



# The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS July 17 2024 Program

## Omar Gonzalez

A chemist by trade and botanist at heart. I have found orchid growing a rewarding and enjoyable hobby. Work skills are used and are enjoyable for change. Solving problems is another aspect I enjoy.

I had moved back to Miami from Iowa in 2011 when I met a man that gave me some orchids: Spathoglottis, Vanilla, and Sobralia. It took a while for me to give up on a vegetable garden. Eventually I attended an orchid show before my first trip to Hawaii. I visited Akatsuka, Carmela, and became even more obsessed in Orchids.



Upon my return, I started growing seedlings under lights, after a year it was obvious that I needed a big yard. An opportunity to volunteer at the Bonnet House gave me lots of hands on experience in managing a Vandaceous collection. From then on, I would learn from anyone that would talk to me, seeking out knowledgeable growers, attending society meetings throughout Florida. I would attend every orchid show from Miami to Fort Pierce. Especially if they had lectures. Eventually some growers took a liking to me and they were a pleasure to get to know. All their wisdom was used to make my collection grow and I figure out how to make them thrive through trial and error. In that time I cannot tell you of how many plants were lost due to being a stranger in my own back yard. I have gone on to do orchid seed culture, hybrids, as well as caring for collections in private homes or businesses. I enjoy growing a myriad of genera, thanks to Springwater Orchids, Redhawk Orchids, Bill Thoms, Andy's Orchids, Tamiami Festival, Redland Festival, you get the picture. My hands on experience is extensive with Cattleya, and Vandaceous. I also take care of private collections.

Come hear me share the monsters divided, finding the best conditions for orchids, the pests and diseases and many other topics if time allows.

Lessons Learned: Wisdom from Growers and Orchid Growing. The hands on approach to orchid growing. Many failures and long awaited bloom teach more than we knew beforehand. I will share a presentation that will give some practical orchid care guidance.

**Omar will be speaking tonight on the genus [Encyclia](#).**

**Omar will also be providing plants for our raffle table as well as having plants to sell**

## President's Message

Hello all,

First off, I would like to start by wishing everyone a belated Happy Father's Day. And I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Forth of July!

Thank you to all the members who attended the installation ceremony of the SFOS Board Executive Officers, Directors, and Special Directors, which was held last month. Awards and special recognition were given to board members, as well as our members who volunteer to judge the blooming plants, which are brought in each month, and to the members who bring in those blooming beauties.

This month our speaker will be Omar Gonzalez who will be speaking about the genus Encyclias. He will provide the raffle plants and will bring plants for sale.

As a reminder, I encourage members to bring refreshments for everyone to enjoy.

I'd like to remind members that it is important to participate in the silent auction by donating items and bidding on what is brought in. (Cash and checks are accepted, no credit cards.) Additionally, we will be announcing the July recipient of the SFOS Member of the month, which recognizes members who contribute time to making SFOS a better orchid society.

Lastly, we will be once again providing volunteers for the upcoming October Redland Orchid Festival. Signup sheets will be at our meetings. We will be doing both morning and/or afternoon shifts on October 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2024. See Chris Alger to sign up. The South Florida Orchid Society receives \$65 per shift as a donation to the society!

Please be sure to come to the meeting and make sure to take part in our silent auction and raffle

Happy Growing,  
Javier Morejon



## **ALL MEMBERS**

are eligible to

## **RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY**

Raffle tickets for the following categories:

- \*Membership
- \*Donating Refreshments
- \*Wearing SFOS Shirt
- \*Entering Plants for Judging
- \*SFOS Members that are AOS Members

\*\*Members: (Please show your AOS Member Card)



## **SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY MINI-AUCTION SERIES**

ALL PROCEEDS from items sold on the MINI-AUCTION  
go to South Florida Orchid Society for the  
benefit of the Society.

Members may donate plants or other items to benefit  
this fund-raising effort.

**We accept cash or checks only.**

Thank you for your support,  
The South Florida Orchid Society Board of Director's





# South Florida Orchid Society



**“BUY MORE TICKETS!”**

Raffle tickets may be purchased with  
a \$1.00 donation per ticket.

Receive a complimentary

**“BONUS TICKET”**

for each 5 tickets that you purchase!



## Membership Corner

I great **BIG -THANK YOU** - to all of the members who responded to my calls about renewing their Membership in the South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. (as the bank now tells us we must use on all checks).

