



The Orchidist

SFOS March /April, 2020 Program — Steve Rodriguez

Hello SFOS Members and friends, Hope everyone is staying home, staying safe and working on your orchids.

It was a true honor that the first question to the our ask "THE ORCHID DOCTORS" project at our February auction, was directed to me.

The question was....**"What is Steve's secret to such beautiful plants??"**

This may sound a little corny but.... My secret is lots of tender love & care! LOL, Honestly it truly takes a lot of time, work, dedication & lots of patience's

In the morning's before I go to work, I water and check all the orchids and later after I get home from work, I spend lots of hours working on my orchids, weekends too.

These plants thrive in strong light, but not direct late-afternoon sunlight (although dendrobiums can handle more sun).

Light is the key element to growing amazing orchids and



getting them to bloom year after year.

They also need high humidity and airflow around the roots. They need regular periods of drying alternated with heavy watering. Orchids do best in temperatures above 50 degrees but below 85 degrees.

Fertilizing is also very important, as a general rule, fertilize orchids every 2 weeks during peak growth (spring and summer) and once a month during dormancy (fall and winter).

My suggestion is that you read "An Introduction to Orchids" by South Florida Orchid Society (Edited by Julie Rosenberg) & the "Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month" Book by Martin R. Motes.

I also suggest visiting our SFOS monthly group meetings to take advantage of all the knowledgeable guest speakers sharing and ideas, tips & tricks on how to care for orchids and help you grow them beautiful.



Blc. Hawaii Stars 'Paradise' HCC/AOS SM 80 points SFOS - Steve Rodriguez



Above just some of my winning orchids....Photo's by Ron Hunt

Happy growing everyone,

Steve Rodriguez

Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members

Reaching out & hoping that all of you, your families & your friends are staying safe, staying in good health & finding ways to cope with the unexpected disruption that we are all encountering in our lives.

There are so many different stories, some sad, some happy, that will come out of this experience. Hopefully one day soon we will be able to safely meet & share some of those stories with each other. Our last meeting in February now seems so long ago. That was our SFOS Annual Auction Night. And I need to take this moment to say thank you to some of our members who worked so hard to make that important annual fundraiser successful...

Thank you Steve & Annette Rodriguez for purchasing plants on behalf of SFOS at the Tamiami Show, caring for them & then bringing them to be bid on at our Auction.

And, thank you Sally Taylor for reaching out in Boca Raton to the vendors who donated so many plants. And, Dan Christensen who cared for those plants & also delivered them on Auction Night.

Thank you Carlos Cahiz for bringing many heavy boxes of our Orchid Books for auction, which were at one time part of the SFOS Orchid Library.

Annette, I hope everyone got to see the Auction Recognition Display you created, & the many photos you took.

Thank you to the volunteers, who spread the word about our Auction, welcomed our members & guests, donated plants, banners, refreshments, & their time helping to set-up, showcase the plants for our Auctioneer Mac Rivenbark, logged the successful bids, served as cashiers & cleaned up at the end of the evening.

We are fortunate that because of our Membership in SFOS we share a common bond thru our love of orchids. We can nurture that bond & reach out to each other using social media, the telephone, photos & help each other during this tough & unfamiliar time we are all going through.

Know that the SFOS Board of Directors & Executive Officers continue (by phone, text & email) to conduct that business which is ongoing & necessary to safeguard our Society & our Non-Profit Status.

I hope you enjoy reading the response to the first question, which was left in the "Ask the Experts" box at our February Meeting.

And, we have new members to welcome the next time we are able to meet. We will get past this strange time we find ourselves. And, we hope to resume our membership meetings as soon as it is safe to do so.

Till then...stay safe, stay well, stay in touch...

Chris Alger, President
South Florida Orchid Society



Considering the challenging times we're all facing, we've pulled together two free and fun activities for you...

MEMBER-ONLY WEBINARS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (all month long)

We're pleased to announce that we're making some of our most cherished member-only content (our member-only webinars) available for the general public through the end of April: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Browse our entire webinar catalog. Learn about orchids. Breathe. Reflect.

We can and we will triumph over this terrible virus. We hope this small gesture can add color, beauty and education into your life. Let one of nature's largest family of flowering plants inspire you with its beauty and diversity.

Membership Corner for March

SFOS is pleased to welcome Alexis Dominguez and Nuria Cid as New Members. Their Membership Kit was mailed to them - so they would have the Growers Coupons to use at the up-coming orchid events.



