



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS March 19th 2025 Program

Omar Gonzalez

A chemist by trade and botanist at heart. I have found orchid growing a rewarding and enjoyable hobby. Work skills are used and are enjoyable for change. Solving problems is another aspect I enjoy.

I had moved back to Miami from Iowa in 2011 when I met a man that gave me some orchids: Spathoglottis, Vanilla, and Sobralia. It took a while for me to give up on a vegetable garden. Eventually I attended an orchid show before my first trip to Hawaii. I visited Akatsuka, Carmela, and became even more obsessed in Orchids.



Upon my return, I started growing seedlings under lights, after a year it was obvious that I needed a big yard. An opportunity to volunteer at the Bonnet House gave me lots of hands on experience in managing a Vandaceous collection. From then on, I would learn from anyone that would talk to me, seeking out knowledgeable growers, attending society meetings throughout Florida. I would attend every orchid show from Miami to Fort Pierce. Especially if they had lectures. Eventually some growers took a liking to me and they were a pleasure to get to know. All their wisdom was used to make my collection grow and I figure out how to make them thrive through trial and error. In that time I cannot tell you of how many plants were lost due to being a stranger in my own back yard. I have gone on to do orchid seed culture, hybrids, as well as caring for collections in private homes or businesses. I enjoy growing a myriad of genera, thanks to Springwater Orchids, Redhawk Orchids, Bill Thoms, Andy's Orchids, Tamiami Festival, Redland Festival, you get the picture. My hands on experience is extensive with Cattleya, and Vandaceous. I also take care of private collections.

Come hear me share the monsters divided, finding the best conditions for orchids, the pests and diseases and many other topics if time allows.

Lessons Learned: Wisdom from Growers and Orchid Growing. The hands on approach to orchid growing. Many failures and long awaited bloom teach more than we knew beforehand. I will share a presentation that will give some practical orchid care guidance.

Omar will be speaking tonight on the genera Sabralia & Phragmipedium

Omar will also be providing plants for our raffle table



On Saturday March 1st, 2025 South Florida Orchid Society Members and their guests gathered at the home of Board Member Charles Flick in the early afternoon to take a tour of his beautiful gardens where the majority of his Orchid collection is mounted on trees spread all thru out his yard. The mild weather was perfect, with lots of sunshine and the Orchids were in bloom. There were also many tropical plants and bromeliads to enjoy.

Charles and his family were very gracious to host our Society and served many refreshing beverages and home baked chocolate chip cookies. We would like to plan to have more events like this in the future, so if you have a collection you would like to share or a suggestion for a tour we could take together as a Society to an orchid show or vendor please let us know.

Thank you Charles on behalf of the South Florida Orchid Society for such a beautiful afternoon shared with friends and your Orchids in bloom.

Chris Alger, Board Member

Charlie's Garden Walk

CHARLES FLICK - what a great member we at the South Florida Orchid Society have. Even better going to his house to roam around his back (and front) yard on Saturday, March 1st was a GREAT way to spend a few hours! I for one am glad I was in town to attend. Charles and his wife and other family members were really on top of the game - a really big table filled with any thing you could want to drink and the cookies were oh so good.

Now about the reason we went in the first place - to see his Orchids! What can you say - but I think you will agree "I wish my place looked half that good"! I understand Charles's wife is responsible for some of the landscaping - she has done a fantastic job. Orchids in trees every where - great paths all around the yard - it was hard to decide where to look - look up and down - left and right - so it made more than one trip around the yard to see everything and then I'm not sure I saw everything.

I'm also glad I got to meet our newest members - Martin Rivas and Ariel Girardi - looks like we have two new members really interested in orchids - hope to see you at the meeting on March 19th.

All I can say is THANK YOU Charles for inviting us to see your Orchids! Charles keep up the good work - it's really worth it - especially to have such a beautiful place to relax after a days work.

Any one who didn't go - really missed a great time!

