



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS August 19 2026 Program

SFOS August Program

To Mount or Not to Mount? The Art and Science of Mounting Orchids

Presented by Martin A. Rivas, Ph.D.

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Doors Open & Social Hour: 7:00 PM

Meeting & Presentation Begin: 8:00 PM

Location: Pinecrest Gardens

Tired of struggling with soggy potting mix during South Florida's summer rainy season, or wondering if your favorite orchid would be happier growing on a slab? Join us this month for an interactive, practical workshop, exploring the ins and outs of mounting orchids.

Our speaker this month truly needs no introduction—it is our very own Program Director, Martin Rivas. A biologist by training, Martin is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology who brings both scientific rigor and a hands-on grower's passion to the orchid world.

We will dive into:

- The Pros & Cons: Understanding the benefits of natural root aeration versus the demands of daily watering.
- Selection Criteria: Which genera thrive when mounted (and which ones you definitely want to keep in pots!).
- Mounting Materials: Comparing cork bark, hardwoods, driftwood, coconut fiber, and more.
- Live Hands-On Demonstration: Step-by-step techniques to properly orient, cushion, and securely fasten your plants for optimal root attachment.



Martin A. Rivas, Ph.D.

Bonus: The plants mounted live during the demonstration will be placed directly into our Silent Auction at the end of the evening, giving you the chance to take home a newly mounted addition to your collection!

Come early at 7:00 PM to socialize, view the show table, and grab a great seat.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Acting President's Message



August 14, 2026

Dear South Florida Orchid Society Members:

Shortly after retiring, I became a new member of our society at the February 2018 meeting--determined to learn about growing orchids in my yard. I met David Foster at that meeting and he invited me to see his hundreds of orchids, collected over 50 years, which I did. Having a continuing friendship with David and benefiting from his great generosity has truly been a gift.

These new members have joined us in the last year:

Aisha	Brenda	Jeanne	Marion	Ruben
Alicia	Chiqui	Josie	Marion	Selma
Alina	Cynthia	Kattia	Mel	Trudi
Angela	Gus	Lourdes	Nany	

It is my hope you all will make lifelong friendships here. There's nothing like beautiful orchid flowers to start a conversation. Remember your best friend was once a stranger!

A special thank you to all members who share their beautiful flowers with us. They are spectacular! **(Please be sure to have them here and ready for judging by 7:30 p.m. or they won't be included.)**

Regarding timing, we're trying something new at the next meeting. We'll start at 7:50 p.m. with announcements and voting on changes to the Bylaws. Martin will start the demonstration program promptly at 8 p.m. After that, Julie will present the blue ribbon winning plants for show and tell, and we'll have the raffle and silent auction. That way we hope to finish up by 9:15 p.m.

Can't wait to see you on Wednesday!

Sincerely,

Margaret Marshall
Acting President



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 July 2026 Judging Report

Thanks for bringing your gorgeous blooming orchids to share with everyone! What a fantastic display! Your judging team is pleased to report the ribbons bestowed on them:

Judges: Erna Maxwell, Javier Morjon, Julie Rosenberg (Judging Chairperson)

Blue ribbons

- Bc. Yellow Bird (*B. nodosa* × Bc. Richard Mueller) ; Aida Walchi
- Bc. Yellow Bird (*B. nodosa* × Bc. Richard Mueller) ; Charlie Flick
- *Encyclia alata* ; Maggie Echeverria
- Blc. Durigan 'Aphrodite' (Rlc. Waianae Leopard x C. Corcovado) ; Melissa Alatrisme
- *Brassavola cucullata* ; Melissa Alatrisme
- *Vanda coerulea* ; Melissa Alatrisme
- Prra. LeBeau Blue (Van. Sasicha × *Aer. lawrenceae*) ; Virginia Benitez
- V. Uraivan Belle 'Spotted Glory' (Kulwadee Fragrance x Doctor Anek) ; Virginia Benitez

Red ribbons

- V. Motes Multiverse (Philippe Christoph × *insignis*) ; Aida Walchi
- C. Landate 'Charm' HCC/AOS (*aclandiae* × *guttata*) ; Melissa Alatrisme
- C. Marilyn Lew (Arcadio Arosemena x *dowiana*) ; Melissa Alatrisme
- C. Walter Wolff (*maxima coerulea* × *violacea*) ; Melissa Alatrisme
- Bratonia Shelob 'OKKA' (Brat. Olmec x Brs. Edvah Loo) ; Virginia Benitez

- Van. Ploenpit Blue (V. Tristar Blue x Van. Sasicha) ; Virginia Benitez

** V. Kultana Green Gold × *V. tessellata* ; Maggie Echeverria

** Bc. Golden Galaxy 'Apollo' ; Melissa Alatrisme

** I have made every effort to track down the correct, registered names for all of these orchids. However, despite multiple searches in several databases, including the RHS International Register of Orchid Hybrids, I could not find these plants. It may mean that the parent plants/hybrids are currently unregistered, or that the listed crosses simply do not exist.

We're looking forward to seeing your prized orchid flowers next month!

Reminder: judging starts promptly at 7:30pm.

Please arrive in time to enter your plants so that everyone (including judges!) can enjoy the program.

See y'all in August!

Julie Rosenberg
SFOS Judging Chair,

Award Photos by and Copyright © 2026 Ron Hunt

*Apparently there were two Bc. Yellow Bird entries and I only photographed one. I have no idea who entered it. My apologies.