The Board will be voting on some new members (Don McDermott, Stephen K and Suzi Spoerl) at their March meeting and we will hope to welcome them as members real soon.

I understand that there was a great group of visitors at the February Meeting (that's where our new members came from). Here is hoping that more of them come back to the next meeting and decide to join us.

IMPORTANT - please take a new minutes to check your information in the current 2019-2020 Roster. I'm starting to work on the next Roster and want to make sure we have you listed the way you want to be listed and I hope to correct any spelling errors.

Sally Taylor, Membership Chair

SFOS EMBROIDERED SHIRTS

I'm able to order the shirts after each meeting and will have them for you at the following meeting. Watch next months New Letter for a reason to have a shirt and why you should come to the meeting dressed in it!

Sally



AUCTION

My final words on the February 19th, 2020 Auction - First, I want to say a 'BIG THANK YOU' to the following Orchid Growers who were VERY, VERY generous to me on behalf of the SFOS - in that all of the 50 plants that I collected were a donation for the Society and cost us nothing. Those growers are: Carmela Orchids, Odom Orchids, E.F.G.Orchids, Soroa Orchids, Plantio La Orquidea, Cal~Orchids, Krull-Smith Orchids, Quest Orchids, Mac's Orchids and Sally's Alley.

I want to thank Ralph Hernandez - who went to Quest Orchids to pick up their donation for me. I must also thank Dan Christensen for taking care of the 50 orchid plants I collected and transporting them to the Auction for me. I also need to thank Mac for bringing his donation on Auction night.

I'm sorry I was unable to attend the Auction - but on my side of the coin - I got Major Points on my little 91 pound girl - Skeeter.

Sally



Membership Corner for April

First I must say I hope that ALL of our MEMBERS are staying put and are safe and well. Saying that I can tell you that I'm at home with Skeeter, Syclone and Twister and they are about to drive me nuts! No Orchid Shows is bad but no dog shows is almost more than I can take. I hope for all of us that this will be over soon and we can get back together again.

On the Membership front - since we were not able to have a meeting in March - so that we could vote (at the Board Meeting) on new members who joined at the February Meeting - I did it the old fashioned way! I called all the Board Members that were in town and asked them for a yes or no to the following people: Victoria Lemus, Don McDermott and Stephen and Suzi Spoerl. They all live in Miami and the Board Members all gave me a YES! So, now we only need to be able to welcome them to the Meeting.

I have mailed the New Members their Membership Kits and Badges - they are all set for the Meetings and the Orchid Show on October 3rd and 4th.

I have sent out Final Notices to the 17 people who have not yet paid their dues for 2020. I will be working on the new Roster in this down time we are having and hope to have everyone paid up by the 1st of May. I have also sent letters to our Life Members and asked them to up-date their information.

I really don't want to run out of South Florida Orchid Society stuff to do - because if I do then it means I must start SPRING CLEANING!

Please all of you stay home when asked and keep safe and stay well! Hoping to be able to see you all again in May.

A request from the Membership Chair

I have been trying to contact Members and Life Members of the SFOS - I need your help - if you know any thing, about any of these people please get in touch with me: Joan Gerber, Milton Wallace, Kenneth Kone, W. Hayden Sparks, Dick Farwell and Norman Merkel. I don't want these people to remain lost.

Our Orchid Community has lost one of its older members. If you have been around a good number of years - like me you may remember her. Helen Schwartz passed away in early April of this Coronavirus - I believe she was in her 90's. I have not seen Helen in years - but I have fond memories of her. I know she was active in the Gold Coast Orchid Society and I can't remember if she was ever in the SFOS. I know she had hands on putting in displays in the SFOS Shows. Our Sympathy and Prayers go out to Helen's Family and her many friends.

This is one more reason for all of us to **STAY HOME AND STAY WELL**. We don't want this happening to anyone else.

Sally Taylor
Membership Chair



INTRODUCING ORCHID PRO
The New Online Orchid Database
From the AOS and included with
your AOS membership



To all Members of the South Florida Orchid Society

No I'm not writing yet another article as the Membership Chair - I wish I could only be doing that. I have now put on the hat of the 1st Vice President!

The reason for that is - I'm trying to take a little off of the plate of our President - Chris Alger. In case you have not heard Chris's Mother Patricia Peltier passed away on March 20. I got the pleasure of meeting this beautiful lady in January at the Tamiami Orchid Festival - she was out to celebrate her 94th Birthday! Our prayers and sympathy go out to Chris and her family.

