

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Sept. 2012

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
September 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Joe Hayden

Topic: "Growing the Perfect Phalaenopsis"

I have been working at Sun Bulb Co. for 22 yrs. We grow many types of orchids but my location is primarily phalaenopsis. I am the grower and manager of the plant shipping department in the Arcadia location. I also have my own retail shop in Placida, FL where I sell a large selection of orchids and make live plant orchid arrangements that are great for all occasions.



Joe Hayden

I will be bringing a large selection of blooming orchids to sell (cattleyas, vandas, phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, paphiopedilums, intergenerics) as well as driftwood for mounting orchids.

Joe Hayden, Sun Bulb Co., Inc

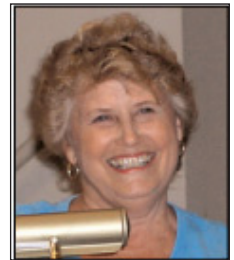
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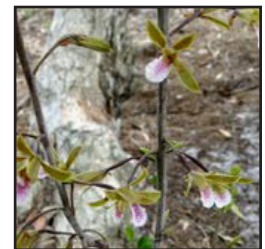
A Message from your President:

Last April, one of our mentees, Pat Milone, found an unusual flower on her property. After taking numerous photos and research, I surmised it was *Encyclia tampensis* and announced to her that she had her very own Florida Native species. She exclaimed, "This has made my day!" Though it was in a decline phase, the next evening I brought it to our monthly meeting and begged the members to vote for it as People's Choice (to no avail).



Cynthia Vance

During the Plant Table presentation, our speaker, Jim Roberts, said the plant was an *Eulophia*, an exotic from southeast Asia. I attribute my mistake to its declining state.



Eulophia Blooms

Though chagrined, I was thrilled to learn about this dainty new orchid.

And now my August AOS magazine arrived and what caught my attention was the article *Eulophia* -- Bent on

Continued on page 5

A Special Invitation from VAOS member Bill Timm for a good cause... Saturday, October 13, "Plant Safari"

Have you ever been on a plant collecting trip, or if not, have you ever wanted to take such a trip? Well, Bill Timm is planning a one day Plant Safari at his acreage (3 1/3 acres) in North Port. That's right, a Plant Collecting Safari, Saturday, October 13. 8:00 AM until you leave.

For a fee of \$20.00, you will be allowed to tromp through the pines, palmettos, and other native trees and collect plants such as Bromeliads (Tillandsias, Neoregelias, Aechmeas and others), cactus and succulents, ferns, orchids and other plants. You keep any plants you collect at no additional cost. Bring your collecting tools (Clippers, spades, etc.). Wear long trousers and long sleeved shirts and hiking

boots. Bring boxes for your plants, too.

The collecting areas will be 'salted'. I will move many plants out of my greenhouses and stash them in the woods for your collecting activities. I will have special plants for sale, too.

Sodas, beer, and water will be iced down for your drinking pleasure.

At the same time, there will also be a multi-person Yard Sale: Arts & Craft Sales, and Plants. Sales areas (10 x 10 ft.) will be available if you wish to sell. You bring your tables, chairs, and shade. I ask that you pay a fee for your space, or donate at least 25% of your sales. This applies to individuals and to Societies.

WWW.VAOS.ORG

Continued on page 5

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

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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:
Steve Vogelhaupt, newsletter@vaos.org
- Written submissions are appreciated.

New Hybrid Named



Rlc. Gerry's Ruby

We are welcoming a bloom of a new hybrid cattleya belonging to Jim Thomas. Bill Fender made the cross. He generously gave Jim the opportunity to name it. He named it "Gerry's Ruby" after his wife, Gerry. Ruby is an appropo name both for its splashes of red colors and because one of its parents is "Ruby Tuesday". The other parent is "Frank Gilmore". Registration was made July 23, 2012.

Jim's successful bloom was due to fifty percent shade, watering every third day and fertilizing at least twice a month. The media used is New Zealand Pinus radiata bark, also known as Orchiata. The first bloom measured about five inches in diameter. Both Jim and Gerry look forward to many more blooms from this orchid.

