



*Celebrating 80 years!*  
**The Orchidist**

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS December 17 2025 Program



*Happy Holidays*

All members and guests are invited to the  
South Florida Orchid Society Annual Holiday Party!  
Wednesday, December 17th (our regular meeting night)  
from 4:30PM to 10:00PM.

**Montgomery Botanical Center**  
11901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156

**Italian Feast!**

Baked ziti, Lasagna, Fettuccine Alfredo, & Jumbo Meatballs!

Served with garden salad and garlic rolls.

Beverages will also be served along with dessert.

Cost is \$35.00 per person (cash or check only) which  
includes all the menu items above!

Each member will also receive an orchid to take home

Please RSVP to James Furst

[jamesfurst@gmail.com](mailto:jamesfurst@gmail.com)

## A Message From Our Program Director!

### Looking Ahead: Building a Thriving SFOS Program Together

As we prepare for our holiday celebration this month, I want to take a moment to share the excitement surrounding our program planning for the new year.

The Board and I are working hard to build a strong roster of speakers and topics that we believe will make the South Florida Orchid Society thrive.

**This society belongs to you, our members**, and your input is essential to its success! I am personally open to all your feedback on past talks—the good, the bad, and the brilliant—as well as any ideas you have for future speakers, topics, **or other activities you'd love to see the society explore** (e.g., workshops, field trips, botanical garden visits, going to orchid festivals as a group, etc.).

So please, I encourage you to look for me at the party to tell me what you would like to see in future meetings at SFOS. I am curious about your favorite orchids, the most challenging or frustrating you ever grew (or tried to)! Furthermore, if you're a long-time member who has opened your garden for a visit in the past, or if you've recently built a beautiful growing space, please consider hosting a **garden visit** next year!

**January through March** are historically the best months for these tours, which are often the most highly anticipated and educational events we host. **I am happy to work directly with you to ensure hosting a garden visit is an enjoyable and easy activity!**

### Help Us Grow in the New Year

We all know the tremendous value and knowledge the SFOS offers. To truly reinvigorate our society, we need your help in sharing that message! We ask that you make it a goal to **pass the word and bring a friend** to a meeting in 2026. Bringing even one new member can make a huge difference.

Finally, please engage with us on social media! Re-sharing our posts and tagging the SFOS with photos of your beautiful plants and your snapshots from the meetings is the fastest way to help us reach potential new members.

On behalf of the Board, we wish you and your family a safe, joyful, and **Happy Holidays!** We look forward to seeing your thriving plants—and your smiling faces—in the new year.

Martin Rivas  
Program Director  
South Florida Orchid Society  
[rivasmartin@gmail.com](mailto:rivasmartin@gmail.com)





## Dear South Florida Orchid Society Members,

As we come to the close of another year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being part of the South Florida Orchid Society. This year has brought growth, renewed energy, and exciting momentum for our Society. From engaging speakers and strong member participation to the dedication of our volunteers and board, it has been inspiring to see our community continue to thrive around our shared love of orchids.

December is always a special month for SFOS, and I am especially looking forward to celebrating together at our Annual Holiday Party. Please join us Wednesday, December 17th, from 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM, with dinner served at 6:00 PM, at the Montgomery Botanical Center, 11901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156. This cherished event is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with fellow members, enjoy great food, and reflect on all we have accomplished together.

As we look ahead to the new year, I am excited about the opportunities before us, including new speakers, fresh ideas, and continued growth of our Society. Thank you for your continued support, passion, and commitment. I look forward to celebrating with you at the Holiday Party and to an even brighter year ahead.

Warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season,

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 or checks only.  
Thank you for your support!**

### Membership Corner

#### **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!

## SFOS Judging Report

Judges: Julie Rosenberg, Javier Morejon, Anneke Koch and Erna Maxwell.

### Blue Ribbons:

- Rlc. Yen Corona "Green Genie" AM/AOS - Melissa Alatraste
- Rlc. Star of Siam - Melissa Alatraste
- Haraella retrocalla - Martin Rivas
- V. Janet Hiddleston x V. Mary Motes "Dijon" - Martin Rivas
- Procatavola Keylime Stars - Margaret Marshall
- Bct. Cheryle Daniel (Bc. Maikai x C. Penny Kuroda) - Teresa Prol

### Red Ribbons:

- Oncsa. Nanboh Waltz "Boso Sweet" HCC/AOS - Maggie Echevarria
- C. Purple Cascade "Sweet Beauty" - Melissa Alatraste
- Rth. Fu Shu Glory "Happy Holidays" - Melissa Alatraste
- Rlc. Elizabeth Hearn - Melissa Alatraste
- Rlc. Chomthong Fancy - Charles Asche
- Bc. Maikai "Louise" AM/AOS - Margaret Marshall
- C. Mount Hood "Orchidglade" - Charles Flick

