



# The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS January 15th 2025 Program

## Ron Kaufman: “Orchids of Tropical America”

Our speaker in January will be Ron Kaufmann, chair of the American Orchid Society Conservation Committee and a founding director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 25 years and has travelled extensively to view orchids in the wild in Asia and South America, particularly Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. His talk titled “Orchids of Tropical America” will discuss why orchids are among the most diverse families of plants, as well as stories about orchid explorers and the many ways in which orchids attract animals, including humans. This presentation is based on the book “Orchids of Tropical America,” which he co-authored with Joe Meisel (Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation) and Franco Pupulin (University of Costa Rica and Lankester Botanic Garden).



Ron Kaufman

Ron is a marine biologist by training, and his scientific work includes studies of Antarctic and deep-sea ecosystems as well as marine communities in coastal Southern California. His orchid collection began with a reed stem *Epidendrum* and progressed to a diverse assemblage that contains mostly species orchids.

Ron has a long-standing interest in conservation. He joined the San Diego County Orchid Society’s Conservation Committee in 1999 and became chair in 2004. Since 1991, the Conservation Committee has awarded more than \$300,000 to support projects in 24 different countries. Ron also helped to found the Orchid Conservation Alliance and serves on the boards of the OCA, AOS, Orchid Digest, and Fundación EcoMinga (an Ecuadorian conservation organization).

Most of Ron’s orchids are grown in a 36 x 24 foot greenhouse and several outdoor shade-covered areas around his house in San Diego. Friends have suggested that he build a second, much larger greenhouse to accommodate the many plants that often make walking through his greenhouse an exercise requiring extensive training in gymnastics and yoga to avoid serious injury. Thus far, this recommendation hasn’t been followed, although the temptation is always there.

**Ron Will Be Providing Plants For Our Raffle Table!**

## Membership Corner

I'm still getting a surprise when I go to my mail box - not everyday - but a few times a week - I'm getting your renewals!

By the time you read this the Holidays will be over - I sure hope that they were good to you. If you traveled - I hope it was a safe trip. If you stayed home I hope you had family around. I for one was looking for some down time. I got to go to lunch with a friend and had a get together with a few others. However you did or what ever you did I hope you had fun.

If you have not yet sent me your 2025 dues - I must remind you that you need your Membership Badge to get those tickets at the meeting. I will not be at the January or February Meetings - but there will be renewal notices there for you to pay on the spot.

I'm hoping that you all will turn out at the Meeting on January 15th and support the Society for me.

Sally Taylor  
Membership Chair



### **SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY now has Shirts available! A beautiful Royal Blue!**

Ladies V neck Cotton (a little lighter in color - but still blue)

- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$18.25
- 2XL at \$19.25
- 3XL at \$21.50

Ladies or Men's - Polo - in either Polyester or Cotton

- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$25.75
- 2XL at \$26.75
- 3XL at \$28.00



The shirts can be seen at our meetings and orders placed at that time. All shirts must be paid for when ordered. Watch an up-coming newsletter for a good reason to wear your new shirts to the meetings.

## *Summer's Corner*

I'm not sure I like the idea of Mom having some down time! I've been home too long. Mom wouldn't bring me to the Holiday Party - I know she went - because she got dressed up! That doesn't seem fair - I didn't get to see you all.

Mom now tells me we won't see you in January or February either! Mom said she has me entered at Dog Shows in Brooksville, FL, Ocala, FL and Atlanta, GA. I guess that is going to be a really long trip. I hope I get some nice ribbons to share with my fan club at the March Meeting.

I didn't do to well at the last Dog Show in Orlando, FL. I only got one ribbon on Friday the 13th - I was in the Owner Handler Series Final (I finished at #5 in the country) - but I only got the Best of Opposite Sex Ribbon - but Mom seemed happy with that. Maybe we can do better this year.

See you all as soon as I can.



*Summer*

## The SFOS 2024 Holiday Party!



All Photos on this page courtesy of James Furst



Let me tell you - you really missed a great evening on December 18th. Our Holiday Party was held at the El Rinconcito Latino Restaurant on Bird Road. I for one want to say a Big Thank You to Maggie Echeverria for finding this place and getting things arranged for us. Also a Big Thanks to Randy Breitwisch - our Treasurer for handling the reservations. One more thing - a BIG THANK YOU to Carmela Orchids in Hawaii for sending us such great Holiday Plants. I don't think any one at the party complained about anything - at least that I heard about. We had a great turn out of our Members and the food was good, the service was great and the fellowship with each other was the greatest.

I believe that James Furst (and Chris Alger) took pictures of each table at the Holiday Party - I hope Ron gets the pictures in time to include them in the Newsletter. (He did!)

Now let's build on that and carry it over to the next meeting on January 15th. I'll be expecting to have a good report after that Meeting.

Sally Taylor



All photos on this page courtesy of Chris Alger.

## SFOS Holiday Party

Dear SFOS Members, I just want to say a big Thank You to all the Board Members that helped to make this year's Holiday Party a complete success.

Maggie Echeverria suggested Rinconcito Latino to the Board and Maggie, Randy Breitwisch, Nancy Crisler and Margaret Marshall went in person to try out the food and gave the Restaurant very good Reviews. Jose the Manager at Rinconcito Latino gave us our own private room to hold the event, and a menu with six different entrees to choose from. His staff provided excellent service. Thank you Maggie for the time you spent arranging all of those details.

