



# The Orchidist

SFOS February 16, 2022 Program

## John Romano: Types of Dendrobiums to grow in South Florida!

John has been a licensed healthcare provider since 1986 specializing in pain management and sports therapy. He also teaches healthcare modalities in schools and colleges as well as continuing education for other licensed healthcare providers and is an international lecturer, most recently presenting at the International Pain Management Symposium in the Virgin Islands in 2019. He won Fort Lauderdale's Best of for Healthcare providers in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

He started growing orchids in 1977 at the age of 11. He worked at Waterloo Gardens, Inc. in Exton, PA and Gilberties Garden Center in Delaware County, PA as tropical plant expert and orchid manager and purchaser. In 2002, he got hired at JEM Orchids in Delray as their grower and worked there until 2005.

John specializes in Sobralias, Dendrobiums, Catasetinae, and unusual species. In 2014, a new species of Sobralia, which was discovered in Guatemala, was named after him, *Sobralia romanoi*.

John is a member of FOG and Newbie FOG groups on Facebook; runs the Sobralia and Brasolia group, the Dendrobium Species group on Facebook as well as runs the corresponding website [www.dendrobiumspecies.com](http://www.dendrobiumspecies.com), has the Let's Talk Orchids group and hosts the YouTube show by the same name and is co-owner of J & J Unique Orchids with his business partner John Melecio. Their group on Facebook is J&J Unique Orchids and their Instagram account is [unique\\_orchids](https://www.instagram.com/unique_orchids).

He has had several orchids awarded and entered the AOS judging program and is a third year student judge.



John will also kindly be providing plants for our raffle table!

## President's Message

### **Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members,**

Hope this message finds everyone in good health and enjoying the cooler weather (with the exception of the very recent cold front). At our January meeting, we had a very special educational program. Erna Maxwell, our judging chairperson and accredited AOS judge and Julie Rosenberg, accredited SFOS judge and the editor of our book, *"An Introduction to Orchids"* gave an informative lecture on preparing your plants for exhibition and judging.

Everyone who attended received a two page Handout with an outline of "DISCUSSION ON THE JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY". Our hope is that more SFOS Members will be confident enough and encouraged to bring in their flowering plants and receive a FLOWER QUALITY AWARD OR CULTURE AWARD. Those of you who were unable to attend and would like a copy of the handout, please let me know.

At our meeting on Wednesday FEBRUARY 16th, 2022 at Pinecrest Gardens, please join me in welcoming John Romano of J&J Unique Orchids as our Speaker. I am sure he will have plenty of enthusiasm sharing information about the Awards he recently earned at the Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society Show and the more unusual orchids that have his attention. J&J Unique Orchids will also be providing the plants for the February Raffle table.

And while we are on the subject of Programming, the SFOS Board is pleased to announce that SFOS Member Don McDermott has been appointed to the SFOS Board of Directors to fill the Vacancy of Second Vice-President. Don will also serve as Chairman of the Program Committee. If you have a suggestion for a speaker or a special program, please let Don know. He will welcome your input.

**As always, please remember to wear your 2022 SFOS Membership Badge to receive your complimentary Members Raffle Ticket and be sure to present your AOS Membership Card if you would like to participate in the Special AOS Raffle drawing.**

SFOS Members should bring their plants that they want

judged by 7:00 pm and the regular Speaker program will begin at 8:00 pm. Blue Ribbon award winners are featured in our monthly newsletter.

**As a precaution, we are still not serving refreshments at our meeting; however, you are welcome to bring your own snack and a beverage if you like.**

In January, I mentioned that I would be forming a 2022 Auction Committee. So, please consider signing up to volunteer as part of this event, and save any divisions, plants or other items you may be willing to donate to our next Auction Night. The date for the Auction has not yet been determined.

The Board is in the process of forming several other Committees, which will contribute towards our Society becoming stronger, and there will be opportunities for any SFOS member, which would like to become more involved. Each Committee will have a Chair and their respective Committees will be able to make decisions on the best way to accomplish the goals of South Florida Orchid Society.

And now...

Thank you to ANNETTE RODRIGUEZ who is doing such an outstanding job of posting photos & information on our SFOS Facebook page.

Thank you to RALPH ARGEO HERNANDEZ and CARLOS SAN MARTIN for keeping the excitement going for our Monthly Raffle Table.

