

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

April 2015

**Next Meeting: Wednesday  
April 1st at 7:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Guillermo Salazar  
**Topic:** Rare and Endangered  
Orchids and Unusual Species

Guillermo Salazar was born in Miami and grew up in El Salvador in Central America, where he found that orchids were the most attractive plants in this environment. He began collecting orchids at the age of nine and became the youngest member of the San Salvador Orchid Society, the largest in the country's capital. Returning to the U.S., he received his degree in Landscape Design and Management and a Master's degree in Science in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida, where he learned the importance of protecting natural resources, particularly orchids, in Florida. Guillermo has worked as a professional Landscape Designer in private and governmental areas and is presently the Landscape Superintendent for the city of Miami Lakes.



Guillermo is an AOS student judge, board member of several orchid societies and a Florida Master Gardener and has spoken at several local and regional orchid societies. He has published several orchid articles for S. Florida and international magazines and his specialties in orchids are Angraecoids, Bulbophyllum, and rare and miniature tropical species. Guillermo will be discussing the preservation of rare and endangered orchids and species, with special emphasis on Stanhopeas. This genus is found in Central and South America and is known for the intricate flowers and especially complex structures for pollination. Following his presentation, he will be glad to answer questions and will have a selection of his best orchids for sale.

In his spare time, Guillermo is a breeder of pedigree Persian and Himalayan cats (felines, not cats), enjoys gardening and exploring the world's tropical regions.

## VAOS TAKES AOS HONORS AT ENGLEWOOD SHOW

Richard Amos and his display team put together what has to be the finest VAOS display to date. His display took First Place for Most Outstanding Society Exhibit. The display was also awarded a Gold Certificate AOS Trophy for Best Overall Show Display.

Richard put this display together as his last one as VP of Displays. The AOS judges described it as:

"An impressive one hundred square foot exhibit with a well executed color flow. Exhibit is anchored with a pergola topped with a specimen *Brassovola martiana*. A mulch path winds through the right side. The left side features many high quality and award winning red cattleya hybrids, the rear blends from red epidendrums to yellow phalaenopsis to whites of various genera. The right side features many impressive yellows and oranges. The exhibit is finished with many ferns and foliage plants."

Over the last few years, Richard has taken your orchids and put together some wonderful displays and you have all been awarded many ribbons and trophies as a result of his dedicated work. Richard has wonderful leadership ability for his team to put together his visions for these displays.

I personally feel extremely lucky to have worked alongside him over the last few years. I'm sure I speak for Peg and Bill Fahrenback, Jimmy Thomas,

*Continued on page 5*

## Change of Date for April Growers Clinic

Please note that the April Growers Clinic and Tailgate Party will be held on **Wednesday, April 8th (2nd Wednesday)**, rather than on April 9th (2nd Thursday).

The Tailgate Party begins at 5:30 pm in the south-side VCC parking lot and will be our last Tailgate Party of this season. Bring a chair, soft drinks and snacks for yourself and to share. The Growers Clinic, Topic: "Dividing Plants; Pot Clips and Stakes", will follow at 7:00 pm in the VCC.

[WWW.VAOS.ORG](http://WWW.VAOS.ORG)

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

## Officers 2015 – 2016

### **President**

John Masters, [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Programs**

Bruce Weaver, [programs@vaos.org](mailto:programs@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Social Affairs**

Sharon Kahnoski, [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Show Displays**

Jay Loeffler, [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

### **Treasurer**

Mary Amos, [tres@vaos.org](mailto:tres@vaos.org)

### **Recording Secretary**

Joanna Shaw, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

### **Communications Director & Newsletter Editor**

Steve Vogelhaupt, [csec@vaos.org](mailto:csec@vaos.org)

### **Membership Chair**

Judy Loeffler, [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Cynthia Vance, [CVance@vaos.org](mailto:CVance@vaos.org)

### **Annual Show Chairs**

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

[showchair@vaos.org](mailto:showchair@vaos.org)

### **Director, Education & Outreach**

Jim Thomas, [Education@vaos.org](mailto:Education@vaos.org)

### **Volunteers**

Matthew Rinder, Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw &

Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer, Gary Becker & Jerry

Manegold, Technology

Pauline Adam, Mentor Coordinator

Kathy Beck, Librarian

### **Newsletter Production**

Barry Zack

### **VAOS Printer**

Creative Technology of Sarasota

## Minutes of the March 5, 2015 Meeting

Vice President Bruce Weaver opened the meeting stating that John Masters is absent due to illness. He welcomed the numerous new members and asked them to stand. Bruce explained the process of voting for orchids on the plant table and encouraged all to vote for their favorite.

