

# The Orchid

BOCA RATON ORCHID SOCIETY



# Scentinel

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME 37

ISSUE 10



#### MEETINGS

THE SOCIETY MEETS ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 P.M.

#### Location:

Safe Schools Institute  
1790 NW Spanish River  
Blvd. Boca Raton, Fl.  
33433

Guests are Always Welcome!

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## Featuring~

**Program: Growing Orchids in South Florida**

**Speaker: Jose Esposito**

**Date: October 12, 2023**

**Jose Esposito has been growing orchids for over 35 years. He is the owner of Soroa Orchids, a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis alliance, past president of Coalition for Orchid Species and the East Everglades Orchid Society, past chairman of the Florida Caribbean Judging Center and Vice President of the Redlands Professional Orchid Growers, organizers of the largest international orchid event in the country, The Redlands Show.**

**Join us on October 12 for an enjoyable, informative talk on growing orchids from an expert.**

*Janice Larit*

Vice President, Programs



### Coming Attractions

**November 9: Jeffrey Adkins of Adkins Orchids: "Creating Beautiful Orchid Environments"**

**December 14: Annual Holiday Meeting**

Contact US

Web: [www.brosonline.org](http://www.brosonline.org), Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/bocaorchid> Email: [rcdodes@aol.com](mailto:rcdodes@aol.com)



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The BROS is the proud recipient  
of the DASSA Award.



## From President Kathy Kersey

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

The end of September seemed to be better for FREE water than the beginning. Remember to get out there early to attend to your orchids and your yard. It's still quite HOT and the humidity is terrible. Please stay hydrated; don't let the overcast skies fool you.

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Teresa O'Neil for her wonderful presentations in August and September on repotting and mounting. For those of you who attended, she gave you some great ideas that you can incorporate in your own growing areas. As we said... you don't have to have trees to mount an orchid. Be creative and think outside the box. Just a reminder: Google your plant first to find out how the plant likes to grow and the medium it thrives in, as well as what it likes to be mounted on. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Our members collectively have a wealth of knowledge and combined and have years of experience.

Save the date: February 10-11, 2024 is our annual Orchid show. We have the volunteer boards all ready and will have them at all meetings going forward. Please sign up for your favorite position, or if you're new to our Society and have never attended our show, we will help you with your selection. Remember, our Show would NOT take place if it was not for our members volunteering. We also have the food sign- up sheets. Please sign up to bring your favorite dish for breakfast, lunch, or dessert. Your donations feed the AOS judges for breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well as our lunch for our volunteers on both days. We also need volunteers for set up on Thursday and Friday in preparation for the show.

The 2024 dues invoices are ready. We will pass them out again at our October meeting. If you are unable to attend your invoice will be mailed after our meeting in October. Please send in your dues asap. They are due no later than December 31.

Show tickets are on sale at our monthly meetings. You can purchase them at a reduced rate of \$3.00. If you purchase 5 tickets, you will receive 1 FREE comp ticket.

Mark your calendars for October 12, 7:30 p.m., when Jose Esposito from Soroa orchids will be our speaker. He is a great speaker and has a wealth of knowledge for growing orchids in South Florida. He will be bringing plants to sell as well as providing the plants for our raffle table that evening. So, bring your wallets; this is a DON'T MISS EVENING.

Thank you for being a part of the Boca Raton Orchid Society. I am extremely proud to be a part of such an amazing group of people. Please bring a friend to our meeting, guests are always welcome.

Kathy



**Membership**

**FIRST YEAR**

**SINGLE \$25.00**  
**COUPLE \$35.00**  
**BUSINESS: \$40.00**  
**Newsletter Emailed**

**RENEWAL**

**SINGLE \$20.00**  
**COUPLE \$25.00**  
**BUSINESS \$40.00**  
**Newsletter Emailed**

**CONTACT:**

**Abby Diab**  
**561-843-0999**

**MAIL CHECKS TO:**

**Boca Raton Orchid Society**  
**PO Box 276367**  
**Boca Raton, FL 33427**

# Tasks for October

by Dr. Martin Motes

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler.

Most of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan dendrobiums of the nobile type and of the section Callista (*D. aggregatum* et al.) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in Spring. *Catasetums*, *mormodes*, *Cycnoches*, *calanthes* and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the passing rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist!

