

Orchid Society News

April 2008



The Venice Area Orchid Society is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society. It was founded in 1962 to foster and preserve orchid growing, to provide a forum for orchid exhibition, and to share the knowledge and experience of growers and hobbyists.

The mission of the Venice Area Orchid Society is "to encourage, organize, and support educational activities among its members in order to develop and extend knowledge concerning the cultivation and hybridization of orchids, and to promote the conservation and protection of native species."

VAOS has grown into one of the largest orchid societies on the west coast of Florida. In February 2008, the VAOS proudly marked its 42nd continuous orchid show.

The Venice Area Orchid Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

New Growers Meetings are informal question and answer sessions addressing questions from new orchid growers or growers with problem plants. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Venice Community Center.

Guests are welcome.

Visit the Venice Area Orchid Society on the web at

www.vaos.org

A Message from your President:

The new Board of Directors had its first meeting. The Board is a good mix of novice and experienced growers and longtime and short-term members of VAOS. All are anxious to help lead your society and provide activities to meet your interests.

The society is in good financial shape. Our income, greatly bolstered by the earnings from the show, has exceeded our expenses during the last two years. Our other income sources are dues, the annual plant sale and the raffle table. The Board will be working to maintain our income and control our expenses. One immediate way to help us control expenses is to agree to receive the newsletter by email (send a note to Ellen Nacinovich, enacinovich2@verizon.net).

The Board appointed Barbara Wagner to the Member-at-Large position that was vacant. Barbara and Roy Klinger have agreed to be the chairpersons of the 2009 show. We have several activities that need help. The Raffle Table needs a few people to help sell tickets and run the raffle. If a small group volunteers to help Noreen Chervinski, a schedule could be developed so that this responsibility rotates among the group. Noreen also needs help with the refreshment table. I'm looking for help from someone to photograph the plant table winners and provide images for the web page.

The Board will meet again next month, with a focus on the budget, VAOS activities, our support of the local community and the orchid community at large, and consider updates to our By-laws. Any Board member would be pleased to hear your ideas, suggestions or concerns. The newsletter now lists the email addresses of Board members – please contact us (If you email me, put VAOS in the subject line to get by the filters).

The meeting sequence will change a bit. The speaker will be moved to prior to the refreshment break.

—Ted Kellogg

Next Meeting: April 2, 2008

Speaker: Bill Fender
Topic: Cattleya Breeding

Bill hopes to bring in bloom some of the Cattleya-type orchid plants he has used as parents. He should also have some of the new hybrids in bloom to show. He will demonstrate the pollinating technique and explain the process. There will be several of his new crosses, exclusive to Fender's Flora, for sale at the meeting.

Bill will give a free orchid plant (one of his new crosses) to each person who attends this meeting.

see page 2—About our April Speaker



Officers 2008-2009

President

Ted Kellogg
941/ 475-7029
tmkellogg@gmail.com

Vice President – Programs

Cynthia Vance
941/ 483-9165
facilitationfla@aol.com

Vice President – Show Displays

Norm Weber
941/ 876-3181
normanweber@comcast.net

Vice President – Social Events

Noreen Chervinski
941/ 505-1304
pgifolks@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Carol Liddy
941/ 497-5026
carolyliddy@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Carol Wood
941/ 497-4995
cwood12@msn.com

Corresponding Secretary

Ellen Nacinovich
941/ 870-3342
enacinovich2@verizon.net

Newsletter Editors

Ellen Nacinovich &
Tony Nacinovich
941/ 870-3342
enacinovich2@verizon.net
tnacinovich@verizon.net

Membership

Carol Wood (info above) &
Don Levine
941/ 493-6129
donguns@hotmail.com

Librarian

Sybil Levien Bushell
941/ 485-0979
jaybushell@earthlink.net

Raffle Table

Noreen Chervinski
941/ 505-1304
pgifolks@yahoo.com

Member at Large

Barbara Wagner
941/ 923-7706
barbjwag@comcast.net

About our April Speaker: Bill Fender

Bill Fender is a Florida native born in St. Petersburg. Bill received his first orchid in 1969 as a gift from Susan's parents. This first orchid, Bc. Binosa, is still thriving and blooming in Bill's greenhouses! Bill and Susan Fender have been in the nursery business since 1974. Fender's Flora, Inc. was a wholesale nursery business for 20 years, growing Boston fern in Apopka, Florida, known as the foliage capital of the world.