Judy Loeffler presented information about Board of Director nominations, explaining that each year in March we vote for new officers whose terms have ended. This year, Richard Amos, VP Displays, and Peggy Fahrenback, Recording Secretary, have completed their terms. Judy invited Jay Loeffler and Joanna Shaw to come forward; they are nominated for the positions of VP Displays and Recording Secretary, respectively. Motions to elect them were offered from the floor. A voice vote was taken and Jay and Joanna were elected for two year Board of Director terms. Carol Wood offered a tribute to Rich Amos and Peggy Fahrenback for their service to the Society and thanked them for their contributions. Carol then presented the book Orchid Fever by Eric Hansen to each as gifts from the Society.

Carol Wood then shared impressive Show information, reporting the best attendance in the past five years. All vendors were happy with their sales and want to be invited to return next year. Carol honored all Committee Chairs by asking them to stand; they were applauded. Jane Camarota, Chair for the Orchid Boutique, stated that the Orchid Boutique reported income of almost \$3000, which is a record. Jane also said the Raffle Basket brought in over \$600. All Show volunteers were

*Continued on page 6*

### **Treasurer's Report**

February 2015

#### **Checking Account**

Starting Balance		
2/1/15 .....	\$	6,930.99
+ Income .....	\$	24,534.00
Payments .....	\$	5,978.15
Closing Balance		
2/28/15 .....	\$	25,486.84

#### **Cash Account**

Starting Balance		
2/1/15 .....	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
2/28/15 .....	\$	40.00

#### **Money Market Savings**

Starting Balance		
2/1/15 .....	\$	25,043.77
+ Income .....		0.77
Closing Balance		
2/28/15 .....		25,044.54

#### **Total Assets**

2/28/15 .....	\$	50,571.38
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*Submitted by Mary Amos*

### **Support Our 2015 Show Sponsors**

Please support our show sponsors whose financial contributions are especially appreciated.

- Herald Tribune
- Cruise One
- Raleigh & Assoc.
- Venice Regional Bayfront Health
- ArtisTree Landscape Maintenance & Design
- Center for Sight
- Classics Steakhouse & Nightclubs
- Daiquiri Deck
- Davis & Beyer, DDS
- Edgewood Nursery
- Family Dermatology
- Happy Puppy Pet Spa
- Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community
- Kennedy White Orthopedic Center
- Keye Wong, MD
- Penta-Clean
- RAVE
- Senior Helpers
- Silverstein Institute
- Stanley Dean State Farm
- Bay Village
- Cramer Toyota
- Englewood Bank
- 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](mailto:csec@vaos.org)
- Written submissions are appreciated.

## Plant Table Awards March 5, 2015

Our **First Place** ribbon and also the **Speaker's Choice** ribbon were awarded to *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Grant Eichler* 'Lenette' HCC/AOS, presented by Shirley Hoffman. Our speaker, Michael Polen, said he hadn't seen such huge cattleya blooms in years and this plant had 8, so we couldn't photograph them all at once . . . however each flower lip had a delightful pale lavender picotee. It was created in 1974 by James Hausermann, who combined 15 different species to make it a strong hybrid, and Shirley has loved this plant many years. Congratulations, Shirley!



*Rlc. Memoria Grant Eichler*

Our **Second Place** ribbon winner was *Dendrobium Spring Bird* 'Kurashiki' from Pauline Adam. For two



*Den. Spring Bird*

years it didn't bloom for Pauline, but this year was different. Since it is a "nobile-type" dendrobium, Pauline

ceased all feeding and watering right after Thanksgiving Dinner (per Doc. Jimmy's tip), and then when it sent out a shoot she started feeding it again. Now Pauline has been rewarded with a robust plant with hundreds of flowers. Great job, Pauline!

The **Third Place** ribbon winner was *Phalaenopsis Champion Lightning* 'Flash' brought in by Cynthia Vance.



