



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

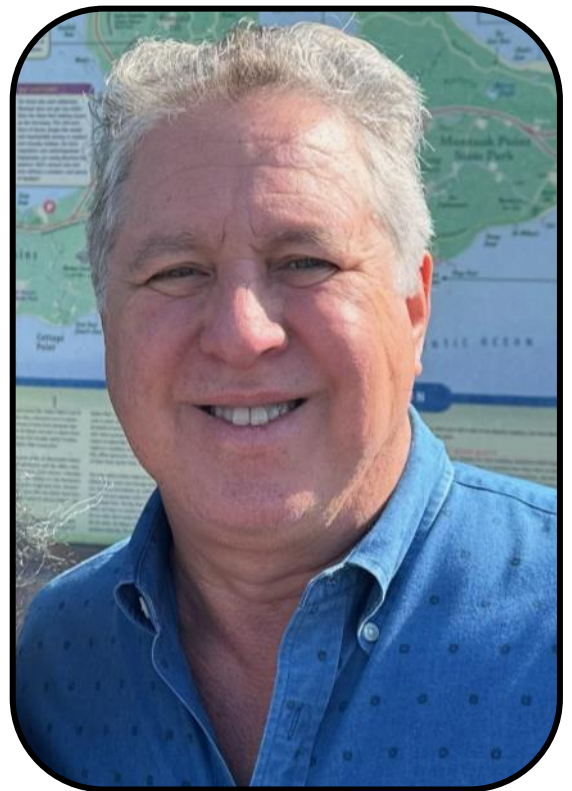
SFOS February 19 2025 Program

Antonio J. Cotarelo **Grammatophyllum — Queen of Orchids**

Antonio Cotarelo graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida and worked for the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Public Works and the Water and Sewer Department of Miami-Dade County for over 36 years, until his retirement in 2023.

He grew up in Venezuela where before the age of ten he saw his first cattleyas in bloom covering large oak trees. He never forgot that sight. As a teenager, he convinced his parents to purchase two cattleya species, which he grew and bloomed.

Years later in Miami, he started growing orchids as a hobby, and he realized there were hundreds of species. As many hobbyists do, he wanted to have orchids of all genera in his collection, but he eventually realized (after about 2000 plants!) that he would never accomplish that goal. He has now grown orchids for about 45 years.



His favorite orchid genera are Cattleyas, Gongoras and Stanhopeas. Specifically, with Gongoras and Stanhopeas, he is fascinated with the fact that nature would develop flowers that mimic insects in flight to attract their pollinators.

Plants for our Raffle are being provided by Motes Orchids.





SFOS Garden Walk

At the home of Charlie Flick

SFOS member Charlie Flick invites all Society members for a Garden Walk at his South Miami home on **Saturday March 1st, 2025** from **1 PM to 4 PM**. Charlie's home is located at **8420 Schoolhouse Road (aka 8420 SW 52nd Ave.)** Refreshments will be available.

Charlie is an outdoor grower with many of his orchids in trees. Although he has a variety of orchids, his collection is weighted towards Vandas, Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis.

Charlie hopes all Society members will join him at his home on Saturday, March 1st to enjoy the spring weather in his garden.

Membership Corner

Well here we go again! I'm still getting a Renewal in the mail every now and then. I really have not had a report on the January Meeting - I'm hoping things went well. There will be Renewal Notices at the February Meeting and you can pay your dues - even though I will be in Tallahassee showing Summer. Anyone who pays dues at the Meeting I will make every effort to see that your Dues Card is sent to you for the next meeting.

If you are interested in a South Florida Orchid Society T-Shirt please text me at 954-260-0764 and I will make every effort to see one is sent to you. I will be home around February 25 and I'm not sure about my March schedule yet.

I'm sure if you would like to help in some way at the meetings - all you need to do is ask - Chris, Margaret, Randy or Javier and they should be happy to put you to work. Please at least come out and support the Society in my absence!

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



Boy oh boy that last trip was long. Mom also said it was way too cold for her! I didn't mind the cold - it really felt good to me. I tried my best but I didn't get any real Big Ribbons - just little one - Mom said it was ok - because I was doing the best I could.

By the time you read this I will be showing in Lakeland and then the day of the February Meeting I will be in Tallahassee showing again - I sure hope I can make Mom proud of me at those two shows.

I really miss seeing all of you and I hope it won't be long before I can come to a Meeting.

Summer





SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY MINI-AUCTION SERIES

ALL PROCEEDS from items sold on the MINI-AUCTION
go to South Florida Orchid Society for the
benefit of the Society.

Members may donate plants or other items to benefit
this fund-raising effort.

We accept cash or checks only.

Thank you for your support,
The South Florida Orchid Society Board of Director's

SFOS January 2025 Judging Report

Judges: Javier Morejon and Erna Maxwell

Blue Ribbons:

- Den. Fire Wings - Virginia Benitez
- Rlc. Blanche Asiaka "Yuki" FCC/AOS - Charles Asche
- C. trianae "Cashen's" - Charles Asche
- Pda. Sopita Blue (V. Kulwadee Fragrance x Pda. Mimi Palmer) - Aida Walchli

Red Ribbons:

- Bc. Punakea "Lee" - Maggie Echevarria
- C. walkeriana ("Showstopper 4N" x "The Chairman" AM/AOS) - Virginia Benitez
- Enc. cordigera - Virginia Benitez

Thank you for showing your blooms. We look forward to more plants next month.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

Photos curtesy of Adia Walchli



Pda. Sopita Blue (V. Kulwadee Fragrance x Pda. Mimi Palmer)
Aida Walchli



C. trianae "Cashen's" - Charles Asche



Rlc. Blanche Asiaka "Yuki" FCC/AOS - Charles Asche



Den. Fire Wings - Virginia Benitez

January Meeting Photos



Photos courtesy of Chris Alger and James Furth

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.



Danilo J. Gallardo, Sr.

The South Florida Orchid Society sends it's deepest condolences to SFOS member Danny Gallardo, on the recent death of his father, who passed away on February 7th of this month. Our hearts go out to Danny and his entire family.



Danilo J. Gallardo, Sr.

Our Sponsors

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The South Florida Orchid Society Presents...

"An Introduction to Orchids"

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

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)



Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9PM

Orchid registration begins at 7:00PM.

No plants will be registered after 7:30PM

Program begins at 8:PM

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

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Ron Hunt, editor

