

Venice Area Orchid Society News

January 2015

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
January 7th at 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Roy Krueger
Topic: Show Preparation**



Lc. Gold Digger 'Fuch's Mandarin'

Roy moved down here about twelve years ago, bought a house, and inherited three orchids from the previous owner. He soon discovered that orchids multiply faster than rabbits and he now has over 500, with his favorites being Cattleyas and unusual Dendrobiums. Roy grows his orchids in a pool cage, on trees, under arbors, on wind chime holder racks and along his fence out of the reach of squirrels.

He's neither a born orchidist nor a commercial grower, just an extremely talented hobbyist and his experience and knowledge are displayed at the many classes he teaches at various societies. He served five years as the President of the Manatee Orchid Society and four years in various positions with the Sarasota Orchid Society, writing a monthly article called "Orchids We Should Grow".

Roy has spoken at many clubs and societies over the years on many orchid topics and is well known for his how-to classes and hands-on approach. Bring your questions and be prepared to learn and have a great time at the January meeting.

Refreshments for January 7, 2015 Monthly Meeting

- Members whose last name begins with A or B should bring refreshments for the meeting. Refreshments from other members are welcome!!

A Message from your President:

Normally, I have a theme and I dedicate a rant on that subject for my monthly message. This month, I have nothing. I have a few things on my mind, so bear with my free association. I am still reliving our Holiday Party at Boca Royale and how much fun it was. It was a fitting end to an outstanding year for our society. Many people spent a lot of time and energy to make this party such a hit and I hesitate to start naming people for fear of forgetting someone. The party crew, however, was led by our VP, Social Affairs, Sharon Kahnoski, who did her usual fantastic job.



John Masters

The auction, which is always entertaining, hit a new level of crazy when a husband and wife, unknown to each other, drove the bidding to the evening high price. Thank you, Jay and Judy. I became the auctioneer for the evening in a poor attempt to fill the hats of Bill Timm who has long been our money raising auctioneer. The plants were purchased from our friend, Robert Palmer, and selected by Jimmy Thomas. Jimmy, who wouldn't take off his trench coat, was either playing Columbo or his version of a flasher. The plants were all blooming and drew a lot of interest.

Last year, our display team was fantastic, pulling down an AOS trophy, a number of first place ribbons and many other awards. Our members probably set a new yearly record for the total number of ribbons and trophies won by individual. Outstanding, but old news. Get ready for January. It all starts again at the Sarasota show the first

Continued on page 2

Get Your Plants Ready for SOS and VAOS Shows Sarasota Orchid Society Show, January 3-4

- Plant registration via email by 12/31/14
- Drop off plants by 1/1/15 (New Year's Day)

Venice Orchid Show, February 7-8

- Plant registration via email by 2/5/15
- Deliver plants to VCC Friday 2/6/15

Submitted by Carol Wood

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2014 – 2015

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Newsletter Production

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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.

President's message (continued from page 1)

weekend in January. We are the defending blue ribbon winners, so get your plants ready for the display crew. This starts now. There are a couple of major shows on the east coast in January to get your blood pumping. The first is the Tamiami show in Miami, on Jan 17th and 18th, with 55 vendors; an amazing show. The following week is the Fort Lauderdale show with 24 vendors and classy exhibits.

This is all good. But GREAT starts in February with our show. We still need volunteers for many positions, so come to the meeting in January prepared to sign up for some jobs. This society only stays ON FIRE when everyone plays well together. Our show is highly regarded as one of the best in Florida and as I have said before, this is no accident. Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler are working non-stop as the show chairs. Cynthia Vance is out there beating the bushes pulling in sponsor money. She set new highs last year in generating funds. If you have an idea for a potential sponsor, pass the name to Cynthia and let her spin her web.

