

# The Orchidist



## SFOS January 2012 Program

What happens when a young Hawaiian boy grows up picking “field orchids” (they are the ones used to make Leis and put in the drinks of tourists)? He finishes high school, goes off to college on another island, and starts working in a lab (that is where they propagate and clone orchids). I heard he had dreams of becoming a cucumber farmer, but some place along the way he developed an interest in orchids (maybe from working in the lab) and the rest is history.

The young Hawaiian boy turns out to be Sheldon Takasaki; he is the owner of Carmela Orchids, which is located in Hakalau, Hawaii, just about 16 miles north of Hilo, (that's on the Big Island). Carmela Orchids was founded in 1960 and has developed over the years from a small collection of orchids being grown on top of a bomb shelter to a multi green house operation with an in house lab and a lot of other stuff. How is that for being technical?

Sheldon is no stranger to us in south Florida. He was a vendor at the 14 WOC, held in Miami in 1984 and became a regular at the SFOS Shows starting in 1985. I have had the pleasure of helping or getting into the way of Sheldon, Pearl and the family at shows in Miami and Fort Lauderdale since then. After a few years, we had the pleasure of getting to know his sister Carmela (that is where the name Carmela Orchids comes from) and her husband, Stan.

If you have never heard Sheldon speak you are in for a treat! I don't know what he will be talking on. I heard “Hawaii”. That is a big topic! It may cover orchids, growers, tourism or everything you always wanted to know about the Hawaiian Islands. I don't know what he will say or what he will do but I can tell you it will be entertaining.

Sally Taylor

## President's Message

First, I would like to wish each of you a very happy New Year. I hope these first few days of January have been the best beginning of a year you have ever had!

I have no speaker to thank, as we did not have a regular meeting in December. We did however have a Holiday Party. So, I would be amiss if I didn't thank Dan Christensen for doing all of the leg work and planning for us - “Thank You” Dan. Although our members were few - those who were there enjoyed a delicious dinner and great entertainment. Yes, I came home with raffle plants - or I should say I took raffle plants with me to Orlando for a Dog Show.

I must also say a big “Thank You” for all the food donations instead of exchange gifts - what a haul and the Toys for Tots were great too! The food was given to Richard C. who lives in my trailer park and recently broke his hip. He is still out of work (he is a painter - houses, offices etc) and has asked me to thank everyone for him as in his words “I stink at saying it right - but I am thankful”.

So, now we look ahead to January 18, 2012 - our next regular meeting. I would usually say, “Carol has a great speaker for us”. In this

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Thanks to Carmela Orchids who will be providing our raffle table!**

## Upcoming Events!

- January 20<sup>th</sup> —22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012—Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Show!
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012—Peter Kouchalakos
- March 21<sup>th</sup>, 2012—Jason Fischer
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012—Annual SFOS Orchid Auction!



## Year End Judging Report

I hope everyone had a Great Holiday. It's hard to believe 2012 is here! We will resume our monthly judging this month. Be sure to bring your plants for everyone to enjoy and you can earn points toward our year-end trophies. Remember judging starts at 7:30 so please have your plants entered by then.

See you at the meeting—Bonnie Riley



## SFOS Holiday Party!

The SFOS Holiday Party was held at the Holiday Inn in Coral Gables on the evening of December 11<sup>th</sup>. The buffet dinner was delicious, the evening's entertainment was delightful, and everyone who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening. The SFOS Members that attended were very generous bringing can food and toys to donate. The can food collected was donated to someone that has been out of work for quite some time. The generosity of our

members has provided this person with enough food for a couple of months. Several members also brought toys that were donated to Toys for Tots.

A big THANK YOU goes to Dan Christensen for arranging this wonderful evening; and another THANK YOU goes to the SFOS members who helped make the Holiday Season at little bit brighter for others.

## Orchid Judging Comes to Flamingo Gardens

(West Palm Beach, FL) Hosting special events amid historic gardens and wildlife will have new meaning when the American Orchid Society's West Palm Beach Judging Center begins monthly AOS orchid judging at Flamingo Gardens in Davie, Florida on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

Dorothy Bennett, Chair of the West Palm Beach Center, said, "We're excited about bringing orchid judging to these lovely and historic gardens. We welcome orchid lovers to visit the monthly judging and observe the process. It's a great way to learn about orchids. Most meetings include educational presentations that begin at 12:30, followed by judging at 2:00. Everyone is encouraged to bring their orchids in for judging."

The West Palm Beach Judging Center (WPBJC) also works with orchid societies across South Florida, and from Ft. Pierce to Key West as well as Central and South America by sending American Orchid Society (AOS)-sanctioned judges to the societies' orchid shows to evaluate beautiful plants and flowers for coveted AOS awards.

Those serving as judges have extensive training, which is ongoing, as well as a minimum of six years experience.

Many judges offer a lifetime of orchid knowledge with an innate dedication to helping others learn more about their favorite flower.

