



The Orchidist

SFOS August 17, 2022 Program

John Romano: Types of Dendrobiums to grow in South Florida, Part 2!

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, 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 kindly be providing plants for our raffle table,
and will also have plants to sell!**

President's Message

Greetings to all South Florida Orchid Society Members

THE WEATHER...

It's hot and it's summer here in South Florida, but due to our location we can still enjoy the benefit of the cooling breezes which come in off of Biscayne Bay.

OUR BAZAAR FUNDRAISER...

On July 20th the First Annual South Florida Orchid Society "Bazaar, Orchids & Bake sale" Event was held at Pinecrest Gardens. Several of our SFOS Members reserved tables to display their items available for purchase. We also had a Bake sale table, a Garage Sale Table, a Silent Auction Table for Orchids, and a separate Silent Auction Table with Paintings and Collector Editions of Orchid Books.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all the many SFOS Members and Vendors who invited guests, and volunteered their time, effort and donations of items to help make this a successful event. Also a special thank you goes out to the three local Miami-Dade County High School Students who volunteered their time at this Special Fundraising Event. They have each earned a Certificate for Community Service Hours which are required for Graduation.

Everyone involved worked hard to help set-up and hold this event, and our Society earned funds, which will go towards maintaining our Programming for the coming months.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS...

If you know of a High School Student (family member or friend) who wants to earn Community Service Hours, and would like the opportunity to volunteer at one or more of our Monthly Meetings please let us know. They will each be provided with a 501(c)3 acknowledgement on SFOS Letterhead thanking them for donating their time

OUR GUESTS...

In addition to our members, we welcomed twelve guests this evening and each guest not only had the opportunity to bid on Silent Auction Items, and make other purchases, but also were awarded a Collectors copy of our South Florida Orchid Society Culture Book. As the guests lined

up, the Culture Book Editor Julie Rosenberg graciously autographed each copy. Don't forget to invite your guests to come join us at the next SFOS Meeting.

Our August 17th, 2022 Meeting...

PLANT JUDGING

Bring your blooming plants in at 7:00 pm for South Florida Orchid Society Certified Judging which will begin at 7:30 pm. Ribbon and Culture Award Points will count towards the 2022-2023 Awards.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

This month we welcome back John Romano of J & J Unique Orchids as our Guest speaker. John gave the first part of an excellent presentation on "Orchids to Grow in South Florida" at our February Meeting. John will be giving a recap of his February program for those who may have missed it. We look forward to the second part of his presentation.

J & J Unique Orchids will be supplying the Raffle Plants, and will also have a variety of their Orchids available for purchase.

COMPLIMENTARY RAFFLE TICKETS...

Please remember to wear your SFOS Membership Badge and SIGN-IN in at the Hospitality Table.

Members are eligible to participate in the following FIVE Complimentary Raffles:

- 1. SFOS Membership
- 2. SFOS Members that are AOS Members
- 3. SFOS Members who enter plant/plants for SFOS Certified Judging
- 4. Wearing your South Florida Polo/T-shirt
- 5. Donating food and or beverage item for Refreshments Table

Check out our FACEBOOK PAGE, hit the LIKE button, and SHARE the page with your Facebook friends.

Looking forward to seeing you at the August Meeting. If you are traveling, then stay safe.

Sincerely,

Chris Alger, President — South Florida Orchid Society

Membership Corner

We will have a new Member after the Board votes on the application of Danny Gallardo. Danny attended the last meeting and had a beautiful plant to be judged. Hope we see him again in August.

As I had promised - "I would try to have the New Roster at the July Meeting" - I was able to keep my promise and gave out Rosters to all members that were there. I will bring the Rosters to the August 17th Meeting. So you can still pick yours up - anyone not attending the meeting in August will be mailed a Roster.

I already have two corrections to the Roster - Robert Scully has a new address - 7333 Scotland Way, Unit 2126, Sarasota, FL 34238. The other correction is - Julie Rosenberg - house number is 8955 and the new e-mail is publications@sforchid.com.

If you took a Roster home, please check your information and let me know if a correction needs to be made.

Hope to see a lot of you at the Meeting on August 17.