Treasurer's Report August, 2012

Checking Account

Starting Balance
7/20/2012\$4,350.74
+ .Income.....\$175.00
- payments\$3,396.31
Balance
8/16/2012.....\$1,129.43

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance
7/20/2012\$3,358.17
- payments.....\$1,500.00
Balance
8/16/2012.....\$1,858.17

Cash Account

8/16/2012.....\$40.00

M.Market Acct

8/16/2012.....\$25,003.46

Total Assets

8/16/2012.....**\$28,031.06**

Submitted by Ali Hicks

Support our 2012 Show Sponsors

AAA South
Center for Sight
Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS
Edgewood Nursery
Herald-Tribune Media Group
Jacaranda Trace
Retirement Community
Pineapples Island Grill
Raleigh & Associates
Silverstein Institute
Stanley Dean State Farm



Well, Good Guys, the plant table was, again, a real good display of mighty fine orchids. Not as many as we usually have, but the quality was definitely there.

The **First Place Ribbon** was awarded to what was labeled as “The original plant Susan Fender ‘Cinnamon Stick’”.

It was brought in by Ruth Lilienkamp. Beautifully grown. Two inflorescences with three 5” blossoms on each. The plant was about 4 feet wide.



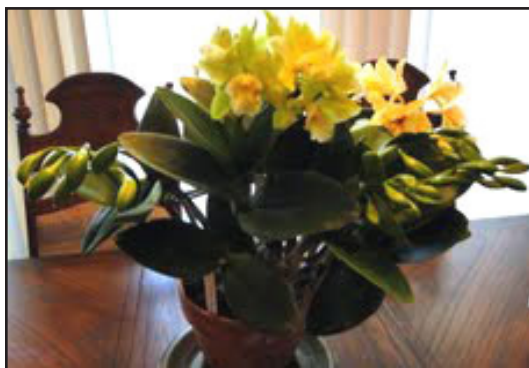
Pot. Susan Fender ‘CinnamonStick’ AM/AOS

The parents of this plant are Pot. Caesar’s Head X Lc. Mary Ellen Carter. Oh, I forgot to mention, this plant also was awarded **Speaker’s Choice**. Way to go Ruth!

The judges awarded the **Second Place Ribbon** to James Thomas’ Blc Hawaiian Passion ‘Carmela’.

James Thomas brought in this pretty plant for us to admire. It had 4 spikes with 8 flowers on each.

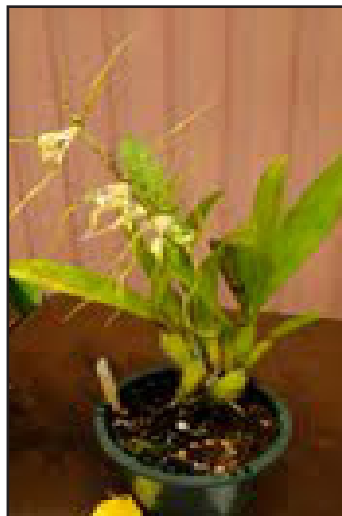
On July 24, 2004, Blc Hawaiian Passion ‘Carmela’ was awarded HCC/AOS with 78 points. However, this



Blc. Hawaiian Passion ‘Carmela’

awarded plant had only 4 flowers on ONE inflorescence. The parents of this neat plant are: C. Wailea x Rlc. Waikiki Gold

The **Third Place** plant was brought in by Bill Timm, Brassia Eternal Wind. The parents are: Brassia braediana



Brassia Eternal Wind



Onc. Sweet Sugar

X Brassia Rex.

A clone of this cross earned an AM/AOS in May, 2004. It had 52 flowers and 24 buds on 5 inflorescences. Sorry Bill, your plant fell way, way short. However, it did make a nice display with just 5 flowers.

The majority of votes by the **members** for their **favorite plant** were for an Oncidium brought in by Bev Manypenny. We believe this plant is Onc. Sweet Sugar. It had 4 inflorescences with about 30 flowers on each. The flowers were an intense yellow.

Beautifully grown Bev!

Our **Best Species** award went to James Thomas for his beautiful Rhynchostylis coelestis

‘Blue’.

There were some 40 flowers on one inflorescence. Wonderfully displayed spike. Jim, in 2003, a Rhy. coelestis was awarded AM/AOS. It had 800 flowers on 15 infl. Just wanted you to know what this plant is capable of. Just find some of that super whatever plant food and ‘have a go’ at it.



Rhy. coelestis ‘Blue’

Thanks for bringing it in for us to see.

Plant descriptions submitted by Bill Timm.

**Looking for a good summer read? Consider Craig Pittman's page turner,
*The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid***

This intriguing tale of orchid importing (smuggling?) and Shelby Gardens reads like a John Grisham novel.

