



The Orchidist

SFOS March 16 2022 Program

Please join us at our March 16th, 2022 SFOS Members Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. We have a very special and unique program planned and we think you will find it not only interesting, but informative and interactive.

Three of our very own South Florida Orchid Society Members who have many combined years of experience and knowledge in the cultivation and care of Orchid Collections will be presented at our "FIRST ANNUAL SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS PANEL".

Please welcome Steve Rodriguez, Julie Rosenberg and Jorge Merlo. Each Speaker will be giving a short presentation on the Orchid topic and tips they feel most knowledgeable about and would like to share with our Members and Guests.



Jorge Merlo & Julie Rosenberg



Steve Rodriguez

Everyone attending will have the opportunity to participate by submitting questions. You may want to ask a question of a specific speaker or may have questions that are more general in nature. We will have a Moderator who will ask everyone to hold their questions until the end of all three presentations.

Whether you are a newcomer to growing and caring for your Orchids, or have been part of the local Orchid community for years there is always so much more to learn. You may have questions about what works best in the South Florida backyard environment, how to choose what orchid to add next to your collection, what about city water versus well water quality, potting containers and mediums versus growing bare root. And of course what recommendations does the panel have for fertilizers, disease and insect control.

All of the Panel Speakers have been chosen for their experience, not only in the successful cultivation of Orchids, but also in the submission of Award Winning Orchids to the judging process.

So, join us as we welcome our South Florida Orchid Society resident experts to our "FIRST ANNUAL SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS PANEL"

Don McDermott, SFOS Program Chair
South Florida Orchid Society

Raffle Plants for the evening will be supplied by local grower

[SOROA ORCHIDS.](#)

President's Message

Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members!

Hope as you are reading this month's SFOS ORCHIDIST NEWSLETTER that you and your family are well and in good health. It is almost Spring, and if you have lived in South Florida for many years then you, like myself can feel the subtle changes that come with the change of each season. I was actually surprised when a friend called me a few days ago from north Georgia and said it was 35° and very cold. In Miami we are enjoying breezy weather in the 70° to 80° degrees temperatures. SPRING!

Newcomers to our area of course are used to seeing last year's flower bulbs popping up, or autumn leaves, or warnings of snowstorms to tell them when a new Season has arrived. I was in Chicago once many years ago in March, and the ground was covered with crunchy ice. I remember how surprised I was to see colorful daffodils and crocus peeking up thru the snow. Nature knew it was time to welcome Spring even though in my opinion and according to the temperature gauge, it was freezing cold. This week I watched as a neighbors tree dropped all of its purplish brown leaves and within days (while I was still raking up leaves that blew into my yard) their tree was completely covered with all brand new leaves in different colors and shades of bright green. SPRING!

And the mango trees are in bloom. SPRING!

And many of your favorite Orchids are in bloom. SPRING!

And, speaking of orchids that are in bloom, we look forward to seeing the beautiful plants you bring to enter for AOS Judging at our meeting on March 16th this month at Pinecrest Gardens. You may bring your plants in at 7:00 pm. And judging starts at 7:30 pm.

In February, we welcomed John Romano of J and J Unique Orchids who spoke about growing Dendrobiums. Members enjoyed his presentation and we hope to invite him back again later in the year to give the second half of his interesting program.

And...we believe you will really enjoy the special program we have planned for March. Be sure to read the Newsletter announcement about "THE FIRST ANNUAL

SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY SPEAKERS PANEL".

The program will start at 8:00 pm following announcements. And the SFOS Board has determined that it should be safe again to bring in refreshments to share at the meeting, but we do ask that you bring in individually wrapped treats that do not require serving utensils. Also, you should still bring in your own beverage. We will not have kitchen access at the March meeting.

