

Orchid Society News

June 2010



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.

Its mission is "to encourage, organize, and support educational activities among its members, to develop and extend knowledge of the cultivation and hybridization of orchids, and to promote the conservation and protection of native species."

VAOS is one of the largest orchid societies on the west coast of Florida, and maintains a strong awareness of community responsibilities. In February 2010, the VAOS proudly marked its 44th continuous annual orchid show, attracting nearly 4,000 attendees. These visitors contribute to the local economy in numerous ways, including dining and entertaining.

The VAOS Scholarship Program grants \$3,000 annually to Venice High School students specializing in science.

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 and 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:

Congratulations to all our members on a very successful Silent Auction! Those of you who brought in such beautiful specimens deserve much praise and for those who won their auctions, thank you for betting on our Society.

Whew, it's great that we had 5 days of spring and are now on to summer. Just kidding – but this may be close to the truth. And with spring/summer, there's the chance to see the unusual native orchids right in our back yard – Florida. If you want to combine hiking/exercise with viewing orchids, this is the right time of the year to see some of Florida's 100+ precious native orchids.

Last year I saw the Jingle Bell Orchid in Six Mile Slough outside Ft. Myers. It was not in bloom but had those precious brown jingle bells about the size of a pea. Last week on a delightful hike in Deer Prairie Creek in Venice I saw many Spring Ladies Tresses with small dense flowers in a single spiral-spike. Quite fragrant also!

My favorite is *Encyclia Tampensis*, not only because it is so ubiquitous, but because last year Walton Ray told us of its amazing growing and survival practices. Since then I've been on the lookout, especially in June. They are very visible in the mature oaks of Hyland Hammocks on the common trails, but more difficult to find in Myakka. Nearby, they can

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Cynthia Vance

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Michael Sinn

Topic: Orchid Hunting in Venezuela

Born in Venezuela to German parents, Michael Sinn became fascinated with orchids at the age of twelve when he took over the care and culture of his mother's extensive collection of *Cattleyas* and *Oncidiums*. He grew up hiking the jungles of South America, whenever possible, in search of *Cattleyas* in their natural habitats.

Using his degree in civil engineering from Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas, Michael worked as a contractor for four years in the Venezuelan Amazon State. The work afforded him opportunities to further observe habitats but, more important, he came to understand the urgency for conservation. He spent much personal time teaching local people how to pollinate the orchids, impressing upon them the need to let the plants remain in their natural habitat.

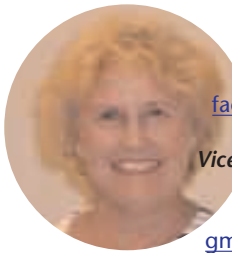
Michael's instincts drew him toward breeding *Cattleyas* and *Laelias*, eventually starting his own nursery. By 2003, Michael and his growing family moved to Florida where he opened his nursery business, Canaima Orchids, which he continues to develop. Through his excursions over the years to habitats in Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, Michael's vision remains constant: to conserve native species by producing the finest cultivars of *Cattleya* species possible. Orchid connoisseurs turn to him for superior seedlings and divisions.

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Michael Sinn

Officers 2010-2011



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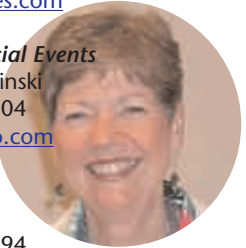
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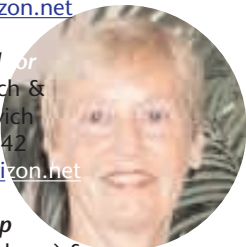
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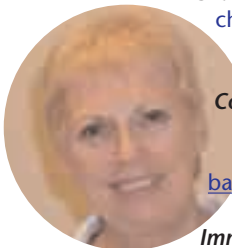
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Plant Table Awards: May 5, 2010

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.

In May, eighteen plants from 8 exhibitors were shown.

First Place and Members' Choice:

Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS

Grower: Bill Timm

A classic red *Cattleya*, this hybrid was registered in 1962 and is a cross of *Guarianthe aurantiaca* x *Cattleya Anzac*. The first award to a clone was in 1964. The 'Scheherazade' clone was granted an HCC in 1969 and the AM was earned in 1971. The plant was cloned and widely distributed. It has proven to be a vigorous grower earning 14 AOS cultural awards, once with 450 flowers.