Many *cattleyas*, *laelias*, *oncidiums* and *phalaenopsis*-type *dendrobiums* will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. But less frequent applications of the recommended 15-5-15 is a better strategy. These applications should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry 'hard' before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

**News from Dr. Motes**

**The Updated Edition of**  
***Florida Orchid Growing***  
***Month by Month***  
**is now available!**

**To purchase, visit**  
**[www.RedlandPress.com](http://www.RedlandPress.com)**

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Excerpted: "Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month"

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# ORCHID EVENTS

## OCTOBER

The October 2023 judging at the AOS West Palm Beach Judging Center will take place Saturday, October 28, 2023. Judging takes place at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 S Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330 at 2 PM on the fourth Saturday of the month (third Saturday November/December). Plant Registration will begin at 1:30. Exhibitors can go to [www.wpbjudging.org](http://www.wpbjudging.org) for more information or email Jackie Wood at [bocaorchidlady@aol.com](mailto:bocaorchidlady@aol.com).

Delray Beach Orchid Society Show and Sale, Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, 2023 at The Fieldhouse at Old School Square, Delray Beach, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444. Hours TBD.

Broward County Plant Affair, Saturday, October 28, 9 AM—5 PM and Sunday, October 29, 2023, 9 AM—4 PM. At Volunteer Park, 12050 W Sunrise Blvd, Plantation, FL 33323. Local plant vendors, orchids, native plants, herbs, exotics, succulents, houseplants, handmade garden art and more. Free admission. For more info, 954-797-2722. [plantationhistoricalsociety.com](http://plantationhistoricalsociety.com)

## NOVEMBER

Mounts Botanical Garden's Plant-A-Palooza, Saturday November 5, 9 AM—4 PM and Sunday, November 5, 9 AM—3 PM. Admission \$15 pp or free for garden members. 50 of the region's highest quality vendors and artisans, plus special presentations and food trucks. At Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415. [www.mounts.org](http://www.mounts.org)

Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Orchid Obsession Show and Sale, Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12, 2023, 10 AM—5 PM both days, at Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL. Admission: \$5 pp; children under 12 free.

## DECEMBER

Sawgrass Nature Center & Wildlife Hospital Orchid and Plant Festival, Saturday and Sunday, December 2 & 3, 2023, 9:30 AM—4 PM. Admission: \$8 pp. 3000 Sportsplex Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33065. More info: 954-752-9453. [sawgrassnaturecenter.org](http://sawgrassnaturecenter.org) 100% of admission proceeds support the Nature Center.

**BROS ORCHID SHOW AND SALE, FEBRUARY 10-11, 2024**

We need volunteers to sign up to help set up the Show, work at the Show, and break it down afterward. Please sign up at a meeting or contact Kathy Kersey.

*Orchid Show & Sale  
Valentine's Weekend*

February 10-11, 2024  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

C. Mark Jones x  
Lc. Lory Ann



Photo:  
Scott Joffe

Presented by

**Boca Raton  
Orchid Society**

Held inside Don Estridge Middle School campus  
SHOW SITE: SAFE SCHOOLS INSTITUTE  
1790 Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton  
*Free Parking*

**ADMISSION: \$5.00 CASH ONLY**  
Children 12 & under FREE

Visit us at: [www.brosonline.org](http://www.brosonline.org)

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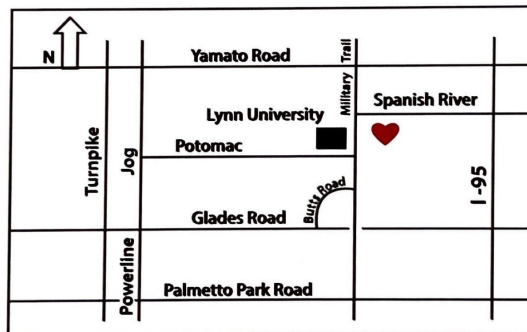
*Orchid Show & Sale  
Valentine's Weekend*

February 10-11, 2024  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Advance Ticket Sales \$3.00**

Available at:  
**Green Barn Orchid Supplies**  
5185 Conklin Dr.  
Delray Beach

*Proud to feature local  
orchid growers/vendors and craftspeople*



*Directions*

1790 Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton  
Corner of Spanish River Blvd. & Military Trail, across from  
Lynn University.

**I-95 S and I-95 N:**

1. Exit 48A - Spanish River Blvd. /FAU – bear right at exit
2. Turn **RIGHT** going **WEST**
3. Turn **LEFT** into the campus of Don Estridge Middle School.

**Turnpike:**

Exit 75 for Glades Rd., turn **LEFT** onto Glades, turn **LEFT** at Butts Rd., turn **LEFT** onto Military Trail, then turn **RIGHT** on Spanish River Blvd.

