

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Mar. 2014

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
March 5th at 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Bill Fender**

Topic: "Growing Orchids in Venice"

Bill Fender, retired from Fender's Flora, Inc. Venice, returns as one of VAOS' favorite speakers. Ably assisted by his wife, Susan, Bill expanded his love for orchids into a unique breeding program using selected cattleya-type orchids that he had collected over the years and continues to grow today.



His emphasis in creating cattleya-type hybrids was to produce frequent bloomers with fragrant flowers. He bred both standard and compact cattleya-types, many with spots. He will share his insights and techniques for growing great orchids in our local climate.

Did you purchase orchids at our recent VAOS show, "Orchid Paradise"? Come learn how to grow what you purchased! Are you a snowbird who leaves your orchids here for the summer or takes them home on a road trip? Are you trying to decide whether to grow in a shade house, pool area or hanging under trees? Bill will answer these and all your other questions. Feel free to bring in a recent purchase to get his first hand expert advice about the care of your particular plant.

ENGLEWOOD ORCHID SHOW

We need your blooming plants to create a winning display at the EAOS Orchid Show
February 28 - March 1

Critical: All plants must be pre-registered with Renee Bynum NLT Wednesday, 2/26/2014 12:00 noon.

**Renee Bynum's email: OrchidsNHoyas@gmail.com
Tel: (850) 630-6346**

See page 5 for details

A Message from your President:

Congratulations to our Show Co-Chairs, Carol Wood and Judy Loefler, with Barbara Wagner's help, for producing "Orchid Paradise". And thank you, our members, who donated your time and resources to make our Show an outstanding event!



Cynthia Vance

At a crowded Growers Clinic last May, when John Masters said "VAOS is on fire", I blurted out, "Would you like to become President?" Well, it's become a reality with your vote this March. John is a master grower who knows many orchid growers, what other societies are doing and future trends in the orchid world. John's experience will benefit VAOS and he's funny and fun to be around. At our last Tailgate, John was among members and thinking aloud so we should be ready for some new adventures!

Two other Board positions are also open. Ali Hicks, our Treasurer, is completing two 2-year terms as I have, and she's done a super job. Mary Amos brings much financial management experience to take on this position. Jimmy Thomas has already primed Bruce Weaver to become our new and enthusiastic VP of Programs. Jimmy will become Education and Outreach Director per our new bylaws. He will stay on the board as an appointed Director at Large and will continue to lead our fantastic Growers Clinics.

I'd also like to thank Marge and Charlie Cullen who have run the Raffle Table for 7+ years, Judy Russell who has managed the Plant Table, Sharon Schneider, our Librarian, and Jerry Manegold who has been our Meeting Techie for 6 years. Already these volunteers have trained their successors who I will introduce in March.

As I look over the past 4 years, I revel in the great creativity of our board members – our 50th Anniversary celebration in 2012, the growing membership and attendance at the Growers Clinic, the fine mentor program, fun Tailgates, stronger budgeting and financial procedures, Show planning computerization, and our exciting newsletter. Our increased savings will sustain

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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

Jim Thomas, programs@vaos.org

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

**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.

**Minutes of the
February 5, 2014 VAOS Meeting**

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting welcoming members and encouraging them to vote for orchids on the Plant Table, purchase Raffle tickets and view items for sale by Orchid Envy, a new Venice Ave. retailer. Orchid Envy owners, Dusty and Natalie, are offering a 10% discount to VAOS members at their store. Cynthia cheered the success of our recent Show, Orchid Paradise. She announced that forty-four new members joined VAOS at the show; those present were asked to stand for recognition.

Cynthia discussed VAOS upcoming events which were detailed in a printed flyer. These included the upcoming Tailgate Party before Growers Clinic, the Englewood Orchid Show Feb. 28-Mar.1, and the VAOS Beach Picnic Potluck at Caspersen Beach on March 22.

The Design Team was recognized for their success at recent shows. Designer Richard Amos and his assistant, Jay Loeffler, won first place at the Sarasota Show and 2nd place at the Venice Show. A trophy was given to Jay for taking the picture used to create VAOS Show trophies. The orchid photographed belonged to Richard Amos. Members enthusiastically sang Happy Birthday to Jay.

