

Venice Area Orchid Society News

July 2010

A Message from Your President:

What a great meeting we had in June! From his extensive on-the-ground research, Michael Sinn gave a terrific exposition on the differing ecosystems in Venezuela and accompanying growing patterns of the orchids there. His slides gave us a real sense of the country and its rural people and endemic Indian groups. His advice on Venezuelan orchids that do well in Florida was very helpful. It was compelling to hear about a conservation technique they do there called "orchid hunting". This is when orchid enthusiasts go out into the wild and find orchids on the ground or thrown from a tree from a storm or a natural happening. They replace the orchid in its rightful place so it can thrive again.

We especially enjoyed Michael's bantering with folks during the plant table presentation. This afforded us

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The Venice Area Orchid Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

Orchid Growers Clinics 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

Joint Summer Meetings with Englewood Society

The Venice Area Orchid Society and the Englewood Area Orchid Society will join forces this summer, when attendance is lighter than during the winter months. Englewood AOS will host the July meeting on its regular meeting night (2nd Monday/July 12th) at Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood (directions on page 6). The evening speaker will be Katie Caldwell of Punta Gorda. (*see article below*).

Venice AOS will host the August meeting at the Venice Community Center on its regular meeting night, Wednesday, August 4th. The speaker will be Marv Ragan, speaking on "The Breeding and Judging of the Genus Encyclia."

Members of both societies are invited to bring orchids for the show table. There will be refreshments and a Silent Auction on July 12th. Guests are welcome!

Note CHANGE of MEETING NIGHT and LOCATION

Next Meeting: MONDAY, July 12th at 7 p.m. Hosted by Englewood Area Orchid Society

Speaker: Katie Caldwell
Topic: Growing Tolumnias

Katie Caldwell has been growing orchids for 25 years and specializes in Vandas, equitants and Broughtonia species and hybrids. She was an ecology major in college and always liked tropical botany. She was encouraged to grow orchids by a friend of her inlaws, Ruth Fox. Ruth was quite a honcho in the orchid world and even maintained a condo in Hawaii because of her interest. Katie joined an orchid circle that was part of the St. Petersburg Garden Club and her interest grew. She now has 1,000 feet of growing area.



Katie Caldwell

Katie will be speaking on Equitants oncidiums, now in a separate genus Tolumnia. These were some of the first orchids she grew and they are near and dear to her heart. Katie writes "I received a CCM of 86 pts for one at the Englewood show. I also did some hybridizing last year and have flasks going."

Katie is a past vice president of West Coast Orchid Society and the Venice Area Orchid Society. In 2006, she received an FCC/AOS for her Renanthera Mauricette Brin.



Tolumnias are native to the West Indies. They take up very little space, like the Florida climate, and run the full spectrum of colors.



Photos: Katie Caldwell

Officers 2010-2011

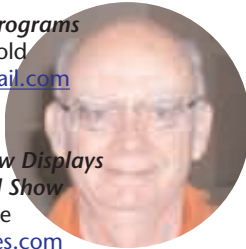
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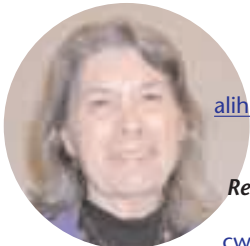
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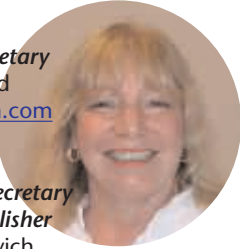
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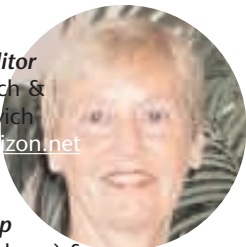
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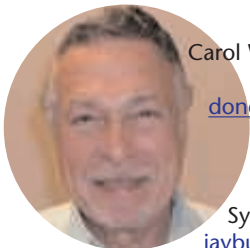
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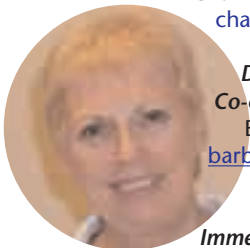
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Director at Large

Co-chair Annual Show
 Barbara Wagner
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Immediate Past President

Ted Kellogg
tmkellogg@gmail.com

Plant Table Awards: June 2, 2010

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, and a Members' Choice (determined by vote of VAOS members). Plants from commercial growers are not eligible for ribbons.

First Place : Paph Honey

Grower: Dorothy Funderburg

A gorgeous and well grown Paphiopedilum. This is a cross of paphiopedilum (primulinium x phillipense var roebellii). We were fortunate that this plant chose to be in peak bloom for our meeting. Dorothy said she has cared for this plant for many years. It is one of her favorites.



