



Celebrating 80 years! The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

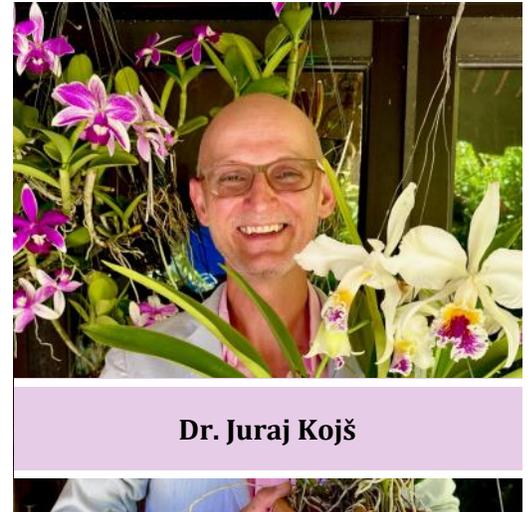
SFOS September 17 2025 Program

Dr. Juraj Kojš

Developing an Orchid Collection

A practical guide to building a collection based on personal preferences, culture and microclimate knowledge.

Dr. Juraj Kojš is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where he combines his passion for music and orchids in innovative ways.



Dr. Juraj Kojš

He is the creator of ***Orchid DNA Music project*** and the founder of the **FETA Foundation**, which promotes experimental and interdisciplinary art forms. Dr. Kojš's works have been commissioned by prestigious organizations such as The Knight Foundation, The Quiet Music Ensemble, Miami Light Project, Meet the Composer, Harvestworks, Miami Theater Center, Miami Live Arts, Deering Estate, and Vizcaya Museum & Gardens.

In addition to his musical achievements, Dr. Kojš is an accredited [American Orchid Society](#) judge. He is the past president of Coalition for Orchid Species and a board member of Miami Beach Orchid Society. In 2024, he chaired the inaugural Orchids & Arts Festival at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden.

He has received over 60 awards from the AOS to date and published articles in the Orchids magazine. His multifaceted career reflects a unique blend of scientific rigor, artistic creativity, and a deep love for orchids.

Visit his website at <https://www.kojs.net/>

Please Join us on Wednesday, September 17th at 8:00PM in the Hibiscus Room at Pinecrest Gardens.

President's Message



Dear Friends,

September is here! While the rest of the world may be dreaming of pumpkins and falling leaves, we orchid growers know this is the season of fresh spikes, new growth, and the promise of blooms ahead. It feels like orchids get their own “second spring” and so does our Society.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17th at 8:00 PM in the Hibiscus Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens. I'm looking forward to another evening of learning, sharing, and enjoying the beauty of orchids together.

This month's program is a special treat: Dr. Juraj Kojš will present ***“Developing an Orchid Collection.”*** As an AOS judge and professor, Dr. Kojš brings knowledge, experience, and inspiration that I know will resonate with all of us. A special thank you to Dr. Martin Rivas, our newest Board Member, for arranging this outstanding program.

One of the highlights of every meeting is our Silent Auction. It not only supports the Society, but also gives us the chance to share and discover treasures from each other's collections. A heartfelt thank you goes to Adonis Goosby, who donated two beautiful plants last month, and to Charles Asche, whose generosity never fails to inspire. With our new Zelle payment option, bidding is easier than ever so everyone can join in without worrying about cash. If you have a plant ready for a new home, please consider bringing it along; your orchid might be just what another member has been hoping for.

September also marks the final call for Redland International Orchid Festival volunteer sign-ups. Each volunteer earns SFOS a \$65 donation while enjoying one of the premier orchid events in the world. Please don't miss this wonderful opportunity to support our Society.

Lastly, we would like to welcome our newest member, **Alina Perez-Stable**.

Friends, orchids thrive when shared, and so does our community. Thank you for your support, your kindness, and your passion. I can't wait to see you all on September 17th at Pinecrest Gardens.

With warm regards,

James Furst
President
South Florida Orchid Society



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, checks,& Zelle only.