The South Florida area is known as the "orchid capital of the world" with its ideal climate for orchid growing. Thousands of South Florida orchid lovers have a wonderful opportunity to advance their orchid knowledge through the efforts of the WPB Judging Center's activities. For upcoming dates: [www.wpbjudging.org](http://www.wpbjudging.org)

The next big orchid show judged by WPBJC will be the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society show "Celebrating Orchids" on January 20-22, 2012 at the War Memorial Auditorium. For info: [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)

What: AOS Orchid Judging

When: Monthly beginning December 17, 2012, then continuing January 28, 2012. For 2012 upcoming dates: [www.wpbjudging.org](http://www.wpbjudging.org)

Where: Flamingo Gardens, 3750 S. Flamingo Road, Davie, FL 33330, (954) 473-2955, [www.FlamingoGardens.org](http://www.FlamingoGardens.org)

Info: Contact Carol Holdren, West Palm Beach Judging Center, (561) 212-4876 or [cjholdren@gmail.com](mailto:cjholdren@gmail.com)

## New Members!

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our two newest members...

**Benny & Gisela Valdes.**

## South Florida Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 N.W. 21st Street Miami, FL 33122-1605

A special thanks to Bob and Mike at RF Orchids for providing such beautiful plants for our refreshment raffle.

If you would like a chance to win one of these lovely plants all you need to do is sign up with Angelica to bring a refreshment item to one of our regular monthly meetings!

#### Advertising in The Orchidist

You can put your product or service in front of some of South Florida's most passionate orchid growers and enthusiasts.

Advertise in *The Orchidist* and watch your business grow!

#### South Florida Orchid Society Officers

**President—Sally Taylor**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—Judith Mezey**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President—Carol De Biase**

**Secretary—Julie Rosenberg**

**Treasurer—Dorothy Bennett**

Board members—Term ending 2014

Christa Collins, Ron Hunt, Kathy Whalen

Board members—Term ending 2013

Dan Christensen, Javier Morejon, Bonnie Riley

Board members—Term ending 2012

Ralph Hernandez, Angelica Ruggeri, Marlene Clark

Show Chairman: Dan Christensen

Immediate Past President: Judith Mezey.



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## Items of Interest

The Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society is pleased to invite any interested persons to enter a society or hobbyist/student judge exhibit in its upcoming show, themed "Celebrating Orchids", to be held at the War Memorial Auditorium, January 20-22, 2012. There are limited spaces available so prompt notification of interest will be required no later than November 30, 2011. Floor exhibits of 100 sq. ft., 50 sq. ft., and 25 sq. ft, tabletop exhibits of 8' x 2', 4' x 2', or "jewel box" exhibits of 2' x 2' can be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis. Exhibit set up will take place the preceding Tuesday and Wednesday. AOS judging will be held Thursday morning. There is no entry fee and prizes will be awarded.

Tour busses to the show are welcome. Admission for each guest will be the presale ticket price of \$5 (admission is \$10 at the door) which must be arranged prior to January 9, 2012. Busses will not be charged a parking fee.

For more details and to arrange for an exhibit reservation or group tickets, please contact

Christine Crepage (2012 FLOS Show Co-Chair)  
1401 NE 27 Drive  
Wilton Manors, FL 33334-4350

**954-563-3548**  
[crisnbil@att.net](mailto:crisnbil@att.net)

**Thank you and hope to see you at our show!**

Visit our web site at [www.flos.org](http://www.flos.org)

## SFOS Membership Cards

Membership cards for 2012 will soon be in the mail and members should bring them to the January meeting. In addition, final notices for dues are in the mail. Please be sure to send in your renewal!

We have a wonderful year ahead with great speakers lined up along with our annual Orchid Auction. In addition, we are already working on plans for the **66<sup>th</sup> Miami International Orchid Show on October 5, 6 & 7, 2012.**

**You will not want to miss a single meeting!**

*(President's Message—Continued from page 1)*

case, I probably know the speaker a little better than Carol does. He is Sheldon Takasaki of Carmela Orchids and he should be very interesting or at least entertaining.

So, I guess all that is left to say is see you on January 18!

Sally Taylor—President

## Joyce Kelly



South Florida orchid lovers have lost yet another dear friend and fellow orchidist. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Joyce Kelly finally succumbed to the cancer that she had been courageously fighting for a good number of years.

She will be greatly missed by everyone in our orchid community

Donations in memory of Joyce may be made to either the South Dade Amateur Orchid Club or to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

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

Submissions from members are always appreciated. If you have an orchid growing technique that works for you we want to know about it. You don't need to send anything fancy; a text file is fine. If you have digital photos send them along too. We'll take it from there. You will, of course, receive credit for your submission. Please send your submissions to ...

[theorchidist@gmail.com](mailto:theorchidist@gmail.com)

And be sure to visit our website at...

[www.sforchid.com](http://www.sforchid.com)

See you next month!

Ron Hunt—Editor, *The Orchidist*