Second Place and Speaker's Choice:

Doriteanopsis Little Gem Stripes

Grower: Bob Wallace

A very well grown, floriferous plant of this multifloral Phalaenopsis. The clonal name was not given, but it looks a lot like the clone 'OX 1425' which has an AM award from the AOS. The cross was registered in 1997.



Third: *Epicattleya (Guaricyclia) Charlie Brown 'Red Star'*

Grower: Bob Wallace

Many bright red flowers made this the third place winner. The name maybe be problematic. There are two Charlie Brown's in the *Cattleya* hybrid group. The one named above and *Enanthleya* Charlie Brown. While their parentage differs, both can produce offspring similar to the one shown.



Best Species: *Dendrobium lindleyi*

Grower: Carol Wood

Carol has owned this plant for six years and this is the fifth time it has bloomed. Each successive blooming has produced a larger ball of flowers which last about a week. The species is also known as *Den. aggregatum*, an older name that was applied in error to this species.



Photographs by Ted Kellogg.

*Thank You
Barbara Wagner*

*for your tireless efforts in organizing the
May 15th Bus Trip to the Redland Orchid Festival!*

Growing Tips for May

By Courtney T. Hackney

If emails and casual conversations are any indication, repotting is traumatic for many orchid hobbyists. It is not surprising to most of us that have been doing this awhile, because it was traumatic to us in the beginning too. Given how different orchid roots look, the cost compared to a petunia, and the number of pages in orchid books devoted to the “dos and don’ts” of potting, fear is not surprising. So here is what everyone should remember.

Getting two or more orchids from repotting one should never be the reason to repot, although that is a frequent consequence. Repot when your orchid is at risk because the potting media is breaking down or there is some other problem, e.g. heavy scale infestation that cannot be solved without removing the plant from its pot. Remember that the bigger your orchid is, the more and larger flowers it will have.

Always sterilize any instrument that cuts an orchid. The best method is to hold your snips in the flame for a few seconds making sure you have exposed both sides of the entire cutting surface to the flame. A hot cutting tool effectively sterilizes the cut surface of the plant.

Do not worry about damaging roots, since most will ultimately die from the repotting anyway. Some expert growers remove almost all roots when they repot to avoid them rotting later and infecting the rest of the plant. If repotted at the correct time of the year, your orchid will quickly re-grow roots, but it may take a few years to acquire the root mass it had before repotting, hence the suggestion to avoid repotting unless absolutely necessary.

Many times I set a cattleya with all of its roots removed in the bottom of a clay pot in a shaded portion of the greenhouse until I see tiny new roots starting. Only then do I add the medium and complete repotting. On occasion, I forget a plant and find it fully rooted to the pot the next spring. Again, the key point is that one should only repot during the growing season; i.e. *nov*.

Most books recommend wetting the medium before using it, a recommenda-

tion that I do not endorse. This is an open invitation for bacteria and fungi to invade any open wounds on the plant. It is best to use dry medium and wait at least several days before watering your newly repotted orchid. Some growers lay their divisions on newspaper in an unused bedroom until new roots appear. Why waist a pot and medium if the division is not going to grow well.

The key to all repotting is to remember that your orchid has been shocked and lost most of its ability to obtain water. Cattleyas, dendrobiums and other orchids with thickened leaves will be fine if the plant is shaded heavily after repotting until they get new roots. Then, gradually give them more light. Other orchids that are terrestrial-like and/or have fine roots or thin leaves, need more care and may require some misting until new roots appear.

The one exception to the need to keep roots dry is when a medium is used that is toxic to bacteria and fungi, e.g. sphagnum or osmunda. The pH is so low that almost no bacteria harmful to plants will grow. This seems to be the medium of choice for many phal growers.

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

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

Speaker: Michael Sinn

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Michael Sinn is a widely recognized top-quality breeder, honored with numerous international awards. A writer, popular lecturer, and Certified Judge with the American Orchid Society, he serves as Judging Chairman for the Venezuelan Orchid Association (A.V.O.).

