

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Feb. 2014

Next Meeting: Wednesday

February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Owen

Topic: "Orchids of the Fakahatchee"

Mike Owen has been Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park biologist since 1994. His primary focus is collecting data relating to the survival, distribution and reproductive habits of the native and exotic animals, as well as plants like the ferns, bromeliads, peperomia and orchids (some, such as the ghost orchid, which are extremely rare). Mike will be sharing his experiences and insights as well as photos of this beautiful and unique environment.



With help from park staff and other supporters, he documents and studies fluctuations of water levels, fire and weather events, the effects of exotic species invasions, topography and the importance of maintaining the biological diversity of this area. He continues to contribute greatly to the scientific knowledge of the area, most of which had never been documented before. He offers visitors an introduction to the many wonders of the region and is famous for his guided swamp walks which delight visitors from around the world.

A Message from your President:

Happy New Year to everyone! What a terrific meeting we had last week. Our Snowbirds have returned, everyone was buzzing and our Plant Table was beautiful. Our exhibit at the Sarasota Orchid Show took First Place - congrats to the team of 9, our VP of Displays, Rich Amos and his sidekick, Jay Loeffler. The artistic arrangement was awesome.



Cynthia Vance

So you see . . . now it's **SHOW TIME!!** The detailed prep for Orchid Paradise, our 48th Annual Show and premier society event is right on schedule.

We have **16 impressive vendors**. John Masters has been barking "Hawaii is coming! Hawaii is coming! Go to the Carmela Orchids website and you'll salivate!" Yes, it's time to purchase Hawaiian orchids which will thrive in Florida. This vendor alone will draw in a crowd -- but all our vendors are quality growers, artists, and suppliers. Our own "Orchid Boutique" will have some interesting surprises this year also.

We increased our fundraising to **21 sponsors** and major donors have returned. I'd like to highlight 3 new sponsors who are Venice area anchors -- **Venice Regional Bayfront Health**, formerly Venice Hospital, **Absolute Aluminum** and **Kennedy-White Orthopaedic Center**. We reminded KWOC's physicians that they've

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VAOS SHOW - INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING PLANTS

We depend on our members to enter their blooming plants - we need them to create a winning display!

Bring your plants to the VCC Room G (Right Rear) Thursday evening, 1/30/14 5pm - 6pm or Friday morning, 1/31/14 10am - 11am.

Plants should be cleaned, staked and free of pests with the owner's name on the pot and on the plant label.

CRITICAL - All plants must be pre-registered with Jim Thomas via email no later than Thursday 1/30/14 12:00 noon.

Include the plant name and flower color and description (i.e. solid color, striped, spotted) or a photo.

Failure to pre-register your plant via email will jeopardize our display committee's ability to complete the plant registration process on time.

Pick up your plants on Sunday 2/2/14 at 4pm at show take down.

Jim Thomas email: pis2ces4@verizon.net

Phone: 966-2479

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2013 – 2014

President

Cynthia Vance, pres@vaos.org

Vice President - Programs

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Vice President - Social Affairs

Janice Felski, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Richard Amos, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Ali Hicks, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary & Mentor Coordinator

Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chairs

Jay & Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Immediate Past President & Webmaster

Ted Kellogg, tmkellogg@gmail.com

Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

showchair@vaos.org

Volunteers

The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

Sharon Schneider, Librarian

Newsletter Production

Barry Zack

VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

Minutes of the January 8, 2014 VAOS Meeting

Prior to the meeting, members voted on Plant Table orchids, purchased Raffle tickets, and purchased orchids from Jim Roberts, owner of Florida SunCoast Orchids. President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests. Five new members were recognized. Cynthia reported that 2014 dues are required for membership, explaining that dues are \$15 tonight, but will rise to \$20 on Jan. 9th. Cynthia discussed Upcoming Events which were printed on a handout placed on chairs before the meeting. This included the Sarasota Orchid Show Jan. 11-12, a Jan. 16 Tailgate Party before the Growers Clinic, and the VAOS Orchid Show.

Cynthia expressed the need for volunteers to help at meetings. Suzanne Grimmer, Jerry Becker and Sharon Schneider offered to assist the President with technology. Sharon and John Kahnoski, Carol Wisser and Kathy Toth will take turns conducting the Raffle Table. These volunteers will officially start in March.