Judy Loeffler, Co-Chair for Orchid Paradise, reported on the Show on behalf of Chair Carol Wood, past co-chair Barbara Wagner and herself. Attendance was over 3,000, with over 50 ribbons and 4 trophies going to VAOS members. Judy thanked all committee chairs and recognized them by asking them to stand. She thanked the many volunteers who helped to make the show a success and asked them to stand. With the

Continued on page 5

February 2014	
Checking Account	
Starting Balance	
1/14/2014	\$ 1,281.82
+ Income	\$ 2,401.00
- Payments	\$ 1,552.15
Closing Balance	
2/15/2014	\$ 2,130.67
Show Checking Account	
Starting Balance	
1/14/2014	\$ 4,129.07
+ Income	\$ 17,471.21
- Payments	\$ 4,452.03
Closing Balance	
2/15/2014	\$ 17,148.25
Cash Account	
Starting Balance	
1/14/2014	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
2/15/2014	\$ 40.00
Money Market Savings	
Starting Balance	
1/14/2014	\$ 25,032.92
+ Income	\$ 0.85
Closing Balance	
2/15/2014	\$ 25,033.77
Total Assets	
2/15/2014	\$ 44,352.69
<i>Submitted by Ali Hicks</i>	

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
- Retina Assoc. of Sarasota

Silver

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

Plant Table Awards February 5, 2014

Dale and Janet Hoy displayed a well-grown and floriferous plant of Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.) Zul that impressed the judges to win the **First Place** ribbon and impressed the members to win the Members Choice ribbon. Rth. Zul is a cross of the species Gur. skinneri and the attractive orange hybrid Rth. Orange Nuggett that was registered in 1997.

There are 11 species in the background of this plant and it was a Blc. when registered. Since then, 7 of the parental species have been reclassified to different genera, and the current Rth. name applies. Although these name changes are considered recent, the last name change was in 2008. Congratulations!

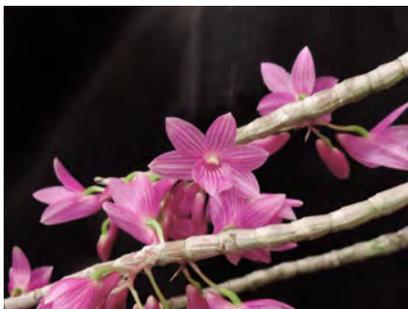
Joanna Shaw shared with us the hybrid Bc. (now Cattleya) Yellow Bird, the winner of the **Second Place** ribbon. Joanna grew it on a piece of driftwood with a couple of other plants. The arrangement made a very nice living centerpiece. C. Yellow Bird is a cross of B. nodosa by Bc. Richard Mueller; both



C. Yellow Bird

parents are good growers in central Florida. It is often grown into specimen plants; seven clones have received AOS cultural awards. Good growing, Joanna!

Ted Kellogg won the **Third Place** ribbon with Den. Kuniko, a cross of Den. goldschmidtianum (also known as Den. miyakei) by Den. victoriae-reginae. This is a cross of a warm with a cool growing Dendrobium that grows well in Florida. The cool growing parent, victoriae-regina, does not grow in central to south Florida



Den. Kuniko

without special provisions to keep it from our summer heat. Ted's plant came from a clone grow by Greg Allikas.

Our speaker, Mike Owen, chose Cattlianthe Magic Bell for the **Speakers Commendation**

Award. The plant was entered on the show table by Nora Berger as Bct. Roman Holiday. In reviewing images of many Roman Holiday clones and Magic Bell, it is clear that the Roman Holiday name was in error.

The naming problem did not detract from the beauty of this uniquely colored flower. Ctt. Magic Bell awarded clone, 'Maria Irma', closely resembles the plant on the table.

Ctt. Magic Bell has several awards, including an AD/AOS as an interesting new direction in hybridizing. How-



Rth. Zul

ever, the plant is probably infertile and it has never been registered as a parent of a cross. Judges don't know the chances of a plant being fertile when they make the AD/AOS award. Way to go, Nora!



Ctt. Magic Bell

The **New Member** ribbon was won by Sharon Schneider, with her unregistered hybrid of Cattleytonia Maui Maid 'albion' x Cattleya forbesii. In this case, we have a white flower crossed with a yellow/green flower and



Ctna. Maui Maid x C. forbesii

the result is a pink/purple shade. This is not unexpected when crossing white orchid flowers – to have a chance to get white you usually have to start with two white flowers. The cross may have been made to get a plant that is easier to grow than C. forbesii. Whatever the hybridizer's reason, the result was a lovely hybrid. Thanks for sharing this beautiful plant with us!