Sally Taylor,
Membership Chair
10911 Stirling Road
Cooper City, FL 33328
954-260-0764

In Memoriam

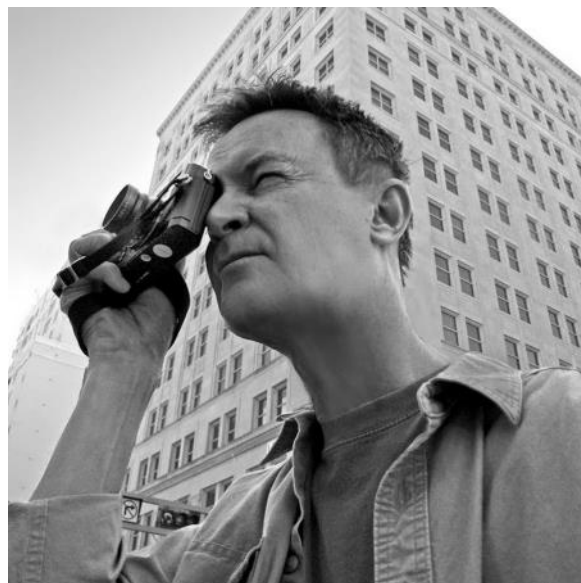
We were shocked and saddened to learn, last month, of the sudden passing of our friend and favorite orchid photographer, **Greg Allikas**. Although not an SFOS member, Greg was a fixture for many years at our shows, brilliantly capturing the awarded orchid flowers and exhibits. He was the chief photographer at the 19th World Orchid Conference, the official awards photographer at the West Palm Beach Judging Center for many years, author of several gorgeous orchid books, and a member of the AOS Publication Committee. His stunning orchid portraits will be cherished by all.

Greg also contributed to our very own publication, *An Introduction to Orchids*, with many photos as well as writing the article "***The Potting Workshop CD: Potting and Mounting.***"

He was a native of Long Island, New York, where he attended art school. After military service he and his beloved wife Kathy Figiel moved to West Palm Beach, where he opened a commercial photo studio. Greg received the AOS's Silver Medal in 2002, and he and Kathy were awarded the AOS's Ambassador Award in 2008.

See the September issue of the AOS magazine for a tribute and retrospective of his gorgeous orchid images.

Our heartfelt condolences to Kathy, may his memory be a blessing.



We also send sincere sympathy to Dorothy Bennett, past president and Board member, on the passing of her mother, **Faye Bennett**. Faye was 101 years young at the time of her death last month. She is survived by her three daughters, Dorothy, Beth and Pat, and their families.

July 20, 2022 Judging Report

Judges: Sally Taylor, Julie Rosenberg and Erna Maxwell

Blue Ribbons:

- C. Green Emerald 'Emerald Queen' - Lisa Coello
- Den. Rambo - Lisa Coello
- Bromecanthe Garnet Glory - Danny Gallardo
- Enc. alata - Jorge Merlo
- Den. secundum 'Jorge Michael' CCA/SFOS - Jorge Merlo

Red Ribbons:

- Blc. Booth Lee 'Venice' - Lisa Coello
- Blc. Hawaiian Passion 'Carmela' - Lisa Coello

Culture Ribbons:

- Den. secundum 'Jorge Michael' CCA/SFOS - Jorge Merlo

Thank you for showing your blooms. We look forward to your plants in August.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair Photos © 2022, Ron Hunt



Den. secundum 'Jorge Michael' CCA/SFOS - Jorge Merlo



Enc. alata - Jorge Merlo



C. Green Emerald 'Emerald Queen' - Lisa Coello



Bromecanthe Garnet Glory - Danny Gallardo



Den. Rambo - Lisa Coello

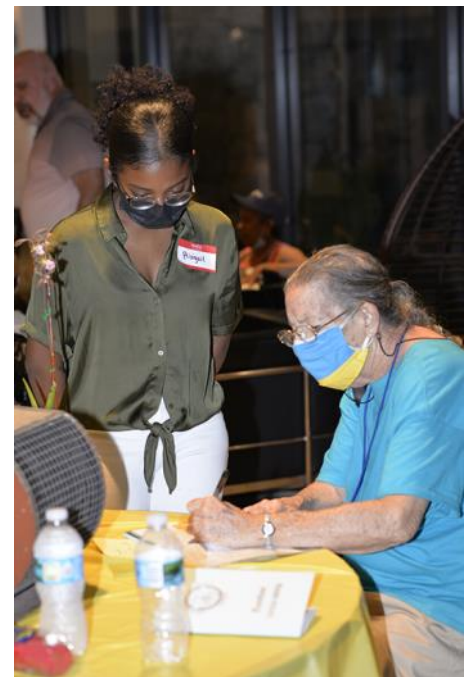
A few photos from our July Meeting and Bazaar!