Second Place : Bulbophyllum Star of Sumatra

Grower: Monroe Kokin

This beautiful flower definitely caught the attention of the judges. This is a hybrid of Bulbo. sumatranum and echinolabium. RHS do not recognize Bulbo sumatranum as a separate species but treats it as a synonym to Bulbophyllum lobbii var. breviflorumhe. The flower is about 3" across.



Third: Paravanda Mecca's Candy 'Sweet Tooth'

Grower: Carol Wood

It's wonderful to see something new at every meeting. This cross of Paraphalaenopsis x Vanda teres is something many of us have never seen. This clone has beautiful lavender flowers with a brownish red lip and was awarded HCC/AOS with 77 points.



Best Species and Speaker's Choice:

Dockrillia wassellii

Grower: Roy Klingner

Dockrillia wassellii is a dendrobium species found in Australia. This plant has small but attractive inflorescences of pure white. The foliage is attractive as well, resembling small cacti. With a plant table loaded with attractive species, this plant was well grown and well bloomed indeed to attract the attention of both the judges and the speaker.



Photographs by Lynne Pedlar

Request to receive your VAOS News by email!

- Arrives earlier
- Keeps your dues from increasing
- In color
- Contains extra articles

Contact Tony at tnacnovich@verizon.net

July in Your Orchid Collection

By Martin Motes, PhD., *Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month*

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunderstorms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allow orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful". Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchids natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus cannot. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plants armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth, they need adequate water in July; therefore, after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rainfall is insufficient to saturate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few

minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can.

More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July, typically think of fertilizing rather

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rather than watering.***

than watering. Weekly application of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gal. will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know our plants need on a regular basis. Even better (although not so readily available) lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter's Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully such orchid specific fertilizers will become more widely available.

Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off" (i.e., when the solution starts to fall off the plants, stop and move on to the next plant). Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop dripping. In July (more than ever) never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always

substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants. Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas but, for the rest of us, this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, Vanda top cuttings, and keikies should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings, remember the "3 root rule". Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about thrips. A prophylactic spraying for thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

Tasks for July

- Dry plants hard once or twice.
- Apply liquid fertilizer instead of water during dry patches.
- Watch for thrips when rain has been sparse for several days.
- Finish top cutting and planting of vandaceous genera.

VAOS Scholarship Recipient Announced



Elizabeth Orren

Elizabeth Orren of Venice was awarded the VAOS Scholarship this year at the Venice High School Senior Awards Ceremony on May 27th. VAOS Past President Jane Hyde presented the award.

Elizabeth plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at James Cook University. While a student at Venice High School, she completed AP courses in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, and Art History. She also completed courses at the State College of Florida: DE Precalculus, DE Trigonometry, and DE Zoology. Elizabeth was involved in community service at Mote Marine

Laboratory, Laurel Civic Association, and Relay for Life program.

Elizabeth's note to VAOS reads "Thank you for your generosity in providing me with this scholarship. This assistance has lifted great burden and will help me finance my education. It is people like you who make a difference by providing opportunities for students to follow their dreams."

The VAOS scholarship program grants \$3,000 annually to a Venice High School student specializing in Science. The winner's educational institution is paid \$1,500 over a two-year period.

Minutes of the June 2, 2010 VAOS Meeting

- President Cynthia Vance called the Venice Area Orchid Society meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Our July meeting will be a joint meeting with the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) on Monday July 12th at 7:00pm, at Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood (on SR 776). Note that

there will be no VAOS meeting Wednesday July 7th. Katie Caldwell will speak on *Tolumnias*, there will be a silent auction, and VAOS members are encouraged to bring their plants for the plant table. EAOS will provide the refreshments.

- Several members attended the Redlands Orchid Festival in May and commented on their positive experiences at the show as well as on the bus trip. Cynthia thanked Barbara Wagner for her hard work to coordinate the bus trip.
- Barbara Wagner is working on the next bus trip in October to Tom Ritters and/or Krull Smith in the Orlando area. Further details will be provided.
- The next VAOS board meeting is June 23rd.
- Michael Sinn was our speaker presenting "Orchid Hunting in Venezuela". His excellent slide presentation and talk gave us an overview of Venezuelan geography, culture and orchid habitat.
- Michael Sinn presented the plant table. The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wood

President's Message

continued from page 1

many chuckles. It just seemed to be the Night of Encyclias for our Plant Table. We saw some very unusual specimens – some 5 feet long! Michael Sinn has now moved Canaima Orchids to a greenhouse in Sarasota next to Orchids Etc. and is open almost every day.

