



# The Orchidist

## Meet Our Commercial Growers : Carlos Cahiz of OFE international

This month we're debuting a new feature to help us get through this Corona Mess that we're calling **Meet our Commercial Growers**. And, to start things off with a bang, our very own Carlos Cahiz had consented to share his knowledge of how to prepare our orchids for the rainy season! Thanks, Carlos!

### How to prepare orchids to survive our South Florida rainy season.

Growing orchids outdoors in South Florida demands us to find a formula that works for our two season year. We are all familiar with our Dry and Hot season, and also our Wet and Hotter season.

We will converse about options for our orchids during our Wet and Hotter season. Rains bring with them fungi, bacteria, and snails. I will try to share my experiences with these problems.

**Fungi/Bacteria:** Fungi and bacteria are opportunistic organisms. They will take advantage of any weakened system to colonize and propagate. You know you have bacteria because of the bad smell mushy leaves, bulbs, canes. Fungi's telltale sign are those large black spots on the leaves with a light green ring. Sunburn damage is more of a irregular blemish on the leaves. We at OFE sell the following products to control them:



**Physan-20** is a mild fungicide, bactericide, algacide, disinfectant which is completely safe on plants. You can use it at the rate of a tablespoon per gallon of water as often as you desire. One of the advantages of using Physan-20 is that it washes the sugary secretions from our plants, taking away a feeding incentive for ants and aphids. Ideally you would be using Physan-20 at least once a month on your plants. You can use as often as after every rain storm to help dry off your orchids.



**Dithane M-45.** It is a topical water soluble fungicide. The 'M' stands for Mancozeb, an old name in fungal control. You use it on your plants to kill fungi on their leaves. Two teaspoons per gallon of water is the popular solution. Apply it for three weeks in a row for best results.



**Thiomyl:** A systemic water soluble fungicide. You use it to control fungi on your leaves and roots. Its suggested solution is two teaspoons per gallon of water. Because it is systemic, plants have to absorb it, so it takes longer for it to be effective. The advantage of using Thiomyl is that it will not wash off when you water your plants.

We can combine both Thiomyl and Dithane M-45 at the same rate each per gallon of water. This combination gives you a topical and systemic, 'one-two' punch which is very effective.

**Organic/Home remedies:** Hydrogen peroxide to clean and disinfect. Cinnamon to dry up, kill and cauterize.



**Heavy duty Chemicals:** Aliette, Banrot, Cleary's 3336, Kocide, Truban, Distance, Subdue Maxx. These are only available in commercial sizes, prices ranging from \$90 to \$300.



**Slugs and Snails:** These critters thrive in our rainy season. They hide in our media, and come out at night to devour our orchids. You can tell that you have snails because the leaves will be eaten and there will be little filaments left on the wound. The assorted baits available in the market will mold and become ineffective after they are wet. So you have to replace it repeatedly.



We sell Deadline M-P brand bait. The M-P stand for micro pellets. These pellets are the only one that hold together after being exposed to water. Deadline is available in a 1 Lb. bag, or a 10 Lb. bag.

**Organic/Home remedies:** Use a shallow tray filled with beer. Snails are attracted to the yeast in the beer, go in and drown. Hydrogen Peroxide, spray at night directly on the snails/slugs and watch them melt. I have heard that Epsom salt works on them, but I have not tried it. Copper tape repels them.

**Heavy duty chemicals:** Metaldehyde, is the active ingredient and the commercial choice for snail killing. We carry Slug-Fest. It comes in a 2.5 gallon container for \$1370



We sell all these products via our web site, [www.ofeintl.com](http://www.ofeintl.com), and at our location, 17899 SW. 280<sup>th</sup> Street, Homestead 33031. We are open Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 6:00, Saturdays, 9 to 5, and Sundays 10 to 3. We will be happy to answer any questions via our e-mail [ofeorchidsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:ofeorchidsupplies@gmail.com), or contact us via Facebook or Instagram.

**Bring a copy of this article, or show it to us on your portable device for a 15% discount on your purchase for the month of June.**



## President's Message

Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members...

As always, I hope as you are reading this, that you and your family and friends are all healthy, safe and in good spirits. And that is a lot to ask & hope for right now. It still seems odd not to just show up for a monthly meeting or event that may usually have been taken for granted. And yet, that is where we all find ourselves right now.