Carol Wood announced plans for the upcoming VAOS Orchid Show and Sale, "Orchid Paradise", to be held Feb. 1-2 at the Venice Community Center. Carol recognized Judy Loeffler, Co-Show Chair and Barbara Wagner, past Show Chair, for their contributions. Many volunteers for the Show are needed and sign-up sheets were circulated. Colorful Show posters have been printed and members are asked to post them in businesses, clubhouses, etc. T-shirts will be given to all volunteers who work at the Show. Food is needed for both days; please bring food in disposable containers. Volunteers are asked to enter through the

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Treasurer's Report

January, 2014

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
12/15/2013	\$	1,229.07
+ Income	\$	1,002.00
- Payments	\$	950.15
Closing Balance		
1/14/2014	\$	1,281.82

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance		
12/15/2013	\$	2,572.80
+ Income		4,100.00
- Payments		2,543.73
Closing Balance		
1/14/2014	\$	4,129.07

Cash Account

Starting Balance		
12/15/2013	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
1/14/2014	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
12/15/2013	\$	25,032.07
+ Income		0.85
Closing Balance		
1/14/2014	\$	25,032.92

Total Assets

1/14/2014	\$	30,483.81
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Submitted by Ali Hicks

2014 Show Sponsors

Platinum

- Absolute Aluminum
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
- Raleigh & Associates
- Stanley Dean State Farm

Gold

- AAA Auto Group
- Frederick Bloom, MD
- Center For Sight
- Daiquiri Deck
- Edgewood Nursery
- Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community
- Davis & Beyer, DDS
- Kennedy-White Orthopaedics
- Pavilion Grill
- Silverstein Institute
- Venice Reg. Bayfront Health
- Keye Wong, MD

Silver

- Allegro Bistro
- Burgundy Square Café
- Happy Puppy Pet Spa
- Kerri's Jewels & Gems
- Orchid Envy

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, csec@vaos.org
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Plant Table Awards January 2, 2013

Jim Thomas took both the **First Place** ribbon and **Best Species** ribbon for his beautiful specimen plant of *Rhyncostylis gigantea*. His plant had five spikes of purple and white flowers. Jimmy went on to enter his plant in the Sarasota Orchid Show where it won top honors - both the Best Vanda and Best Species trophies. Jimmy is our in-house expert on this species if you have culture questions. Congratulations, Jimmy!

Joanna Shaw won both **Second Place** and **Speakers Choice** ribbons for her spectacular plant *C. Melody Fair 'Carol'* HCC/AOS. Her large plant with 15 blooms is a cross of *C. Stephen Oliver Fouraker* and *C. Horace* with huge white flowers with a deep purple lip. Joanna entered her plant in the Sarasota Orchid Show and also won a top honor: Best in Cattleya Alliance Trophy. Congratulations, Joanna - good growing!



C. Melody Fair 'Carol' HCC/AOS



Den. Blue Twinkle



Rhy. gigantea

Cynthia Vance received **Third Place** for her plant *Den. Blue Twinkle*, a cross of *Den. Betty Goto* x *Den. canaliculatum*. *Blue Twinkle* is a delightful small, fairy-like blue and white flower. Cynthia also won a yellow ribbon for this plant at the Sarasota show. Congrats, Cynthia!

Bev Manypenny took the Member's Choice award for her gorgeous large yellow *Cymbidium Yellow Cascade*. Many Floridians have trouble growing cymbidiums that prefer cooler temps, unless they are bred for warmth tolerance. Bev's plant had four blooming spikes and two more spikes in bud. While we could not identify the parentage to register her plant in the Sarasota Show, we did include it in our display that took First Place Exhibit. Good growing, Bev!



Cym. Cascade Yellow

Photos by Cynthia Vance. Narrative by Carol Wood

VAOS EXHIBIT TAKES 1ST PLACE AT SARASOTA SHOW

Congratulations to our VAOS members who entered 36 plants in the Sarasota Orchid Show and to Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler for creating the winning display! VAOS placed first among six orchid societies for the best exhibit. The annual Sarasota Orchid Show was held January 11-12 at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.

VAOS members took four trophies and 24 ribbons as follows:

Rick Belisle - 1 blue, 1 red

Rusty Crum - 3 red, 1 yellow

Judy Loeffler - 1 blue and trophy for Best Diversified Genera for her plant *Zygo. Advance Australia* 'H.O.F.'

Karen Mann - 1 yellow

Natalee McKinney - 2 blue, 3 red, 1 yellow

Joanna Shaw - 1 blue and trophy: Best Large Flowered *Cattleya Alliance* for her plant *C. Melody Fair* 'Carol' HCC/AOS

Jim Thomas - 1 blue, 1 red and 2 trophies for his plant *Rhy. gigantea*. The trophies were for Best Vanda Alliance and Best Species

Cynthia Vance - 1 yellow

Debi Wolfe - 2 red, 1 yellow

Carol Wood - 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow



Rich and Jay created a gorgeous display, with depth, color flow and plant variety that caught the judges' attention. Thanks to the display team for all of their work. Our team included Rich and Mary Amos, Judy and Jay Loeffler, Jim Thomas, Carol Wood, Peg and Bill Fahrenback and Renee Byrnum. Our display consisted of 36 plants exhibited by 13 members. Thank you for contributing your beautiful plants to create the winning exhibit!



