

# Orchid Society News

May 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](http://www.vaos.org)

## A Message from Your President:

Finally our warm spring weather has arrived after many months of cold! These warm days are restoring our collections to healthy rhythms and beg us to spend more time outside. We need to evaluate our collections and are faced with decisions to repot and/or divide plants – or build up our collection!

To this end, please be aware of two events in May. The first is the members' **Silent Auction** at our May meeting. Our speaker is an expert on *Catasetum* but he's not a commercial grower and may only bring seedlings to sell. Your VAOS Board thought this would be a good time for members to sell plants to each other – and enlarge their collections at some bargain prices – with the proceeds going to VAOS.

To participate, please bring good, healthy plants. A division of one of your best specimens would be a treat! If possible, bring a photo of the plant in bloom or perhaps a description. I didn't have a photo of my plant blooming so I googled it (images); it appeared immediately and I printed it. We will also have our usual Raffle table that night.

The second event is our annual trip to the **Redland International Orchid Festival** on Saturday, May 15th. For \$34 you will receive round-trip transport, including the \$7 entrance fee, a \$5 discount coupon and special bus "goodies." Having lived in Miami for

*continued on page 4*



Cynthia Vance

## Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: George F. Carr, Jr.

Topic: *The Genus Catasetum – Wierd and Wonderful*

George F. Carr, Jr. has been growing orchids for almost thirty years. His interest in the genus *Cynoches* began in 1993 when he requested, for his Student Judge requirement, to write his research paper on the genus. *Cynoches – One Hundred Sixty-five Years of Confusion*, was completed and presented in 1995. A year later, the paper was awarded the first American Orchid Society Education Certificate of Appreciation. He has continued his research and writings on the genus and the related genera of the subtribe *Catasetinae*. He has published numerous articles in the United States in *Orchids* and the *Orchid Digest* magazines; also in Brazil, France, England and Colombia.

In 2003, George was named as an accepted American Orchid Society taxonomic authority on the *Catasetinae* specializing in *Cynoches*. He is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge in the Florida North Central Judging Center in Tampa, Florida. Now retired, George stays busy with his research and writings in the *Catasetinae*.

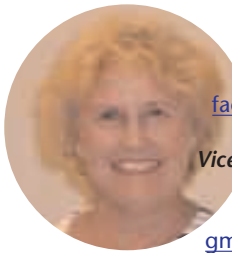
He recently started a blog on the *Catasetinae* <<http://catasetinae5.blogspot.com>> where he publishes short articles with photographs of plants and flowers which interest him.

George will have copies of the new book *Laelia purpurata* by Lou Menezes and the two volumes of the Brazilian *Icones* which he will offer for sale. (See page 5.)



*Catasetum pileatum* is highly esteemed by collectors even though its large flowers last only a few days. This unusual orchid produces flowers that are either male or female, not both, as in all other orchids.

## Officers 2010-2011

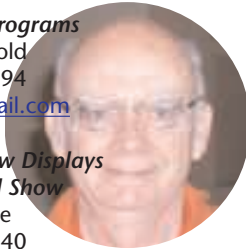


### President

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### Vice President – Programs

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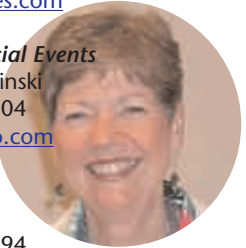
### Vice President – Show Displays Co-chair Annual Show

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### Vice President – Social Events

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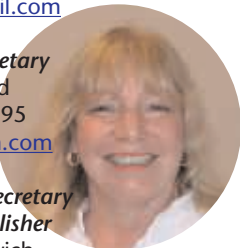
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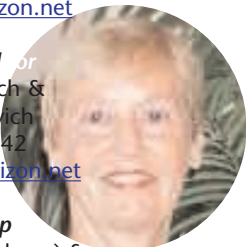
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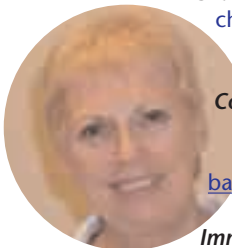
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### Raffle Table

Charlie & Margaret Cullen  
[charliehc@verizon.net](mailto:charliehc@verizon.net)



### Director at Large Co-chair Annual Show

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### Immediate Past President

Ted Kellogg  
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[tmkellogg@gmail.com](mailto:tmkellogg@gmail.com)

## Plant Table Awards: April 7, 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 April, thirty-three plants from 16 exhibitors were shown. Judges were Betty Anne Brumley, Charlotte Leonard-Braun, Diane Cumming, and Ted Kellogg. Photographs by Richard Amos.

