



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS April 15 2026 Program

SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY

ORCHID BINGO • RAFFLE • SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday, April 15
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

The Beautiful Pinecrest Gardens

What a great way to meet our **members**, experience the energy of our Society, and see firsthand what makes SFOS so special.

Event Highlights:

- Win Beautiful Orchids
- Friendly Bingo Competition
- Exciting Raffle Prizes
- Silent Auction Finds
- Fun, Fellowship & Flowers

Whether you're a seasoned grower or just discovering orchids, this is your invitation to join the fun and become part of something growing.

**We Look Forward
To Seeing You There**

BINGO			
12	83	55	42
12	13	50	09
74			
	122	53	
B3			

President's Message

Dear Members of the South Florida Orchid Society,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to another month with our community. One defined by a shared passion for orchids and a continued commitment to excellence in how we grow them. As we move deeper into the season, South Florida reveals itself not just as an ideal environment, but as a dynamic stage for orchid culture, where even the most nuanced adjustments in light, water, and air can elevate a plant from healthy to exceptional. It is within these refinements that experienced growers find both the challenge and the reward, as our plants respond in real time to the decisions we make.

The South Florida Orchid Society continues to serve as a vital place where that level of understanding is cultivated and shared. The collective knowledge within this group is one of our greatest strengths, and it is through open exchange and continued curiosity that we raise the standard of orchid growing across our region. Just as importantly, each of us plays a role in ensuring that this knowledge and community continue to grow. If you know someone who has an interest in orchids but has not yet discovered SFOS, we encourage you to invite them. Our 2026 Membership Drive is actively underway, and as a token of appreciation, members who bring in five or more new members will receive a beautiful orchid from the society.

This month, we're especially looking forward to one of the most enjoyable evenings on our calendar. Our Bingo Night, along with the raffle and silent auction, promises to be a fun and lively gathering for everyone. It's a chance to relax, connect, and share a few laughs while still supporting the work of the society. Whether you come to play, to win, or simply to enjoy the atmosphere, we encourage you to join us and bring a guest along for the experience.

As always, thank you for the enthusiasm and spirit you bring to this society. It is what makes SFOS not just a place to learn, but a community people truly enjoy being part of. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting, sharing in a great evening together, and continuing to grow, both as orchid enthusiasts and as friends.

Warmest Regards,

James Furst
President
South Florida Orchid Society

Congratulations!

Melissa Alatraste

Melissa won the Grand Champion Award at the recent Tamiami International Orchid Festival for her gorgeous RTH (Ryhcattleanthe) Nobile's Ambar.





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 and guests 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

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 March 2026 Judging Report

Judges: Julie Rosenberg, Javier Morejon and Erna Maxwell

Blue Ribbons:

- *C. Measuresiana* (*C. aclandiae* "Krull-Smith" x *C. walkeriana*) - Virginia Benitez
- *C. Koolau Seagulls* - Virginia Benitez
- *Den. lindleyi* - Maggie Echeverria
- *Schomb. Mem. Louise Fuchs* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Phal. philippinense* - Aida Walchli
- *Pda. Corona Dionela "Fuchs Passion"* - Charles Asche
- *Den. signatum* - Teresa Pol
- *C. skinneri* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Epi. stamfordianum* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Phal. schilleriana* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Den. palpebrae* - Melissa Alatraste

Red Ribbons:

- *Ctt. Goldbrad "Miku"* - Charles Asche
- *V. Motes Arabesque* x *V. Motes Primrose* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Pot. William's Drumbeat #4* - Melissa Alatraste
- *Ctt. Mem. Cynthia Taylor* (*C. Caribbean* x *C. lawrencea*) - Melissa Alatraste
- *Renanstylis CATAS "Pink Lady"* - Virginia Benitez
- *Pomotocalpa spicatum* - Maggie Echeverria
- *C. Etta's Queen Morphinae* (*C. warneri coerulea* x *Lawre-Mossiae*(*C. mossiae* x *lawrenciana*)) - Melissa Alatraste
- *Den. lindleyi* - Virginia Benitez
- *Laelia Finckeniana* - Aida Walchli
- *Phal. schilleriana* - Aida Walchli

Thank you for showing your blooms. Some plants were entered as unnamed crosses. Please check your plants, because some of those crosses have been named , so check your plant labels and correct the name. We look forward to your Beauties in April.

Erna Maxwell, Judging Chair.

Award photos by, and Copyright © 2026 Ron Hunt



Schomb. Mem. Louise Fuchs - Melissa Alatraste



Den. lindleyi - Maggie Echeverria



C. Measuresiana (C. aclandiae "Krull-Smith" x C. walkeriana)
Virginia Benitez



Den. signatum - Teresa Pol



Den. palpebrae - Melissa Alatraste



Phal. schilleriana - Melissa Alatraste



Phal. philippinense - Aida Walchli



Epi. stamfordianum - Melissa Alatraste



C. skinneri - Melissa Alatraste



C. Koolau Seagulls - Virginia Benitez



Pda. Corona Dionela "Fuchs Passion" - Charles Asche

Membership Dues!

A Reminder for those members who have not yet paid their membership dues!

Your continued support is extremely important to the continued operation of the South Florida Orchid Society!

You can conveniently pay your dues at our monthly meetings or via mail.

We accept cash, checks or ZELLE!

Meeting Photos!



Photos by Ron Hunt

Meeting Photos!



Meeting Photos!



Our Intrepid Judges hard at work!

A reminder to please have your plants entered no later than 7:30PM.

Also, please take care to properly clean and groom your plants!

Lastly, please give our judging and photography team room to work during judging and photography!



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.



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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: Ariel Girardi

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

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

