



The Orchidist

SFOS January 19th 2022 Program

A special program has been planned for our first South Florida Orchid Society Meeting in this New Year.

On Wednesday January 19th, 2022 our esteemed Certified SFOS Judges Erna Maxwell & Julie Rosenberg will be presenting an INTRODUCTION TO EXHIBITING and JUDGING to teach our Members & Guests what you need to do to prepare your Orchid plants for Judging. For those of you who have already entered plants at our meetings in the past, the information that our SFOS Judges will share during their presentation can serve as a valuable REFRESHER COURSE.

From best practices to use while you are growing your plant, to what you will need to do to prepare & enter your plant for judging, & what steps you will need to take once your plant has received a Culture Award.

South Florida Orchid Society has a long tradition of providing Orchid Judging at our monthly meetings. In addition to the opportunity to enter a plant you have spent time and effort nurturing & caring for, your plant will be photographed professionally by Ron Hunt & may be featured in our Monthly SFOS Newsletter.

Printed Handouts will be provided to all attendees with an outline of the information that will be covered. It is our hope that each of you will be able to benefit from this special presentation.

Following the presentation there will be time for questions.

Erna is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge, Julie is an accredited SFOS judge and editor of the SFOS culture book, *"An Introduction to Orchids."*

Note: Please refer to Page 5 & 6 in your South Florida Orchid Society 2020-2021 Membership Roster for additional information on the South Florida Orchid Society Regulations for EXHIBITING and JUDGING.



Erna Maxwell



Julie Rosenberg & Friend

© Annette Rodriguez

Plants for our raffle table are being generously supplied by
Sheldon Takasaki of [Carmela Orchids](#).

President's Message

Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members!

A Happy New Year to everyone. I have really looked forward to welcoming 2022 & leaving 2021 behind. It seems that some of the uncertainty & inconveniences that we have had in the past 2 years due to the Pandemic are still lingering. Nevertheless, we are persevering & slowly getting closer to what most of us would consider as a more normal way of life.

After canceling our Holiday Party for December 2020, we were able to renew our SFOS tradition of getting together in December to share friendship & a delicious meal. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at Shorty's BBQ for the evening. We had the fortune of a really great server & I am sure that everyone enjoyed the food (& that is in spite of the shortage of the corn-on-the cob that Shorty's is famous for).

We have a really special Program planned for our Wednesday January 19th Meeting. Come & learn what you need to know to grow & present your beautiful Orchids for judging. Please welcome our Certified SFOS Judges Erna Maxwell & Julie Rosenberg who will be guiding us thru the process. And of course, if you have plants you wish to have judged on this evening, bring them at 7:00 pm. Everyone will be provided a printed Handout with the outline of what will be covered during the evenings presentation.

The SFOS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that long-time SFOS Member Marilyn Strauss has been appointed by the Board as our Treasurer to fill the vacancy that was recently created. This is a very important fiduciary task which allows us to function as a Non-Profit 501c (3) organization. Please congratulate her & give her your support.

We still are in need of a Secretary to the Board. If you are interested in this position on the SFOS Executive Board, please let us know. As Secretary, their primary responsibility is to attend & record in writing the Minutes each month of actions taken on behalf of the Society at our Board Meeting. Our SFOS Board generally meets from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month,

prior to the Plant Judging & Program at our regular Membership meeting.

As a precaution, we will still not be serving refreshments at our meeting. You are welcome to bring your own snack & a beverage if you like.

Remember to bring your new 2022 Membership Badge to receive a complimentary Raffle Ticket for the Members Only Drawing. If you have not renewed your Dues for 2022, you may pay by Cash or Check in person at the Meeting. Sally Taylor, our Membership Chair has worked very hard to ensure that everyone receive their 2022 Badge in a timely matter. She is also working on the 2022 Roster & needs you to fill out an updated Contact Form when you renew your dues.

Please consider on saving any divisions of plants & other items, which you can donate, to our next SFOS Auction Night. I will be appointing an Auction Committee to start working on the planning for our 2022 Auction. If you would like to be part of the SFOS Auction Committee, you will be most welcomed. Stay tuned for an announcement of dates and times. The SFOS Auction proceeds provide an important contribution to the yearly expenses we incur as an Orchid Society.

Join me in extending condolences to the family of SFOS Board Members Steve & Anette Rodriguez on the recent loss of Steve's mother Dr Raquel Travieso on January 3rd, 2022. Life is precious. Take a moment to tell someone in your life that you love him or her.