Bc. Yellow Bird (*B. nodosa* × Bc. Richard Mueller) ?*



Encyclia alata ; Maggie Echeverria



Prra. LeBeau Blue (Van. Sasicha x *Aer. lawrenceae*)
Virginia Benitez



Brassavola cucullata ; Melissa Alatraste



Blc. Durigan 'Aphrodite' (Rlc. Waianae Leopard x C. Corcovado); Melissa Alatraste



Vanda coerulea ; Melissa Alatraste



V. Uraiwan Belle 'Spotted Glory' (Kulwadee Fragrance x Doctor Anek)
Virginia Benitez

Meeting Photos!



Meeting Photos!



Some of the items in our Silent Auction!



Our plant raffles and Silent Auctions are always a big hit with all of our members and guests!



Our intrepid judging team hard at work!

As usual, they had a good number of really nice plants to judge.



Erna Maxwell receives the SFOS Distinguished Service Award

The South Florida Orchid Society is proud to present it's Distinguished Service Award to Erna Maxwell for her many years of tireless service to the society as it's Judging Chair and head judge.

Thank you, Erna!

Meeting Photos!



Our July program was presented by Alex Bello, who gave a very interesting lecture on the Cattleyas of Venezuela and South America.



Proposed SFOS 2026 ByLaw Revision

Board of Directors – Current 1/9/2025

ARTICLE V Officers and Their Duties

Section 1.

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the society. All members of the board must be active members in the society when nominated and must maintain an active membership throughout their term. All positions in the organization are unpaid and thus shall receive no compensation for their board responsibilities.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the **Officers of the Corporation (President, Vice-President, Program Director, Secretary and Treasurer)** and **six (6) Directors** (two directors are to be elected each year for a term of two years each.) The immediate **past President** shall be a director also. This makes a total regular board of 13 members. By a majority vote of the Board of Directors a Special Director may also become a member of the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors – DRAFT Recommendations 6/20/2026

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The Board of Directors shall consist of the **Officers of the Corporation (President, Vice-President, Program Director, Secretary and Treasurer)**, **four (4) Directors and up to two (2) Special Directors**. This makes a total of 11 voting members.

Two directors are to be elected each year for a term of two (2) years each.)

The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, elect two (2) individuals to serve as **Special Directors**. The **Special Directors** are elected directly by a majority vote of the Board and are selected specifically based on their specialized expertise, skills and/or background. Once in office they shall have full voting privileges and serve a two (2) year term with eligibility of re-election.

To ensure continuity and provide strategic guidance, the immediate **past President** also serves as **Director**, but holds no voting rights, acting in an advisory capacity only.

Please review the changes shown above. Members will be asked to vote to accept these changes at the August members meeting.

THE SECOND ANNUAL
**Rare & Exotic
Orchid Exhibition
and Sale**

Presented in Partnership with the
Vero Beach Orchid Society



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th
9:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th
9:00 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM

McKee Botanical Garden, in partnership with the Vero Beach Orchid Society, is pleased to present an exhibition of exotic, historic and rare orchids as well as special presentations for the collector or enthusiast.

Experience the beauty of orchids at McKee through a vibrant show judged by the American Orchid Society, showcasing exceptional orchid displays that celebrate artistry and cultivation. The event brings together Florida craft artisans and acclaimed orchid growers including Krull-Smith, Odom's Orchids, Francisco Miranda Orchids, Quest Orchids, and Mac Orchids.

Visitors can explore a lively marketplace of rare and exotic plants set within McKee's award-winning jungle landscape, along with engaging speakers, educational lectures, and demonstrations throughout the weekend.

McKee and Vero Beach Orchid Society Members are invited to preview the exhibition and sale on Saturday, September 5 at 8:00 AM.

Advance tickets are available at
mckee garden.org



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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

Acting President: Margaret Marshall

(Membership): Margaret Marshall

Program Director: Martin Rivas

Secretary: Nancy Crisler

Treasurer: Ariel Girardi

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

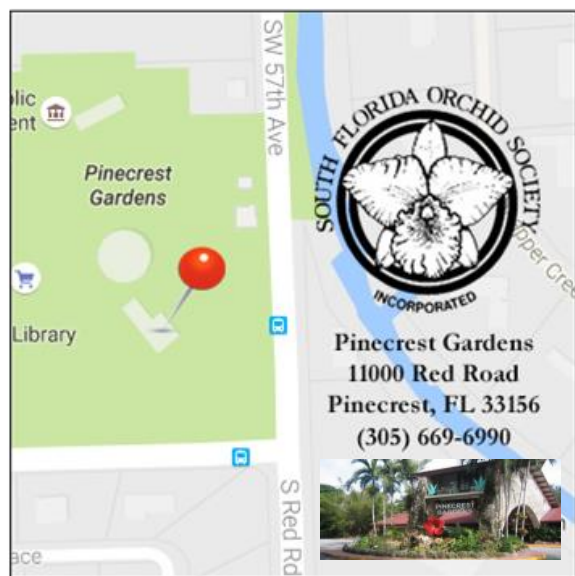
**Meetings are held on the third
Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9PM**

Orchid registration begins at 7:00PM.

**No plants will be registered after
7:30PM**

Meeting begins at 7:50PM

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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