And, Thank you to SALLY TAYLOR for all your efforts in getting the 2022 SFOS Membership Badges out so quickly to everyone who has renewed their dues.

It takes the effort of many other different SFOS Members to make everything happen...so consider finding some time to use your skills & being part of our success.

Hope to see everyone at our February Meeting...

Sincerely,

Chris Alger, President

SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY

## Membership Corner

I'm so, so proud of the members of SFOS! We will have two new members (when the Board votes on them on the 16th) - Juan and Ofelia Granados - hope they will be at the next meeting so we can introduce them to all of you. We also had several members pay their dues at the January meeting. There are still some members who need to send me their renewal information and check. I will be getting ready real soon to start putting the new Roster together and if I don't have your check you won't be in the Roster.

I will have new Membership Applications at the meeting on February 16th, you will be able to take one to a friend - just as long as you get that friend to join!

As always - if you have a question about membership (or something else) please get in touch with me. Texting me is the fastest way to get an answer (that is if I know the answer or can make one up).

See you on February 16th!

Sally Taylor  
Membership Chair  
sallytaylor@att.net  
954-260-0764

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## T-Shirts

We have a few T-Shirts that are for sale - I can't say that I have all sized and kinds on hand - I can say that it is hard to order right now and the prices may have to go up when I do order - as they are having trouble getting shirts in right now. If you want one - see me at the meeting in February. I may not be here in March - not real sure yet.

Sally

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About the Speaker:

I was able to get John Romano as our Speaker for February 16th. I'm sure some of you will remember JEM Orchids where he use to work. I can't wait to talk to him because he comes from Pennsylvania - I think the same county I was born in. Please come out and support your society on February 16th. John will be providing the Raffle Table.

I'm sure by now if you know someone who was at the meeting in January (and you were not) you have heard what a great Program our very own members - Erna Maxwell and Julie Rosenberg presented. I'm also sure you heard about the Raffle Table plants from Carmela Orchids in Hawaii. All I can say is you really missed it!

Sally Taylor  
Acting Program Chair



## January 19 2022 Judging Report

Judges: Julie Rosenberg, Sally Taylor and Erna Maxwell

### Blue Ribbons:

- Rhy. gigantea - Alexis Dominguez

Thank you for showing your plants. We look forward to more blooms at our February Meeting. Please have your plants entered by 7:30 PM for Judging.

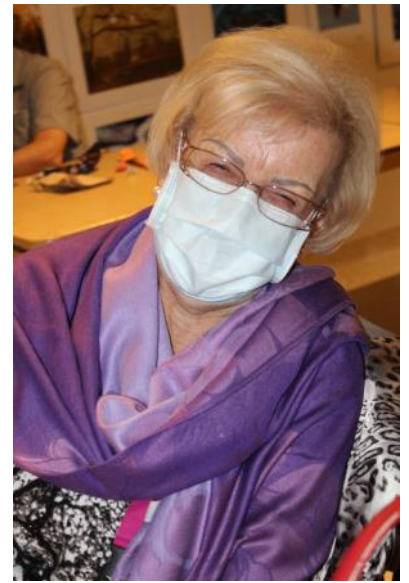
Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.



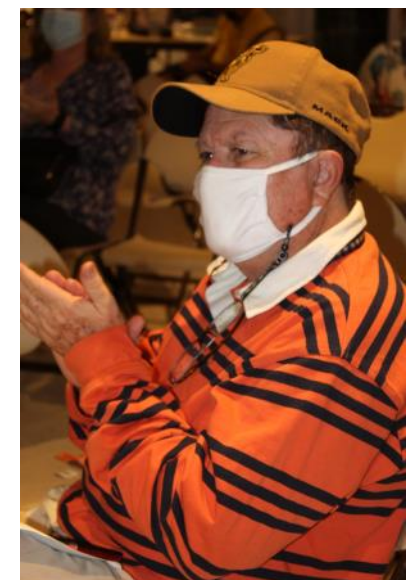
Ron Hunt

Rhy. gigantea - Alexis Dominguez

January 2022 Meeting Photos!



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All of the photos in this series are courtesy of and © 2022 Annette Rodriguez

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**PARTING SHOT**

**How to Kill Your Orchids**  
By Milton O. Carpenter – An Acknowledged Expert on the Subject

Reprint

I have been growing, and killing, orchids for 35 years now and it occurred to me that I should pass on to others some of the more basic, as well as advanced methods I have discovered, and in some cases “stumbled upon” to accomplish this task!