Michael Sinn is the owner of Canaima Orchids, 6635 Sim Barco Road, Palmetto, FL 34221, Ph. 941/773-2940. Visitors are always welcome at the greenhouses & showroom. Facilities are available for holding luncheon meetings & demonstrations. Canaima Orchids is open to the public Saturdays only, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weekdays by appointment. www.canaimaorchids.com

Monthly Checklist for May and June

By Ned Nash

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types — those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb — will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Maudiae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieianum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes,

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Reviews of Orchid Books

Two Great Ways to Preview Books Before Purchasing

Despite the internet, books are still an orchidist's best friend. Most serious orchid hobbyists boast a reasonable library of reference and how-to books.

Check out www.aos.org/Orchid Information/Book Reviews for a collection of book reviews by orchid experts who tell you the good, the bad and the ugly about orchid literature from the past few years.

Borrow a book from the VAOS library at our monthly meeting. Librarian Sybil Levien Bushell has sign-out sheets at the ready at the library cart near the refreshment table. Our library has added a new book, *Laelia purpurata: The Queen* by L.C. Menezes, purchased last month from our visiting speaker, George F. Carr, Jr.



3 maps, 267 color photographs, 1 water-color, 6 historic coloured plates, hard-cover (27 cm), 2009. Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente (IBAMA), Brasília. ISBN 978-85-7300-289-8

Laelia purpurata is the state flower of the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina. There is an annual orchid show there in November devoted to this single magnificent plant. This book liberally illustrates in color and describes in detail the many varieties known among orchid growers. During this decade, various taxonomists have changed the name of this beautiful flower at least five times, but the author has retained its original name with the alternate more recent names included for the information of the specialists.

Minutes of the May 5, 2010 VAOS Meeting

- President Cynthia Vance called the Venice Area Orchid Society meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new members and guests.
- Barbara Wagner is coordinating the annual bus trip to the Redlands International Orchid Festival on Saturday 5/15/10, \$34 per person.

Thirty people have signed up to date – contact Barbara right away if you are interested.

- Cynthia requested volunteers to help with the plant table set up before each meeting. Come a little early to help Ted Kellogg and Richard Amos set up the table.
- A silent auction was held with plants brought in by members and Fenders Flora. It was a great success with many nice plants. All proceeds will benefit the VAOS.
- George Carr was our speaker presenting “The Genus *Catasetum* – Weird and Wonderful”. Most of the 180 species come from Brazil. The flowers are male or female and not bisexual flowers as are most orchids. George grows his plants in sphagnum moss in clay pots. They go dormant in winter and bloom in summer or fall on leafless pseudo-bulbs.
- Cynthia announced that the next VAOS board meeting will be held 6/23/10. All members are welcome to attend.
- Ted Kellogg and George Carr presented the plant table. The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wood

Treasurer's Report April 2010

as of May 13, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	40.00
SunTrust Checking.....	1,455.30
Show Checking	6,047.84
Money Market Account.....	15,001.27
Total Checking/Savings	22,544.41
Other Current Assets	
CD 100000003	5,000.00
CD 100000002	2,175.92
Total Other Current Assets	7,175.92
Total Current Assets	29,720.33
TOTAL ASSETS	29,720.33
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	34,822.70
Unrestricted Net Assets	-10,846.36
Net Income.....	5,743.99
Total Equity	29,720.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	29,720.33

Respectfully submitted, Ali Hicks

President's Message

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be found at Sleeping Turtles North (Border Road, Rohlwing property) about 2,000 feet from the entrance – again up in the oak trees.

Finally, the most spectacular is the ghost orchid seen not only at Fakahatchee Strand, but also at Cork Screw Swamp which is closer to us. It finished blooming a few weeks ago.

To see these natives check out www.flnativeorchids.com — an educational photographic website. Also, the North America Native Orchid Conference is June 12-15, in Edmonton, Alberta. I'll be in Canada 3 weeks later, but again, on the hunt.

A word to the wise, however. The American Orchid Society has posted an alert from Carlos Fighetti, AOS president. He reminds members that all orchids are protected plants. This was after the Key West Orchid Society published a booklet, which included a page entitled “Collecting Orchids in the Wild” describing how to collect wild orchids on public land that is part of the National Key Deer Refuge. Fighetti encouraged us to “enjoy our native species,” but to “respect the protected nature of our wild flora and fauna.”