- Randy Breitwisch handled the task of collecting all the Reservations...
- Nancy Crisler provided the delicious festive desserts...
- Margaret Marshall made copies of our special Menu for all of us...
- James Furst took photos...
- And Sally Taylor made the arrangements with Carmela Orchids and brought the beautiful Orchid plants which were given out to each SFOS Member that evening (and Chocolate Bars from Summer).

This was the first year that so many of our SFOS Members VOLUNTEERED and all of their efforts helped make our Holiday Party such a success. If you were not able to attend you should really try to join us in December 2025.

Happy New Year,  
Chris Alger, Board Member

## SFOS Proposed ByLaw Revisions

The South Florida Orchid Society ByLaw Review Committee (Chris, Charles, Margaret, Randy and Nancy) have successfully completed a review of the current ByLaws and would like to propose a thorough revision for 2025. Since this is a full revision of the original document, **please read it** through carefully. The Committee hopes you will find that it is much more in line with our current organization.

The Committee is proposing that the Society reduce the total number of Directors to be more in line with our current organizational size. The Committee also recommends that the Society set the terms of office to two years rather than three. The Committee feels that these changes will be advantageous and help SFOS recruit interested leaders for the long term. In addition, the Committee have fine-tuned the roles of all board positions, and reduced the number of Standing Committees.

The South Florida Orchid Society is grateful to all of the Board members who dedicated their time to this effort. And a Special Thank You to Nancy Crisler for taking on the considerable job of rewriting and preparing this document.

The South Florida Orchid Society Membership will be asked to approve the Committee's recommendations at the May Member's Meeting.

Please click on the PDF icon to view a copy of the proposed ByLaws.



Please Support Our Sponsors!

# Orchids in Paradise

For the finest selection of quality orchids, exquisite gifts, stunning floral arrangements and more, visit R.F. Orchids, South Florida's oldest and most prestigious orchid firm. All of this awaits you in our tropical paradise.



28100 SW 182 Ave. • Homestead FL 33030  
T: 305-245-4570 • F: 305-247-6568 • [www.rforchids.com](http://www.rforchids.com)



## RETAIL ORCHID ARRANGEMENTS

*Segundo & Yolanda  
Cuesta*

12110 SW 43 St.  
Miami, Florida 33175  
Tel.: 305-219-2883

[QUESTORCHIDS@AOL.COM](mailto:QUESTORCHIDS@AOL.COM)  
[WWW.QUESTORCHIDS.NET](http://WWW.QUESTORCHIDS.NET)

**WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY OF ORCHIDS**

## BROWARD ORCHID SUPPLY

2411 GARFIELD STREET, HOLLYWOOD, FL.33020

954-925-2021

[BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY@COMCAST.NET](mailto:BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY@COMCAST.NET)

[WWW.BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY.COM](http://WWW.BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY.COM)

### The South Florida Orchid Society Presents...

*"An Introduction to Orchids"*

Edited by Julie Rosenberg

Everything you need to know in order to successfully grow orchids in South Florida.

Pick up your copy today at better orchid Growers or at SFOS Meetings!



## South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. Board of Directors

**President:** Javier Morejon

**1st VP:**—Sally Taylor

**2nd VP:**—Don McDermott

**Secretary:**—Margaret Marshall

**Treasurer:**—Randall Breitwisch

**Directors, Terms ending in 2025**

James Furst, Chris Alger, Charles Flick

**Directors, Term ending in 2026**

Vacant, Erna Maxwell, Nancy Crisler

**Directors, Term ending in 2027**

Vacant, Maggie Echeverria, Caridad Balseiro

**Immediate Past President—Javier Morejon**

**Show Chairman—Vacant**

**Special Directors—Ron Hunt & Julie Rosenberg**

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9PM at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road Pinecrest FL.

Orchid registration begins at 7:00PM.  
No plants will be registered after 7:30PM

Program begins at 8:PM



## Become a Member of the South Florida Orchid Society!

### MEMBER BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

- **MEETING AND MIXING** with many friendly and helpful orchid “neighbors”, amateurs, advanced collectors and commercial growers.
- **WELCOME KIT** includes a copy of “*An Introduction to Orchids*” our book that covers just about everything you need to know to successfully grow orchids in South Florida.
- **MONTHLY MEETINGS** with lectures by leading local and national orchid authorities.
- **FREE REFRESHMENTS!**
- **MONTHLY RAFFLE TABLE AND SILENT AUCTION!**
- **ORCHID JUDGING** each month by qualified regional and national judges.
- **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** that includes awards given and timely meeting notes.
- **FESTIVE HOLIDAY PARTY!**
- **AIR CONDITIONED** spacious conveniently located meeting hall with ample **FREE** parking.

**CLICK THE ICON BELOW TO DOWNLOAD AN SFOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. (PDF)**



The South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. is affiliated with the West Palm Beach judging center of the American Orchid Society.



**American Orchid Society**  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*  
*Affiliated Society*

The Orchidist is published monthly by the South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

All contents are Copyright © 2025 by either The South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. or the respective content creators and used with permission.

Visit our website at [sforchid.com](http://sforchid.com) where you can find both current and previous issues of The Orchidist.

Ron Hunt, editor, The Orchidist