# BROS Exhibition Table

Every month members have the opportunity to show their latest achievements. They can be admired then judged and you may even win an award ribbon! Fill out a exhibition slip and place it with your entry. Please follow the rules below to avoid disqualification.

1. Clearly print the orchid name and your full name.
2. It must be featured in the correct category.
3. You must have owned the orchid for at least six months.
4. The plant must not have insects or disease.
5. Display your orchid in an attractive container.
6. Each plant registered earns you a FREE raffle ticket!

**REMINDER**

**Your Dues are Due for 2024**

**Please make payment at the**  
**March meeting or mail it in**  
**to :**

**BOCA RATON ORCHID**  
**SOCIETY**  
**P O BOX 276367**  
**BOCA RATON, FL 33427**

## The winners in September:

MEMBER	CATEGORY	RIBBON	ORCHID NAME
Denise Guzman	Brassavola	Blue	Procatavola Key Lime
Denise Guzman	Species	Blue	Dendrobium bracteosum
Kathy Kersey	Encyclia Species	Blue	Enc. cochleata
Barbara Barrie	Phalaenopsis	Blue	Phal. Cornu-cervi
Roderick Lewis	Brassavola Species	Blue	Brassavola nodosa
Denise Guzman	Oncidium Alliance	Blue	Odonto. Brassia Rotuebune Spyder
Robert Finocchi	Cattleya Species	Blue	Cat. guttata
Alan LaDuke	Vanda Alliance	Blue, Yellow	Aranda Broga Giant
Teresa O'Neil	Dendrobium Alliance	Best Blue	Den. Rambo

**BEST IN SHOW: Congratulations to Teresa O'Neil**



Dendrobium Rambo—Teresa O'Neil

# Members' Blue Ribbon Plants for September



**Procatavola Key Lime—Denise Guzman**



**Dendrobium bracteosum—Denise Guzman**



**Encyclia cochleate—Kathy Kersey**



**Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi—Barbara Barrie**



**Brassavola nodosa—Roderick Lewis**



**Odonto Brassia Rotuebone Spider—Denise Guzman**

# Members' Blue Ribbon Plants for September



Cattleya guttata alba— Robert Finocchi



Aranda Broga Giant—Alan LaDuke



Dendrobium Rambo—Teresa O'Neil  
\*\*\* Best Blue Ribbon \*\*\*





## The Problematic Future of the Wild Ghost Orchid in Florida

According to an article in the August 27, 2023 edition of the *Sun Sentinel*, several factors are working against the survival of Florida's rarest orchid. The ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) is a leafless orchid that carries on photosynthesis via its green roots. It is very difficult to find this orchid when it is not in flower, because the roots, attached to trees, blend in and are nearly invisible. But once the ghost orchid flowers, its distinctive, white flowers make it easy to see. Found mostly in the Everglades ecosystem, the ghost orchid can be found in the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary which is one of the few places to see the orchid without having to wade through swampy water. Since it is more accessible there, poaching is a big problem. The Fakahatchee Swamp also hosts ghost orchids. What the poachers do not take into account is that the orchid needs very specific conditions in order to survive. Most poached orchids die within a short time after being removed from their preferred environment. The orchid is also found in the Bahamas and Cuba.

Another threat is hurricanes, which can wipe out dozens of plants in an instant. In 2017, Hurricane Irma killed 30% of the ghost orchid's host trees in one area. Climate change is producing more frequent and stronger storms and increased sea levels that may push salt water into the freshwater swamps, causing more destruction of host trees. Encroaching development also threatens the orchid's habitats.

Several environmental groups have petitioned to have the ghost orchid placed on the Endangered Species List. Lawsuits against the government have been proposed to force the federal government to declare the orchid endangered. Designation as an Endangered Species would make the penalties for poaching much more severe than state law allows, including up to \$50,000 in fines and a year in prison in certain poaching cases.

However, according to the experts, the greatest challenge to the ghost orchid's survival is poaching. For this reason, the exact locations of the orchids in many of the swamps on the southwestern edge of the Everglades are kept secret.



The flower of the Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*)



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Member: Rev Clay

**We thank those who participated by providing refreshments at our September member meeting: Shirley Schneider, Cheryl Dodes, Victoria Carmosino, Beth Bowe, Sally Glick**



**Please consider bringing something to share at our meetings. We all appreciate the variety!**

**Board Meetings**

**The BROS Board meets the Thursday  
before the monthly Member Meeting at 7:00 PM on Zoom**

**Next meetings:**

**October 5**

**November 2**