*Phal. Champion Lightning*

When she purchased the plant two years ago, she was drawn to the delicate artistry of this particular 'splash' phalaenopsis. She staked the inflorescence early in its growth and kept it at the same angle to the sun (even when she brought it inside during the Feb. cold spell) to produce the lovely flow of petals facing in two directions as it should be. Great growing!

The **Best Species** ribbon was awarded to the gorgeous orange *Cattleya aurantiaca* brought in by Jimmy Thomas, our Director of Education and Outreach. This species comes from Mexico and Central America where it grows on protected hillsides in a dry climate. It can thrive in S. Florida if the grower keeps the air moving around the plant, so Jimmy experimented by mounting the plant on cypress and now we see how orange and happy it is.



**Plant Table Awards March 5th, 2015  
(continued from previous page)**



*C. aurantiaca*

Beautiful specimen, Jimmy!

The **Members' Choice** ribbon was awarded to the Brassia Rex 'Waiomao Spotless', brought in by Geoff Aldridge. As you see, this plant was perfect in color and shape – a real stand-out. This particular brassia produces large and impressive inflorescences – but if neglected it produces smaller pseudobulbs and flowers. Obviously Geoff gave it regular watering and fertilization during its growth phase, and especially bright light with a



*Brs. Rex*

beautiful result.

Thanks, Geoff!

No plants were presented for the **New Member** ribbon this time. But remember, if you just joined VAOS as a new member, you qualify for this award for the next two years. We look forward to seeing your orchids . . . very soon!

*Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance*

**2015 Spring Home Tours - Saturday April 11th 9am – 1pm**

**Peg & Bill Fahrenback  
2194 Calusa Lake Blvd.  
Nokomis, FL. 34275**

Pool cage area has wonderful displays for arranging plants according to how much light they need. Bill has built various racks as well as wooden tables. Other plants outside of the pool area are in trees. Their back yard is full of colorful plants, ferns and trees.

**DIRECTIONS:** Heading north on US- 41, turn right (E) at Laurel Road. Go to the second light which is Mission Valley Blvd. Turn left onto Mission Valley and go about 1 mile, until you see the triple water falls on the left. This is the entrance to Calusa Lakes; the gate is up during the day. After you pass the guard house, turn right onto the first street, Calusa Lakes Blvd. Go about 1 mile, and Peg's house is on the right. Streets are narrow, and speed limit is 25mph. Please use caution, park on the street and keep cars off of the lawns.

**Helene Gabry  
123 Tina Island Dr.  
Osprey, FL. 34229**

Helene may not have a lot of plants but her yard and setting has made a great tribute to her late husband and is well worth the trip. Her husband created a beautiful

panorama with water and plants. Most of her plants are in trees and she also has many Epidendrum radicans growing in the beautiful landscape.

**DIRECTIONS:** Heading north on US-41, turn left at Sorrento Drive; Our Savior Lutheran Church will be on the corner on your left. Continue 0.1 miles on Sorrento Drive and turn right on Tina Island Drive. Drive 0.2 miles and Helene's house will be on the left.

**Debi Wolfe  
109 Van Dyck Dr.  
Nokomis, FL. 34275**

Debi's orchid display is in her lanai and pool cage areas with lots of foliage. There are a large variety of species as well as hybrids. She will be selling plants as she is in the process of moving, so be prepared to go home with something new. Please enter through the front door.

**DIRECTIONS:** Heading north on US-41, drive past Mama Leone's restaurant on your right and turn right at the second street (Chardin Dr.); continue to Matisse Circle West and turn left. Continue on Matisse Circle West 0.2 miles to Da Vinci Drive and turn left. Continue on Da Vinci Dr. 0.4 miles and turn left on Van Dyck Drive. Debi's home is on the right.

## VAOS TAKES AOS HONORS AT ENGLEWOOD SHOW (continued from page 1)



Carol Wood, Peg and Steve Hartley, Renee Bynum, Matthew Rinder, Jerry Manegold, Bruce Weaver, Linda Schaller, Charlie Rogg, my wife, Judy Loeffler, and Richard's wife, Mary Amos. This is a wonderful team that has a lot of fun putting up your displays and showing off your orchids to the best of our abilities.

As I write this article, I think of what I will have to do to keep the level of quality Richard has set. Luckily for me, Richard and the team will still be together as I take on the role of VP, Displays. Richard has taught me a lot and I am sure he will teach me more. VAOS members will still receive the best possible display for your orchids so we may show off how great our members are at growing some of the best orchids around.