I didn't want to leave any one out of the new 2024-2025 Roster - which maybe in the mail to you as you read this. I have read and proof read the Roster information (too many times to count) - so now I ask you - when you get your Roster in the mail - please, please take a minute to check your information. If I have made a mistake - it's not because I didn't try - believe me I did try hard! Let me know by email - text is really better and I will make the correction in my master copy.

If you were not at our June Meeting - you really missed a good time and great picnic type refreshments. I can't remember when our Membership showed up with that much food last. Along with remarks about the Meeting - I must say Thank You to the Members who said yes to me when I asked them to be on the Board as Directors. Even if these people did it as a favor to me - I'm so proud of you for stepping up and doing this. Now I would ask the rest of you Members to step up and get out to the Meetings and support the Board Of Directors, the Officers and the President. Come out and join us - you might just like it!

Now I must tell you - since I asked you to come to the Meetings - I'm going to miss the July Meeting - so again as a favor to me - come out and help in my absence! I know I will get a report on the meeting - I hope it's a good one.

See you in August.

Sally Taylor

Membership Chair

**SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY now has Shirts available! A beautiful Royal Blue!**

Ladies V neck Cotton (a little lighter in color - but still blue)

- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$18.25
- 2XL at \$19.25
- 3XL at \$21.50

Ladies or Men's - Polo - in either Polyester or Cotton

- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$25.75
- 2XL at \$26.75
- 3XL at \$28.00

The shirts can be seen at our meetings and orders placed at that time. All shirts must be paid for when ordered. Watch an up-coming newsletter for a good reason to wear your new shirts to the meetings.



## Summer's Corner!

It 's hard to believe that Mom is making me stay in the house and out of the mud in the driveway. I think we have been home too long - she must be loosing her mind!

In case you missed me at the June Meeting - I was showing off my tap-dancing moves! I get so happy I just have to dance. Mom said I can show you all again in August - do I really have to wait that long? I guess so - we are starting on a long trip on July 1st. I don't have a Dog Show until July 5 and it is in a place (Maryland) that I have never been to before - but Mom said it is nice and we will have friends there. I will also be in Shows in North Carolina and South Carolina and Virginia before we get home again. So I guess I'll have to try and get some real nice ribbons to show you all.

See you all in August.

Summer 





**Margaret Marshall**

**Margaret Marshall** is our current South Florida Orchid Society Secretary and all around good person. It's rare to see Margaret without a smile on her face.

Margaret is the officer charged with, among other things, the unenviable task of keeping track of who says what at Society board meetings. There's no way you could get me to do that job. It would be futile in any case because I can't hear anything. But never mind me, it's Margaret's month to shine, and it couldn't happen to a nicer person.

**Margaret Marshall, you're our  
Member of the Month!**





## SFOS Annual Awards Banquet Picnic!



As usual, no one  
left hungry!





## SFOS Annual Awards Banquet Picnic!



Charles Flick

Volunteers



Maggie Echeverria

Volunteers



Carlos San Martin



## SFOS Annual Awards Banquet Picnic!



Karina Motes presents a check to SFOS President, Javier for volunteer work performed by SFOS members at the recent Redland Orchid Festival.



Some of our SFOS Volunteers hard at work!



Green! Who wore it better? Aida Trelles Walchli or Danny Gallardo? Steve and Annette Rodriguez! Our Power Couple!



SFOS Members of the Month!



Our Newest Member of the Month!  
**Margaret Marshall!**



## SFOS Annual Awards Banquet Picnic!



The South Florida Orchid Society Officers and Board of Directors



Julie Rosenberg receives a certificate of Appreciation from SFOS Judging Chair, Erna Maxwell



Javier Morejon receives a certificate of Appreciation from Judging Chair, Erna Maxwell



Sally Taylor receives a certificate of Appreciation from SFOS Judging Chair, Erna Maxwell



Erna Maxwell receives a certificate of Appreciation from Vice-Judging Chair, Julie Rosenberg.



## SFOS Annual Awards Banquet Picnic!



David Foster receives the award for the most culture ribbons received during the past year.



Steve Rodriguez receives the award for the most ribbon points accumulated during the past year.



David Foster



Steve Rodriguez

## Adopt a Youth Program-We need Adopters and Adoptees. Can You Help?

The AOS Membership Committee has designed a program where anyone, including an Affiliated Society can Adopt A Youth.