–Photos and narrative by Ted Kellogg



Awards from the show on page 7

GET YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THE ENGLEWOOD ORCHID SHOW

VAOS will participate in the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Annual Show on February 28 - March 1, 2014, our last show display for the winter season. Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler have been hard at work on the display props - the show theme is "Orchids By Lemon Bay". We depend on our members to enter their blooming plants to create a winning display!

EAOS will again hold their annual event at:

Englewood United Methodist Church
700 East Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL
Show Chair: Ann Baldwin 941-475-5097

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Thursday February 27th - Display Set Up 9am - 5pm
Friday February 28th - Show & Sale 10am - 5pm
Saturday March 1st - Show & Sale 10am - 5pm
Take Down - Saturday 5pm - 6pm

ALL VAOS DISPLAY PLANTS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED BY EMAIL NO LATER THEN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH 12:00 NOON

Register your plants with Renee Bynum:

OrchidsNHoyas@gmail.com

850-630-6346

Email Renee your plant name, flower color and description (i.e. solid color, striped, spotted, etc)

Deliver your plants to the show on Thursday February 27th no later than 9:30am.

Or

Drop your plants to Carol Wood (So. Venice) or Jim Thomas (No. Venice) before Wednesday February 26th 5pm.

Carol Wood: 4941 Bella Terra Dr. (Venetia) 497-4995

Jim Thomas: 453 S. Shore Dr., Osprey 552-6723

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

Please plan to pick up your plants at show take down on Saturday March 1st at 5pm unless you have made arrangements with Carol or Jim.

Contact VAOS VP Displays Rich Amos at 552-6723 if questions.

Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

44 new members who joined at the show, VAOS membership is now over 300.

Cynthia Vance thanked Judy Loeffler for serving as Show Co-chair. She then recognized Barbara Wagner for the many years she served as Show Chair and Co-chair. Cynthia announced the new Show award named after Barbara's late husband, Robert Wagner.

Karen Mann reported on the Orchid Boutique, which grossed over \$2900 at the Show. They gave 30 orchid bouquets to disabled attendees. She recognized Jane Camarota, Boutique Chair, and Toni Marie for their extensive contributions that made the Boutique a success.

Cynthia Vance announced Show sponsorships totaled \$4750; sponsors were listed on the upcoming events sheet. She then discussed VAOS officer nominations for 2014: John Masters, President; Bruce Weaver, VP Programs, and Mary Amos, Treasurer. Jimmy Thomas is

appointed Director-at-Large as Education and Outreach Chair. She asked for nominations from the floor, but none were offered. Members will vote on nominated officers at the March meeting.

Jimmy Thomas presented Growers Clinic topics for the upcoming months. In Feb. Rich Amos and Renee Bynum will assist presenting the topic of Dendrobiums.

Cynthia introduced our speaker, Mike Owen, a State Park Biologist. His PowerPoint presentation, Orchids of the Fakahatchee, showed the botanical diversity found in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve. He discussed how park officials work to monitor and conserve endangered species within the preserve.

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

Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback

President's message continued from page 1

VAOS in case of future climactic events that might cancel our annual show in future years.

What's been the most gratifying is having Board members who have listened to your needs and then devise new activities to serve you. Our Board meetings have been fun and Ted Kellogg, as Immediate Past President, has also given us wise guidance.

I've been proud to be your President and have appreciated your personal words of support over the years. I've especially enjoyed emceeding our meetings and I'm glad that VAOS is still "on fire".

V.A.O.S.
IS NOW ON FaceBook
"Like Us" and Share your Orchid Bliss



Search for us as
"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

IT TAKES AN ARMY - 2014 SHOW REPORT

Judy said it right - It takes an army to produce a successful show and by golly, the army showed up! Thirteen Show Committee Chairs and 120 member volunteers buzzed around our show Friday through Sunday in electric green t-shirts getting the job done. We heard nothing but positive feedback from the 3000 attendees and 15 vendors, all of whom went home happy.