Our monthly South Florida Orchid Society Membership Meetings have been put on hold since our last meeting, which was held in February. Some of us still manage to keep in touch through the different Social Media, which is available to us. Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, text messaging, emails and the ever-growing use of Zoom Room meetings. The old methods of phone calls and letters still work...but have some serious competition.

So...we present to you the CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR MEMBERS column starting with this May/June Newsletter which should help us as SFOS members to keep in touch...share some of our experiences (& orchids in bloom), and maybe even add a touch of humor into your day. Please read and enjoy the contributions from members Julieta Garcia, Sally Taylor, and Jorge Merlo. If you haven't already met each one of them, we have included a photo provided by Annette Rodriguez to put a face with a name.

Another new innovation we are unveiling in this Newsletter is our MEET OUR SFOS COMMERCIAL MEMBERS. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the products and services of SFOS Commercial Members than you might get from a typical ad. At the same time, Commercial Members are asked to choose a topic for their article which is informative and educational and which will benefit our members. So, please read their articles, and if you can support their business, please consider doing so. They are being chosen to be featured in this column because they help to support SFOS with their Membership, commitment and knowledge.

And, lastly...please take time to read the Notice about the Cancellation of our 74th Miami International Orchid Show, which would have been held on Oct 3-4th, 2020 at the Watsco Center on the U of M Campus. The Notice explains why this decision was necessary and should answer most questions you may have.

Currently, at the moment I am writing this message, I still do not know what the status will be for holding a June Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. As soon as we have that information, we will share it with you.

As always, be well and stay safe,  
Chris Alger, President  
South Florida Orchid Society

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## **Slate of Officers and Directors for the 2020/21 year 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**

## South Florida Orchid Society 2020 Show

After serious consideration, the difficult decision was made to cancel THE 74th MIAMI INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW which had been scheduled to be held at The Watsco Center on the University of Miami Campus Oct 3-4, 2020.

As you many of you know, a great deal of preparation is done by our Show Chair Dan Christensen for many many months in advance, planning and attending to a myriad of details, which results in our show being a successful event for both our attendees and our show vendors.

Not only does SFOS need to meet deadlines for deposits on contracts required to produce our show, we also require our Vendors to make advance deposits to participate. The vendors must make advance travel and hotel arrangements for themselves in addition to planning for the shipping and delivery of their plants and booth display equipment

Even with social distancing and wearing face coverings the Coronavirus Pandemic is still being spread in our and other communities and countries. We do not know what the public health situation will be in the Fall. We do not know if Universities will still be conducting classes virtually, or if visitors will be allowed on campus or with what restrictions. In many cities and states, there is much uncertainty going forward as to even which events should be postponed or cancelled. For SFOS there is no way to guarantee that we would be allowed to hold our SFOS Show, or what restrictions might be placed on our attendees, vendors and volunteers, regardless of all of the advance planning.

Many decisions will be made in the coming months concerning future attendance at large gatherings such as concerts, theater sporting events (and even orchid shows) which for the most part have all been put on hold, or cancelled for the remainder of 2020.

To quote our Show Chair Dan Christensen, "this decision to cancel has been made for the safety of our patrons and vendors". For our members, vendors and visitors that were looking forward to our show, this is a huge disappointment. But, we will get thru this, and as we go thru the different phases of recovery in the coming months, we can look forward to our show being held in 2021. And that will be cause for celebration.

The South Florida Board of Directors



**REGISTRATION is REQUIRED**

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Can't make it on the scheduled date or time?  
No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

## Webinars-Coming Attractions!






<b>When</b>	<b>June 16, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>June 23, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>July 14, 2020</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>RECORDED</b> <b>WEBINARS</b> at your convenience
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	How to Successfully Grow Coelogyne	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Culture, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats indexed by topic
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Charles Wilson</b> AOS Judge, Committee Member Education and Conservation	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	AOS Members, Judges, Concerned Conservationists, Scientists & More



## Membership Corner

### MEMBERSHIP CORNER—May

I hope this finds all of our SFOS Members home, safe and well. If you are like me right now - I'm bored - and the Spring Cleaning thing is a real downer!