Sally Taylor



Photos Courtesy of Chris Alger, Berry White, Julie Rosenberg and Ron Hunt.

Charlie's Garden Walk



Membership Corner

It is hard to believe that it is March already! I have gotten a few more renewals in the mail and don't fall over if you see me at the March 19th Meeting. If you have sent me a renewal - I will bring your Membership Card to the Meeting - if you are not at the Meeting then I will mail it to you. I will be happy to take your renewal at the Meeting.

It will soon be time for me to begin work on the Roster for 2025-2026 - so I will ask you now to check your information in the current Roster and if it needs correcting let me know right away.

I will have SFOS T-Shirts at the March Meeting - if you would like to buy one - I can take checks or cash.

Summer and I have been a little on the busy side to say the least! I'll let her tell you about that - I'm a very proud Mom!

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



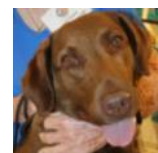
The shirts can be seen at our meetings and orders placed at that time. All shirts must be paid for when ordered. Watch an up-coming newsletter for a good reason to wear your new shirts to the meetings.

SUMMER'S CORNER

I didn't do bad in that place called Atlanta - I got to go to the Owner/Handler Group each day but didn't get any nice ribbons. Mom took me to Fort Myers to visit with Aunt Robyn (she does my nails). We left Robyn's and went to Lakeland - I really like that place. I got one Select Ribbon, got to go to O/H Group twice and got to go the OH Regional and then of the 15th I got a Group 4 in OHG - Mom was very happy. We then went to Tallahassee - I got 3 Select Ribbons, 1 Best of Opposite and 2 OH Ribbons. In the OHG on the 22nd I got first place and Mom was very happy. I didn't get anything in Best in Show - maybe someday.

Now Mom tells me we have to go to Louisville, KY and then we will be home in time to get to the Meeting on March 19th. I sure hope I will see you then.

Summer



SFOS Member of the Month!



Maggie Echeverria

If there's one person who can always be counted on to step up and help get things done, it's Maggie Echeverria!

The lady seems to be everywhere at once. I seriously don't know how she does it. Some secret sauce or something!

If you enjoyed our Holiday Party, *and I know you did...* Maggie's the one to thank.

She was the one who suggested the restaurant where we held it and no one could have made a better suggestion!

Maggie, you're our Member of the Month!

Photos Curtesy of Annette Rodriguez



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 February 2025 Judging Report

Judges: Julie Rosenberg

Blue Ribbons:

- L. undulata - Charles Asche
- Lnt. Mem. Essie Nixon - Steve Rodriguez
- Rht. Shinfong Orange - Aida Walchli
- Den. QF Mahea (Mini Snowflake x Onc. polysema) - Danny Gallardo
- Pot. Free Spirit "Miami Sun" AM/AOS - Charlie Flick
- Ctt. Belairensis "Cooper" - Barry White
- Enc. cordigera - Danny Gallardo
- B. nodosa - Steve Rodriguez
- Vanda Steve Rodriguez - Annette Rodriguez

Red Ribbons

- Den. Lowana Nioka - Danny Gallardo
- Ctt. Mem. Cynthia Taylor (Ctt. Caribbean x C. lawrenceana) - Danny Gallardo