You'll have to remind yourself that it is non-fiction. Of special interest to the novice is information on taxonomy and the tangled web of recent local events surrounding the phragmipedium kovachii.

Yet, the truly amazing part is the unique and zany cast of characters.

From the esteemed scientists to the rugged adventurers, this tale takes us from Peru to Sarasota and beyond.

You'll be left to ponder the ethical issues:

How far should an individual or a botanical garden go to gain fame? How important, environmentally and financially, are the laws protecting endangered species? Do they protect individual plants and animals but turn a blind eye to destruction of colonies in the wild?

You decide.

Enjoy!

Submitted by Pauline Adam



Phragmipedium kovachii
Photo courtesy of
orchid-care-tips.com

Is It Rot or a Calcium Deficiency?

During our hot, wet summers many growers experience rotting of new growths on Cattleyas.

But are you sure it is rot? Sometimes a calcium deficiency looks like rot.

Read more in Courtney Hackney's article "Calcium Supplements for Orchids", a supplement to the Email Edition of this month's newsletter.



calcium deficiency example
photo/ St. Augustine
Orchid Society



Black Rot on Cattleya
Photo/ American Orchid Society

Minutes of the August 1, 2012 Meeting

At 7:00 P.M., Cynthia Vance began the meeting by welcoming Englewood and new members. She announced changes in the board. Ted Kellogg is handling the VAOS website. Richard and Mary Amos are in charge of show displays. New membership chairs are Jay and Judy Loeffler. Jim Thomas is Vice President of Programs. The theme for our annual show will be "Rhapsody in Hue". Cynthia reminded everyone of the next plant clinic to be conducted by Ted Kellogg and Jim Thomas. She also reminded us of an end of the month symposium on Phalaenopsis.

Bill Timm is planning a "plant safari" on his acreage Oct. 13th. Flyers were distributed giving more information about this. All of the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Barbara Wagner introduced the speaker, Louis Del Favero. His topic was "Growing Species". His background and knowledge of orchids began at early age going on collecting trips. During his twenties, he did research in the

Caribbean Islands. He shared about species that are found in the Caribbean, South America, Florida and West Africa. He repeatedly emphasized that it is easy to grow them in Florida. He uses "rock wool" as a medium for plants that are water-loving. Most of the species are multiple bloomers 4 to 5 months of the year. He recommends tree fern baskets for many of the species.

Cynthia thanked the speaker and noted that his plants were for sale. Then everyone shared in Barbara Wagner's 70th birthday by singing and eating cake. She has planned events and special trips for VAOS for 18 years.

After the 10 minute break for refreshments, Jim Thomas and Louis Del Favero spoke about each of the 14 orchids entered at the plant table. Winners were announced for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and also the speaker's and species award and people's choice. The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

Respectfully submitted by Gerry Thomas

President's Message, continued from page 1

World Domination by Thomas Mirenda. It highlights the spread of the various *Eulophia* exotics across most continents. Robert Pemberton from UF and AOS has tracked Florida's version, *Eulophia graminea*, and highlights it in a column, "Orchid Power". It is a pretty little terrestrial plant but very hardy as his astonishing words reveal:

"Here I report the most challenging habitat for *Eupha. graminea* in Florida. This is a hot asphalt parking lot at the UF research and education complex in Davie in Broward County.

The parking lot was resurfaced, and the newly applied asphalt apparently covered some adjacent strips of soil containing pseudobulbs of *Eupha. graminea*. Far from sealing their fate, the orchids used the energy in their pseudobulbs to push their way through the asphalt to reach the surface in a number of places, where plants with both leaves and inflorescences emerged."

It's Show Time!

The first show of the season is coming up this month. The Ridge Orchid Society annual show will be held September 15-16 at the Lake Mirror Center in Lakeland FL. This is their 50th anniversary orchid show and their theme this year is "The Golden Age of Orchids".

VAOS will put in a display at the Ridge show and set up will be on Friday September 14th starting at 10am. Members are needed to help Richard Amos with the display - if you can help please contact Rich at 552-6723. Most importantly, we'll need blooming plants for the display! Please bring your plants to the Growers Clinic meeting at the Venice Community Center on Wednesday night, 7pm, September 12th. Plants should be groomed and clearly labeled with both the plant name and owners name. We'll bring your plants back on Sunday and will coordinate with you to pick them up. Please help us to put in a quality display this first show of the season!

