



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS September 16 2026 Program

Exploring Aerides and Rhynchostylis with Dr. Juraj Kojš

- **Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026**
- **Doors Open & Plant Registration: 7:00 PM**
- **Meeting & Presentation: 8:00 PM**
- **Location: Pinecrest Gardens**

The South Florida Orchid Society is excited to welcome back our good friend, Dr. Juraj Kojš! After delivering a wonderful presentation to our society last September, Juraj returns this month to share his deep expertise on two of the most spectacular, fragrant genera in the Vanda alliance: *Aerides* and *Rhynchostylis*.

Famed for their magnificent, pendulous “fox-tail” inflorescences, rich color forms, and incredible fragrance, *Aerides* and *Rhynchostylis* are natural standouts for South Florida collections due to their love of heat and humidity. In this presentation, Juraj will break down key species within both genera, compare their growth patterns and cultural requirements, and share practical techniques to cultivate vigorous roots and award-winning displays.



Dr. Juraj Kojš

About our Speaker

Dr. Juraj Kojš is an avid orchid collector, mentor, and Accredited American Orchid Society (AOS) Judge, having juried major exhibits in the US, Colombia, Taiwan, and Japan. He is a past president of the Coalition for Orchid Species, and he conceived and chaired the first Orchids & Arts Festival at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden in 2024. Dr. Kojš is credited with over 70 AOS flower quality awards. He has published articles in the AOS Orchids magazine, while also delivering frequent presentations and hands-on workshops, including a recent speaking tour for the Hawaiian orchid societies.

His creative research links orchids and sound—he is the creator of Orchid DNA Music, and founder of the FETA Foundation for experimental and interdisciplinary arts. An Associate Professor of Professional Practice at the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music, Dr. Kojš integrates culture, science, and art to advance orchid appreciation, selection, and care. Learn more about his work at www.kojs.net and www.youreyeorchids.com.

Arrive early at 7:00 PM to submit your blooming plants for ribbon judging, browse the raffle table, and catch up with fellow members over refreshments!



Special Program Announcement

Register Now!

Art Chadwick presents The Fascinating World of Orchids

Mark your calendars for an extraordinary bonus event this **November!** The South Florida Orchid Society is honored to host none other than Art Chadwick, internationally renowned grower, author, and founder of the legendary Chadwick & Son Orchids.

Known as the “Cattleya King,” Art is celebrated worldwide for his encyclopedic knowledge of large-flowered Cattleya species and his tradition of presenting custom Cattleya hybrids to America’s First Ladies. Hosting a speaker of his caliber is a truly rare treat.

Because of this unique opportunity, we are holding a special session with a few twists:

- **Unusual Day: Thursday, November 12, 2026**
- **Unusual Time: 5:30 PM**
- **Unusual Location: Pinecrest Branch Library (5835 SW 111th St, right next to Pinecrest Gardens)**
- **Unusual Guest: Art Chadwick himself!**

(Please note: This is an extraordinary bonus presentation—our regular monthly SFOS meeting will still take place as scheduled on Wednesday, November 18 at Pinecrest Gardens!)

Important — Advance Registration Required:

Because this event is co-hosted with the library, open to the general public, and seating capacity is strictly limited, all attendees must register in advance to guarantee a seat.

To reserve your spot:

1. Visit the Miami-Dade Public Library event page: <https://mdpls.libnet.info/event/17294302>
2. Click the “**Register**” button on the page and enter your details.

Spaces will fill up quickly, so please register as soon as possible. Let’s pack the room and give Art a spectacular South Florida welcome!

Martin A. Rivas, Ph.D.
Program Director
South Florida Orchid Society
programs@sforchid.com
<https://www.sforchid.com>

Acting President's Message



September 10, 2026

Dear South Florida Orchid Society Members:

A very warm welcome to our new member, Mabel Abasco. We're so glad to have you join us!