### First Place: *Phragmipedium* Noirmont

#### Grower: Noreen Chervinski

We don't often get to see brightly colored *Phragmipediums* on our show table, much less one with three inflorescences, six flowers and spotless leaves. *Phrag. Noirmont* is a hybrid of *Memoria Dick Clements* x *longifolium* registered in 1997. A popular hybrid, it has received 65 AOS awards.



### Second Place: *Dendrobium* Yukidaruma 'King' AM/AOS

#### Grower: Bill Timm

A well-flowered example of this hybrid. The cross was registered in 1973 and the clone 'King' received an HCC and AM award on March 18, 1977. The HCC award, occurring first at the Shreveport LA Show, was for a plant with 10 flowers. The AM award was given at the Santa Barbara CA show to a plant with 165 flowers. Since then, five cultural awards have been given to plants with 243 to 460 flowers.



### Third Place: *Dendrobium* Yellow Chinsai 'Little Joe' HCC/AOS

#### Grower: Joe Crook

An attractive hybrid of *Den. Chinsai* x *aureum* this clone received its HCC award in 1987. It has received three cultural awards, the most recent was a plant with 2300 flowers. The plant shown has a good start in creating a massive ball of flowers on a future blooming.



### Species of the Month: *Cattleya aurantiaca* 'Kumquat' x self

#### Grower: Richard Amos

A yellow form of *Guairanthe aurantiaca*, a species from much of Central America on the Pacific side of the mountains at low elevations. The most common form is bright orange but color forms from yellow to red are reported.



### Members Choice and Speakers Choice: *Cymbidium* Spectrum 'Pink Satin'

#### Grower: Toni Marie

Congratulations Toni! Probably the first standard *Cymbidium* to appear on the VAOS plant table. The fact that this plant grew and bloomed in Venice, Florida reflects the 'cold' 2010 winter.



## May in Your Orchid Collection

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

May is a month of transition in South Florida. Early in the month we can expect the driest weather of the year. Because of the clarity of the air and lack of cloud cover, temperatures rise rapidly in the late morning and can reach the upper eighties or nineties by mid afternoon before cooling substantially in late afternoon. Fortunately, over night radiant cooling rapidly dissipates the previous day's heat. May mornings are a delight, the wise orchidist rises early to enjoy them and to finish his chores before the heat sets in. Chief of these should be extensive dragging of hoses.

May's wide temperature swings and dry air suit our orchids to a tee. New growths on sympodial orchids are developing apace and by continuing the careful watering practices of April (i.e. drenching them thoroughly with repeated applications of water to saturate their roots and potting media, then allowing them to dry to nearly 'hard' dry) we can launch them into the summer in vigorous, disease-free growth. Remember, this saturation can only be achieved with two or more soakings to the point of runoff spaced a few minutes apart. Merely holding the water on the plant extra long will not suffice. The water needs to slowly soak into the roots and media. Test the weight of a "benchmark" plant to be satisfied that it is sufficiently heavy to be totally soaked. The arid air of early May will quickly dry the foliage but the roots can draw on the deep reservoir of water that you have provided with this careful, complete watering.

With the increased heat and light of May we do not want to put our orchids on too lean a diet. Fertilize with up to 2 tsp. of 15-5-15 per gal of water every week or so. Alternating with Epsom salts and potassium nitrate at 1 tbs. each per gal. is still a best practice during May. Always substitute fertilizer for a watering and apply like the water in two doses to the point of saturation. Never follow the widely stated but antiquated advice to "water before fertilizing". It's a receipt for over watering without any basis in logic or science, Now is also a good time to apply a soluble trace or micro element fertilizer. Follow the dilution rates on the package as mixtures and strengths differ.