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



"Join Us" and Share your Orchid Photos
Search for us as
"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

Treasurer's Report

December 2014

Checking Account

Starting Balance	
11/1/2014	\$ 7,240.12
+ Income	\$ 5,351.00
Payments	\$ 1,020.15
Closing Balance	
11/30/2014	\$ 11,570.97

Cash Account

Starting Balance	
11/1/2014	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
11/30/2014	\$ 40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance	
11/1/14	\$ 25,041.25
+ Income	0.82
Closing Balance	
11/30/2014	25,042.07

Total Assets

11/30/2014	\$ 36,653.04
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Submitted by Mary Amos

Support Our 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

VAOS Annual Holiday Party

Once again, our party was held at the lovely Boca Royale Golf and Country Club and sixty two members, spouses and guests enjoyed the beautiful setting and the gourmet meals. Everyone was decked out in their finest, with the notable exception of one member, sometimes better known as “Dr. Jimmy”, but all enjoyed a fun night of socializing. Actually, Jim Thomas had just returned from bringing the auction orchids from Palmer’s Orchids and setting them up for the sale, among his many other contributions.



The orchid auction, with so many beautiful plants, brought out the best in us and we all enjoyed the spirited back and forth bidding, sometimes against our spouses and even against ourselves. Jimmy Thomas introduced each orchid and John Masters stoked the bidding to a fevered pitch. Thanks to both and to all who helped make this a Holiday Party to remember. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for 2015!!



Narrative by Sharon Kahnoski and photos by various

Membership Dues are due Now

Now is the time to renew your Venice Area Orchid Society Membership. Dues are only \$20.00 per household each calendar year.

Please pay Treasurer Mary Amos at the next meeting or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

VAOS

P.O. Box 443

Venice, FL 34284-0443

Dues must be received by January 1st so that you can be included in the 2015 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information- address, phone and email address. Please check your current Directory to see if your entry needs editing.

Should your contact information have changed, please notify Jay and Judy Loeffler, Membership Chairs, at nvrbdun@verizon.net.

Submitted by Jay and Judy Loeffler

Dr. Jimmy’s Culture Tip for January 2015

During and after the holidays, you probably have bottles of club soda standing around. It is excellent for cleaning the leaves of your orchids and remove water spots, fertilizer/insecticide/fungicide residue, and general dirt and grime without damaging the leaves or leaving any shine or trace. Simply moisten a Q tip or section of a paper towel to apply. You’ll be amazed at the difference this simple tip makes in the overall appearance of your plant.

Keep this in mind for plants you bring in for shows or our monthly Plant Table. Please join us for Dr. Jimmy’s Growers Clinic the second Thursday of the month at the Venice Community Center. Topics of interest to new growers are always the focus and you can bring in your problem plants for help from experienced members.

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas

Sarasota Orchid Society Show January 3-4

Our first show of the 2015 season comes right after New Year's Day! The annual Sarasota Orchid Society Show and Sale will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on January 3-4. Set up is Friday, January 2nd, from 8am to 2pm. The show theme is "Symphony of Orchids".

We need your blooming plants to create a winning display! We will collect and transport your plants to the show and ensure their safe return to you on Monday following the show. Bring your plants to one of two locations by Thursday, January 1st (New Year's Day), 8pm:

- South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia) 497-4995
- North Venice: Jim Thomas, 453 S. Shore Dr., Osprey, FL 966-2479

Or bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on

Friday January 2nd by 9am.

All plants must be registered in advance via email by Wednesday, December 31st.

Email your plant name with size and color description of the flowers to Renee Bynum at PlantReg@VAOS.org. Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease and labeled with both the plant name and the owner's name. Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend show.

If you would like to participate in setting up our display, help with take down on Sunday, help transport plants and materials to the show, or need further information, please contact Rich Amos at disp@vaos.org or 552-6723.

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Venice Orchid Show February 7-8

Start to get your plants ready now for our own show display in February. Stake and orient your plants that you expect to be in bloom to ensure the best presentation. Our display will be large - we'll need many blooming plants to create a winning exhibit!