Here are some highlights from our 48th annual show. It started Thursday 4pm when a small group of volunteers arrived to start set up for the show. On Friday morning, volunteers were there to prepare the hall before the vendors arrived. As the SILLS lecture always occupies the stage side of the ballroom on Friday mornings, we had to wait for their departure. At 11:45am they finished and our Set Up Team promptly dismantled 500 chairs in a record 12 minutes. They then proceeded to lay out the black plastic and greenery and set up the seating islands as the vendors and other orchid societies waited (im) patiently at the back door. At 1pm the back doors opened and Swoosh - organized chaos, as everyone entered at once to set up the sales areas and displays, almost instantly transforming the empty ballroom into an orchid paradise. Kudos to John Masters and his team for a well organized and efficient set up operation!

Jane and Frank Camarota, Karen Mann and their team worked tirelessly throughout the weekend at the Orchid Boutique creating beautiful orchid floral arrangements and selling quality orchid jewelry and accessories to the crowd. With their Orchid Basket Raffle, they grossed \$2900 in sales for the VAOS. Of course Jane started three days later attending a church sale to acquire containers for next year's show - no break for Jane! Thank you all for your long hours, your artistic work and your contribution to our show!

Noreen Chervinski and her team managed the Arts & Crafts exhibits that garnered nine ribbons and one trophy for VAOS members in a delightful display. Thank you! Mary Anne DiGrazia took three ribbons and received the Most Outstanding Art or Craft Entry Trophy for her beautiful orchid needlepoint. Liz Ann Thomas took three ribbons for her orchid paintings, Toni Marie one ribbon for her lamp sculpture and Carol Marcus two ribbons for her watercolors.

Ted Kellogg and his team expertly handled the registration of 225 entries, coordinated the AOS judging and reported a total of 148 ribbons and 19 trophies awarded by the judges. Thank you Ted! Thanks also to the 17 AOS judges who traveled here from around the country to judge our annual show.

The Sarasota Orchid Society took the first place exhibit award with a wide variety of quality plants. Venice took 2nd place and Ridge Orchid Society took 3rd place. Art Stone /Palmer Orchids took the first place award for Best Commercial Exhibit.

The VAOS exhibit included 74 plants entered by 24 members, winning the 2nd place exhibit award, 41 ribbons and four plant trophy awards (see separate article on our display for details). Congratulations to Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler and their team for creating a beautiful display and to Jim Thomas and Renee Bynum for their work to pre-register all of the plants!

Judy and Jay Loeffler, our Membership Chairs, and 15 volunteers staffed the Membership/Information Table throughout the weekend. Always the center of activity, they signed up 46 new members, promoted the VAOS and the AOS, distributed culture sheets, sold books and magazines, answered questions and distributed the trophies at the end of the show. Thank you!

Oh, and the food. The food! Thank you to our marvelous member chefs who brought in their favorite dishes to delight our volunteers, judges and vendors. Walking back to the kitchen we wondered if this was indeed an orchid show or was it a cooking competition? To Linda Hahn, who organized from her wheelchair following a knee injury, Bruce Hahn, Jane Hyde and the others who stepped in to help - our gratitude and appreciation for a job well done!

Twenty-five member volunteers assisted Bob and Cindy Czarnomski, Security Committee Chairs, to monitor exits and displays throughout the weekend. Not the most exciting job, it is critical to our show. Thank you!

Having to show up at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning is hard, but 27 member volunteers arrived promptly to clerk for the AOS judges under Mary Anne DiGrazia's leadership. What a great learning experience, as the judges shared their knowledge of what makes a great plant and quality flower. Many of our newer members signed up - this is an experience you never forget. Thank you, Mary Anne and your team for a job well done!

Elaine Ortt once again expertly managed the front door with the help from Ed Soentgen, Elizabeth Jett and 24 member volunteers to handle admissions and ticket sales. Thank you!

Prior to our show Cynthia Vance, Marketer Extraordinaire, raised \$4750 in corporate sponsorships from Venice area businesses and professionals, an all time record for our society! Platinum sponsors had tables in the show lobby and all sponsors were honored in our slide show that ran continuously during the show. The slide show was produced by Lynne Pedlar, Cynthia and Jerry Manegold - Thank you for an artistic presentation and a job well done!

We added two new growers to our nine grower vendor lineup this year - Carmela Orchids, an internationally acclaimed orchid nursery from Hawaii and Chapman Orchids, who specializes in cymbidiums. Our other accomplished growers included Art Stone/Palmer Orchids, Gold

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IT TAKES AN ARMY - 2014 SHOW REPORT (continued from page 6)

Coast Orchids, Florida SunCoast Orchids, Krull-Smith, Plantio La Orquidea, Del Favero Orchids, and Odom's Orchids. In addition we had two artists, one accessory and two supply vendors. The show committee will continue to work to bring in nationally known vendors who bring a variety of quality products to our show venue each year.