Your SFOS Board has been working hard on behalf of the Members on many different items. Committees for the REVIEW of the SFOS BYLAWS, a SFOS FINANCE and AUDIT COMMITTEE, and the NOMINATING COMMITTEE whose task will be presenting a slate of the Proposed Officers and Directors for the upcoming elections. We will also be forming an AUCTION COMMITTEE and a SHOW COMMITTEE to plan for those future events. If you would like to serve on the Board or would like to like to give some time on any of the Committees please let me, or one of the other Board members know. Our SFOS Board generally meets at 6:00 pm at Pinecrest Gardens just before the SFOS Judging and the Monthly Meeting Program. You do not have to be a Board Member to serve on a Committee.

As always, please remember to wear your 2022 SFOS Membership Badge and if you are an AOS member, present your current AOS Badge to receive your complimentary Raffle Tickets for a special chance at the Orchid plants being supplied this month by SOROA ORCHIDS. Also, when you sign in at the Hospitality Table make sure you note if you have donated refreshments or brought in a plant for judging, or are wearing a South Florida Orchid Society Shirt to receive a thank you Raffle Ticket.

Our Membership Chair Sally Taylor has been sending out 2022 badges to all Life Members and Regular Members who have renewed. She will be at the March meeting if you still need to renew your 2022 dues or if you are bringing a guest that would like to join. Please bring cash or check, as we currently do not accept credit cards.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

And now...

Thank you to Marilyn Strauss, our SFOS Treasurer who is working very diligently at keeping the Board informed with a Monthly Financial Report and Accounting of all expenses. She has also filled in for the past several months and taken notes at the Monthly Board Meetings with the help of several other Board Members. I know the rest of the Board joins me in thanking her for typing up sending out the Minutes for our Review.

Thank you to Erna Maxwell and Julie Rosenberg, our Certified SFOS Judges who almost every month (excluding December) along with the assistance of other trained SFOS members make sure your awarded plants are properly judged, points accounted for and recorded.

And, thank you to our professional photographer Ron Hunt, who photographs your beautiful awarded plants and displays the photos in the monthly SFOS ORCHIDIST NEWSLETTER. He is the Editor of the Newsletter and works

very hard behind the scenes to keep us all in communication and informed. Ron also maintains our South Florida Orchid Society Website, which you can access at www.sforchid.com where you can read all of our previous Orchidist Newsletters and Program Announcements.

As I have said before, it takes the effort of many different SFOS Members to make everything happen...so please find time to use your skills and being part of our success.

And...answer our HELP WANTED ad for the position of Secretary to the Board.!

And...if there is a Speaker you would like to hear, let our Program Chair Don McDermott know.

So HAPPY SPRING and hope to see everyone at our March Meeting.

Sincerely,

Chris Alger, President

South Florida Orchid Society

Membership Corner

I still have on a Happy Face! At the February meeting I was really busy - we had 5 members came to the meeting and renewed their dues for 2022. THANK YOU, THANK YOU. I don't mind being busy that way at all. When the Board meets on March 16th we will be voting on a new Member (Olga Vila). We received her Membership Application at the new P.O. Box in Miami. What a great surprise that was!

I must say that I'm very happy about the turn out we are getting at our meetings. I know that it is going to take some time but we will all recover from the last 2 years - somehow - some day! So let's just keep going in the right direction and we will get there.

Don't forget about the new "stuff" we started in January. I'm sure the Raffle Table will be great looking on March 16th! If you have not heard - the Raffle Table is being supplied by SOROA ORCHIDS! I talked to Jose Exposito myself and asked if Soroa Orchids would be interested in helping us out and of course his answer was "yes". Jose

and Soroa Orchids have been great friends of the South Florida Orchid Society for many years - so all I can say is - you members had better come out on March 16th and see what is going on.