Plants for our show must be registered with Renee By-

num (PlantReg@vaos.org) by Thursday 2/5/15 and may be delivered to the Venice Community Center on show set up day Friday 2/6/15 by 10am.

Future details will be provided in our February 2015 newsletter.

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Please Sign Up Now to Volunteer for Our Show February 7-8, 2015

Email Carol Wood today to sign up: ShowChair@VAOS.org

Our annual show is rapidly approaching and we still need to fill 35 volunteer time slots. If you have not signed up, or if you can do more, please sign up now for a 2-3 hour time slot Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 6-8. Here is a summary of where we still need your help.

Security - Here is where help is most needed! Monitor exit doors to prevent unauthorized entry or exit. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. A sit down job; Twenty (20) people needed. Sign up for a 2.5 hour shift Saturday or Sunday morning, mid-day or afternoon. Chair: Sharon and John Kahnoski

Clerks - Saturday 7:30am to 10:30am. Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience as the judges share their knowledge of what makes a quality plant and flower! Three (3) more clerks needed. Chair: Mary Anne Digrazia

Front Door Admissions - Sell admission tickets and hand out programs Saturday and Sunday. A sit down cashier job; Four (4) more people needed Saturday afternoon. Eight (8) more people needed Sunday afternoon. Chair: Elaine Ortt

Membership Table - Sign up new members, sell books, distribute culture sheets and answer questions. One (1) more person needed Saturday mid-day. Four (4) more needed Sunday: 1- morning, 1 - mid-day and 2- afternoon. Chair: Jay and Judy Loeffler

Hospitality/Kitchen and Food - Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Saturday is the most important day. Note what dish you will bring and on what day on the sign-up sheet for food or email to Carol Wood. We also need 3 more people to assist with reheating food and clean up - one on Saturday and two on Sunday. Chair: Linda and Bruce Hahn

Show Take Down - Eight (8) more volunteers are needed on Sunday afternoon. Arrive Sunday by 3:45pm for take down and hall clean up. Some strong backs and fresh/rested volunteers will be sorely needed. Chair: John Masters

Classification/Registration - One volunteer is needed on Friday 2/6/15 from 12pm - 5pm to handle paperwork and respond to questions during plant registration. Chair: Ted Kellogg

Continued on page 5

Show Volunteers Needed (Continued from page 4)

Email Carol Wood at ShowChair@VAOS.org to sign up

Orchid Boutique - No additional volunteers are needed, however donations of costume jewelry are requested. Please bring to the January meeting. Chair: Jane Camarota

Arts & Crafts - For our artistic members - get your entries ready for the arts & crafts table. Pre-register with Noreen so that we can prepare display signs. Bring them in Friday 1/31/14 between 2pm and 4pm. Chair: Noreen Chervinski, email: pgifolks@yahoo.com

Patrons - If you are unable to volunteer at the show or bring food, please become a Patron by donating \$25.00. These funds will pay for beverages and kitchen supplies for volunteers and judges over the weekend. Mail your check to VAOS, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284 and mark it as Patron Donation. Your gift will be recognized in our newsletter.

Sponsors - Cynthia Vance is coordinating our corpo-

rate sponsor campaign again this year with a goal to raise \$5000. If you do business with a local professional, organization or business who you think may be interested in becoming a sponsor for our show, please contact Cynthia at 483-9165.

Sign-up Sheets will be distributed and finalized at our January meeting 1/7/15. Please note your t-shirt size when you verify your name on the sign-up sheets at our January meeting. Don't forget to mark your calendar.

VAOS t-shirts will be distributed to all working volunteers by the committee chairs at the show. Members who volunteer their time, bring food or make a patron donation will not be charged admission at the door.

We depend on our member volunteers to ensure a smooth operation and successful show! Thank you for volunteering!

Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, Show Co-Chairs

Still Time to Donate Costume Jewelry

Our Orchid Boutique is collecting costume jewelry to sell at our annual show on February 7-8 and needs donations from our members. Please bring a piece or better yet, several pieces of costume jewelry to our January 7th monthly meeting. The jewelry need not be orchid related but should not be broken or damaged. The Boutique will clean, polish and ready it for sale with all proceeds going to VAOS.

The Orchid Boutique has long been a popular component of our annual show, selling orchid floral arrangements, jewelry and accessories. Please contact Jane Camarota at 966-8433 or Karen Mann at 941-8385 with any questions.

Submitted by Jane Camarota and Karen Mann

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began in 2013. 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.

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.

• **Orchid Envy**
(941) 266-6351

339 Venice Ave. West, Venice, FL

Have A Question???

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 education@vaos.org

Ted Kellogg tmkellogg@gmail.com

Submitted by Carol Wood



My Love/Hate Relationship With My Orchids

Although I managed to kill my first orchid in 1993 while living in Bermuda, I'm still struggling with many of the mysteries that surround orchid culture. One of these is the lack of consideration that some orchids show when it comes to blooming time. Surely they must be aware of when we have our monthly Plant Table and annual shows, yet stubbornly insist on blooming two weeks too early or two days too late. To make matters even worse, these few orchids are the ones that I love best for their beautiful flowers, fragrance,



Bc. Chia Lin



Bc. Makai

ease of growing, resistance to diseases and pests, etc.

In my case, the top three candidates are my Bc. Makai 'Louise' AM/AOS, Bc. Chia Lin 'New City' and Lc. Chung Guu Swan 'Ruby Lips' AM/OSOC (refers to the Orchid Society of China-Taiwan). The first came from my first trip to Redlands, the second from Krull-Smith Orchids at our show in 2012, and the last came from Plantio la Orquidera last November. I think everyone will agree that the flowers are beautiful and all are easy growers; yet all three insist on blooming in late November, too late for the Plant Table and too early for the shows.

I've done a bit of research on the topic recently, and found a number of theories on how to induce orchids to bloom by manipulating water, nutrients, temperature, hu-

midity and light. Unfortunately, the only thing I learned that was scientifically proven was that phals are predom-

inantly temperature dependent in setting their spikes. Unfortunately, as phals are one of the orchids I don't grow, this was no help. Greater minds than mine, including Roberto Lopez and Erik Runkle, PhD, who wrote in *Orchids*, March 2004, came to the conclusion that a lack of science-based information limits hobbyists and small growers from bringing their orchids into flower either earlier or later than their natural

times. The last nail in my coffin was when Rich Amos and Jimmy Thomas confirmed my worst fear at the last Growers Clinic.

Large scale commercial orchid growers, especially those in Taiwan growing thousands of orchids on their conveyor belts, have been working feverishly to solve the riddle. Results, if any, certainly haven't been published and almost certainly wouldn't apply to the hobby grower.

Love them or hate them, we just can't do without them!!



Lc. Chung Guu Swan

Narrative and photos by Steve Vogelhaupt

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 7th, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

- **Speaker:** Roy Krueger
- **Topic:** "Grooming your entries for the show"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Members with last name beginning with A or B should bring treats to share. Refreshments from other members are always welcome!!

Upcoming Events

January 3-4, 2015: Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show, Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. See newsletter for details.

January 7 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Roy Krueger, Sarasota Orchid Society

January 15 (3rd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Thomas/Rich Amos, Topic: Preparing your orchids for the show. Bring your problem plants for expert advice.

January 17-18: Tamiami International Orchid Festival, Dade County Fairgrounds Expo Center, Fuchs Pavilion, 10901 Coral Way, Miami.

January 23-25: Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th Street, Ft. Lauderdale.

February 3 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Dr. David Benzing, Topic: How to Succeed as a Snowbird Orchid Grower.

February 7-8: VAOS Annual Orchid Show. Set up Friday, February 6th, 1pm-8pm.

February 12 (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Thomas, Topic: "Now That I Have An Orchid, What's Next?" followed by Q & A. Bring your problem plants for expert advice.