We are very excited about our plans for the next several months. Watch this newsletter for more information!

Please be sure to see Maggie Echevarria at our September meeting to volunteer for the Redland International Orchid Festival, October 16 - 18, 2026 at the Redland Fruit and Spice Park. You'll get free admission and our society earns \$65 for each volunteer shift worked. This revenue helps us pay for new speakers and raffle plants. There will also be another opportunity to volunteer in January 15-17, 2027, for the Tamiami International Orchid Festival, so mark your calendars to attend this event.

Juraj Kojš will be our speaker on Wednesday and will teach us about *Aerides* and *Rynchostylis* orchids. Juraj is always enthusiastic and encouraging. We learn something new every time we have the pleasure of having him with us.

Don't forget to register now for the wonderful Art Chadwick event on November 12, 2026 at the Pinecrest Library. It's free but registration is required. A library card is always a valuable thing to have, but you don't need one to register. If you need help, let us know.

Please come early, bring your silent auction donations, beautiful show and tell plants for judging, a snack to share and (of course) money to pay for raffle tickets and silent auction plants.

Can't wait to see you on Wednesday!

Sincerely,

Margaret Marshall
Acting President



Connect With Us on Our New Official Instagram!

The South Florida Orchid Society is excited to announce the launch of our brand-new official Instagram account: [@thesouthfloridaorchidsociety!](https://www.instagram.com/thesouthfloridaorchidsociety/)

After retiring our older, inactive account, the SFOS Board created this fresh page to keep our community connected and informed. Follow us to get real-time updates on monthly meetings, guest speakers, hands-on workshops, judging results, and upcoming orchid shows.

Be sure to give us a follow, share it with fellow orchid lovers, and tag [@thesouthfloridaorchidsociety](https://www.instagram.com/thesouthfloridaorchidsociety/) in your blooming plant photos so we can celebrate your successes together!

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!

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

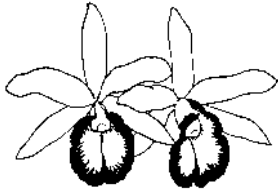
- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$25.75
- 2XL at \$26.75
- 3XL at \$28.00



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!

A Friendly Reminder for Monthly Plant Judging



Bringing your blooming beauties to our monthly meetings is one of the best parts of SFOS, and we love celebrating everyone's growing successes on the show table! To ensure our judging runs smoothly and everyone's collections stay safe, please keep these essential reminders in mind:

- ♦ **Clean & Pest-Free Plants.** Always inspect your orchids thoroughly before packing them for the meeting. Plants must be completely free of transmissible pests—especially mealybugs, scale, and spider mites. Even a small, isolated bug can quickly hitchhike to a neighbor's prized plant, so any orchid showing signs of active pests will be discreetly set aside to protect everyone's collection.
- ♦ **Accurate Identification & Tags.** Please verify that your plant tag is legible and has the correct species or registered hybrid name (checked against **RHS**, **OrchidWiz**, **OrchidPro**, or **OrchidRoots**). If your hybrid is unregistered, simply list the full parentage (Pod Parent × Pollen Parent). If in doubt, the Judging Committee is here to help, just ask, but remember this can take a few minutes so give us time for lookups and confirmations!
- ♦ **Entry Forms.** Remember to complete an entry form for each plant you bring, and include your name on the back of the form. Forms are available at the judging table, or you can download and print them from this note ahead of time to save time during setup.

For the full, detailed regulations on awards and scoring, please visit the judging guidelines section on our website at <https://www.sforchid.com/judging/judging-rules/>

Thank you for helping us keep our show table vibrant, educational, and healthy!

Your Judging Team

Julie Rosenberg, Chair

Erna Maxwell

Javier Morejon

Sally Taylor

Martin Rivas

Ariel Girardi

Adonis Goosby

South Florida Orchid Society, Inc.