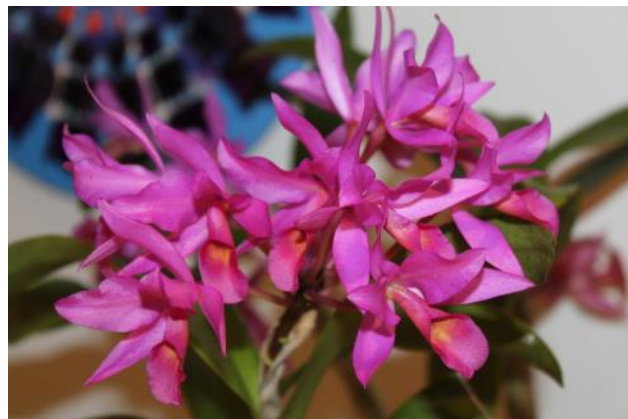
I will be at the meeting on March 16th. If you have not paid your dues for 2022 - you can bring me a check or cash and I will happily write you a receipt. **We are no longer taking credit cards.**

I will have T-Shirts for sale at the meeting. I don't have all kinds and sizes - but I will order one for you. Right now, my supplier is waiting for shirts to come in. Products are moving very slow all around.

Hoping to see you at the meeting.

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

Pictures from our February Meeting!



All Photos are curtesy of and
© 2022 Annette Rodriguez

Pictures from our February Meeting!



Judging Report

Judges: julie Rosenberg, Javier Morejon and Erna Maxwell

Blue Ribbons:

- Gur. guatemalensis - Steve Rodriguez
- Den. farmeri - James Furst
- Den. speciosum - Jorge Merlo

Red Ribbons:

- Vanda Princess Mikasa Rosado - Julie Garcia
- Rlc. Golf Green "Hair Pig" - Jorge Merlo

Culture:

- Den. speciosum - Jorge Merlo

Thank you for showing your plants. Please have your plants entered before 7:30 PM.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

Photos © 2022 Ron Hunt



Den. speciosum - Jorge Merlo



Gur. guatemalensis - Steve Rodriguez



Den. farmeri - James Furst

Monthly Checklist for March and April



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay. Articles like this can be found on the AOS website and in the archived issues of ORCHIDS.

Cattleya: Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture

they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium: Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs, and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian): These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer, and light during the growing season.

Lycaste: This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year. **Miltoniopsis** This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum: March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents you doing the thorough job you should. Look

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

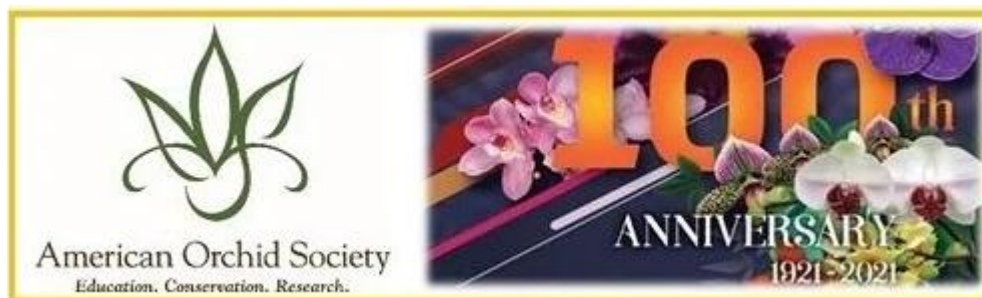
Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis: In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids: Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.



[Webinars](#) offer new material each month and recorded sessions allow you to search a multitude of topics to view on your personal schedule. The popular monthly [Greenhouse Chats](#) are open to everyone. AOS membership is not required. However, if you are an AOS member there are so many more webinars available to view.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!






When	March 16, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	March 22, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	April 19, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	April 27, 2022 8:30pm EDT Wednesday
Topic	The Story of Jewel Orchids Glistening Gems of the Forest Floor	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	More on Modern LED Lighting Answering Your Questions	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Nicholas Rust Orchid hybridizer with a passion for terrestrials	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! All

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

In addition to recorded webinars there is a [video library](#) on the AOS website. The American Orchid Society video library contains many useful, how-to video clips on various aspects of orchids and orchid culture.

These videos are self-contained and do not require any player or other software. You may distribute them or link to them freely but opening and closing titles and acknowledgement may not be removed.



The People Who Help Make The Orchidist Possible

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



25750 SW 177th Ave, Homestead, FL 33031



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 sellers or at SFOS monthly meetings!



South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Chris Alger

1st VP:—Sally Taylor

2nd 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.



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*