Next time you see Richard, make sure you thank him for that ribbon or trophy you won at one of the shows..... He did do it for you.

VAOS members took home 8 trophies and 49 ribbons from the Englewood show. This included 20 blue, 14 red and 15 yellow ribbons. Congratulations to the following award winners:

Rich Amos - 2 blue, 1 red and 2 yellow ribbons  
 Rick Belisle - 1 blue and 1 red ribbon  
 Nora Berger - 2 blue and 1 red ribbon. Two trophies: Best Hybrid and Best Cattleya Alliance for her plant Ctt. Magic Bell 'Maria Irma' AM/AOS  
 Renee Bynum - 1 blue

missing from photo: Charlie Rogg

Peg Fahrenback - 2 blue and 1 red ribbon  
 Sharon Kahnoski - 1 red and 3 yellow ribbons  
 Ted Kellogg - 3 blue and 1 red ribbon. Trophy: Best Species for his plant B. martiana. HCC/AOS award for his plant Rth. Marty Kellogg  
 Marilyn Kilbride - 1 yellow ribbon  
 Tony Nacinovich - 1 red ribbon  
 John Roche - 2 blue, 2 red and 4 yellow ribbons  
 Charlie Rogg - 1 blue ribbon  
 Linda Schaller - 2 red ribbons  
 Joanna Shaw - 2 blue ribbons  
 Kristin Shaw - 1 yellow ribbon  
 Jim Thomas - 1 blue and 2 yellow ribbons. Trophy: Best Small Cattleya for his plant Rlc. Hawaiian Prominence 'America' AM/AOS  
 Cynthia Vance - 1 yellow ribbon  
 Steve Vogelhaupt - 1 blue ribbon  
 Bruce Weaver - 1 yellow ribbon  
 Carol Wood - 2 blue and 3 red ribbons. Trophy: Best Diversified Genera for her plant Z. Advance Australia 'HOF' AM/AOS  
 VAOS - Trophy: First Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit  
 VAOS - Trophy: AOS Trophy for Best Overall Show Display  
*-Narrative by Jay Loeffler and photo by Steve Vogelhaupt*



## The Venice Orchid Project and America in Bloom Contest

VAOS board members, Carol Wood, Jay Loeffler and Bruce Weaver, presented two new initiatives to our members at the March 5th meeting, the Venice Orchid Project and the America in Bloom Competition. A copy of the handout describing these projects is provided in the Supplement Section of this newsletter. At the meeting, members overwhelmingly expressed support for these projects through a hand vote.

Our objective for the **Venice Orchid Project** is to lead a community-wide project that brings together VAOS volunteers, local organizations and businesses, residents and students to contribute to the beautification of our city of Venice and to promote orchid conservation. Planting orchids in our Venice area will enhance the beauty of our town and delight our residents and visitors for years to come.

The Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI) has invited VAOS to participate in the nationwide 2015 **America in Bloom Contest**. America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. Each year, cities of equal size compete on six factors: Floral

Displays, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts, Heritage Preservation and Overall Impression. This year's competition will take place at the beginning of June.

Efforts are now underway to sign up volunteers and to acquire bare root orchids through member donations and from Palmer Orchids and to plant and mount them in the Venice Blalock Park in April. We're focusing on encyclia and cattleya species and hybrids that are Florida friendly and will grow well here. Seed money for this project comes from VAOS funds set aside each year to support local conservation efforts. If you would like to volunteer to work on the committee or to plant and mount orchids, please contact Jay Loeffler at [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org). Please read the supplement article that outlines the many ways you may participate. All volunteers who participate in planting and mounting the orchids will be required to sign a release form. This project will be done under the auspices of the Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI).

We look forward to working with you on these exciting new projects!

*-Submitted by Jay Loeffler and Carol Wood*

### Minutes of the March 5, 2015 Meeting (continued from page 2)

asked to stand and they were honored for their service.

Sharon Kahnoski, VP Social, presented information about upcoming events. Attention was drawn to a printed sheet placed upon chairs, which outlined information about the March 21st Beach Party, the Spring Home Tours on April 11th and the Redland Bus Trip on May 16th. Additional details will be in newsletters.