Show take down started promptly at 4pm on Sunday when once again mad chaos erupted and the ballroom was reduced to an empty shell within 90 minutes. Just amazing! Thank you to the "fresh" volunteers who arrived to help the tired to finish the clean up job in time for all of us to be home for the Super Bowl.

A very special thank you from Carol to Judy Loeffler who stepped in (on top of all the other work she does for VAOS) to help me co-chair this year. She managed or contributed to so many projects (trophies, awards, t-shirts, online ads, PR, brochures, etc.) and helped me sweat the

details. Thank you Judy!

Special thanks also to Iron Man Ed Soentgen who was there continuously from 4pm Thursday to 6pm Sunday (minus the hours the facility was closed) for his indispensable help with logistics, crowd control and heavy lifting.

We expect to clear over \$13,000 from our show that will fund our ongoing operating expenses as well as our reserve fund and contributions to orchid conservation efforts, both local and worldwide. We've already started work on next year's show with Barbara Wagner re-joining Judy and Carol as Show Co-Chairs.

Few societies are fortunate enough to have such a large group of spirited show volunteers. We appreciate your good work! Mark your calendars for our 2015 show - February 7-8, 2015. It takes an army!

—Submitted by Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, very proud
2014 Show Co-Chairs



VAOS EXHIBIT TAKES 2ND PLACE AT VENICE SHOW

Congratulations to our VAOS members who entered 74 plants and 9 arts and crafts entries in the Venice Area Orchid Show and to Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler for creating the tropical Orchid Paradise display! VAOS placed second among four orchid societies.

VAOS members took three trophies and 51 ribbons as follows:

- Richard Amos - 2 red
- Kathy Beck - 1 yellow
- Nora Berger - 1 blue and Robert Wagner Trophy for Most outstanding Cattleya plant
- Renee Bynum—1 red, 1 yellow and trophy for Most outstanding miniature plant
- Jane Camarota - 1 red
- Anita Cervi—1 blue, 1 red
- Dusty Crum - 3 yellow
- Mary Anne Digrazia - 2 blue, 1 red
- Alan and Susan Fastrup—1 red
- Tawanna Hardenbrook - 1 yellow

- low
- Ted Kellogg—1 blue
- Judy Loeffler - 1 red, 3 yellow
- Carol Marcus—1 red, 1 yellow
- Toni Marie—1 red
- Natalee McKinney -1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow
- Dale Richter—1 blue
- Judy Russell - 2 yellow
- Linda Shaller—2 blue, 2 red, 1 yellow
- Jimmy Thomas - 1 yellow
- Liz Ann Thomas—1, blue, 1 red, 1 yellow
- Cynthia Vance -- 1 blue, 1 red

- Debi Wolfe—1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow
- Carol Wood—1 blue, 2 yellow

Rich and Jay created a tropical display with bamboo arbor, tiki torches and wooden statue. Thanks to the display team for all of their work. Our team included Rich and Mary Amos, Jay Loeffler, Peg and Bill Fahrenback and Renee Bynum. Thanks to all members for contributing your beautiful plants that created an exhibit that won second place trophy.

—Submitted by Carol Wood

Orchids Resembling Animals



#3 - The Dove Orchid

Scientific Name: *Periseria Elata*

Common Name: *Holy Ghost Orchid*

Habitat: *Central America to Ecuador and Venezuela*
Similar to Pink Moth Orchid this flower also has a hidden creature inside, in this case it's entire "dove."



#8 - The Bird Head Orchid

Scientific Name: *Phalaenopsis sp.*

Common Name: *Pink Moth Orchid*

Habitat: *SW Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Iran & Iraq*
Resembling moths in flight. Within this flower there is a curious ghost-like head "guarding the nectar."



#9 - The Goat Orchid

Scientific Name: *Ophrys Reinholdii*

Common Name: *Reinhold's Bee Orchid*

Habitat: *SW Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Iran & Iraq*
Said to look like a goat, it also resembles a purple-headed alien giraffe with its long-neck stem.



#11 - The Lion Orchid

Ok, so this one we just sneaked in because in this particular image the orchid looks like a bit like lion and under the rules of the internet, all blog posts must feature a photo of a cat. I have no idea which orchid this is, so if you have any idea, let us know.