Photos by Ron Hunt









ORCHIDS

The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society

CONTENTS

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Orchid Checklist

Reprint August: The Month of Ambrosia
By Thomas Miranda

Among the purest and most primal joys of the plant world are the wonderful perfumes and aromas emanating from your orchid collection and your garden this month. August is not a month to toil, but rather one to savor the wonders of creation, for how often have you really looked at your orchid flowers? Sure, they are colorful and beautiful, but they are so much more. They are part of the continuity of life, an end-product of evolution, a lure, irresistible to pollinators — and humans.

Ambrosia, in Greek mythology, was the food of the gods and was thought to confer ageless immortality to those who consumed it. In Homeric tradition, it was perceived to be a kind of divine exhalation of the earth. Nectar, the drink of the gods, comes from the contraction of two Greek words — nek (death) and tar (overcoming) — indicating its healing and life-giving properties.

This month, we must appreciate what comes from the earth. It is now, in our gardens' summer peak, that we, bathed in early morning dight or encroaching twilight, emerge from our chambers to sample the fruit and fragrances wrought by our toils earlier in the spring. It is most important to take in that sweet ambrosia offered daily by the plant world. While it's unlikely that those who do will achieve immortality, the peace and pleasure to be gained are timeless.

FRAGRANCES - Among the most amazing aromatic flowers in the plant world are the blossoms of Stanhopeas and their allies. Often smelling like an exotic mixture of several different fragrances, most of these plants have sharply pendulous inflorescences and should be grown in hanging baskets. If you have young seedlings or divisions of Stanhopeas or their relatives, such as Embreeas, Gongoras, Acinetas, or Coryanthes, in regular pots, lift the plants from their pots to check and make sure they have not sent out inflorescences into the mix. Often these inflorescences, unable to escape the confines of the pot, end up rotting. It is possible for many Stanhopeas and their relatives to bloom at an earlier age than you might think, and a gentle transfer of young plants into baskets might be in order before their spikes develop too much.

UNINVITED GUESTS - The summer heat generally means stepped-up insect activity. There are both good and bad insects in the garden, and if you have chosen to summer plants outside, you have got some of each among your plants. Be on the lookout for parasites such as mealybugs and scale. And be prepared to spray insecticides if you are finding large infestations. If, however, after a thorough search you find minimal problems, your beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and other small predators, are likely to keep plants free of problems. Spraying at this point would only damage beneficial populations.

ANTS - One of the worst pests in August is ants. Their colonies will often invade the coarse, airv conditions of orchid media and will greatly acidify the mix. Observe plants after a heavy watering, and, if an ant colony is present, it will be obvious by the ants streaming out of the saturated mix. It is not fun, but such plants must be purged of ants and repotted immediately. Ants are vectors for many other insects and cannot be tolerated.

ANT PLANTS - While I have never tried this, and do not dare recommend it, there are certain plants that, in the wild anyway, seem

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to benefit from the presence of ants. In particular, Myrmecophila (which means “ant I lover” in Latin) has symbiotic relationships with ants that act as the plants’ bodyguards during the dry season. The plants supply space and nectar in their hollow pseudobulbs where the ants can nest. Seeds of these and other orchids, such as Coryanthes, often germinate on or near ant nests and seem to require or feed off of the extreme acidity that comes from the formic acid excreted by the ants. It is conceivable that such plants might actually thrive better if ants were allowed to invade them for the summer. Still, you do want to do something about that before bringing the plants inside for the winter.

COOL IT - In a mixed collection, there will always be some plants that are experiencing stress in the oppressive heat so characteristic of August. Among the strategies for cooling plants are shade, gentle airflow, and frequent cool mistings. It is your degree of engagement during those stiflingly hot days that will help your struggling orchids get through the worst of the season.

HOT STUFF - While most of the intermediate orchids struggle, many warmer-growing orchids take the heat in stride. Fertilize them well and allow them the chance to prosper in the summer heat. Pay attention to your Dendrobiums, Vandas, Catasetums, Brassavolas, and Encyclias, all of which use August for increasing their pseudobulbs.

Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades. He is currently and AOS trustee and is a past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com)



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 Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry.
 Register now and view on your time schedule.
 Greenhouse Chat Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.
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When	August Summer Break	Sept. 13, 2022 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	Sept. 19, 2022 8:30pm EDT Monday
Topic	Choose Your Topic From RECORDED WEBINARS	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i> The Pauper Prince of the Himalayas
Presenter	Expert Growers, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, Conservationists and more	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dr. Leslie Ee Accredited AOS Judge, President COC

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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.

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See Sally Taylor for all the details!



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Immediate Past President—Chris Alger

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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.



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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*