JUDGING ENTRY FORM

Entry #: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Name of Plant: _____

Clonal Name: _____

Parentage: _____

Comments: _____

Previous Awards received by this plant: _____

Has plant been submitted previously for judging of the same inflorescence?

Yes: _____ No: _____

All entries are subject to Rules and Regulations of SFOS Judging.

SFOS August 2026 Judging Report

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

Blue ribbons

- Den. Enobi Purple (Enobi Komachi × Laguna Princess), Teresa Prol
- Prra. Rapeepath (Prra. Bangkok Sunset x Van. Pine Rivers), Melissa Alatraste
- Vandachostylis Colmarie (Van. Sri-Siam × *Rhy. gigantea*), Melissa Alatraste
- V. Queen Azizah Iskander (Fuchs Gold × Memoria Thianchai), Charlie Flick
- *V. vietnamica*, Charlie Flick

Red ribbons

- Ctna. Jamaica Jewel (Bro. Seagulls Jamaica × Ctna. Keith Roth), Charles Asche
- Bc. Rustic Spots (Bc. Richard Mueller × C. Landate), Melissa Alatraste
- Lc. Aiea Lorraine (Blc. Ann Morning x C. Memoria Robert Strait), Melissa Alatraste
- Phal. (Mituo Princess × Mainshow Magic) (not registered) Melissa Alatraste
- *Prosthechea radiata*, Melissa Alatraste
- Rby. Purple Cricket (Rcv. Jimminey Cricket × *C. purpurata*), Melissa Alatraste

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 “Den. New Burana”. So the name tag on this lovely orchid is simply invalid at this time; the hybrid is not listed anywhere. If the hybridizer registers it in future, we can look it up again in a few months.

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.

And a very warm welcome to our newest student judge, Adonis Goosby!

See y’all in September

Julie Rosenberg
SFOS Judging Chair

Award Photos by, and Copyright © 2026 Ron Hunt



V. vietnamica, Charlie Flick



Vandachostylis Colmarie (Van. Sri-Siam × *Rhy. gigantea*), Melissa Alatrisme



V. Queen Azizah Iskander (Fuchs Gold × Memoria Thianchai), Charlie Flick



Prara. Rapeepath (Prara. Bangkok Sunset x Van. Pine Rivers), Melissa Alatraste



Den. Enobi Purple (Enobi Komachi x Laguna Princess), Teresa Prol

August 2026 Meeting Photos!



Our very own Program Director, Martin Rivas gave a hands on demonstration in the art and science of mounting orchids a our August membership meeting, which was well received by our membership.

August 2026 Meeting Photos!



August 2026 Meeting Photos!



Thanks to Nancy Crisler and Charlie Flick for the great meeting photos on these pages!

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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 Chair: 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

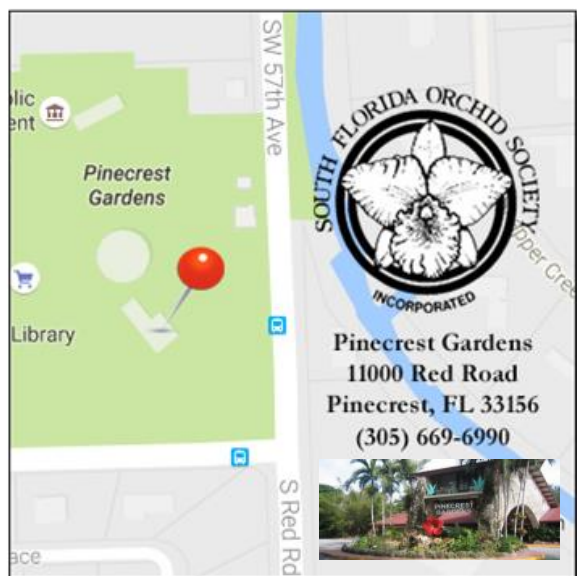
Meetings are held on the third Wednesday
of each month from 7 to 9PM

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.
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