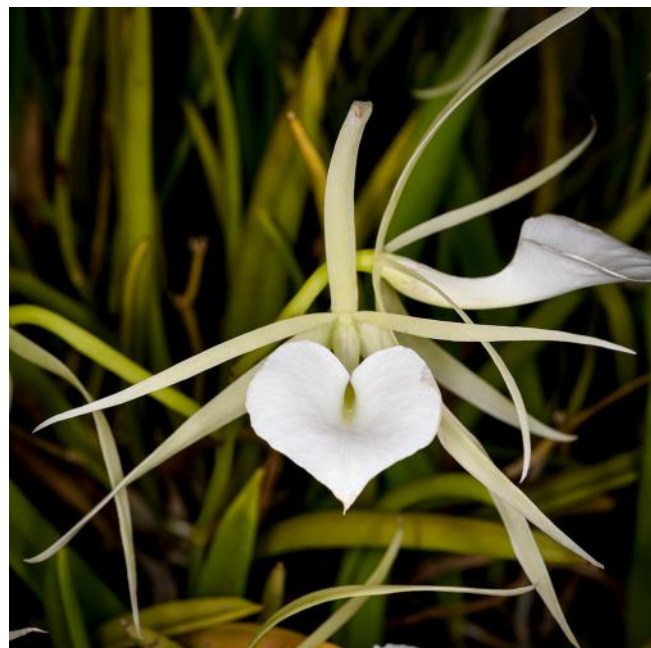
Culture Ribbons:

- B. nodosa - Steve Rodriguez

Thank you for showing your plants. We look forward to more blooms in March.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

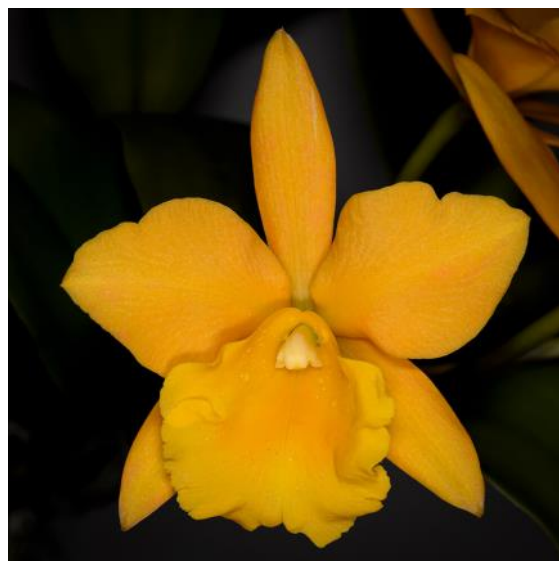
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B. nodosa - Steve Rodriguez



Enc. cordigera - Danny Gallardo



Pot. Free Spirit "Miami Sun" AM/AOS - Charlie Flick

SFOS February 2025 Judging Report



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Danny Gallardo



Rht. Shinfong Orange - Aida Walchli



Lnt. Mem. Essie Nixon - Steve Rodriguez

SFOS February 2025 Judging Report



Vanda Steve Rodriguez – Annette Rodriguez



L. undulata - Charles Asche

February 2025 Meeting Photos



February 2025 Meeting Photos



February 2025 Meeting Photos



Photos by Annette Rodriguez & Ron Hunt

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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

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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

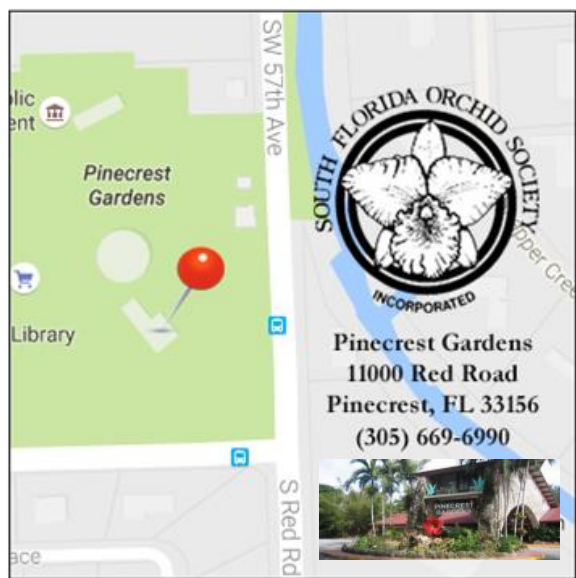
Special Directors—Ron Hunt & Julie Rosenberg

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

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
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American Orchid Society.



American Orchid Society
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Please visit our website at sforchid.com where you can find both current and past issues of The Orchidist.

Ron Hunt, editor.