Since I called the Members of the Board - the old fashioner way - well by cell phone about the people we had waiting to become New Members since the Auction at our February Meeting, I also asked them about leaving the Officers and Directors in place for a second year. Normally we would have appointed a Nominating Committee at the March Meeting (which we were not able to have) and they would have had to put together the Slate of Officers for the coming year. The Committee would have presented the Slate of Officers at the April Meeting (which is not happening either). The Membership would then vote in May (we hope this gets to happen) and then the Officers and Directors would be Installed in June - at our Installation and Awards Meeting.

So the Slate of Officers and Directors is as follows:

President - Chris Alger

First Vice President - Sally Taylor

Second Vice President - Carlos Cahiz

Secretary - Maria Almodovar

Treasurer - Dan Christensen

Directors - Term Ending 2021 - Annette Rodriguez, Erna Maxwell, Nancy Crisler

Directors - Term Ending 2022 - Steve Rodriguez, Lisa Coello, Michael O'Dea

Directors - Term Ending 2023 - Ralph Hernandez, Javier Morejon, Joyce Ritter

At this time we are hoping that we will be able to have a Meeting in May. Please watch the Newsletter for up-dates and/or future plans on this. We sincerely want each one of our Members to Stay Home and Stay Safe through this Coronavirus! We (the Officers and Directors) are trying to keep the South Florida Orchid Society on track - we want to keep moving forward!

Sally Taylor — 1st Vice President, South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

Photos from our Annual Orchid Auction!

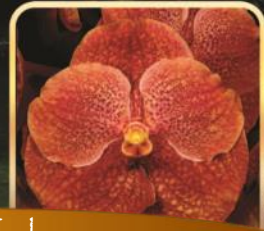


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Orchids in Paradise

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.



Spring Mail Order Sale

Use coupon code Spring2020 at checkout for a 30% discount on plants ordered from our online catalog. Sale ends April 30, 2020.



r.f.
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OFE Orchid supplies
17899 sw. 280 st. Homestead 33031
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OFE COVID-19 Update

We at OFE are open for business!

We are exempt from the mayor's and governor's closing order, because we sell products to the farming industry.

Please call ahead (305 253-7080) to place your order or to make sure we're not crowded. If you call ahead we can have your order waiting for you!

Also please remember to wear your masks and observe social distancing guidelines! With your help and understanding, we can all get through this!

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 sellers or call (305) 256-0483.



*Dan
And
Margie*

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West of I-75, just off 185th Way
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Orchids

South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Chris Alger

1st VP:—Sally Taylor

2nd VP:—Carlos Cahiz

Secretary:—Diana Hegg

Treasurer:—Dan Christensen

Directors, Terms ending in 2020

Ralph Hernandez, Javier Morejon, Joyce Ritter

Directors, Term ending in 2021

Annette Rodriguez, Erna Maxwell, Nancy Crisler

Directors, Term ending in 2022

Steve Rodriguez, Lisa Coello, Maria Almodovar

Immediate Past President—Sally Taylor

Show Chairman—Dan Christensen

Special Director—Ron Hunt

**Meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM
on the third Wednesday of each month.**

Registration of plants is from 7:00-7:30 PM.

Program Begins at 8:00 PM.

South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

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Ft. Lauderdale FL 33332

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A Message From the Editor

As I'm sure you've noticed, this issue of The Orchidist is not what you're used to, not to mention way late! Suffice to say that February and March of 2020 threw everyone for a loop. The Board of Directors bounced between having a March members meeting or not having a meeting. In the end, I believe the Board did the right thing and wisely chose to cancel the March meeting.

Unfortunately, the March issue of the newsletter was pretty much "in the can" by the time the decision was made to cancel. Yes, we cut it that close.

So we, and by that of course I mean 'I', have a lot of stuff left over from the Auction, the March newsletter and this month's newsletter. It's a mess... don't @ me! ;)

You're getting a chunk of that stuff this month.

Also, you may have noticed that while we don't have a speaker this month, we do have an Orchid Doctor in the house. Steve Rodriguez is here to give us some tips on how he grows those beautiful orchids in his collection. By the way Steve, Happy Birthday! Hope you have a great day!

In the months to come you may see more of this kind of thing while we work through this Corona Virus business.

What that means is that, going forward, all SFOS meetings and other activities should be considered tentative.

I know everyone is chomping at the bit to get back to normal, but I think we can all agree that it's better to play it safe with something as deadly as the Corona Virus.

When we do decide to start things back up you'll receive email notifications to that effect.

Meanwhile, Stay home... Stay Safe!

—Ron

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