Don't forget—next month is our first joint meeting this summer with the Englewood Area Orchid Society – on Monday, July 12 at 7:00 at Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood (Rte. 776) Katie Caldwell will present on equitant *oncidiums*, "*Tolumnias*" that she grows and she may also be bringing some of her magnificent *Vandas* to sell as well. There will be a Silent Auction and John Masters told me that he has some secret ways to procure many blooming specimens for a fantastic auction. Bring lots of money! We will host Englewood at our August meeting, again, as we did last year.

The bus trip to the Redlands International Orchid Festival was a huge success. During our meeting, there were some exciting testimonials: "I purchased 12 plants and plan to go next year". "I used to drive to Homestead, but now that I've taken the bus, that's the only way I'd go – leave the driving to someone else!" "I hardly recognized the Fruit and Spice Park—it was so changed with many concrete paths and even a new waterfall". "The orchid classes were very interesting and informative." Our thanks to Barbara Wagner for arranging the transportation to such a nice event.

One special project your Board has been working on is the revamping of our VAOS website. It's in the 'beta stage' right now, but it will soon have its debut. I think you will be extremely pleased with its new format, artistry, interactivity and links. Stay tuned we finalize our new creation!

On another note, regarding native orchids, I spotted the red beaked orchid on Fox's Low Trail at Myakka River State Park.

—Cynthia Vance

**"In My July Garden –
How Do I Get My Orchid
To Grow Roots?"
Monthly Column
by
Dr. Courtney Hackney
on page 7.**

Save the date...

• VAOS MEMBERS' PLANT SALE •
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 – 9AM TO 2 PM
CENTENNIAL PARK, VENICE AVE. & NASSAU ST.
UNDER THE TREES ON THE LAWN
NEAR THE INFORMATION KIOSK
(SW CORNER OF PARK)

GET BUSY! DIVIDE! REPOT! PREPARE TO SELL (&) BUY!

Orchids will predominate BUT ALL TYPES OF PLANTS MAY BE SOLD

Any member of the society may sell plants or related plant material or items at this sale.

In order to participate, please register with Mary Anne DiGrazia, Event coordinator, at the August or September society meeting; e-mail tommaryanne@peoplepc.com; or phone 941-697-9237.

It is required that any member selling must spend at least part of the sale time assisting in selling plants or helping to collect sale proceeds.

Each participating member is responsible for properly tagging and pricing their plants or items. Each plant must have two (2) pot tags or labels.

1. One with the proper name of the plant to be sold.
2. Your initials or identifying number/mark and the price of the plant.
Please – No stickers for I.D.!

All prices must be clearly marked and must be to the nearest dollar (no cents).

Plants must be clean and free of insects.

The society reserves the right to withdraw plants which do not conform.

20% of the sale proceeds will be retained by the society for the show fund. The society treasurer will send participants a check during the week following the sale.

Participants need to bring tables, stands and/or hanging racks.

The sale will be canceled only if a hurricane warning or severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Tracing Our Roots

Eight persons, four being accredited orchid growers, met in October 1961 to discuss the organization of an Orchid Society for the Venice area. Their purpose was to promote and increase knowledge of growing orchids, protect and conserve native species, and for fellowship among those interested in the hobby of growing orchids. As interest increased, a larger meeting place was required. They moved to the community room of the Coast-Federal Savings Association, and on April 12, 1962, the organization took place and was named "The Venice Area Orchid Society."

After the election of the first slate of officers, thirty persons became members of the Society. The society requested affiliation with "The American Orchid Society, Inc." and became an affiliated society June 2, 1962. Prior to affiliation with the American Orchid Society, members placed plants in bloom in the lobby of the bank during office hours. Then, in February 1965, with the help of other Florida societies, the Venice Area Orchid Society presented to the public its first judged "Orchid Exhibit." Who were the founding eight people? Let your Board know.



Patronize Local Growers

• Canaima Orchids

(Michael Sinn)

Located at Orchids Etcetera, Inc.
5130 Honore Avenue, Sarasota
(between Clark Rd. and Proctor)
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Fender's Flora

(Bill Fender)941/ 323-1593;
(Susan Fender)941/ 323-1587

Located at Venice Orchids
254 Keystone Road, Venice.
Please call before visiting.

www.fendersflora.com

• Orchids Etcetera Inc.

(Jeff Higel, Walter Perrin)

.....941/ 921-9138
5130 Honore Avenue, Sarasota
(between Clark Rd. and Proctor)

• Plantio La Orquidea

(Tina & Rafael Romero)

.....941/ 504-7737

3480 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

www.plantiolaorquidea.com

• Venice Orchids

(Bob Hague)941/ 321-4691

254 Keystone Road, Venice

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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Published monthly.

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

Please direct comments to:

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Written submissions are appreciated.

