



**WGC Membership Meeting
Wellington Community Center
Monday, April 3, 2023 at 9:30 am**

Speaker: Richard Ackerman

Title: Florida Native Orchids

Richard will talk about orchids and what makes them different from all other plant families. He will also discuss some found in Palm Beach County, some that we can add to our own landscapes and gardens, and some invasive orchids to look out for.

Rich Ackerman has lived in Fort Lauderdale for over thirty years, where he has grown a wide variety of plants. His current interest is Florida native orchids. He caught the orchid bug attending the World Orchid Conference in Miami in 2008.

Rich works closely with UF/IFAS Extension, Broward County, where he is a Florida Master Gardener Volunteer, serves on the Urban Horticulture Advisory Board, and is team leader of the Orchid Team running their Broward County Native Orchid Project. While mostly concentrating on large restoration projects, the Orchid Team also makes native orchids available in small quantities through browardnativeorchids.com

A Professor Emeritus at Broward College, he has collaborated with Palm Beach State College, Florida Atlantic University, and Broward College. He is also a former President of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society. His work background was mostly project management in computer and information sciences.