You can apply this in conjunction with the Epsom salts/potassium nitrate but never with the 15-5-15, 20-20-20 or any other fertilizer containing phosphorus. In South Florida's highly alkaline water the phosphorus interacts with the other metallic elements, reducing the effectiveness of the trace elements. Potassium nitrate, 13-0-46, is the perfect companion to minor elements because it not only lacks phosphorus which would hinder the absorption of the trace elements but the nitrate nitrogen seems to enhance their uptake.

May is still prime time for re-potting. With cattleyas, dendrobiums and other sympodials, the virtuous among us have long since finished this labor of love, but the majority of us are faced with the moral dilemma of doing the potting now or waiting until next year with the pseudo bulbs of our plants overhanging their pots and proclaiming to the world our sloth. The one instance in which this dilemma must be resolved absolutely in favor of the plant, is when the media has broken down in the pot. This condition will encourage root rot to become stem rot which will pursue the rhizome even into those over arching bulbs. If in doubt, give the media the "nose test". A pinch of media taken from below the surface of the pot should smell "sweet". A sour smell or the odor of a pond bottom indicates media that is broken down and must be replaced as soon as possible.

The case in which this is almost universally true is with plants potted in sphagnum moss. Sphagnum simply will not last beyond one year (even under cover) in South Florida. As the vast majority of commercially produced Phalaenopsis are now grown in sphagnum, recently acquired plants MUST be re-potted annually. As most Phals. will be finishing their flowers, now is a good time to get them right for the new year's growth. When repotting, one can, of course, choose a more durable media; rock, red wood chips or various mixtures and avoid this annual ritual. Choosing a more durable media will entail modifying one's watering schedule to accommodate the faster draining, quicker drying qualities of these harder substances.

*continued on page 5*

## Bus Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival

### Fruit & Spice Park Homestead, FL

~More than 60 vendors from all over the world\*~

**Saturday, May 15, 2010**

**\$34. per person,  
includes \$7 festival admission**

#### *Departure Times and Locations:*

- Depart 7:00 a.m. – Sarasota Pavillion (Bank of America parking lot, just north of Gulf Gate Drive).
- Depart 7:30 a.m. – Venice Community Center (south parking lot)
- Depart 8:00 a.m. – Punta Gorda Wal-Mart (3811 Tamiami Trail)

It is suggested that you arrive at least 15 minutes before departure times.

#### *Return Trip:*

Bus will leave the festival at 4 p.m. for return home.

Cost includes admission to the festival, bus trip, gratuity for driver, \$5 discount coupon for plants or supplies – and goodies for the bus!

Suggest that you bring a hat, sunscreen, jacket for bus, and small cooler since the bus will not be stopping for dinner on the way home. There is food for sale at the park.

*Payment by Monday, May 3rd, please, and no refunds after May 3rd.* You may sell your seat, but please notify Barbara Wagner in advance if you do.

Make check payable to VAOS and mail to Barbara Wagner, 6843 Anchor Way, Sarasota, FL 34231

Need more info? Call Barb at 941/923-7706.

\* Visit [www.redlandorchidfestival.org](http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org) to view list of invited vendors.

## Minutes of the April 7, 2010 VAOS Meeting

- President Cynthia Vance called the Venice Area Orchid Society meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- The updated VAOS Membership Directory has been distributed via email to members and copies are available at the membership table. Cynthia thanked Don Levine for his membership recruiting efforts – Don has signed up more than 30 new members this year to date.
- The VAOS Orchid Resource Guide has been published and is being distributed to new members. Formerly “Orchids 101” this pub provides an overview of VAOS functions and activities, basic orchid culture and judging info, and recommended resources. Copies are available at the membership table and we hope to post this on our website.
- Bob Wallace, VP Show Displays, announced that the VAOS exhibit at the March Englewood Orchid Show had taken 2nd place and thanked those who helped him with the display.
- Cynthia asked members who subscribe to the Orchid Digest to identify themselves so that we can qualify as an affiliate society and take advantage of their slide programs.
- Barbara Wagner is coordinating the annual bus trip to the Redlands International Orchid Festival on Saturday 5/15/10, \$34 per person. Contact Barbara to sign up.
- George Carr will be our speaker at our next meeting 5/5/10 presenting “The Genus *Catasetum* – Weird and Wonderful.” A silent auction will also be held at the May meeting and members were encouraged to bring in plants and divisions to sell.
- New member and artist Sharon King had oil paintings on display and is starting a new class soon teaching orchid oil painting. Contact Sharon for information.
- The Venice Garden Club will host their annual show April 10-11 with orchid displays.
- The next Orchid Growers Clinic will be held Wednesday 4/14/10 at 7:30 pm at the Venice Community Center.
- Cynthia announced that the next VAOS board meeting will be held Wednesday 4/21/10 at 7pm at the Venice Masonic Lodge. All members are welcome to attend.
- Paul Phelps of Phelps Farm Orchids Inc. was our speaker, presenting “Orchid Pests and Diseases.” Paul also had many beautiful blooming orchids for sale at the meeting.

