



The Orchidist

The South Florida Orchid Society Newsletter

SFOS October 21 2026 Program

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Art and Science of Orchid Exhibition & Spatial Design

Featured Speaker: Santiago Hernández

- Location: Pinecrest Gardens
- Doors Open & Plant Registration: 7:00 PM
- Meeting & Presentation: 8:00 PM

The South Florida Orchid Society is thrilled to welcome Santiago Hernández, an accomplished spatial designer, master exhibition builder, and orchid judge joining us to explore the intersection of botanical artistry, staging architecture, and plant culture.

A native of Medellín, Colombia, Santiago holds a degree in Interior and Spatial Design from Colegiatura Colombiana. Growing orchids since the age of six, his childhood passion evolved directly into his design philosophy. Since 2011, he has served as a principal designer for Florecer (formerly Orquídeas, Pájaros y Flores), Colombia's iconic international orchid exhibition, conceptualizing and executing monumental multi-tiered installations. His exhibition staging work spans major shows across the United States, Colombia, and Africa, pioneering displays that elevate orchids beyond mere show plants into living elements of architectural spaces.

Alongside his design practice, Santiago is an Accredited Colombian Orchid Judge with the Colombian Orchidology Association and an Associate Judge with the American Orchid Society (AOS). His dual perspective as both an accredited judge and an interior architect informs his core philosophy: successful orchid displays must strike a seamless balance between dramatic aesthetics, spatial geometry, and the biological and environmental needs of each species.



Join us at Pinecrest Gardens for an inspiring evening as Santiago shares trade secrets on spatial composition, lighting, mechanics, and techniques for creating world-class exhibition displays that respect the natural habitat and beauty of our plants.

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



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

President's Message October 16, 2026

Dear South Florida Orchid Society Members:

As I write this, I have just returned from the spectacular Redland International Orchid Festival. It is overwhelming with all the vendors and beautiful plants and flowers from all over the world. And it was great to see member and student judge, Adonis Goosby, manning the judging tent and participating as part of the tasks required to earn an American Orchid Society judge designation. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped at the festival and earned our society \$65 for each for their shifts.

Speaking of judging, be sure to ask Martin and Ariel about their recent experience as student judges at last Saturday's R. F. Orchids judging event. We certainly have stars in our midst!

Welcome to our former guests Julietta Garcia, Susie Fernandez and Mirta Hernandez who became members at our September meeting. Jon Weiser, and Sioban and Peter Keane also joined by mail. We're so glad to have you all with us!

We're looking forward to our October meeting this Wednesday, two opportunities to be together in November and our holiday party in December. If you haven't already done so, please register for the special evening with Art Chadwick we are hosting at the Pinecrest Library on Nov. 12th at 5:30 p.m. Everyone in the community is welcome and the event is free but you must register in advance since seating is limited. Read this newsletter for more information!

Board member Maggie Echevarria is heading up the plans for our holiday party and needs your help to festively decorate the room the day of the party. Let her know at our October meeting if you can help. We will also be asking for a show of hands on Wednesday as to your preference for the type of food to be served on the buffet: Italian, Barbeque or Cuban. The price for party member and guest reservations is \$25 per person. As is tradition, each member will receive the gift of an orchid plant. Reservations and payment can be made at the October and November meetings but must be received by November 18th to know who many will attend and to buy the plants.

As always, 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





Visit the South Florida
Orchid Society page on
Instagram

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SOUTH FLORIDA ORCHID SOCIETY MINI-AUCTION SERIES

ALL PROCEEDS from items sold on the **MINI-AUCTION**
go to South Florida Orchid Society for the
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Thank you for your support,

South Florida Orchid Society

Membership Shirts Available in beautiful Royal Blue!

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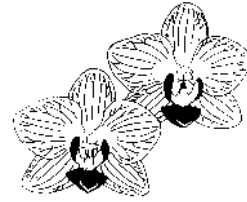
- Sm, Med, L, or XL at \$25.75
- 2XL at \$26.75
- 3XL at \$28.00



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 September 2026 Judging Report

Wow, definitely quality over quantity this month! Only four plants were entered but they were stunners! And if there hadn't been some damage to the V. Kanokwon flowers, that gorgeous vanda would have cruised home with a blue, too! Thanks for sharing! Congratulations to all!

Blue ribbons

- Vanda Bella (M.V. Tannins × *tessellata*), Martín Rivas
- Vanda Jackson (Sasicha × Jakkit Gold)*, Martín Rivas
- Rlc. Odom's Sunset (Bill Krull × C. Phai-Loeng Waianae), Charlie Flick

Red ribbon

- Vanda Kanokwon (Kulwadee Fragrance × Chantra), Teresa Prol

Hybrids verified by the RHS Orchid Hybrids registration site. RHS is the international registrar for orchid hybrids.

*Before all the name changes in the Vanda "alliance", this plant would have been tagged as a Vandachostylis.

Reminder: judging starts promptly at 7:30pm. Please arrive in time to register your plants so that everyone (including judges!) can enjoy the program. If you're unsure of a plant tag, we can help, but please give us time for research and lookups.

See y'all next month, we're looking forward to seeing your goodies!

Your judging team,

Julie Rosenberg, Chair

Sally Taylor

Ariel Girardi

Adonis Goosby

Martín Rivas

Ron Hunt (Photography)



Rlc. Odom's Sunset (Bill Krull × C. Phai-Loeng Waianae), Charlie Flick



Vanda Bella (M.V. Tannins x tessellata), Martín Rivas



Vanda Jackson (Sasicha x Jakkit Gold)*, Martín Rivas

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"An Introduction to Orchids"

Everything you need to know
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orchids in south Florida.

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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!

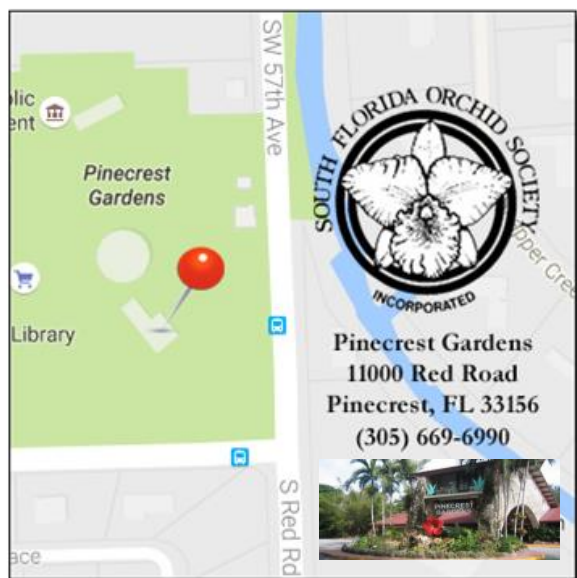
MEMBER BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

- **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.
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