—Cynthia Vance

Patronize Local Growers

- **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/ 321-4691
254 Keystone Road, Venice
- **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

Calendar

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just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

VAOS thanks Ned Nash for this essay from www.aos.org.

What Fertilizer Do You Use?

By Bill Fender, Fender's Flora

During our 41 years of cultivating orchids, thousands of people have walked through our greenhouses. The most common comment is how healthy and vigorous our orchids look. The most common question is "What fertilizer do you use?"

My response to this inevitable question at the greenhouse, shows, talks or as we are stopped while grocery shopping always startles people. The type of fertilizer is not the most important thing you do. If the orchid (or any other living thing) is not given the proper general care and culture, nutrition is lost. Light, air circulation, proper watering, potting medium, age and condition of potting medium, spacing (called crowding) of plants, season, maturity and type of orchid are just a few in a long list of variables.

Nutrition (again, in every living thing) is extremely important. But being determined that using a "special" fertilizer will solve your problems is just wrong.

Let's assume that we have done the best we can with our basic growing techniques. Proper nutrition, now, will make our orchids stronger, healthier, more vigorous. We will have more and better flowers on strong stems.

So what do we use?

To put orchid nutrition into perspective, there is the comparison between Magnesium in Chlorophyll in plants to the Iron in Hemoglobin in blood. Personally, I always thought this was a pretty clever comparison until I read that a couple of guys had already gotten the Nobel Prize for this—before I was born!

Magnesium and Calcium are both macroelements, such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium (N-P-K). However, they are not produced in sufficient quantities in most commonly available fertilizers. Chemically speaking, they don't play well with others when mixed up in a bag.

There are several simple sources for Magnesium – including Epsom Salts. We

also add Dolomite to our potting mix. Mg leaches easily, especially in orchid mixes designed for epiphytic orchids (cattleyas, phals, dendrobiums, and vandas). We still use the 16-3-16 Ca + Mg to provide a constant supply of Mg.

The lower leaves on phals have a tendency to turn yellow during the flowering cycle. A supply of Magnesium prevents or stops this. We use Nutricote (Dynamite), Epsom Salts, Dolomite, our Cal-Mag fertilizer, or a combination to keep the phals strong and efficient.

Calcium is used in large amounts and is much more challenging to supply to orchids. Our easiest source is consistent use of the 16-3-16 Ca + Mg fertilizer. In the summer heat in Florida or during any period of rapid growth, Ca deficiency shows up as black tips on new growth. Calcium is immobile in plants and just cannot keep up with the rapid leaf development. This, to us, is most noticeable in compact-growing orchids (mini-catts, windowsill orchids or whatever you call them.)

To keep my mantra of K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Stupid), Calcium and Magnesium need to be supplied in larger quantities than available in over-the-counter fertilizers. The easiest and most efficient way to provide both of these is with a Cal-Mag Fertilizer like 16-3-16 Ca + Mg as a supplement to your nutritional program.

Bill Fender and his wife Susan own and operate Fender's Flora in Venice, FL.

The Venice Area

Orchid Society News

P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

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

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Written submissions are appreciated.

© E&T Nacinovich May 2010



Next meeting:
Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
"Orchid Hunting in Venezuela"
Speaker: Michael Sinn

- Show table entries welcome
- Raffle Table
- Bring Refreshments

Upcoming Events

June 2 – VAOS monthly meeting, 7 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Michael Sinn, Canaima Orchids, "Orchid Hunting in Venezuela."

June 7 – Englewood Area Orchid Society monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Culture Swap/Picnic.

June 9 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. VCC.

July 12 – VAOS and Englewood Area Orchid Society – Joint meeting at Englewood. 7:30 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. VCC.

August 4 – VAOS and Englewood Area Orchid Society – Joint meeting at Venice. 7 p.m. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL.

August 11 – 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.

Orchid Resource Site

OrchidWiz, the orchid database software, has created OrchidMap.com

Enter your location zip code or full address. Then select one or more of these categories:

- Orchid Nurseries
- Orchid Societies
- Greenhouse Equipment
- Judging Centers
- Orchid Art
- Orchid Boutiques
- Orchid Conservation
- Orchid Labs
- Orchid Services
- Orchid Speakers
- Orchid Supplies
- Private Collections
- Public Gardens