The new mailing address for SFOS is,

South Florida Orchid Society
PO BOX 565241
Miami, FL 33256

Hope to see each of you on January 19th. For those that are currently traveling, please be safe & stay well.

Sincerely,
Chris Alger, President
South Florida Orchid Society

Membership Corner

I have received more 2022 renewals - you all are keeping me happy. Please keep those checks coming in. We are hoping to get our meetings really going in the New Year - even if it is a new normal. However for now we are still in Covid mode.

If you have not paid your Dues for 2021 and still want to remain a member of the SFOS - please send me a check for \$20.00 that was the Stimulus Renewal for the year 2021 only! If you don't pay for 2021 you will have to join as a new member.

Speaking of new members - we have one - well we will have when the Board votes on the application. Frank Rudman - has sent us a check for membership - he was a members many years ago. It will be good to welcome him back.

Sally Taylor

Membership Chair

Dr. Raquel Travieso

On January 3, 2022 our SFOS Board Member - Steve Rodriguez lost his Mother. Steve's mother was Dr. Raquel Travieso, both a Mother and Grandmother. On behalf of the South Florida Orchid Society, I would like to extend the very most sincere sympathy of the Society to the whole Rodriguez Family. Our hope is that the Rodriguez Family will remember the fun and happy times - and that time will ease the pain of this loss.

Sally Taylor

on behalf of the

Membership of the SFOS

Lynn Bretsnyder

We have lost one of our long time vendors at our SFOS shows. I hope that some of you will remember Lynn Bretsnyder. She had Impact Orchids in Homestead - years ago. I was recently notified that she has passed away. Lynn was living in New Smyrna Beach, FL.

Program Chair

Well I'm not going to take credit for getting the Speaker for January 19, 2022! Our President Chris Alger did it! We will have our very own Erna Maxwell and Julie Rosenberg giving us a lesson on Judging 101.

I didn't have much to do with getting the Speaker's for our Meeting in January - my job for this month was to get the Raffle Table plants! Well - I did it - Sheldon Takasaki is sending plants from [Carmela Orchids](#) in Hawaii. Some of you will remember Sheldon and Pearl - they are long time members of the SFOS and were vendors at our shows for years. I know the plants will be great and all I can say is that the only thing better would be to have Sheldon (and Pearl) here to be the speaker at a meeting! I promise that I will try to get them to a meeting the first time they come back this way.

Sally Taylor

Acting Program Chair

SFOS Holiday Party!



Handwritten signatures at the top: David, Don Lisa, Ron, Thank You Don, Chris Alger.

Shorty's Bar-B-Q

SFOS Holiday Party! Baby Back Feast!

December 15th, 2021, which would be our regular December meeting night.

<u>Choice of Entree</u>	<u>Choice of Side Dish</u>
Baby Back Ribs Half Rack	Corn on the Cob
Baby Back Ribs & Chicken	BBQ Beans
Baby Back Ribs & Spare Ribs	House Salad

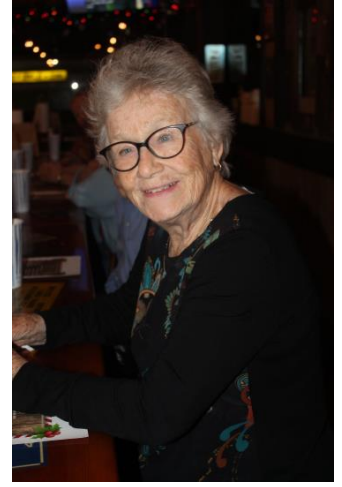
ALL PLATES INCLUDE

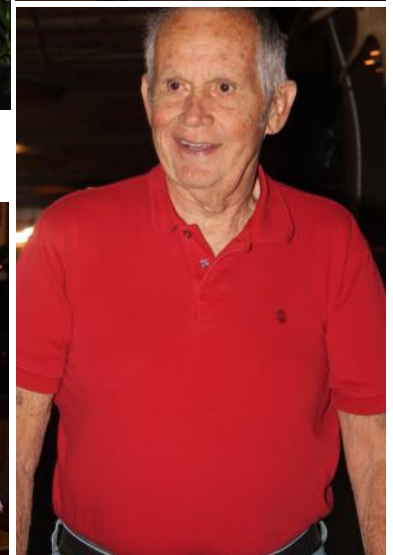
- French Fries
- Cole Slaw
- Garlic Bread
- Soda, Coffee, or Tea

Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased separately at the bar.