Bruce Weaver thanked Peter Lin, world renowned expert orchid grower and breeder from California, for donating miniature orchids to the Raffle Table. Our speaker, Michael Polen, also offered orchids for sale. Bruce reminded members that dues for 2015 are required tonight in order to continue Society membership. Those who've paid will have their name entered in the 2015 Membership Directory. Mary Anne DiGrazia announced the Englewood Show will be this Friday and Saturday. Judy Loeffler displayed a bright red T-Shirt with VAOS Society logo that is available for only \$6.

After intermission, Carol Wood directed attention to a printed sheet (on chairs) titled the Venice Orchid Project, and coined "The Big Idea." She discussed this communi-

ty wide effort to establish growing orchids throughout the Venice area. Orchids will be mounted in trees or planted in their natural environment in public areas such as parks. A voice vote showed strong support of the project.

Bruce Weaver introduced our speaker, Michael Polen, who performed a fascinating demonstration of mounting and potting orchids using a variety of materials, including hard wood, tree fern, wood baskets and wooden stumps. Michael answered a variety of questions and discussed care for mounted orchids. In conclusion, Michael complemented our Society, describing it as the "best orchid society in the state of Florida."

After the program, Jimmy Thomas made announcements regarding the next Growers Clinic. Bruce Weaver announced a new book pertaining to orchids and other air plants is in the Library. Snacks will be needed at the next meeting. Michael Polen and Jimmy Thomas presented orchids from the Plant Table and announced awards. The meeting was adjourned following the Raffle.

*Respectfully submitted by Peggy Fahrenback,  
Recording Secretary*

### Patronize Our Local Growers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • <b>Honey Bee Nursery</b> (941-474-6866)<br>2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776), Englewood, FL | • <b>Florida SunCoast Orchids</b> (941-322-8777)<br>8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL |
| • <b>Palmer Orchids</b> (941-322-1644)<br>22700 Taylor Dr., Myakka City, FL 34251         | • <b>Orchid Envy</b> (941) 266-6351<br>339 Venice Ave. West, Venice, FL                     |
| • <b>Plantio La Orquidea</b> (941-504-7737)<br>3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota                |   |

## Bus Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival, Saturday, May 16, 2015

Here's the event you won't want to miss!! The annual festival is held at the beautiful Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, FL. More than 60 orchid vendors come from all over the world. During the ride and the event, we will give you tips on which orchids to purchase that thrive in our area and will make sure everyone is comfortable and having a good time.

**\$35 Per Person:** Includes \$10 festival admission, bus trip, gratuity for driver and snack goodies for the ride – and a \$5.00 discount ticket if you purchase an orchid \$25 or more! **What a deal!!!!**

**Departure Times and locations:** (Arrive 15 minutes before departure times)

- 7:00 am – South Sarasota – Bank of America parking lot at Gulf Gate Drive & Route 41
- 7:30 am – Venice – Venice Community Center (south parking lot)
- 8:30 am – Punta Gorda – Wal-Mart Supercenter, Taylor Road

**Arrival time at festival:** 11-11:30

**Return trip:** Bus will leave festival at 4:00 or earlier if all riders are ready to leave. There is room inside the bus to keep your new orchids safe and healthy on the trip home.

- Bring a hat and sunscreen; also a jacket or sweater for bus with A/C and a small cooler since the bus doesn't stop for dinner on the way home. Lovely international food is for sale at the park!

- **Payment by Friday, May 8th;** no refunds after May 8th. You may sell your seat, but please notify Sharon Kahnoski @ 616-581-9131 if you do.

- Make \$35 check payable to VAOS and mail to Mary Amos, 413 East Lake Drive, Sarasota, FL, 34232

- **On check write:** *Redland trip - Pick up:* \_\_\_\_\_  
(write Sarasota, Venice or Punta Gorda)

- Seating is limited, so send your check early

- Need more info? Contact Sharon Kahnoski by email at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

## Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for March 2015

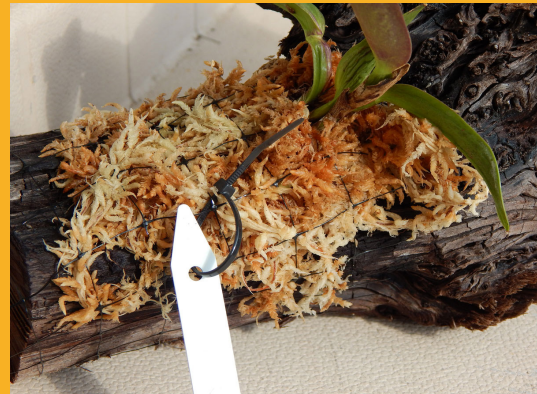
For those of you who missed the last Hands-On Mounting Clinic, participants had the opportunity of using plastic bird netting to hold their mounted plants and media in place, rather than fishing line or plastic cable ties.