### White Ribbons:

- Rlc. Jessie Lee "Hawaii" - Aida Walchli

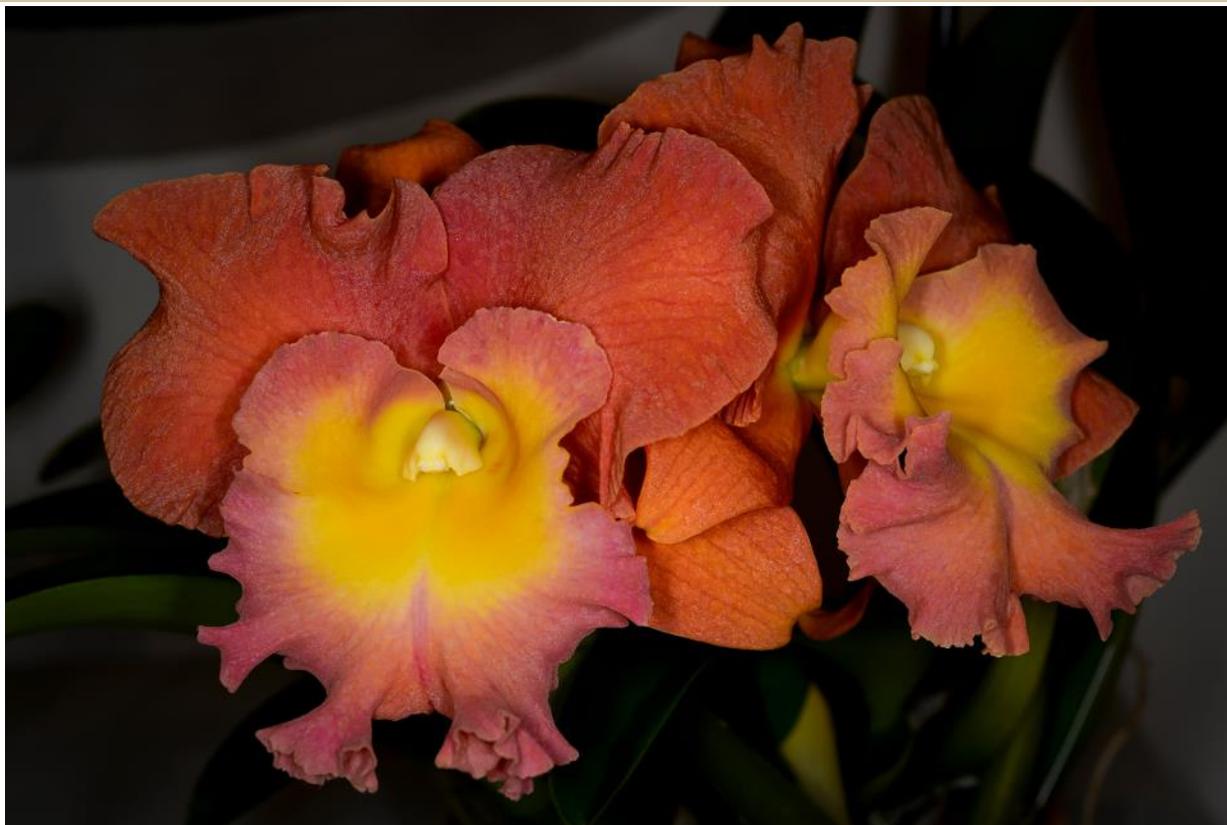
Thank you for showing your blooms. There will be no judging in December. We look forward to your beauties in the new year.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

All Award Photographs by and Copyright ©2025 Ron Hunt



Procatavola Keylime Stars - Margaret Marshall



Rlc. Star of Siam - Melissa Alatraste



Rlc. Yen Corona "Green Genie" AM/AOS - Melissa Alatraste



Haraella retrocalla - Martin Rivas



V. Janet Hiddleston x V. Mary Motes "Dijon" - Martin Rivas



Bct. Cheryle Daniel (Bc. Maikai x C. Penny Kuroda) - Teresa Prol

# Meeting Photos!



Photos by Ron Hunt

# 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  
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## RETAIL ORCHID ARRANGEMENTS

*Segundo & Yolanda  
Cuesta*

12110 SW 43 St.  
Miami, Florida 33175  
Tel.: 305-219-2883

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**WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY OF ORCHIDS**

## BROWARD ORCHID SUPPLY

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[WWW.BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY.COM](http://WWW.BROWARDORCHIDSUPPLY.COM)

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, Ariel Girardi

**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*

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Please visit our website at [sforchid.com](http://sforchid.com) where you can find both current and past issues of The Orchidist.

Ron Hunt, editor