Handwritten signatures and notes around the menu:
 Left: Ralph, Marilyn Evans, Carol & Lyatic, Mike San Martin.
 Bottom: Joyce, Thank you, Maxwell, T-jil, Sam & Michael, Michael, Amette & Steve.







Happy New Year!

All Photos are curtesy of and © 2022 Annette Rodriguez



FOR THE NOVICE

Why Do You Grow the Orchids You Grow?

By Sue Bottom/Photographs by Terry Bottom (Photos can be viewed in *ORCHIDS*, January 2016, pages 26 through 29)

Now It's Habenarias

Has your taste in orchids changed over time? When you first start growing orchids, you buy everything in sight, all you know is that you need more, more! Cattleyas are my enduring favorite, the incredible flowers, the fragrance, perhaps that's why most of the benches and overhead poles are filled with them. But then you go to an orchid show and see something that you simply can't live without.

In the beginning it was phalaenopsis. When we were living in Houston, the Houston Orchid Society was a phalaenopsis club thanks in part to Bill Tippitt's breeding of multifloral phals. It was an exciting time for phalaenopsis, the hybridizing for yellows was in its heyday and the harlequin phals had just been introduced. How can you not love phals with their long lived graceful blooms?

Then one day Stephen Moffitt gave a presentation to the Galveston club about catasetums, so naturally I started growing them. What is easier than a plant that requires no winter care during its dormancy but grows like mad in the summer? Add Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids into the mix with all his beautiful and fascinating hybrids and there are new wows to tempt you every year.

Next there was the vanda phase, so many colors, sizes and shapes! After that it was the ephemeral stanhopeas. That addiction started with a *Stanhopea grandiflora* that bloomed 8 times in one year, can you spell hooked? It took a bit of observing how others succeeded with theirs and some trial and error until I could reliably rebloom them and by then I had almost two dozen different varieties. After that came the African angraecoids in their white and green glory, the dendrochilums with their chains of miniature flowers and... well, you get the idea.

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries had some *Habenaria medusa* seedlings for sale when he came to talk to our club and I had seen pictures of this oddity and thought, why not? When it bloomed, it was love at first sight and the hunt was on for more. There have been many enablers along the way, including Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids on the east coast and Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids on the west coast and several in between. Before the year was over, there were about two dozen habenarias in the greenhouse, orchids that grow from tubers and require a dry dormant winter.

That's how I found myself outdoors on a cold January afternoon with all these dead looking plants figuring out how I was going to repot them so they'd come back to life in the spring. The trickiest part is keeping the tuber oriented so the shoot end is pointing up and the root end is pointing down, easier said than done in that one end looks pretty much like the other. I think I made the wrong decision on one or two of them last year. For the similarly afflicted, this is what I have gleaned from reading about them and talking with other orchid growers.

Pot Selection. First, look for deeper standard size pots rather than azalea or bulb type pots. Don't use peanuts at the bottom of the pot because that's where the tubers will want to form. Use smallish pots, if you think you're slightly

(Continued on page 9)

underpotting, you've probably chosen the right pot.

Potting Mix. Most folks suggest using either sphagnum moss or Pro-Mix HP as your potting mix. I opted for a Pro-Mix HP/sponge rock mix and top dressed with a little sphagnum moss so the soilless mix wouldn't wash out of the pot. If you use sphagnum, make sure you have the AAA grade, otherwise find a good soilless mix. Next year I may try a few in straight sphagnum moss packed tightly enough that the plants will stand up without support.

When to Repot. After flowering, the vegetation starts to brown and the plant begins to enter dormancy. The tubers are still growing and storing energy for next year's growth so just limit your watering until the plant dies back. Don't be in any hurry to remove the dead top vegetation from the pot because that will help you orient the tubers properly during the repotting process.

Tuber Orientation. If you just knock the plant out of the pot and clean away the old potting mix like you would with other orchids, you'll find yourself saying oops, which end is up? The first time repotting, I held the tubers in my hand oriented top to bottom from depotting through repotting, to make sure they didn't get turned around. Often you can tell there is a pointy end from which the shoot grows that should be oriented up when you repot. But if you can't tell which end should be up, hedge your bets and lay the tuber sideways.