## Treasurer’s Report March 2010

as of April 16, 2010

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash .....	40.00
SunTrust Checking.....	1,339.24
Show Checking .....	6,155.85
Money Market Account....	15,000.00
Total Checking/Savings .....	22,535.09
Other Current Assets	
CD 100000003 .....	5,000.00
CD 100000002 .....	2,175.92
Total Other Current Assets .....	7,175.92
Total Current Assets .....	29,711.01
TOTAL ASSETS .....	29,711.01
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity .....	34,822.70
Unrestricted Net Assets .....	-10,738.35
Net Income .....	5,626.66
Total Equity.....	29,711.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY .....	29,711.01

*Respectfully submitted, Ali Hicks*

- Ted Kellogg and Paul Phelps presented the plant table with 33 plants brought in by 16 exhibitors. The plant table included several blooming nobile dendrobiums and a cymbidium, a result of the colder temps we had this past winter.
- The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

*Respectfully submitted, Carol Wood*



## President’s Message

*continued from page 1*

20 years, I never missed this wonderful event. The Festival has more than 60 vendors from Asia and Latin America with climates similar to our own – a wonderful chance to add new and unusual plants to our collections and to pick up supplies.

Also the Fruit and Spice Park (site of the Festival) hosts an excellent collection of tropical fruit trees and plants and has a delightful gift shop with tropical items. If you plan to go, please call Barbara Wagner immediately (941/ 923-7706) to reserve your seat. Other orchid societies in the area are sending members, so you want to make sure you don’t lose out!

Finally I want to thank Jerry Manegold for his willingness to join the Board as Vice President of Programs. He brings his passion for growing orchids to the task of inviting excellent speakers to our meetings. Because he is busy helping the speaker set up at the start of our meetings, we need to find a replacement person to help Ted set up the Members Plant Table at the front of the room with lights. If you are willing to do this, please call Jerry at 416-0294. This is an easy task and a way that you can help our society.

*–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](http://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](http://www.fendersflora.com)

## May in Your Orchid Garden *continued from page 3*

May is a great month for re-setting vandaceous orchids whose baskets have deteriorated or that have grown too tall to be easily managed. Keikies (off-shoots) can be most safely removed now. In both cases choose the most durable containers for the plants so they need not be disturbed for years. Teak or other hard wood baskets and clay pots last longest. Above all make amply sure that the plants are firmly fixed in their lodging. Vandaceous orchids, above all others, are intolerant of being loosely set. The very height of these plants act as a lever to keep them rocking unless we anchor them securely until their new roots affix themselves to the new containers. Stake and tie them securely until their abundant roots take over. Unsightly staking can then be removed.

As we bask, lulled into complacency by the nearly ideal weather of early May, Summer sometimes surprises us. Toward the middle or end of May, the weather in South Florida literally undergoes a sea change. The large continental weather patterns which have dominated our weather through the winter and early Spring give way to the tropics and the prevailing south easterly trade winds return us to the interaction of Gulf Stream and peninsular with its characteristic afternoon thunder showers. Although lacking the clockwork consistency of June, the rains have come and we must be prepared for them.