Members will have the opportunity to sponsor, mentor and nurture a young person by purchasing a silver or gold membership, either one or two years, for your adoptee. I am sure that most of you know someone that has a keen interest in orchids who would benefit and appreciate a membership in the AOS. It can be a friend, relative, a student in a botanical or horticultural program, maybe someone in your local orchid society that is of high school to university, 15-25 years old. If you do not know of someone, we will provide you with a list of deserving and enthusiastic adoptees. As the adopter, you will have the opportunity to mentor your adoptee and have the gratification of witnessing their eagerness to learn and envision their potential in future AOS endeavors. The goal is to introduce these young people to our community of orchidists and the three pillars of the AOS, education, conservation and research with the anticipation that they will join and contribute to the AOS at some point in the future.

How can you help? If you know of any youth that has an interest in orchids and would appreciate an AOS membership please contact Deb Boersma at [debul8ter@outlook.com](mailto:debul8ter@outlook.com).

You or your society can also adopt a youth, a silver one year membership would be about \$1 per week, a minimal investment to support our youth. Further details of the program will be in the September **ORCHIDS** magazine



## The People Who Help Make The Orchidist Possible



### RETAIL ORCHID ARRANGEMENTS

*Segundo & Yolanda  
Cuesta*

12110 SW 43 St.  
Miami, Florida 33175  
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[QUESTORCHIDS@AOL.COM](mailto:QUESTORCHIDS@AOL.COM)

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**WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY OF ORCHIDS**





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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!





## South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

### Board of Directors

**President:** Javier Morejon

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:**—Sally Taylor

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:**—Don McDermott

**Secretary:**—Margaret Marshall

**Treasurer:**—Randall Breitwisch

**Directors, Terms ending in 2024**

Steve Rodriguez, Michael O'Dea, Barry White

**Directors, Term ending in 2025**

Vacant, James Furst, Chris Alger

**Directors, Term ending in 2026**

Annette Rodriguez, Erna Maxwell, Nancy Crisler

**Immediate Past President—Chris Alger**

**Show Chairman—Vacant**

**Special Directors—Ron Hunt & Julie Rosenberg**

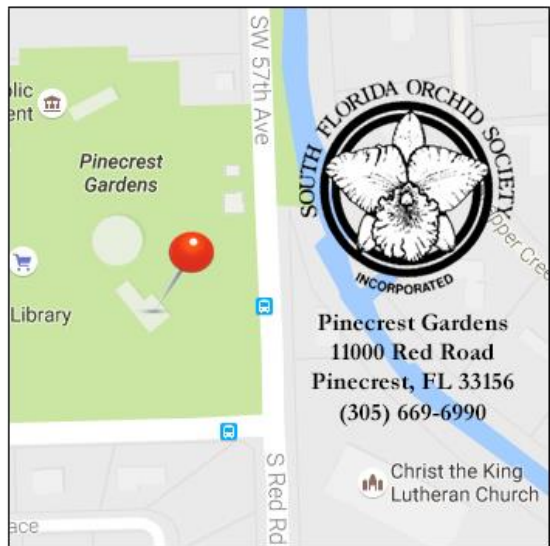
Meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM  
on the third Wednesday of each month.

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



## Become a Member of the South Florida Orchid Society!

### MEMBER BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

- **MEETING AND MIXING** with many friendly and helpful orchid “neighbors”, amateurs, advanced collectors and commercial growers.
- **WELCOME KIT** includes a copy of “An Introduction to Orchids” our book that covers just about everything you need to know to successfully grow orchids in South Florida.
- **MONTHLY MEETINGS** with lectures by leading local and national orchid authorities.
- **FREE REFRESHMENTS!**
- **MONTHLY RAFFLE TABLE AND SILENT AUCTION!**
- **EXHIBIT TABLE** each month for displays of member’s plants.
- **JUDGING** each month by qualified regional and national judges.
- **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** that includes awards given and timely meeting notes.
- **FESTIVE HOLIDAY PARTY!**
- **AIR CONDITIONED** spacious conveniently located meeting hall with ample **FREE** parking.

**CLICK THE ICON BELOW TO DOWNLOAD AN SFOS  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. (PDF)**



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.  
*Affiliated Society*

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You can always find both current and past issues of *The Orchidist* on our web site, [www.sforchid.com](http://www.sforchid.com).

Ron Hunt — Editor, *The Orchidist*