**BASIC RULES** Never seek information on how to keep them alive. For example, do not try to distinguish what KIND of orchid you have, do not ask for help from other orchid growers, do not read *Orchids*, do not go to local orchid society meetings, and do not purchase the AOS handbook on orchid pests and diseases.

**RATHER OBVIOUS FUNDAMENTAL METHODS** Aside from pouring on gasoline and striking a match, consider the following: Give your orchids far too little or too much light. As most orchids like fairly good air movement, either give them none at all or a veritable hurricane. Do not worry about what particular temperature your orchids like – a good “rule of thumb” is to treat them all alike. Forget that most orchids like rather high humidity and let the humidity drop as low as it will. Never “damp down” the benches and floors on really hot days. Remember to water every orchid every day (drench thoroughly) regardless of what kind of medium or pots they are in - or very seldom water them at all, allowing the pseudobulbs (those things between the top of the pot and the base of the leaves) to become very shriveled and wrinkled. Never be concerned about the quality of the water you are using - whether it is loaded with chlorides, sulfides, or what have you. Repot your orchids only when you have to and only “when you have spare time.” Use just about anything handy as a potting medium, it really does not matter and there is no truth to the thinking that certain types like different potting medium (that is the stuff you put in the pot). Potting in plain old dirt from your garden is a good idea. Fertilize only once or twice a year, but when you do – really pour it on, perhaps triple or quadruple the recommended strength. Try to never be concerned about insects or diseases – just let nature take its course.

**ADVANCED RULES** Because orchids prefer the full light spectrum, put them under badly discolored fiberglass or perhaps brightly colored plastic. Arrange your greenhouse or growing area near a bright city streetlamp so they will not know the difference between night and day. Try to locate your orchids as near as possible to heavily traveled roads – the carbon monoxide (and other goodies) will help with your job. Keep turning each pot around about one quarter turn each day so they will become thoroughly disoriented. If it gets cold, put an unvented kerosene heater in your greenhouse – the fumes will work wonders. If it gets really cold, do not do anything – perhaps they will just go into hibernation. When you water, always try to water late in the afternoon or, preferably, at night – the water standing in the new leads creates unusual effects. When potting your plants, always use a pot about four times as large as the plant’s roots, remembering that that is the way they grow in nature. If your plant starts to look sick, **NEVER** take it out of the pot to see what is happening with the roots, after all, what you cannot see cannot hurt you, can it? Should you notice some sort of insect on a plant, just put it under the faucet and wash the critters off – do not bother to check the other plants in its vicinity and do not worry about some kind of pesticide, that stuff is hard to handle properly and

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besides, it leaves the greenhouse smelling poorly for days. Keep your leaves clean – never spray a preventive fungicide as it leaves an ugly residue. Always use the same knife or plant shears when cutting from one plant to another and do not bother to sterilize – if one has some sort of malady, soon they will all share!

I am sure there are those of you who have discovered more unusual ways to kill your orchids, but I have only been growing these plants for 35 years and I am still a’ learnin’!

[milton@evergladesorchids.com](mailto:milton@evergladesorchids.com)

**EDITOR’S NOTE** *The suggestions above are, obviously, all tongue-in-cheek but, unfortunately, we all do one or more of these at some point in our growing experience. Local societies are invaluable as sources of information relative to your specific issues. Who best to understand your local problems than others who are dealing with them. The AOS is invaluable for vetted orchid knowledge. It is true that “it is all available on the web” but that also includes the obviously incorrect as well as that which masquerades as correct. Invest in books, they are another source of invaluable growing knowledge. Ask! No question is dumb. We all, deep down inside know that, but how many of us remember it when it is important?*

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!






<b>When</b>	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	<b>A Guide to Modern LED Lighting</b> How to set up an indoor grow area	<b>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A)</b> <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<b>The Story of Jewel Orchids</b> Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	<b>Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&amp;A)</b> <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Kelly McCracken</b> Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Nicholas Rust</b> Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Cannot 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.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

**Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)**

The People Who Help Make The Orchidist Possible

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## 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 at SFOS monthly meetings!



SFOS T-Shirts & Polo shirts available!  
See Sally Taylor for all the details!



## South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

### Board of Directors

**President:** Chris Alger

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:**—Sally Taylor

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:**—Don McDermott

**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.



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

See you next month!

Ron Hunt — Editor, *The Orchidist*