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip

This tip applies to Cattleya orchids only that are not in bloom or bud. Do not use on any other type of orchid.

To remove a severe scale infestation:

Prepare a 10% bleach solution in a 5 gallon bucket by putting in five cups of household bleach and filling the bucket with water.

Take the plant out of the pot and remove all potting medium from the roots. Totally immerse the plant in the bucket for approximately 2 minutes. Take the plant out, remove any remaining old sheaths, wipe the plant all over and put aside to dry.

When dry, repot in clean new media in a clean pot. Water the media and roots only. Put the pot back on the shelf and treat as any other newly potted plant.

Join us at Dr. Jimmy's VAOS Growers Clinic the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7 pm, VCC.

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas aka Dr. Jimmy

Orchid Trivia

Reprinted with permission of Lewis Ginter
Botanical Garden, Richmond, Va., www.lewisginter.org

- Q. What popular flavoring comes from orchids?
A. An extract from the vanilla orchid seed pod
- Q. How big can orchids grow?
A. Up to 2,000 lbs. and 44 ft. high. One specimen of *Cattleya skinneri* collected for Frederick Sander in the mid-1880s was so large he removed the doors and one end of his already enormous greenhouse to cram it in!
- Q. How little is the smallest orchid plant?
A. The size of a thumbnail
- Q. Are orchids edible?
A. Some are, but they're more often used as garnishes. Orchids are not thought to be poisonous.
- Q. How long can orchids live?
A. Kew Gardens, England, documented one at 100 years old
- Q. What colors are orchid flowers?
A. Every color but black
- Q. Do orchids grow around the world?
A. Yes, on every continent except Antarctica
- Q. Is it easy to grow orchids from seeds?
A. No, it's exceptionally hard and in current times, hybridizers germinate seeds in laboratories.
- Q. How many seeds does a fertilized orchid produce?
A. Hundreds of thousands of seeds the size of dust particles are contained in a single seed pod
- Q. Why did ancient Greeks appreciate orchids?
A. They were presumed to have aphrodisiac qualities
- Q. When did orchid plants come to America in quantity?
A. Orchids have been cultivated in North America in the homes of the rich and in public garden glass houses since the time that steam heat and conservatories were built—from the 1840s on.
- Q. Do orchids have different fragrances?
A. Yes, from sweet floral, coconut, chocolate, mentholatum, and new-mown hay to rotten!

Save the Date!!!! VAOS Beach Picnic Potluck

VAOS members and their families are invited to a Beach Picnic Potluck Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 12:00 noon to 4:00PM. We have reserved the Casperson Beach Picnic Shelter for our first ever potluck luncheon. The picnic shelter is located at 4100 Harbor Dr. South, which is at the south end of Harbor Drive to the left on the sand road. There are sheltered picnic tables, barbeque grills and restrooms, all with easy access.

VAOS will supply paper plates, utensils, napkins, condiments, soda pop, ice and charcoal for the grills. Bring a dish to share with your family and friends.

We suggest those with a last name starting with:

A – H bring a starter or side dish

I – P bring a meat or main dish

Q – Z bring a dessert

Or, feel free to bring your favorite dish!

We look forward to an afternoon of food and friendship at the beach.

Please sign up at our March 5th meeting or RSVP to social@vaos.org not later than March 13, 2014.

–Submitted by Janice Felski

Our Condolences

Long time VAOS member, Jean Terrana, lost her husband, Don, age 88, who died peacefully on February 2nd. He was a member for the last few years and always enjoyed our meetings. There will be a private Celebration of Life at the new Sarasota National Cemetery at a later date.

Jean, our heartfelt condolences on your loss.

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.

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm**
at Venice Community Center
- **Speaker:** Bill Fender
 - **Topic:** "Growing Orchids in Venice"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
 - Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

February 28 (Friday) - March 1 (Saturday): Englewood Orchid Society Show, "Orchids By Lemon Bay", 10 am-5pm both days, Englewood United Methodist Church, 700 Dearborn Street, Englewood. Details on page 5.

March 5:
VAOS monthly Meeting, 7pm, Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice. Speaker: Bill Fender, Topic: Growing Orchids in Venice.

March 13:
VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jimmy Thomas and other expert growers, Topics: Vandas 101 and Preparing to Divide and Repot Your Orchids. This will be followed by a hands-on repotting clinic the following month.