A Good Cause (continued from page 1)

I plan to purchase advertisement space in local newspapers and print and distribute flyers for this event. Roadside signs will also be posted.

All proceeds from this Safari and my plant sales, and fees from the yard and plant sales of others will be donated to the American Cancer Society via The North Port American Cancer Society Relay for Life. You may donate cash, plants and other items to sell if you wish. Please reply to Bill Timm at 941 426 1133 or billytimm@verizon.net if you are interested or if you wish more information.

Location: 2030 Leryl Ave., North Port, FL 34286 Approximately 2 miles off of I 75 S at exit 179.

Pemberton says the plant is spreading rapidly in Florida. In 2008 it was only seen in 5 sites in Miami-Dade County but by August 2012 it has been found at more than 70 sites in 7 counties including Sanibel Island and the Keys.



Eulophia Pseudobulbs

Eupha. graminea orchid favors cypress areas so it is not surprising that it appeared soon after Pat had cypress-mulched her trees. Pemberton asks orchid society members to report any sightings to him (rpemberton5@gmail.com), so check your backyard.

Also become a member of AOS (American Orchid Society) to both support our national organization, it's conservation efforts and to learn such amazing facts. Every summer a special large supplement is also included in your subscription – this year on *Cynoches*. The AOS monthly magazine and website tips will also help you become a better grower too.

New Display Stands for Our Shows

Jim Thomas and Richard Amos have been hard at work building new display stands for our orchid shows. These stands will be highly mobile, light weight and easy to put together.



Jim Thomas and Richard Amos, doing what they do

The two spent many long hours cutting boards, Styrofoam and painting them. Thank you Jim and Richard for your hard work and dedication to our orchid society.

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Venice, FL 34284-0443

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, Sept 5, 7:00pm**
at Venice Community Center
- **Speaker: Joe Hayden** "Growing the Perfect Phal"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

September 5 -

VAOS monthly meeting 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL Speaker: Joe Hayden. Topic: Growing the Perfect Phalaenopsis

September 12 -

Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Presenter: Jim Thomas

Topic: Pests and Diseases: Identification, Prevention and Treatment

September 15-16:

Ridge Orchid Show, The Golden age of Orchids. Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland, FL. Friday: Set Up; Saturday 10-5; Sunday 11-4. Contact Richard Amos to participate.

October 5-7:

66th Miami International Orchid Show, Coral Gables, FL Info: www.sforchid.com

November 3-4: 14th International Slipper Symposium, Orlando, FL Info: www.slippersymposium.com

December 6 -

EAOS Bus Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami. \$45 pp. Contact Ann Baldwin, EAOS President, AnnMBaldwin501@frontier.com

December 7 -

VAOS Holiday Party (details to follow).

February 2-3, 2013:

VAOS Annual Show, at the Venice Community Center.

Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org.

Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
Jeff Higel
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
Tina & Rafael Romero
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
www.plantiolaorquidea.com

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began in June. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