Then You Wait. Once your tuber is happily ensconced in its dry new home, put the pot someplace where it won't accidentally get watered. You have to wait until the tuber breaks dormancy and sends up a new shoot and then you can begin watering. If there is no new growth when all your other orchids have spring fever, you can give your Habenaria an occasional sip to encourage it to start growing. Once it has a few inches of height, give it copious amounts of water and fertilizer during the growing season because like your other winter dormant orchids, it has to cram 12 months of growing into 7 or 8 months. In the fall the bloom spikes will emerge from the center of the plant, get ready for the show!

Orchid growers go through all sorts of trials and tribulations learning how to grow one type of orchid and then when they finally figure it out, they decide to start growing a different type of orchid. It is probably natural that our taste in orchids evolves over time. After all, if you look back at your recipes from several years ago you realize your ingredients and techniques have morphed over time... though you must be careful not to admit to a Louisiana native that you are now adding beans to the gumbo!

Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera. They are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board. sbottom15@hotmail.com

The original article with complete photo layout can be found here: [ORCHIDS Magazine \(aos.org\)](https://www.aos.org/OrchidsMagazine)



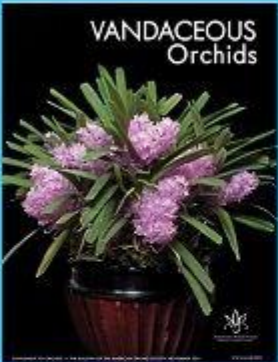
American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Coming in ORCHIDS January 2022

- Collector's Item - *Cattleya cernua* by Judith Rapacz-Hasler
- For the Novice - After the Cull by Sue Bottom
- Orchids Illustrated - *Lycaste* by Wesley Higgins and Peggy Alrich
- Photograph of the Week
- First Ladies and Their Cattleyas: *Cattleya Florence Harding* by A.E. Chadwick
- Who Were These Guys; Part 16: Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911) by David Rosenfeld, MD
- *Paphiopedilum druryi* in India by Udai C. Pradhan
- Growing orchids in Wine Coolers by Alfonso Doucette
- Nomenclature Notes - Will the real *Brassavola cucullata* Please Stand Up by Tom Mirenda and Claude W. Hamilton

To receive a FREE digital sample of ORCHIDS magazine click [here](#)

There's Always More to Learn - Become Familiar with the VANDA ALLIANCE
Growing, History, Hybridizing, Conservation [REGISTER HERE](#)



AOS Orchid Culture Day

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022
Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)
\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement,
this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.
Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) **Kim Fedderson** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
- 3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture

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.



28100 SW 182 Ave. • Homestead FL 33030

T: 305-245-4570 • F: 305-247-6568 • www.rforchids.com



Carmela Orchids Website!



SFOS T-Shirts & Polo shirts available!

See Sally Taylor for all the details!

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 merchants or at SFOS meetings!



South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Chris Alger

1st VP:—Sally Taylor

2nd VP:—Vacant

Secretary:—Vacant

Treasurer:—Marilyn Strauss

Directors, Terms ending in 2021

Annette Rodriguez, Erna Maxwell, Nancy Crisler

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

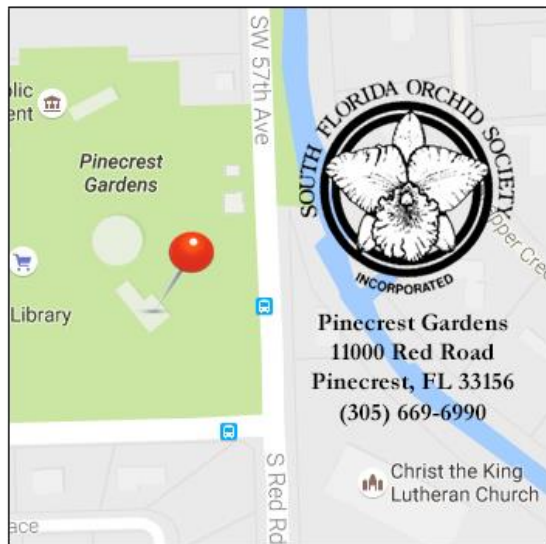
Show Chairman—Vacant

Special Directors—Ron Hunt & Julie Rosenberg

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.
P.O. Box 565241
Miami, FL 33256



Get Vaccinated!



The South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. is affiliated with the
West Palm Beach judging center of the
American Orchid Society.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

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

You can always find both current and past issues of *The Orchidist* on our web site, www.sforchid.com.

See you next month!

Ron Hunt — Editor, *The Orchidist*