The main advantages of the bird netting are:

- (1) can be cut to size for any project
- (2) spreads pressure over a larger area, minimizing damage to roots and pseudobulbs
- (3) mounting media is held more securely



plastic cable ties



plastic bird netting

The netting is available from either Home Depot or Walmart, both in the Garden Center, costing between \$7 and \$8 for a "lifetime" supply.

Come to the monthly Growers Clinic held at the VCC every second Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. for great orchid growing topics and tips presented by our panel of experts. Bring your questions and problem plants. We'll be continuing our famous Tailgate Parties through April. **Note: The next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 9, will be held on Wednesday, April 8.**

*-Submitted for Dr. Jimmy by Steve Vogelhaupt*

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, April 1st, 7:00pm**  
**at Venice Community Center**  
**(Doors open at 6:30pm)**

• **Speaker:** Guillermo Salazar  
**Topic:** "Rare collectibles and species"

• Show table entries welcome  
• Bring plants for the Raffle Table

• **Members whose last name begins with H,I,J**  
**should bring treats to share.**

Refreshments from other members are always welcome.

## Upcoming Events

**March 28-29:** Jacksonville Orchid Society Show, Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL. Info: Eric Calvin, (904)334-8519, [dirt2021@yahoo.com](mailto:dirt2021@yahoo.com)

**April 1 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm. Venice Community Center. Speaker: Guillermo Salazar, Topic: "Rare and Endangered Orchids and Unusual Species", with special emphasis on Stanhopeas. Guillermo will have orchids for sale.

**April 8 (2nd Wednesday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jimmy Thomas, Topic: "Dividing Plants; Pot Clips and Stakes." Bring your questions and problem plants for advice from Dr. Jimmy's panel of expert growers. The clinic will be preceded by the last Tailgate Party of the season beginning at 5:30pm in

the south VCC parking lot. Bring your chair, soft drinks and a snack to share.

**April 11 (Saturday):** Spring Greenhouse Tour, 9 am – 1 pm. A great chance to see how three of your members grow their orchids! See page 4 for details and directions.

**April 11-12:** Central Florida Orchid Society Show "Orchid Expedition", Bahia Shrine, 2300 Pembroke Dr., Orlando, FL. Info: Joselito Tolentino Jr., (407) 884-2950, [macyculit@aol.com](mailto:macyculit@aol.com)

**May 6 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm. Venice Community Center, Speaker: Dr. Antonio Toscano, Topic: "New Finds in Brazil" and "Tips for Photography in the Wild."

**May 13 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jimmy Thomas, Topic: "Hands-on Potting Clinic", see future newsletters for details. Bring your problem plants for advice from Dr. Jimmy's panel of experts.

**May 16 (Saturday):** Redland International Orchid Festival Bus Trip. Sign up early as space is limited. See page 7 for details and deadline.

### Ongoing

**Mentor Program:** help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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/>

### V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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



## THE VENICE ORCHID PROJECT

VAOS proposes to lead an orchid beautification and conservation project for the city of Venice. We envision a community - wide project to plant orchids in trees and landscaping in downtown Venice, city parks, school grounds and other public areas for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors and to promote the conservation of Florida native orchids.

**Background:** South Florida was a natural orchid paradise 100 years ago but loss of habitat, urban sprawl and theft has decimated their numbers. Many native orchids are now endangered or extinct. South Florida is the only sub-tropical part of our country where orchids can be grown outside with minimal risk of freezing. Orchids grow on trees in their natural habitat. They require little maintenance and can grow and bloom for decades once established.

On a much larger scale, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens initiated "The Million Orchid Project" to reintroduce native orchids into south Florida's landscape. In 2014 volunteers began planting 50,000 orchid seedlings into Coral Gable FL trees. This successful project has become community-wide, involving orchid society volunteers, Fairchild scientists and students.