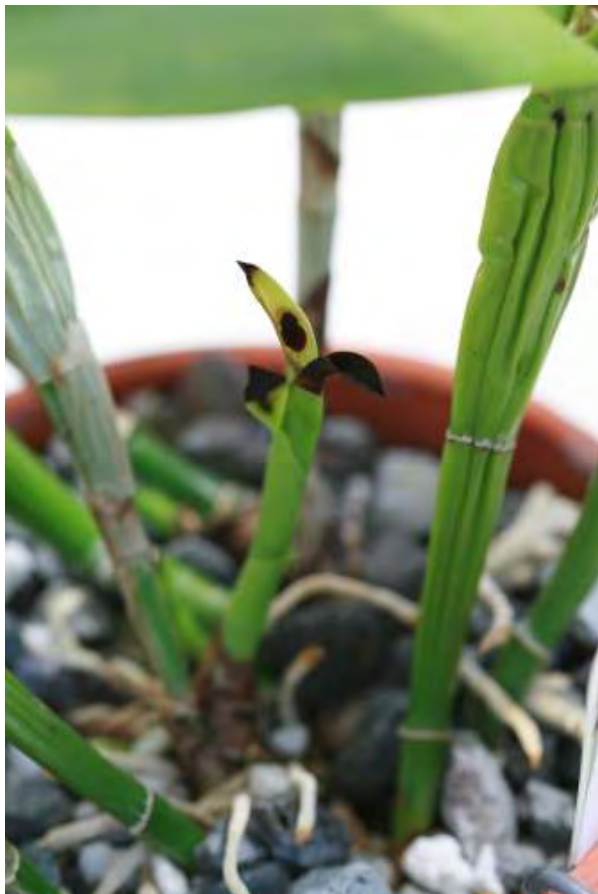
Calcium Supplements for Orchids

September 2011

by Dr. Courtney Hackney, hackneau@comcast.net

For many years, the only water available to me for my orchids was too salty and getting even worse from salt water intrusion into the aquifer. A concrete cistern was constructed to collect and hold rainwater. Rainwater contains almost no dissolved solids, so you can imagine my surprise when an analysis of my water showed high levels of dissolved solids. Concrete cisterns are made of lime and some of that is lost to the water through leaching. Fortunately, other than making the water basic and leaving a white film on leaves, there was never a problem using this water. My orchids thrived with this calcium laden rainwater. After 4 or 5 years, water from the cistern was just slightly higher in solids than rainwater.

I often recommend keeping a log book indicating when various pesticides were sprayed, fertilizers used, etc. This is important in diagnosing the cause of problems that arise from time to time. An orchid growing friend had been using some of the bench in my greenhouse when I installed the cistern and was amazed at the incredible growth of his paphs under my care. After obtaining a few paphs of my own and studying the natural habitat it was clear why paphs had grown so well. It was the extra calcium and magnesium leaching from my cistern. To compensate for the slow change in water as my cistern reached equilibrium, I began adding dolomite lime to pots containing paphs and they thrived. I also began using Peters Cal Mag, which provided even more calcium and magnesium each time fertilizer was applied. My cattleyas and other orchids grew well under these conditions, except in the summer when I would experience new growths that rotted. I would also lose seed pods from rot.



Every orchid hobbyist knows that moving to a new greenhouse requires a reexamination of culture, and my move to Florida four years ago has been no exception. The one big surprise was an issue that had occurred before, always in the summer, that was never resolved to my satisfaction. During very warm summers there would be the occasional rotting of new growths on cattleyas as well as on new leaves of phalaenopsis. Most surprising was that the issue occurred on both species and hybrids that should have been fine under high heat and temperatures based on their countries of origin. On these occasions, various anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents were used.



St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Calcium Supplements for Orchids

September 2011

by Dr. Courtney Hackney, hackneau@comcast.net

Based on the premise that most horticultural issues are caused by culture, various attempts were made including altering fertilizers, increasing air movements, etc, with no real clear success. The problem typically disappeared once temperatures cooled in fall. Most frustrating was the loss of countless seed pods of some potentially great hybrids. They would begin rotting from the tip and the rot would eventually progress, destroying the seed pod.

I have finally discovered as the cause of this problem, blossom-end rot; the same malady that causes tomatoes to rot from the old bloom tip, which is low calcium and magnesium. Orchids are "cold-blooded" and when it gets warm they are capable of growing at a very fast rate. To do this, they must take up nutrients at an accelerated rate, too. Calcium and magnesium are required for proper cell development in new leaves and other tissues, e.g. seed pods. That was what was missing from my culture during the heat of summer.

During summer's high temperatures, many orchid hobbyists report loss of new leaves especially when growing outdoors. Heavy rains flush nutrients, especially calcium and magnesium, from media, and at the same time, high temperatures and humidity foster very rapid growth. It did not occur to me to increase the calcium and magnesium content of the water I am now using since it comes from a limestone aquifer and is loaded with minerals, including calcium. My fertilizer now is fish emulsion instead of the cal-mag fertilizer I have used in the past. Essentially, I am now providing more of the essential growth nutrients, mainly nitrogen, but not enough calcium for my orchids in this high growth time of the year.

When I first realized what was causing the increased loss of new growths and seed pods, I hand spread dolomite limestone powder all over the plants in the greenhouse. My orchids looked like it had snowed. I also placed a couple of pounds in the reservoir from which my Dosatron draws water after I have applied fertilizer. Within a week, there ceased to be an issue of rots despite the highest summer temperatures of the year.

Even some of what I consider intermediate temperature orchids have responded to the extra calcium and magnesium by growing extremely well in the heat. Most orchid growing advice suggests acidifying water. Adding dolomite raises pH, but has not had any negative effects so far. I still flush regularly and fertilize with fish emulsion and this keeps the pH of the medium at the right level for growth.