Narrative by Carol Wood and photos by Carol Wood/Judy Loeffler

Orchids Resembling Animals



#7 Green Squid Orchid (*Prostecchia Cochleata*)
Common Name: Cockleshell or Clamshell Orchid
Habitat: Caribbean Basin & Florida Everglades.



#10 Donkey Orchid (*Diuris*)
Common Name: Donkey Orchid
Habitat: SW Australia

OFE International accepting pre-orders for VAOS Show

Our society is continuing its efforts to arrange pre-orders with show vendors and speaker/vendors at our monthly meetings. Pre-orders assist the vendors by refining their product selection and possibly increasing overall sales. Our members have the opportunity to get specific and often unique plants and orchid supplies in the desired quantities without having to incur the often high shipping costs. All in all, a win-win situation!!

Recently, we've been able to place pre-orders with Roy Takunaga, H&R Orchids, and Jim Roberts, Florida Sun-Coast Orchids. We had a significant number of pre-orders from Roy, but only three from Jim Roberts.

OFE International will be among our show vendors on Feb. 1-2 and has agreed to accept all pre-orders which they will then bring to our show.

Located in Miami, OFE offers all the supplies that anyone could wish for to grow quality orchids. With their very extensive array of products, they offer very competitive prices, and now, the opportunity to avoid the shipping costs, which are often more than the selling price for heavy and bulky products.

Take a look at their website at www.ofe-intl.com and make your choices. Preorders may be placed by telephone, fax, email (sales@ofe-intl.com) or through their website **not later than Monday, January 27**. If ordering through the website, please call for specific instructions. Payment for orders by phone, fax or email must be made when picked up at the show. All orders must indicate: "VAOS Pre-order; please bring to our show on February 1-2."

President's message continued from page 1

performed 7 surgeries on Board members alone and that sealed the deal.

Absolute Aluminum builds orchid greenhouses and shade structures, so don't miss their lobby display. Other sponsors continue to discount or provide services in-kind. Our **Venice Chamber** membership delivers sponsors to us and we'll be hosting our table top orchid display at their "Business after Five" to promote the Show to 200 people. **Our Show PR has increased**. See our announcements in area magazines and also more online. Watch for our beautiful newspaper ads. We joined **Venice MainStreet** which allows us to advertise on the **Main Marquee** on Venice Ave as you enter downtown. This is another first! Hmmm... maybe we should have a float in their Fall parade?

Thank you, **our members**, who have become **show patrons** or will be **volunteering**. During the Show, come to the kitchen to feast, hobnob and feel the joyous spirit of our Society. Our love for the beauty of orchids and our team camaraderie brings so much pleasure to us all.

A Thank You from Barbara Wagner

I would like to thank all the members of the society for the cards and letters, calls, and support. The Celebration of Life for Bob gave me a wonderful feeling with so many of you attending the event.

I'm looking forward to spending more time with such a wonderful group of people in the future.

Barbara Wagner

Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

back door. Please don't park near the back door as it is reserved for vendors. A chart will be displayed showing volunteer positions for security

Cynthia Vance recognized Lynne Pedlar, who created the slide show for the big screens at the Show last year, and will develop one again this year featuring our sponsors. She announced new Show sponsorships, including Absolute Aluminum, builders of screened orchid growing areas, Orchid Envy, a new retailer on Venice Ave. and Venice Regional Medical Center. Cynthia recognized Janice Felski for obtaining a new Show sponsorship from Dr. Keye Wong, Retinologist. Sponsorship currently stands at \$4,000.

Richard Amos, VP Show Design, announced that blooming orchids are needed for both the upcoming Sarasota and Venice shows. Plants must be pre-registered. Plants for the Venice Show may be brought to the Venice Community Center on Thurs. Jan. 30 between 4-7pm or early Friday morning, Jan. 31.

Cynthia introduced our speaker, Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids, who specializes in Encyclia orchids. His PowerPoint presentation illustrated many species and hybrid Encyclias with unique characteristics. Some can produce hundreds of blooms; others bloom for months at a time. A stunning picture showed a blooming Encyclia profusa, said to be 11 feet wide and 6 feet tall. Some Encyclias can go for a month or longer without water.

Jimmy Thomas and John Masters presented orchids from the Plant Table and announced awards. The meeting was adjourned following the Raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback

Have A Question About Your Orchid???