Since we have not been able to have meetings in March, April and now May - our rate of getting new members has gone down - how ever I am pleased to report that we do have one new member for April - Maria Mendez! I'm hoping that we will soon be able to get together again at a meeting and be able to welcome the new members to our Society and also welcome everyone back from the "Stay at Home Rule" all of our regulars!

Since many of us have a little extra time on our hands - I would like for each of you to check the 2019/2020 Roster and make sure that your information is correct or the way you want to be listed. I am working on the Roster for 2020/2021 and I'm making every effort to get the information right (I do make mistakes but I'm trying harder). Please feel free to let me know the smallest details - they are important to me and I want you to be happy.

I know being stuck at home has not been easy - as most of you know I have three fairly large dogs (85 to 95 pounds each) - Skeeter (my 5 year old girl), Syclone and Twister (my 8 year old boys - they are brothers) and they are driving me a little crazy. They would rather be at a dog show and at this point in time so would I! However, I don't want to go any place that is not safe!

So I will say again - Stay Home and Stay Safe - we will get back together - some day and we will have a lot to catch up on!

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### MEMBERSHIP CORNER —June

I know that all of you SFOS Members are a tired of being at home as I am! But right now it is the safest place for us. Without having Meetings to push for New Members - you guessed it - we have no New Members for May. However - I can tell you that I am still getting in Renewals by mail. I am also working on the Roster and I will add every Renewal until the Roster goes to print. Again - I will say that If you have not checked your information in the current Roster - please do so and let me know if you need something corrected.

I do hope that it will not be long before we can all get back together again. Until then - Please stay home, if you can and be all means stay safe!

Sally Taylor, Membership Chair  
10911 Stirling Road  
Cooper City, FL 33328  
sallytaylor@att.net  
954-260-0764

**Don't forget to get your  
very own society polo  
shirt!**



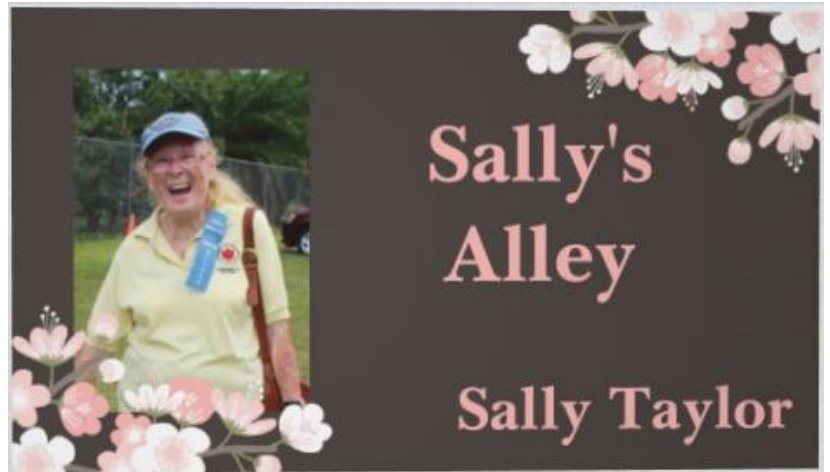
## Conversations With Our Members

### Sally Taylor

I know there are some of you who know me fairly well - but for those who don't - here is what I'm up-to! The SFOS has been a big part of my life - more of that at another time.

When I'm not working on SFOS membership stuff - I like to show my Dogs. Yes, I run around the ring with a 90# plus dog on the end of a Show Lead. Yes - we (me and my three Chesapeake Bay Retrievers) travel all over to Dog Shows in our motor home.

I was in Louisville, KY on March 13, 2020 at a Dog Show. I had already shown Skeeter (my 5 year old female) and Twister (one of my 8 year old males) and I was suppose to show Syclone (Twister and Syclone are litter mate brothers - but they are in no way twins) on Sunday. On Friday the 13th (a date I will never forget) - I was helping my friend (Debbie - she sell dog treats at the shows) - after I had shown Twister. The Vendor Chair came around at about 4 PM and told use that when Best In Show was over - so was the show! We began to pack up Debbie's stuff and had to wait until Saturday before she could drive her box truck into the building to load it up. By the time we were done with that on Saturday - I said "I'm not paying to stay someplace else tonight - we already paid for our spots here" - so we stayed until Sunday morning and then began the trip home. Of course we didn't know how bad things were or were getting. We did see when we stopped for gas, that the McD's and other places were making you buy and leave - tables and chairs had been roped off. I arrived home on Tuesday, March 17. We have been home ever since!