February 20-22: Naples Orchid Society 2015 Orchid Show, The Morning Presbyterian Church Gym, 791

Harbour Drive, Naples, FL.

Planning Ahead

March 5 (1st Thursday): VAOS monthly meeting. The change is necessary as the City of Venice will be using the entire Community Center. Details will follow.

March 6-7: Englewood Area Orchid Society Annual Show, Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood

March 21: VAOS annual picnic at Caspersen Beach, 12-4pm.

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@vaos.org

Orchid Judging takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, Mc-Loughlin 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/>

HOW TO PRONOUNCE BOTANICAL NAMES

Many people are confused about the "correct" way to pronounce botanical names. Often people are insecure about this and worry that they will "look stupid" if they get the name "wrong".

Relax! The good news is there is NO "correct" way to pronounce them! You may pronounce them any way you wish, and you will be just as "correct" as any Ph.D. botanist. So have confidence, and just say them however feels comfortable to you. Anyone who corrects you is only showing their own ignorance, and the correct response is to just smile and say "Yes, that's what I said, (and repeat the name as you pronounced it before)."

Scientific names are not a spoken language. Sometimes called "Latin names", this is incorrect—many biological names are based on Greek, a mix of Latin and Greek, or are based on the local name of a plant in the language of whatever people live in the area the plant was "discovered". They can be based on people's names (*Carnegie*, *Jeffersonia*, *Kennedia*), place names (*chinensis*, *californica*, *syriaca*), even anagrams (*Podranea* is just the letters of the related *Pandorea* rearranged). So we have *Lobelia Tupa*, the genus *Lobelia* named after Matthias de Lobel, and the species *Tupa* from the Mapuche Indian name of the plant in southern Chile. Nothing to do with Latin, so why use rules of Latin pronunciation on this plant? I'm sure there is a name out there that is an anagram of the name of a woman the young taxonomist was daydreaming about on the day he had to come up for a name for the species he was describing! In fact *Clitoria* is named after the supposed resemblance of the flower to certain female anatomy (that taxonomist really needed to get out more!). There is the spiny shrub called *Damnacanthus* (meaning "damn spines!") no doubt named by the taxonomist after he had stuck himself one too many times handling the specimens. Taxonomists—the guys who name these things—have a sense of humor, so let's lighten up a little.

Don't bother trying to force a botanical name to follow the rules of Latin pronunciation. Face it—we don't really know how the Romans spoke. Sure, there are good guesses based on poetry and such, but we don't have any tape recordings or first-hand accounts of Roman speech. And why should we imitate a bunch of dead guys anyway? We don't even speak modern English like Shakespeare, or modern Spanish like Cervantes. And English speakers from Boston, San Francisco, Atlanta, London, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Jamaica all sound different, so why should botanical names always sound the same?

Let me repeat—there is ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, NO correct or official way to pronounce scientific names!

Many people have thanked us for the little pronunciation guides we give in the catalog for the genus names. But I have to tell you, they are just guides, and are in no way "correct" or "official" ways of saying them. In fact, some of them are not even how I say them myself! Why do I use them?—because they are the way a lot of people pronounce them, and how you will likely hear them.

When I am talking with others, out of courtesy I try to defer to either the senior botanist in the group, or to the botanist who is an expert in the plant we are talking about. So if there is an eighty-year old botanist in the group who says a particular name a particular way, I'll use her pronunciation when talking in her presence. If there is a specialist in some plant present, I'll use his pronunciation when talking with him. So when I'm with my friend Dan Austin, the morning glory specialist, who pronounces *Ipomoea* i-po-MOY-a, I won't call it ip-o-MAY-a. Just a courtesy, and nothing more.

As anyone who has worked with a lot of professional botanists knows, there is no agreement among them as to the correct pronunciation of names, and everyone pronounces them however they like. I've heard some eight ways of pronouncing the botanical name for thyme—*Thymus*—TEE-mus, TYE-mus, TEE-moose, TYE-moose, THEE-mus, THYE-mus, THEE-moose, THYE-moose.