March 22:
VAOS Beach Picnic Potluck, 12 noon-4 pm, Caspersen Beach Picnic

Shelter, 4100 Harbor Drive S., Venice. Details on page 7.

Planning Ahead

May 16-18: 2014 Redland International Orchid Festival, 9am-5pm, Redland Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL. VAOS will be offering another bus trip with 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, 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
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- Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737) 3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
- Florida SunCoast Orchids (941-322-8777), 8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL.
- Orchid Envy, 339 Venice Ave. West, Venice, FL
Tel: (941) 266-6351

Monthly Checklist for March and April

Cattleya

The lengthening days and warmer temperatures allowed by increased light are long-awaited harbingers of the coming change of season. Some of the best standard cattleyas of the year will be in bloom, or will be blooming soon. The last of the winter-flowering hybrids will join the earliest of the spring hybrids in a wonderful display. Be on the alert for senescing sheaths that need removal. If these yellowing sheaths are not removed, the moisture they trap can lead to bud rot. Careful removal of the sheath will allow the buds to develop, although they will need additional support. Changing light conditions can also be a problem in March and April. An exceptionally bright day, especially immediately following a rain, can lead to sunburn of the foliage if shading is not attended to properly. There can still be periods of dull days where spikes can weaken owing to the lower light. Lengthening days will mean increased metabolic rates necessitating increased water and fertilizer. The plants will indicate needs by drying more rapidly, which means more frequent watering and fertilizing.

With the passing of the season for winter bloomers, and the beginning of the season for spring bloom, it is also the time to be on the lookout for plants that will need potting after they bloom. Immediately after blooming has proven to be the best time to repot winter- and spring-flowering cattleyas. In most cases, they will be ready to grow roots, so if potted at this time, they will root right into fresh mix with little or no setback.

Cymbidium

Plants should be putting on a spectacular show this time of year. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers is lack of light.

Dendrobium (Australian)

These hard-cane dendrobiums will be at their flowering peak now. It is not unusual to see a specimen of this type in an orchid show boasting 1,000 flowers. The secret with this group -- bred primarily from *Dendrobium kingianum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* -- is to provide ample water, fertilizer and light during the growing season.

Paphiopedilum

March is the beginning of the season of heaviest potting for lady's-slipper orchids. However, it is a month where the volume of plants needing attention is still small. It is an excellent month to take the time to work with your paphiopedilums before the pressure of other potting prevents your doing the thorough job you should. Look at each plant: Is it clean of dead and dying foliage? Is it weed free? Does it need potting? Is it in spike? Does it have an insect problem? Cleaning and restaging your paphs is one of the most satisfying tasks of the orchid year. Cleaned and potted paphiopedilums look happy.

The summer-blooming types will be showing the first of their buds in March and April. Be on the lookout for the buds, as well as any insect pests that may have found their way into the crowns of your plants. It

is especially difficult to clean mealybugs, in particular, once they have become established in the plant. Better to get to them before they get a good toehold.

Increasing light levels should give emerging spikes the strength they need to grow straight and strong. Do not be too anxious to stake the spikes, because if they are staked too soon, the flowers may develop a "nodding" stance, where the dorsal will not stand upright. If the spikes seem to develop at an angle, let them, and stake after the flower has hardened for best carriage, especially on the hybrids with fairieanum background.

Phalaenopsis

In most of the country, March is the peak blooming month for phalaenopsis. Staking needs to be carefully attended to, so that the flowers will be displayed at their best for orchid shows and judging -- even those intended for your home will look best if properly staked. One of the most decorative aspects of phalaenopsis spikes is the way they gracefully arch. If not staked properly, the spike will lack this grace and will not be as pleasing. Most growers like to have the final support just below the first flower, allowing maximum support, without sacrificing the beauty of the arching spike.

Rapid-growing spikes and open flowers place extra demands on the plant. Careful monitoring of watering and feeding will give the plants the energy they require to give their best floral display. Remember, too, that the lengthening days will also increase the frequency at which plants need water.

Beware of the invasion of sucking pests that accompany the flowering season. Flowers and spikes are favorite targets of mealybugs and scales. Be on the lookout for their presence, often indicated by the appearance of sooty mold resulting from the exudate of the bugs, and treat before flowers or buds are too advanced. If flowers and buds are too far along, the chemical treatment may damage or abort them.

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