The relentless and increasing crescendo of rain will, by summer's end, tip the balance in favor of the ubiquitous fungi lurking to attack our orchids. The time to scotch their plans is now; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Leaving the taxonomic niceties to the experts, fungi which attack orchids in Florida fall into two broad classes; the leaf spotting types (*Cercospora* and *Phyllosticta*) and the soft rots (*Pythium* and *Phytophthora*). Fortunately, for modern orchidists, excellent systemic fungicides exist for both types. While these chemicals are no substitute for good cultural practices, i.e. adequate spacing, brisk air movement; the strongest possible light combined with careful watering, fungicides provide the edge to approach near total control of most fungal diseases even in their ancestral home, South Florida. May is a good time to take stock

of the collection and see which plants are overgrown and need more space or perhaps even re-potting. The increase in air circulation is well worth the effort. Trimming shade trees and moving plants to brighter locations are also good strategies for May. May is also a good time to consider a preventative spray program before disease has a chance to get the upper hand in our collections. An ounce of prevention begins now.

Leaf spotting fungi are symptomatic of poor air circulation and inadequate light but even under good growing conditions are rarely entirely absent from orchids in South Florida. This near inevitability results because the same diseases also afflict so many other tropical plants in our gardens. Under the battering of the heavy and sustained rains of our wet season, the most minor of problems can occasionally blossom quickly into a major epidemic. Thiophanate methyl (Cleary's 3336, Domain, Fungo) is the proven and recommended systemic fungicide to control leaf spotting. It is even more effective when combined with Mancozeb (Manzate or Dithane M45.) Two pre-packaged combinations are available; (Duosan, and Tops MZ). Always follow label recommendations for rate of application.

To be truly effective, Thiophanate methyl should be applied initially early in the growing season (i.e. now!), then again in two weeks and then every 5-6 weeks thereafter across the rainy season. Faithfully followed, this regimen will control nearly all leaf spotting fungus, including the dreaded 'Thai crud': *Phyllosticta capitalense*. A spreader sticker enhances the effectiveness of the fungicide by holding it on the plant through the hardest rain.

The soft black rot of sympodial orchids and crown rot in vandas are caused by two different organisms, i.e. *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*, although in effect they are indistinguishable. Control of these diseases necessitates different chemicals from those used on the leaf spotting diseases. Etridiazole (Truban) has long been used. For the amateur it is readily available in combination with Thiophanate Methyl (the recommended chemical for leaf spotting) in the formulation Banrot. Applied in the same man-

*Laelia purpurata*  
the Queen new book by L.C. Menezes

3 maps, 267  
color photo-  
graphs, 1 water-  
color, 6 historic  
coloured plates,  
hardcover (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.

ner suggested above for Thiophanate methyl to control leaf spotting fungi, this pre-packaged combination should be adequate for most circumstances and control crown rot as well. If problems persist, two other systemics give excellent control: Aliette (Fosetyl-aluminum) and Subdue 2E (metalaxyl).

All chemicals should only be applied at the rates and according to the label instructions. If in doubt about whether or how to apply a pesticide, call your County Agricultural Agent for advice.

## Tasks for May

- Repot Phalaenopsis out of sphagnum
- Finish repotting of various genera
- Reset vandaceous plants, remove keikies
- Water heavily early in month, more guardedly later
- Initial preventive spray maintenance program

The Venice Area

## Orchid Society News

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

Published monthly.

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

Please direct comments to:  
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tnacinovich@verizon.net

Written submissions are appreciated.

© E&T Nacinovich April 2010

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
"The Genus *Catasetum* - Wierd and Wonderful"  
Speaker: George F. Carr, Jr.  
• Show table entries welcome  
• Silent Auction  
• Raffle Table  
• Bring Refreshments

## Upcoming Events

**April 30-May 2** – Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show, Cocoa Expo Sports Arena, 500 Friday Rd., Cocoa, FL.

**May 5** – VAOS monthly meeting, 7 p.m. VCC, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: George C. Carr "The genus *Catasetum*–Wierd and Wonderful." Silent Auction.

**May 8-9** – Volusia County Orchid Society Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds Hester Bldg., 3150 New York Ave., Deland, FL.

**May 10** – Englewood Area Orchid Society monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. Christ Luthern Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Speaker: Roy Klinger. Members-only Plant Sale.

**May 12** – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7:30 p.m. VCC.

**May 14-15** – Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show, Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, 633 Osceola Ave., Winter Park, FL.

**May 14-16** – Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, FL. (details for VAOS bus trip to festival on p. 3).

**June 2** – VAOS monthly meeting, 7 p.m. VCC, 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 Luthern Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Culture Swap/Picnic.

**June 9** – 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.

Visit [aos.org](http://aos.org) and click on "Events" to see other listings.