Of course, we were unable for have the SFOS meeting on 3/18. Other Orchid Events that were cancelled were at Fairchild Gardens, Bonnet House and the Fruit and Spice Park - that's only the ones I would have been helping at.

When my dogs get to driving me crazy - I go outside and talk to my orchids - at least I know that the orchids are happy that I'm spending time with them - they tell me by blooming! Of course - it is a little hot to spend too much of the day outside. So when I'm back in the house - well there is always that "spring cleaning" stuff. Well since I'm not too fond of that I look for other things to do.

Right now I'm working on the next SFOS Roster - so that it can be printed and ready on time in July - hopefully by then we will be able to have meetings again.

Until that time when we can come together - some what safely - please stay home and stay safe - I know it is hard to not go out and eat - but if you don't have to - please stay home and stay safe.

Sally

Photos curtesy of Sally Taylor



## Conversations With Our Members

### Jorge Merlo

Welcome, I hope we find all members and their families in good health and spirits. I don't have to go into details of how the world has had to deal with the pandemic. Chris, your SFOS president, asked me to talk a little about what I'm doing with my down time.

First I had to stay positive with all the changes that we all had to sacrifice. Personally, two of the biggest were not being able to attend church service and having my mom hospitalized and not able to visit her for 23 days.



Professionally, I continue to work every day.

As for my mental therapy, my Orkids, still need to be looked after. I regularly fertilize, fungicide and spend time talking to them. It might sound crazy but I believe that they do listen. As for fertilizing

just look at my hair. Missing out on all the cancelled orchid shows has been really hard. I really miss not seeing all of my orchid friends at the shows and our meetings. As a member of Coalition of Orchids Species we have continued to hold regular Zoom meetings every Monday night 7:00 to 8:00 pm all are welcome to attend. Great speakers and excellent topics.

So my friends, soon we'll be back together again. I leave you some pictures of what's blooming at the 305 Orkids. Please show some kindness and stay healthy. Peace from the 305 Orkids



Photos Courtesy of Jorge Merlo & Annette Rodriguez



## Conversations With Our Members

### Julietta Garcia

Dear SFOS Friends:

I hope this finds all of you and your loved ones healthy and safe; that's the biggest blessing these days. I've been on a nearly 100% lock-down since mid-March as a result of the pandemic except for my daily walks through Coral Gables. I've encountered beautiful displays of blooming Phals (picture attached) and vandas as I meander through this historic neighborhood filled with beautiful homes and oak lined streets.



Otherwise, I've been totally isolated, working remotely from home and ordering my groceries online. After about six weeks of my self-imposed imprisonment, my dear, thoughtful childhood friends showed up at my doorstep, unannounced, and surprised me with half a dozen scrumptious, gigantic Night Owl cookies (picture attached). I live in a gated community and I don't know how they got past the guard. I suspect they bribed him with a delectable cookie. In any case it was an unexpected, welcomed surprise!



Vanda Raspberry Tart

As a result of not having to commute to work I've had a little extra time on my hands to nurture my orchids. As you might imagine, many of my orchids have been repotted, I've made new little balls of fertilizer using pantyhose for my vandas and I've been rewarded with many blooms during these weeks of quarantine. I'm especially excited about my constant bloomer, Vanda Corneels Ciller's Raspberry Tart (V Doctor Anek x V Mimi Palmer), picture attached. I miss all of my orchid friends more than you'll ever know and I'm looking forward to resuming our orchid activities as soon as it is safe to do so. Stay safe, stay healthy and wear a mask to keep others safe and healthy!

Photos courtesy of Julieta Garcia & Annette Rodriguez



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Edited by Julie Rosenberg

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**Directors, Term ending in 2022**

Steve Rodriguez, Lisa Coello, Michael O'Dea

**Directors, Term ending in 2023**

Ralph Hernandez, Javier Morejon, Joyce Ritter

**Immediate Past President**—Chris Alger

**Show Chairman**—Dan Christensen

**Special Director**—Ron Hunt

Meetings are held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
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.

P.O. Box 328615

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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](mailto:Publications@sforchid.com)

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

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See you next month!

Ron Hunt — Editor, The Orchidist