Bill and Susan's orchid web site, www.fendersflora.com, has been on the internet for more than 12 years. The Fenders have received over 12 awards from the American Orchid Society. Bill continues to love growing orchids and is very excited to see his own crosses bloom for the first time!

Membership Dues

The VAOS membership dues are \$15 per household for the calendar year. Please check to see that you have paid your current year's dues, as many are still outstanding.

Dues may be given to our new treasurer, Carol Liddy, at the April meeting or by mailing them to her at:

Ms. Carol Liddy
429 Circlewood Drive
Venice, FL 34293

Plant Table Awards — March 12, 2008 Meeting

Monthly meetings include a show table of members' plants. Six ribbons are awarded each month: four awards are selected by an alternating team of VAOS member judges. These awards are: one for Best Species, and a First, Second and Third place award to any plant, a Speaker's Choice award and the VAOS members' vote on the plant for Members' Choice. The following are the awards presented at the March 12th meeting. (Plants are named as presented with minor editing corrections.)

First Place: Cattleya violacea 'Muse' FCC/AOS
Grower: Orchids Etc.

Second Place: Cattleya amethystaglossa
Grower: Orchids Etc.

Third Place: Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin
Grower: Mickey Carnell - Blue Pagoda Orchids

Members' Choice: Dtps. Chain Xen Pearl
Grower: Bob and Barbara Wagner

Speaker's Choice: Paphiopedilum insigne

Judges were Susan Fender, Bill Fender and Katie Caldwell. 28 plants from 11 exhibitors were shown.

For photos of the winning orchids, visit our society's website at www.vaos.org. Thank you, Ted and Marty Kellogg, for keeping track of our plant table winners and posting the information on our website.

A volunteer to photograph the plants shown each month is needed as soon as possible. Please email Ted Kellogg for details.

Please bring your orchids to show at our monthly meetings. Orchids for the show table should arrive prior to 7 p.m.

AOS Monthly Checklist for March and April

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Cattleya

Although March is, in many parts of the country, still a cold and blustery month, the lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group — bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* — is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Lycaste

This genus of superb orchids will be coming to the end of its flowering season. Soon you will see the beginning of new root growth, which is an excellent time to repot into fresh media. As new growth emerges, provide ample fertilizer and water. A sign of good culture is an increase in the size of pseudobulbs with each successive year.

Miltoniopsis

This marks the beginning of the flowering season. Amazing displays of color will dazzle the grower over the next few months. Prepare your plants for optimum display by staking spikes (if needed) and cleaning off the older yellow foliage. Do not miss the wonderful fragrance as the flowers unfold.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging — even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the look out for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

Pleurothallids

Members in this large and increasingly popular group will be looking their best now. If plants are not in flower, the next few months provide an excellent time to divide if needed or repot into fresh mix. Taking care of these tasks now will allow enough time for your plants to become established before the hot weather arrives.

AOS Corner

By Melba and Jim Butler,
AOS Representatives

Orchid Trivia: "The hollow pseudobulbs of *Myrmecophila*, named from the Greek *myrmeko* (ants) because ants nest in them, are used as horns in Mexico and Central America to call the cattle home. Salep, the powder obtained from the tuberosities of some European orchids, has been used medicinally for its nutritive value in cases of malnutrition." Ref. *Orchids to Know and Grow* Copyright 2007, by Thomas J. Sheehan and Robert J. Black, p 187, University Press of Florida. Available in many places, including through the AOS Orchid Emporium. <<http://www.aos.org/>>.

The March 2009 *Orchids* magazine has wonderful coverage of the 19th WOC. The photos and articles bring it all back to us. The five-page pullout surpasses any previous issue that we have seen. No doubt those who weren't lucky enough to attend the show are getting a small glimpse, thanks to the coverage in the March *Orchids*.