© E&T Nacinovich June 2010

Next meeting:

MONDAY, July 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

JOINT MEETING with
Englewood Area Orchid Society
Christ Lutheran Church

- 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL
- Speaker: Katie Caldwell, "Growing Tolumnias"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Silent Auction

Upcoming Events

July 12 – VAOS and Englewood Area Orchid Society – Joint meeting at Englewood. 7 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Speaker: Katie Caldwell "Growing Tolumnias."

July 14 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, F.

August 4 – VAOS and Englewood Area Orchid Society – Joint meeting at Venice. 7 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Marv Ragan, "The Breeding and Judging of the Genus Encyclia."

August 11 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. VCC.

September 1 – VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. VCC.

September 8 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. VCC.

September 11 – VAOS Members Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Centennial Park, Venice.

September 18-19 – Ridge Orchid Society Show, Lake Mirror Center, 121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland, FL.

Directions to July 12th Meeting at Christ Lutheran Church 701 N. Indiana Avenue, Englewood

From Venice:

Travel south on Route 41

**Bear right at intersection with FL State
Road 776**

**Travel south 6.3 miles (State Road 776
becomes N. Indiana Ave.)**

**Christ Lutheran Church will be on your
left.**

How Do I Get My Orchid to Grow Roots?

By Courtney T. Hackney

How do I get my orchid to grow roots? This is one of the most asked questions because so many new orchid growers start with the gift of a pot plant that, unfortunately, stays too long in the medium. But even those of us who have grown orchids for many years find individual clones or times when an orchid just will not grow roots.

When the weather is warm, most orchids will readily grow roots.

In nature, most orchids grow new roots when the growth of new leaves begins. For orchids with rhizomes, this usually happens when a new growth is maturing. For orchids that grow from a central stem, e.g. phalaenopsis and vandas, new roots are associated with the onset of the rainy season or warm weather (right now).

There are some things that can prevent an orchid from growing roots, including insects and disease. If you have an orchid will not grow new roots, especially if it was just repotted, then some action may be necessary to stimulate new root growth and save the orchid plant. An orchid without roots will eventually die. The first question to ask is whether the problem orchid is a species. If that is the case, then a quick check with an appropriate book will tell you if there are special issues with respect to new roots for that species. Many of the large bifoliate cattleyas, e.g. *C leopoldii* and *C bicolor* have specific times when they grow roots. These should be repotted only when they are about to get new roots.

If your orchid is not a species or a species with no specific rooting issues then a check of the plant is necessary. Are there currently live roots on the orchid? Are the leaves wilted or shriveled? If there are many live roots, but leaves are shriveled then look for insect pests. Scale insects, mites, and mealy bugs can all suck enough liquid from a plant that has good roots to cause desiccation of leaves. You may need to take the orchid from the pot, look under leaves and even check the living roots. Don't be hesitant to use a magnifying glass because some of these "beasts" are tiny. If you just find one it is a good bet there are more and this is the problem.

A fine jet of water can be used to remove

scale from the leaves, under roots, and even between leaves. My preference is to follow this procedure several times from different angles to be sure all are removed. It only takes one to regenerate a whole new colony.

If most of the roots are dead, then the issue is likely either disease or decaying medium. Using the same fine water jet, wash the entire plant thoroughly and let it dry. If there are soft spots on the rhizome or stem, apply 2% Hydrogen Peroxide, the stuff you have in your medicine cabinet. After 15 minutes, soak the entire plant, not just the roots, in the recommended concentration of "Root Tone" or similar hormonal stimulant. Some orchid books maintain that orchids do not respond to such a treatment, but they will. Soak for 15 minutes and then let dry.

Next keep your orchid in a shady location. For me they go under the bench. Some growers that have humidity issues will remove all dead tissues and place the plant in a clear plastic bag under the bench until new roots appear. It is necessary to be sure no water accumulates in the bag. Once new roots appear repot, but keep the orchid under lower light until there are enough roots to anchor the plant in the pot. Then it can be slowly moved into its normal light regimen.

Getting vandas to grow roots can also be an issue. Members of the vanda group will occasionally become very leggy and refuse to grow roots on the stem, resulting in large plants with leaves at the top, roots at the bottom and a long stem in between. Find a long plastic window box that will hold the root mass and as much of the stem as possible and soak in "Root Tone" for 30 minutes. Place back in its normal location and wait. Typically, new roots will emerge from what looked like a dead stem. After these roots get 2-3 inches long you can cut just below these new roots and repot the top portion. Within a few weeks the lower part of the stem will sprout new leaves and you now have two plants.

Courtney Hackneau writes a monthly column and is a contributing writer for several FL orchid societies.

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