserving and perpetuating the native species of Southeast Asia with a breeding program at his growing facility in Thailand. An accredited American Orchid Society judge, he travels extensively throughout the world to attend orchid shows, present lectures and programs to orchid societies and other groups and he has written many articles for orchid publications. He is the author of the section on "Vanda Culture" in the American Orchid Society's Handbook on Orchid Culture.

He is a Life Member and former trustee of the American Orchid Society and a Life Member and past-president of the South Florida Orchid Society as well as a recipient of its Distinguished Service Award. Because of his accomplishments in orchid hybridizing, the



Royal Horticultural Society of Thailand awarded him a Life Membership in their society. He is also a Life Member and past president of the East Everglades Orchid Society and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. Currently he is the President of the American Orchid Society for the 2020-2022 term.



V. Barbara Walker AQ/AOS (TK)  
From rforchids.com gallery

## RF Orchids

1984 brought the attention of orchid growers around the world to Miami, for the 11<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference and its prestigious orchid show. Much of that attention focused on R.F. Orchids whose plants won 12 individual medals and exhibit won a Best In Class trophy.

Most importantly of all, R.F. Orchids' plant Vanda Deva 'Robert' was honored as the Grand Champion of the 11WOC. This award catapulted RF orchids into international recognition and acceptance as one of the leading vandaceous orchid firms in the world.

R.F. Orchids celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. In the years since the nursery's founding, it has won more American Orchid Society awards – more than 1,100 since 1985 – than any other nursery or individual grower. Those awards include more CCM/AOS awards for culture, given to the grower and not to the plant, than have been awarded to any other orchid grower in the world. Their plants have also won many FCC/AOS awards – the First Class Certificate, the highest flower-quality award the AOS grants, and Bob's stunning show exhibits have won thirty Gold Medals, and forty-eight Show Trophies from the American Orchid Society for the Most Outstanding Orchid Exhibit at an AOS-sanctioned show. The awards don't stop with the American Orchid Society. R. F. Orchids has been recognized with prestigious awards from the Royal Horticultural Society in England, World Orchid Conferences, the Japan Grand Prix, South African Orchid Congress Shows, and from orchid societies in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

The nursery has been featured in many national and international publications, including *TIME*, *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, *Casa y Estilo*, *Vanidades*, and *Southern Living*, as well as local and regional newspapers and magazines.

Website: [rforchids.com](http://rforchids.com)

Address: R.F. Orchids, Inc. (Nursery)

28100 SW 182 Ave. Homestead, FL 33030-1804

Email: [Sales@rforchids.com](mailto:Sales@rforchids.com)

Phone: 305 245 4570

# Vanda Culture Sheet

## VAN-dah



The Vanda Alliance is made up mostly of warm- and full-sun-growing orchids with colorful flowers. Originating in tropical Asia, they are easily grown in warm climates, where plants are cultivated outside in light shade, such as in a lath house. In climates where winters are cold, they are often summered outside, and grown inside during the winter in a sunny window, or year round in a greenhouse. Smaller growing ascocendas are best outside tropical conditions.

**Light** is a crucial factor in blooming most vandaceous plants. There are three types of vandas: strap-leaved, semi-terete and terete. The first type has broader, flat leaves, while terete types have round, pencil-shaped leaves. The semi-teretes are hybrids between the two, with an intermediate leaf shape. Terete types need full sun, and are best grown in high-light climates. In a greenhouse, give the plants about 25 to 35 percent shade, less in winter if overcast. Leaves should be a medium green, not dark green. In warm, bright climates, you can grow any type of Vanda outside (if warm) with partial shade for strap-leaved types and semi-teretes (especially in midday in summer) or inside (when cold) in a bright, south window. In climates where winters are overcast, try ascocendas. Grow them outside in summer and in full sun inside during the winter. Be careful to acclimatize plants to avoid burn.

**Temperatures** for most vandas should be warm; a minimum night temperature of 55° F is recommended. Colder spells can be tolerated for a short time if it is not windy. Optimum temperatures are 60° to 70° F at night, and a maximum of 95° F during the day. Warmer temperatures mean faster growth, which must be balanced with higher humidity, air

movement, and increased water and fertilizer. Days should be warm and humid for optimum plant growth.

**Water** should be applied copiously when the plants are growing, but the roots must dry quickly. Because of this, and their extensive root system, they are mostly grown in slatted-wood baskets, or in pots with a coarse potting medium. If their situation is warm and sunny, they may need daily watering. Water sparingly in the winter or during cloudy weather.

**Humidity** of 80 percent is ideal. In tropical climates this may be easy to obtain. In a greenhouse, this is easier to provide by using an evaporative cooler. In the home, place the plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water. Air movement must be strong.

**Fertilize** with a balanced (such as 20-20-20) fertilizer applied full strength once a week during warm weather or use a one-quarter-strength solution at every watering. During cool or cloudy weather, apply fertilizer once every two to four weeks. Use a high-phosphorus fertilizer (such as 10-30-20) every third application to promote flowering.

**Potting** should be done in the spring. Plants in baskets do not need to be repotted often. Leave them unless the potting medium breaks down. Set the plant, with the old basket intact, into a container of water to make the aerial roots more pliable, and then set plant and basket into a larger basket. For plants in pots, repot in a slightly larger pot, positioning the plant in the center. Use a coarse medium, whether fir bark, tree fern or charcoal, and work it around the roots. Keep shaded, humid, but drier at the roots until new root tips grow. Do not overpot.



## Orchid Show/Festival Schedule

Unfortunately, with Covid-19 continuing to be a major health hazard, some shows have already canceled. This will be updated as more information becomes available.

Show	Location	Date	Status
Grand Valley Orchids Society Show and Sale	Frederick Meijer Gardens 1000 East Beltline Ave NE Grand	Feb 27-28	Virtual
Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale	Michigan State Soil and Science Building 1066 Bogue St, East Lansing, MI 48824	February	<b>Canceled</b>
Michigan Orchid Society Show	United Food & Commercial Workers Union Bldg., 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI	March	<b>Canceled</b>