What Now? Following the highly successful, fantastic, well-attended 19th WOC, many are saying, "What now?" The answer, of course, is: Orchid shows are taking place in cities and towns all over the US and also in many other countries. Take a look at the listing in *Orchids* magazine or visit the AOS Web site that provides the locations, dates and contact information.

The Big News is: The AOS Web site has a new look! <<http://www.aos.org/>>

Susan Taylor Orchids Editor,
BellaOnline.com



Treasurer's Report 2/29/08

Checking Account

Starting Balance 1/31/08.....\$2767.61
+ receipts519.00
- payments657.20
Balance 2/29/08\$2629.41

Cash Account

Starting Balance 1/31/08\$ 40.00
+ receipts519.00
- payments519.00
Balance 2/29/08\$ 40.00

Savings: CD.....\$11,672.45

Total Assets 2/29/08\$13,921.46
— Elinor C. Burton

Refreshment Table

The VAOS provides coffee and sodas for the monthly refreshment table, but relies on its members to supply the usual great goodies. Always welcome and appreciated are baked goods, fresh fruit, crackers & cheese, and whatever sweet or salty snacks suit your fancy!

Please contact Noreen Chervinski at 941/ 505-1304 if you have any questions concerning refreshments or would like to volunteer to help serve and clean up. *Thanks!*

Raffle Table

After seven or so years of managing the monthly Raffle Table, Dick and Peggy Thompson have asked for a change. The club is indebted to them for their long service. It will be hard to fill their shoes, but we hope that two or more members will contact Noreen Chervinski to give it a try. Coming a bit early to sell raffle tickets is especially helpful, as Noreen is in the kitchen at that time wearing her Refreshment Table hat.

Thank you, Dick and Peggy Thompson!

Minutes of the March 5, 2008 Meeting

The meeting of the Venice Area Orchid Society was called to order by President Jane Hyde.

Guests were welcomed.

The report of the nominating committee was read by Sybil Levien Bushell. Volunteers from the floor filled the slate of proposed officers. The following were elected for the ensuing year:

President: Ted Kellogg

VP Programs: Cynthia Vance

VP Show Displays: Norm Weber

VP Social Events: Noreen Chervinski

Recording Secretary: Carol Wood

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editors: Ellen & Tony Nacinovich

Treasurer: Carol Liddy

Installation of officers will take place at the April meeting.

There was discussion of responsibilities for the Englewood Orchid Society show, "Orchids in the Landscape," which will be held on March 21st and 22nd (Easter weekend). Members were encouraged to show plants and bring them to the Englewood Sports Complex for Friday morning setup.

Some ideas for upcoming trips were discussed, such as Krull-Smith and Redlands.

Meeting was adjourned.

Program: Micky Carnell of Blue Pagoda and Evolution Orchids spoke on *Pahipedilums*.

Annual Orchid Show Account

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Receipts		
Sponsors Donations	\$2,350.00	\$2,500.00
Patrons Donations . . . . .	.931.00	405.00
Sales of Floral Arrangements . . . . .	.2,431.00	2,082.50
Grower Fee . . . . .	.4,250.00	4,100.00
Jar Donations . . . . .	.0.00	0.00
Friends of VCC Rent Write-off . . . . .	.0.00	0.00
Shirts . . . . .	.400.00	331.00
Misc. . . . .	.62.20	0.00
Ticket/Admission . . . . .	.8,902.00	9,058.00
Total	\$19,326.20	\$18,476.50
Expenses		
Advertising	\$1,027.08	\$1,874.68
Kitchen . . . . .	.0.00	226.25
Staging Supplies . . . . .	.697.92	203.54
Registration Computer Supplies . . . . .	.129.72	145.93
Luncheon for Judges . . . . .	.272.31	175.13
VAOS display Supplies . . . . .	.50.91	115.43
Tee shirts (sales) . . . . .	.807.00	0.00
Tee shirts (free) . . . . .	.434.90	448.17
Awards - Trophies . . . . .	.402.82	343.24
Awards - Cash . . . . .	.175.00	275.00
Signs & Printing . . . . .	.410.00	286.98
Floral Arrangements Supplies . . . . .	.958.26	574.35
Photographer . . . . .	.265.00	155.40
AOS Fees . . . . .	.150.00	150.00
VCC Rent . . . . .	.4,266.16	3,556.39
Misc. . . . .	.40.00	475.93
Plant rental/delivery . . . . .	.0.00	700.00
Total	\$10,087.08	\$9,706.42
Profit/Loss	\$9,239.12	\$8,770.08

