




The Orchidist

SFOS March 18th 2015 Program	President's Message
<p>Larry Cox will present our March program. Larry's lecture is entitled "Lycastes for South Florida."</p> <p>Larry Cox acquired his first orchid, a cattleya, over 40 years ago. His second orchid was a paphiopedilum. He has grown cattleyas, dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, oncidiums, vandas, and less popular genera; but paphs eventually became his favorite orchids and the heart of his collection. In 1989, he moved to the Redlands area of south Miami-Dade County where he built his dream 3000 sq. ft. orchid house and continued to increase his collection with emphasis on multifloral paphs. Larry enjoys showing his orchids and has earned forty-six awards, including five FCC's, from the American Orchid Society.</p> <p>In the early 90's Larry saw a lycaste in a show; thus began a fascination with another orchid genus. He quickly learned that most lycastes are cloud forest plants and require intermediate to cool growing conditions, but that didn't stop him from wanting to try some anyway. By reading up on lycastes, he discovered that there are warmer growing species, though they have never been very popular with growers in comparison to their flashier "cool" cousins. It also became readily apparent that lycastes are almost unknown in South Florida, so Larry set out to find plants to experiment with. He now has a collection of lycastes that grow successfully</p>	 <p>Hello all:</p> <p>January has become a distant memory with its orchid shows, sales, and orchid events all throughout our state. Growing season/blooming season is upon us. Inventories of blooming orchids are reaching their peak at this time for South Florida. In other words, if you haven't seen what you are looking for, just look a little longer, it will be there.</p> <p>In February we had our annual orchid auction instead of our regular meeting. I think we did well again this year. Not as well, when compared to last year's auction. But, with our recent office changes, I am thankful of the results. We are mailing letters of acknowledgment and thanks to all who donated their plants and other goods to our effort.</p> <p>Here is my chance to acknowledge and give thanks for all the contributions of our board members and volunteers. Lou, Dan, Ralph, Mike, Sandy, Chris, Sally, Jorge, Carlos and Carmita, Jim and Linda, and everybody else who helped that evening, thank you all for your help.</p> <p>March has for us in SoFlo the Fairchild</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued on page 3)</i></p>

Dan & Margie Orchids will provide our plant raffle table tonight!

Upcoming Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 15th, 2015 — Mac Rivenbark — Introduction to Philippine Species

"BLAME IT ON THE BRASSAVOLA...NODOSA" by Chris Alger

I met Erna Maxwell at the SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY (SFOS) "Falling In Love With Orchids" show which was held at The Bank United Center in Coral Gables in October, 2013. She was volunteering at the SFOS membership table. I believe that I fell in love with orchids at that show, and this is story is about what happened when she fell in love with orchids.

In the early 1970's, Erna Maxwell responded out of curiosity to an ad in the newspaper and attended her first orchid show. It was at the Miami Beach Convention Center. As she was leaving the show she purchased her first orchid. A Brassavola Nodosa. Bare roots, not in bloom, with 3 psuedobulbs. And she remembers it was \$1.50. Remember, this was in the 1970's. The vendor told her "hang it in a tree". So, the yellow allamanda vine she was growing on her 3rd floor apartment balcony (facing south), became the new home for her new orchid. When the allamanda got watered, her orchid got watered. And yes, one day it bloomed.

Sometime after that, she attended a springtime SFOS show at the former Bayfront Park Auditorium in downtown Miami. And she still recalls being amazed at a large, beautiful floor display which was produced by JONES & SCULLY, a grower who at that time was located near the Miami International Airport (MIA). At the show she met Bill Osment. He invited her to visit his nursery in Hollywood, Fl. She did, and he chose an Oncidium Spacelatum for her second orchid. She hung it up in her backyard. And yes, it bloomed. She was a "pink lady" at Baptist Hospital, and she would display an inflorescence on the desk in their auxiliary office. Sometimes she would display the pretty yellow blooms in the surgical waiting room. And she started sharing pieces of it with her friends she met at Baptist.

In the early 1980's she became a member of the SOUTH DADE AMATEUR ORCHID CLUB. The meetings were held at Ludlam Elementary School. At the same time, SFOS members were offering different classes in orchid growing at Ludlam, which she attended, and she eventually joined SFOS. Some of the long-time members will remember



that the SFOS monthly meetings were being held at THE POLISH AMERICAN CLUB on NW 22nd Ave & 12th St.