Has my hybrid cross been named? Has my plant been awarded? What's its parentage? Several VAOS members subscribe to OrchidWiz and will be happy to look it up for you. Email your orchid name and question to one of the following:

• Carol Wood (showchair@vaos.org) • Jim Thomas (programs@vaos.org) • Ted Kellogg (tmkellogg@gmail.com)

Submitted by Carol Wood

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

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, February 5, 7:00pm**
at Venice Community Center
- **Speaker:** Mike Owen
 - **Topic:** "Orchids of Fakahatchee"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
 - Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

January 25-26: Manatee River Orchid Society Show, Bradenton Convention Center. Info: junka-bearorchids@aol.com

January 31: VAOS Show Set Up, 1pm to 6pm.

February 1 & 2: VAOS Annual Show & Sale, Saturday: 10am to 5pm (displays open at 11am)
Sunday: 10am to 4pm

February 5: VAOS monthly Meeting 7pm. Venice Community Center 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice. Speaker: Mike Owen, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Topic: Orchids of Fakahatchee.

February 13: VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Jimmy Thomas and other expert growers. Topic: Dendrobiums 101. Bring your problem plants for expert help.

February 28 - March 1: Englewood Orchid Society Show, "Orchids By

Lemon Bay", Englewood Methodist Church, 700 Dearborn Street, Englewood.

Planning Ahead

March 22: VAOS Beach Party Cook-out. Details to follow.

Ongoing:

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

Orchid Judging takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, McLoughlin Center – Room C,**

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.

821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609. at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

Patronize Our Local Growers

- Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776), Englewood, FL
- Palmer Orchids (941-322-1644)
22700 Taylor Dr., Myakka City, FL 34251
- Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
- Florida SunCoast Orchids (941-322-8777),
8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL

February in Your Orchid Collection

by Dr. Martin Motes, from his monthly newsletters and book "Florida Orchid Growing"

February Climate Data:

Average high: 77.7

Average low: 60.7

Average mean: 69.1

Average rainfall: 2.07"

Despite the bloom on the avocados and the burgeoning new leaves on the live oaks, February is not spring in South Florida. Danger of freeze continues past mid month and frost can occur still into March. Even if the weather is balmy it's too early to let down our guard or take down any protection we have mounted against the cold. The trend however is toward the positive as each lengthening day brings extra hours of warming sunshine to begin waking our plants from their long winter's rest.

February characteristically brings a wide swing of day to night temperatures, ideal for spiking ascocendas and vandas but also wringing from the air heavy dews and dense fog. Whilst these add a romantic atmosphere to the South Florida landscape, Wuthering Heights is singularly devoid of snails and slugs (much less Botrytis). The silvery carpet of dew provides a silky path to our orchids for snails and slugs which can range far, under these favorable conditions. They are eager to make a nice meal of your Phalaenopsis leaves or the soft crowns of your vandas before they retire during the dry months of March and April only to dream of the fresh shoots of the sympodial orchids brought forth by the first rains of May. Now is the time to give them a rude awakening. Remember that snail bait is most effectively applied lightly (scatter the pellets every few feet) and frequently (every 7 to 10 days). Two or three applications should do the job.

The heavy fog which can cause condensation on leaves even under cover can also bring trouble. Botrytis is a fungus disease that can disfigure flowers with small black spots. Particularly apparent and annoying on white Phalaenopsis, Botrytis can ruin other flowers as well. Control is typically achieved in commercial greenhouses with fungicide in aerosol forms and by running fans to prevent condensation on the flowers. The latter option is also available to collectors. A small fan turned on the spiking and opened flowers at night will greatly alleviate the pressure of Botrytis. So will, to a degree, the application of soap which we suggested in January to control mites. Bicarbonate of soda, ordinary baking soda, at 1Tbs. per gal will help as well. Quaternary ammonium compounds (Physan, RD40, Consan, pool algicide) also give some control. Maintaining long lasting flowers like Phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and bi-foliolate cattleyas in more perfect condition is well worth the effort. Having waited so long for the flowers we want to enjoy them as long as possible and they do all last longer in cool weather.

The lower overall temperatures of February call for less frequent and lighter applications of fertilizer as was the practice in January. If any reddening of the foliage persists another application of Epsom salts (1Tbs per gal), preferably in combination with

Potassium nitrate, is called for; Nitrate nitrogen being more available to the plants under cooler conditions. If your resolve holds steady not to water (or above all) fertilize those Himalayan dendrobiums, your reward may shortly become evident in bursting flower spikes.

Like the avocados and the live oaks, many cattleyas and other sympodial orchids have bloomed and are just commencing new growth in February. Right after flowering is usually an excellent time for repotting from the plant's perspective and the cool day time temperatures in the greenhouse are hospitable to the orchid grower as well. It's still a bit early to re-basket vandas but an early start on the cattleyas will allow plenty of time and energy for those Spring chores which are right around the corner. With that thought setting out to secure a good supply of pots in anticipation of the potting season ahead is on February's agenda.