Thank you for your support,
The South Florida Orchid Society Board of Directors

SFOS Judging Report

Judges: Julie Rosenberg, Javier Morejon and Erna Maxwell **Red Ribbons:**

Blue Ribbons:

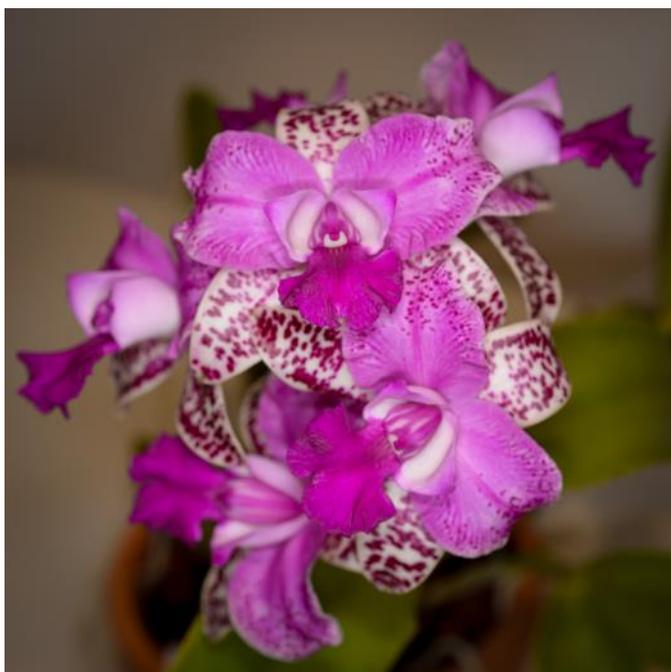
- V. Pachara Delight "Pachara" AM/AOS - Martin Rivas
- C. Yuan Dung Sweet "Dragon Fruit" - Melissa Alatraste
- Asc. Laksi "Chili Pepper" AM/AOS - Virginia Benitez
- V. Penny Goh Mei Pyng - Virginia Benitez
- Ctt. White Bridal "Yuki" - Maggie Echeverria
- V. Motes Multiverse - Aida Walchli
- V. Jiraprapa x V. luzonica - Aida Walchli
- Phal. Jiaho Blueberry - Aida Walchli

- Hwra. Lava Burst "Puanani" AM/AOS - Melissa Alatraste
- V. Pachara Delight - Virginia Benitez

Thank you for bringing your plants. We look forward to more blooms next month.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

Award Photos by and Copyright © 2025 Ron Hunt



C. Yuan Dung Sweet "Dragon Fruit" - Melissa Alatraste



V. Motes Multiverse - Aida Walchli



Ctt. White Bridal "Yuki" - Maggie Echeverria

August Judging Report



Asc. Laksi "Chili Pepper" AM/AOS - Virginia Benitez



V. Jiraprapa x V. luzonica - Aida Walchli



Phal. Jiaho Blueberry - Aida Walchli

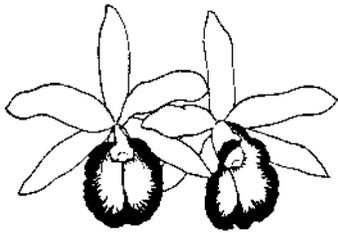
August Judging Report



V. Penny Goh Mei Pyng - Virginia Benitez



V. Pachara Delight "Pachara" AM/AOS - Martin Rivas



South Florida Orchid Society

Membership Shirts Available in 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 \$21.95

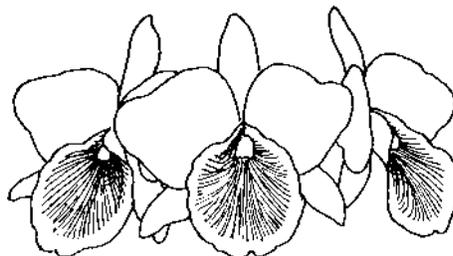
Ladies or Men's -Polo- in either Polyester or Cotton

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



Shirts can be seen and ordered at our meetings. All shirts must be paid for when ordered.

Remember to wear your shirts to our meetings for a special perk!



August 2025 Meeting Photos!



All photographs on this page curtesy of
Charlie Flick

More August Meeting Photos!



Photos on this page by Ron Hunt



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The South Florida Orchid Society Presents...

"An Introduction to Orchids"

Everything you need to know in order to successfully grow orchids in south Florida.

Pick up your copy today at better orchid Growers or at SFOS Meetings!



South Florida Orchid Society, Inc. Board of Directors

President: James Furst

V.P. (Membership): Margaret Marshall

Program Director: Martin Rivas

Secretary: Nancy Crisler

Treasurer: Randall Breitwisch

Directors, Terms ending in 2026

Erna Maxwell, Sally Taylor

Directors, Term ending in 2027

Maggie Echeverria, Charles Asche

Directors, Term ending in 2028

Charles Flick, Vacant

Immediate Past President: Javier Morejon

Special Directors: Ron Hunt & Julie Rosenberg

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

Orchid registration begins at 7:00PM.

No plants will be registered after 7:30PM

Program begins at 8:PM



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 SILENT AUCTION!**
- **ORCHID 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

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

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Please visit our website at sforchid.com where you can find both current and past issues of The Orchidist.

Ron Hunt, editor