**Objective:** Planting orchids in our Venice area will enhance the beauty of our town and delight our residents and visitors for years to come. We have an opportunity to restore and preserve Florida native orchids. Our objective is to lead a community-wide project that brings together VAOS volunteers, local organizations and businesses, residents and students to contribute to the beautification of our city of Venice and to promote orchid conservation.

**Approach:** Upon member approval, establish the project committee:

Project Directors - Jay Loeffler and Carol Wood have volunteered to lead the project.

Orchid Specialist/Consultant - Orchid selection, planting schedule

Marketing/PR - To identify and establish partnerships and publicize the project. Anticipated partners: Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), Venice Garden Club, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice MainStreet, schools, businesses, etc. Seek support, volunteers and financial aid as needed.

Legal - To research and resolve liability issues. Volunteers will work under Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI) and sign a waiver.

Research - To consult with AOS, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and Dr. Martin Motes and others on approach, best practices, lessons learned from Million Orchid Project.

Vendor Rep - To work with Florida orchid growers to obtain discounted plants including hybrids that will produce more rapid results/blooms and keep the cost down.

Schedule Coordinator - To establish plan and schedule to initiate plantings (locations, host trees, time line and to identify the number and types of plants per location.

Database Manager - To develop and manage the database of plants, where and when planted, status monitoring, etc.

Project volunteers can participate by working on the project committee and:

- Donate bare root divisions
- "Foster care" seedlings until ready for planting
- Plant and mount orchids in trees and landscapes
- Water and fertilize plants
- Monitor and document health of established plants

### **AMERICA IN BLOOM COMPETITION**

The Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI) has invited VAOS to participate in the nationwide 2015 America In Bloom Contest. America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. Each year, cities of equal size compete on six factors: Floral Displays, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts, Heritage Preservation and Overall Impression.

Venice attained the "Four Bloom" designation in last year's national America In Bloom Competition, and hopes to win the "Five Bloom" designation, the highest awarded, this year. Around June 1<sup>st</sup>, two judges will tour Venice looking at the city's landscaping, tree programs, trails and other amenities. The State College of Florida will present a video to the judges and a coffee table book is being put together of local interests to present to the judges. Other local participants include: Venice Garden Club, Venice MainStreet, Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice Vikings Football and other local businesses and organizations.

VABI is a volunteer NFP organization that works to make the Venice area a more beautiful place to live, work and play by creating private and public partnerships to improve public spaces.

VAOS can participate in the competition as we initiate **The Venice Orchid Project**:

- Planting orchids in local park trees (encyclias, cattleyas) and landscapes (Epi. radicans)
- Providing photos and videotapes of these efforts
- Providing photos and videos of our orchids and our show exhibits

## April in Your Orchid Collection

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

Average high: 83.8

Average low: 67.6

Average mean: 75.7

Average rainfall: 3.36"

Far from the cruelest, April is the kindest month to South Florida orchid growers. The weather in April is definitely settled into warm, even deliciously hot, with passing cold fronts only adding the delight of a pleasant change in temperature. The clean, bright days brimming with abundant sunlight and the low relative humidity create the high drying potential that orchids love. Now we can get our orchids off to a great start on the growing season by practicing our very best watering skills under ideal conditions. Water heavily when you water and allow the plants to dry thoroughly before watering heavily again. Drying 'hard' in the spring will produce benefits all season. We want to get our plants well launched while leaving all the fungi high and dry.

The new shoots of Oncidinae, grammatophyllums and dendrobiums forming now are quite cup-like; care must be taken that water does not stand too long in these immature growths. Water these types very thoroughly with two or three applications of water spaced 10-15 minutes apart. Water should run freely through the pot on each application. Saturated thoroughly in this fashion the plants will need only weekly watering. Even more care should be taken with the soft plicate leafed genera like Catasetum, Mormodes, Cycnoches, Gongora, Calanthe and Thunia. The new growths of this type are rolled together (the fancy word is convolute) like a collapsible drinking cup. These should be grown in water retentive media that should be saturated at each watering to permit the developing roots to have abundant water but allow the vulnerable new growth extra time to dry. Feel the weight of a pot when you have finished watering. Be sure it is heavy with water. If it's not, water one more time. With plants properly spaced, good drying should not be difficult in the hot dry air of April. But do be careful to water early enough in the day to allow the tender new growth to thoroughly dry by twilight.