The point is to be understood, so we all know what the other person is talking about.

There are several main traditions of pronunciation—one which is used in Britain and most of the northeastern U.S., and another that is used in most of the rest of the world. Growing up here in California, with our strong Mexican influences and with Greek influence in my family, I naturally pronounced names more in line with Greek and Hispanic pronunciation. In my late teens I tortured myself trying to pronounce them the way the books said—books written by Northeastern botanists who tend to follow the British style. The rest of the world tends to look at this tradition as goofy mispronunciation. What a waste of time and effort, and I finally went back to the way that felt natural to me. I'm still unlearning some of those weird Brit pronunciations...

Here are some of the "rules" that you will run into that are just plain wrong:

"Pronounce each vowel as a syllable"—Nonsense! Forget about it! This lead to such tortured nonsense as pronouncing *williamsii* as will-ee-AM-see-eye, or *douglasii* as doug-LASS-ee-eye. Did you ever hear a Douglas Williams introduce himself as "I'm doug-LASS will-ee-AMS"? No! Williams-ee and douglas-ee are fine. And the ending "*oides*", meaning "like"—not "o-EYE-deez" but "OY-dayz" or "EE-deez". OY-dayz is more common, but I prefer EE-dayz because it is more like Greek, but I guess I'm just annoying...

"Follow the accents you find in botany books"—again, these are often that weird northeastern pronunciation, and most of the rest of the world won't understand you. Ignore them! What I do is look at the name and pronounce each root separately, just like we do with *Rhododendron*—break it up into *rhodo* and *dendron* and say each one like its own word. After all, they are words—meaning "rose-tree". Right now I'm relearning *Pittosporum*, which most people call "pi-TOS-por-um"—I'm breaking it up into the two roots *pitto* and *sporum* meaning "pitch-seed". I'm also relearning *Acacia melanoxylon*, which most call mel-an-OX-ee-lon. That's the way I pronounced it until this year when the obvious struck me—since it is the blackwood acacia, and the name refers to the color of the wood, it is *melano* (black) and *xylon* (wood), or "me-lan-o-ZYE-lon", or "me-la-no-ZEE-lon". If the "oxy" part of the name referred to something sharp, as in *oxyacantha* (sharp-spined), then it *would* be OX-ee. But remember: **both** ways are acceptable, and neither is "correct"—both have reasonable justifications for use—one because of common usage, the other because of the roots of the word. It all comes down to personal preference.

Here are some conventions that you might find useful, or you might just like to ignore:

The "ii" at the end of words like *douglasii* already mentioned—just say it like "ee".

Say "i" like "ee", not "eye".

Say "a" like "ah", not "ay".

Say "e" like "eh", not "ee".

"Ch" is usually said like a "k", not a ch, as in *Pachycereus*—"pa-kee-seer-ee-us", but sometimes as a ch as in *Lachenalia*—"la-che-nal-ee-a".

And those family-name endings "aceae" and "ae"—Oh, no! How do I pronounce them?! Say what sounds natural to you. Professionals are all over the place on these—"ae" is pronounced "eye", "ee" or "ay", and "aceae" is pronounced "ah-say-ay", "ah-see-ee", and a whole lot of other ways. Don't worry about it!

Generally if you just sound out the name the first time you encounter it and say it in the way that seems natural to you, you will do fine, and those scary botanical terms will become as easy as pie...

So, have confidence, don't be shy and mumble them, speak up, and say those names with conviction and a smile!

With permission: -David Theodoropoulos, Prop.

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman

P.O. Box 337

La Honda, CA 94020-0337

www.JLHudsonSeeds.net

Editor's Note: The monthly magazine, *Orchids*, Bulletin of the American Orchid Society, usually includes a pronunciation guide for all botanical names used in that particular issue.