—Barbara Wagner

Patronize the local growers who have supported VAOS for many years:

- **Orchids Etcetera Inc.** (Jeff Higel, Walter Perrin)941/ 921-9138
5130 Honore Avenue, Sarasota (south of Proctor)
- **Plantio La Orquidea** (Tina & Rafael Romero)941/ 504-7737
3480 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
www.plantiolaorquidea.com
- **Venice Orchids** (Bob Hague)941/ 485-5012
254 Keystone Road, Venice
- **Fender's Flora** (Bill and Susan Fender)941/ 484-6320;
941/ 323-1587
Located at Venice Orchids, 254 Keystone Road, Venice
www.fendersflora.com
Venice Orchids and Fender's Flora are open
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; closed Sunday.

DEADLINE MAY NEWSLETTER — APRIL 15TH.

WANTED:

A few good volunteers...

Photographer for the monthly Plant Table (see Ted Kellogg).

Two or more to help set up, serve, and clean up the **Refreshment Table**. (see Noreen Chervinski)

Two or more to sell **raffle** tickets and then enjoy selecting the winners (see Noreen Chervinski)

Contact information is on page 2.

Annual Spring Open House and Sale

Venice Orchids and Fender's Flora

April 4 and 5
(Friday and Saturday)

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

254 Keystone Rd.,
Venice, FL 34292

Directions on
www.fendersflora.com

Thousands of Orchid Plants
Bare-root Divisions
Cactus and Succulent Plants

Mark Your Calendars Now!

The Venice Area

Orchid Society News

Published monthly.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.

Please direct comments to:
Ellen and Tony Nacinovich
email: enacinovich2@verizon.net
tnacinovich@verizon.net
Written submissions are appreciated.

© E&T Nacinovich March 2008

Next meeting:
Wednesday, April 2, 2008
• Free orchid for every attendee!
• Plant table entries welcome...
• Don't forget refreshments, too!

Orchid Society News
The Venice Area
P.O. Box 443
Venice, FL 34284-0443

Upcoming Orchid Events

March 29-30—Orchid Society of the Highlands Show “Wild About Orchids”

Ag-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL
Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. \$2 donation.

March 30—Orchid Festival 10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Sunken Gardens, 1825 4th St N, St Pete.
Orchid Culture Class throughout the day;
Commercial Growers selling thousands of
Orchids. Learn about Repotting and Mounting
Orchids, Vanda culture, Cattleya culture,
Oncidium culture, Phalaenopsis culture and more.
Adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Children \$4, Members
Free.

April 5-6, 2008—53rd Annual Central Florida Orchid Society Spring Show and Sale “A Reflection in Orchids”

Sat. - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. - 9a.m. to 3p.m.
Central Florida Fairgrounds, Main Exhibit
Building, 4603 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL
This is will be an AOS judged show with beautiful
orchid exhibits.

April 19, 2008—Florida West Coast Orchid Society Annual Orchid Auction

Historic Largo Feed Store, 105 Central Park Drive,
Largo, FL 33779

Preview 8:30 AM; Auction 9 AM – 4 PM

Free to the public and Free Parking

Live auction of about 200+ blooming or near-
blooming size orchids from several well known
growers [including from Hawaii]

Beautiful Orchids and supplies for growing
orchids from FWCOS members

Auctioneers are FWCOS orchid growers Bill
Nunez, Roy Finley and Jack Majewski. Most bids
will start at \$5.

May 16-18, 2008—12th Annual Redland International Orchid Festival

Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Avenue,
Homestead, FL

America's Favorite Orchid Festival!

Featuring over 60 vendors from all over the world
and the U.S.

Visit www.redlandorchidfestival.org for more
information.