In 1984 she volunteered to welcome international visitors arriving at MIA to attend the WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE (WOC), which was being held at the former Coconut Grove Convention Center. Later, she travelled to Costa Rica with a garden tour group to help rescue orchids from a forest where the trees had been chopped down. After

the plants were identified by the LANKESTER GARDENS, they were allowed to bring the rescued orchids with them when they returned to the United States. In 1990, 6 orchid lovers concerned about the ongoing destruction of natural habitat, decided to form the COALITION for ORCHID SPECIES(COS), with the goal of educating the public. Erna became a Charter Member of the COS and

later served as President for 1997-1998.

Over the years as her orchid collection has grown, she has always remained a hobbyist. But it seemed destined that she would eventually take the plunge (her words) to study and become an AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY (AOS) Judge. She was encouraged and mentored by fellow members of COS who were already AOS Judges. When the 21st WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE was held in Johannesburg, South Africa this past September 2014, she was able to join a tour group and participate as an AOS Judge for the WOC. Erna is currently serving as Judging Chair for SFOS.

Born in Amsterdam, she knows now that when she made her decision in 1968 to make her home in South Florida, it allowed her to fall in love with orchids. I asked her, what she wanted to say to other fellow orchid lovers, and her answer was "if you haven't joined an orchid society, you are missing out on the best answers and advice for all your questions on being a successful orchid grower". Oh, and now you see why she said, "blame it on the Brassavola...Nodosa".

by Chris Alger

Bassavola Nodosa Photo Courtesy RF Orchids

Exotic Orchids in a Lush Tropical Setting

Visit R.F. Orchids, South Florida's oldest and most prestigious orchid firm, for the finest selection of quality orchids in town. Exquisite gifts, stunning floral arrangements and more await you in our tropical paradise.



28100 SW 182 Ave. • Homestead FL 33030
T: 305-245-4570 | F: 305-247-6568
www.rforchids.com



(President's Message Continued from page 1)

International Orchid Show, the weekend of March 13-15. co-hosted by the Orchid Society of Coral Gables. The beautiful venue of Fairchild Gardens is also featuring an exhibit by the world class glass master Chihuly until May 31st. Come for the orchids, stay for the glass sculptures.

This month's meeting will feature a Paphiopedilum presentation by highly regarded local paph collector, Larry Cox. If you have had problems growing these plants, this is your opportunity to learn from a successful local grower.

Our remaining meeting dates at CTK church are: Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20, Jun. 17, Jul. 15, Aug. 19, Sep. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16(HOLIDAY DINNER).

Please communicate with us through the following e-mails: info@sforchid.com for general communications and book sales, showchairman@sforchid.com for our 'ORCHID FIESTA' orchid show, October 9-10-11 at UM. And, publications@sforchid.com for our newsletter, and/or web issues.

Thank you,
Carlos



SFOS



ORCHID FIESTA

**October
9th - 11th
2015**

2015 Miami International Orchid Show

SFOS Board

President - Carlos Cahiz
 1st Vice President - Dan Christensen
 2nd Vice President - Guillermo Salazar
 Secretary- Julie Rosenberg
 Treasurer - Dorothy Bennett

Board Members - Term ending 2015
 Ralph Hernandez, Chris Alger, Ron Hunt

Board Members - Term ending 2016
 Erna Maxwell, Sally Taylor, Carlos Segrera

Board Members - Term ending 2017
 Christa Collins, Mike O'Dea, Jorge Merlo

Show Chairman - Dan Christensen
 Immediate Past President - Sally Taylor

We still have a few copies of our popular culture book, **"An Introduction to Orchids"** available.

Once they're gone there won't be any more!

Be sure to get your copy while you still can.

We even have special pricing for group purchases. Please contact the SFOS at (305) 256-0483 or by emailing us at info@sforchid.com.



SFOS Contact Information

South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 328615
 Ft. Lauderdale FL 33332



Telephone — (305) 256-0483

General Information — info@sforchid.com

Program Information — program@sforchid.com

Show Related Business — showchairman@sforchid.com

Publications — publications@sforchid.com

SFOS

1 Free Raffle Ticket

March 18th Members Meeting.
One Ticket Per Member!
Members ONLY!



Expiration Date: 03/18/15



Please join us at our new location

Christ The King Lutheran Church
11295 S.W. 57th AVE
Pinecrest FL 33156

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

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

Please send your submission to ...

Publications@sforchid.com

And, be sure to check out our web site at...

www.sforchid.com

See you next month!

Ron Hunt — Editor, The Orchidist