With vandaceous orchids grown in slatted baskets, most growers find that they dry altogether too well in April. Vandas can be watered almost every morning in April. Indeed, a second light watering or misting in mid-afternoon in April and early May is often beneficial provided the crowns and leaf axils of the plants have time to dry completely by nightfall. Another strategy under high drying conditions is to bend the rules, at least occasionally, and water heavily in mid to late morning. Late waterings on



weekend mornings (you didn't want to get up early, any way) provide relief for plants that are more stressed on week days with their owners absent. Very occasionally, one needs to break the rules absolutely and water thoroughly (not just mist) in the mid to late afternoon so the plants can slowly absorb the water across the cool hours of the night. This is the season that one must be sure that Vanda roots have turned overall dark green when we have finished watering. Two applications of water to the point of runoff spaced several minutes apart should accomplish the required color change from white to totally green. Saturated roots are absolutely necessary to provide the plants the moisture the plants need to withstand the heat and dry air typical of April. Sometimes, particularly at this season, the roots will not change color even after the second or third application of water. This lack of response to water is because the roots have become so dry that they are repelling rather than absorbing water. They are behaving like a cork in a wine bottle. The grower must exert special effort to re-saturate the roots. Often this will require 4 or 5 waterings to the point of run off spaced 15 minutes apart. Once the roots have been changed to the healthy overall green, normal applications of water should bring them around in future.

With increased heat and light and the onset of growth, fertilizer becomes more crucially important to the plants. Balanced time release pellets (13-13-13) can still be applied to potted plants provided the duration is 180 days or less. Most time release fertilizer breaks down faster under South Florida conditions and should be exhausted by October when we will want our plants to slow down. The brand marketed at retail as "Dynamite" is generally considered by professionals as superior in reliability to other types. In April, 15-5-15 can be applied to most genera at the rate of 2 tsp. per gal every two weeks. Vandas, ascocendas, Aerides, et al will benefit from a full tablespoon of 15-5-15 weekly during this high energy period. One can also apply high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer once or twice at this time to stimulate them to flower for Mothers' Day or failing that to win those trophies and A.O.S. awards at the Redland International Orchid Festival the next weekend. High phosphorous (we use Millers' Solugrow 8-48-12) also stimulates root action and is important in getting all genera off to a good start on the growing season. This is one of the few times that high phosphorus is perhaps beneficial. During the rest of the year it is to be avoided particularly with our alkaline water. Current science recommends fertilizers lower in nitrogen, much lower in phosphorus and higher in potassium, magnesium and calcium. Peter's Excel 15-5-15 is now the standard for year round use.

The warmth of April, alas, stimulates the growth of bugs as well as plants. Both Thrips and mites thrive in the dry heat of April. Liquid dishwashing soap (at 2 oz per gal) will control both but be mindful that soap should not be applied to plants that are suffering from drought stress. Be sure that your plants are well hydrated before you apply soap. Water them extra hard the day before. To be effective soap must be used profusely. The plants should be washed in the solution to the point of wetting every nook and cranny of both the plant and its container. Only such thorough treatment can reach the reclusive Thrips and be sure to touch all of the ever prolific mites. A second treatment at 7-10 days is necessary to control mites and a miticide such as Kelthane might be advised. Orthene which is the insecticide of choice for Thrips (because of its

residual action) is compatible with many miticides. Check with your county agent if in doubt.

April is the classic month to catch up with all the re-potting which you meant to do across the winter. New roots form fast in April; don't rot them off by over-potting or break them off by allowing the plant to wiggle in the pot. Tie them up: tie them down!

April is a month for great moral decisions. When turning on the air conditioner for the first time, consider how much better an orchid grower you would be if you set the thermostat 2 or 3 degrees higher. You will find that you spend more time with your plants when you are accustomed to slightly higher temperatures and it is the master's shadow that makes the plants grow. Besides spending more time enjoying your orchids, when the FPL bill arrives, you can celebrate with some splendid additions to your collection.

April is a great month for naturalizing orchids in the garden. Perhaps it's time to think of new homes for some of our burgeoning collection on trees or elsewhere. The space emptied in the growing area will soon fill with the healthy new growth of those plants which remain to enjoy their additional light and air.

