

Venice Area Orchid Society News

March 2015

**Next Meeting: Thursday
March 5th at 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Speaker: Michael Polen

Topic: Repotting Orchids Without Pots

We're fortunate to have Michael Polen, the owner of Art Stone Orchids in St. Petersburg, a premium supplier of orchids and potting supplies since 1986, back to speak on one of his favorite topics. He has twice been past president of the West Coast Orchid Society



and speaks at many societies. He continues to participate in numerous orchid shows, including several appearances at our Venice Show. Art Stone Orchids/Palmer Orchids have consistently won many AOS and society show trophies for their outstanding displays and orchids.

Michael will be discussing and demonstrating various techniques for repotting orchids without pots, including baskets, tree fern columns, cypress slabs and various other unusual mounts. He always has yet a few more tricks up his sleeves and the show is one you don't want to miss.

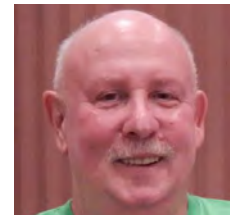
Michael will have supplies, mounts and orchids for sale and will be happy to answer your questions.

Hands-On "Potting Without Pots" Clinic, Thursday, March 12

This Growers Clinic will follow Michael Polen's presentation on Thursday, March 5th, and Dr. Jimmy will give everyone an opportunity to put their new knowledge to practical use. He'll refresh our memories on the various media, supplies and tools and demonstrate basic procedures and share his personal tips. Jimmy will provide the necessary tools and supplies, including coconut fiber and NZ sphagnum moss. Participants will then mount their own orchids with the assistance of several experienced growers and helpers. We'll work in teams of 4 or 5 around with each person bringing an orchid to mount, a sterile pair of shears, as well as a mount such as a wooden basket, tree fiber plaques, baskets and totems, cypress/

A Message from your President:

What do you like best about this orchid obsession you have immersed yourself into? Is it the gathering of new orchids, or when they bloom, or the shows, or the meetings that go with the plants? I love getting new plants. Any way I can. Buy them, work for them, trade them, get them as gifts, I don't care, I just love getting plants. I recently bought a bigger car so I can haul more orchids around. I mean, it doesn't make sense to drive all the way across the state, fill your tank twice, pay for a hotel and spend 3 days with 55 or more vendors and come home with one plant. So I usually wind up with more than one plant. Many more than one plant.



John Masters

All of a sudden I am in love with big blooming flowers. I tend to major in the nodosa crosses which are generally smaller, star-shaped flowers that are supposed to bloom all the time. But now I have a number of larger plants with big flowers and they truly make my heart beat faster. Okay, it might be the vast quantities of red meat I eat affecting my heart. I find myself hunting the bigger plants now, looking for the big flowers. Who knew? These big babies often have a fragrance with them that makes you turn around expecting to see a beauty queen entering the room. But then you wake up. These monsters have their own magic.

Continued on page 2

cedar slabs or anything that catches your fancy.

With only two hours available and a large turnout expected, it's critical that everyone adhere to the following instructions:

1. Only one plant per person. **All plants must be bare root and all old planting media must be removed prior to the clinic.** Plants should be divided prior to the clinic as only limited assistance will be available.

2. If you are a novice and don't have a plant ready to mount, please contact Jimmy at education@vaos.org. not later than Monday, March 9th so he can bring in a suitable plant and mount for use during the clinic.

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WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

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Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

- Published monthly.
- Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.
- Please direct comments to:
Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org
- Written submissions are appreciated.

President's message (continued from page 1)

As you must know by now, I am crazy for orchid shows. In addition to the plants you will bring home, there are educational lessons to be had and networking to conduct. It never hurts when the vendors recognize you as a shopper rather than a stalker with a crazed look. If you are entering plants in shows, it gives you a chance to compare your efforts to what the other kids in your society are doing. Shows are a good way to make your wish list longer.

The speakers at the meetings are your new teachers. This is where you start to put a few topics together and wind up, hopefully, with a full picture of how it's done. You can go to other society meetings to hear their speakers. In a good month, I try to hit Sarasota and Englewood along with our own. Also the networking at the meetings will provide more playmates with the same orchid addiction you have. There is no cure, you will not regain your sanity and you will have less money every month. Welcome aboard. Come to our March meeting, just before the EAOS Show, the last of our season. Bring a friend, bring a plant, and bring snacks to share!

Hands-On "Potting Without Pots" Clinic (continued from page 1)

Michael Polen will have a great selection of mounts available for purchase following his presentation as well as orchids suitable for mounting.

Note: the clinic will once again be preceded by a Tailgate Party beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the south parking lot of the Venice Community Center. Bring chairs, snacks for yourself and to share, as well as soft drinks and a jacket in case it's cool.

Treasurer's Report	
February 2015	
Checking Account	
Starting Balance	
1/1/15	\$ 9,703.55
+ Income	\$ 3,670.00
Payments	\$ 6,442.56
Closing Balance	
1/31/15	\$ 6,930.99
Cash Account	
Starting Balance	
1/1/15	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
1/31/15	\$ 40.00
Money Market Savings	
Starting Balance	
1/1/15	\$ 25,042.92
+ Income	0.85
Closing Balance	
1/31/15	\$ 25,043.77
Total Assets	
1/31/15	\$ 32,014.76
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	

Plant Table Awards February 4, 2015

One is never sure what will appear on the plant table for the meeting just before our show. Will people bring plants that could be used in the show, or will they keep their plants at home so that they look the best for the show? The February table had a lot of great plants. The judges selected the following:

The **First Place** ribbon went to *Wils.* Pacific Panache



Wils. Pacific Panache

‘Dorothy Jean’, exhibited by Bonnie Aldridge. Today, this plant is an *Oncidium*, not a *Wilsonara*. When it was first registered in 2004, it was in the genus *Burrageara* and its her-

itage contained plants we knew as *Oncidium*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, and *Cochiloda*. As DNA studies have progressed, they have helped us to better understand the relationships of these genera; all these genera have been collapsed into the large group, *Oncidium*. The grouping of these into *Oncidium* reflects that there was not enough genetic evidence to divide the group in a meaningful way. Thank you, Bonnie, for bringing in a well-flowered colorful example of this hybrid.

Steve Vogelhaupt earned the **Second Place** ribbon with *Rth.* Fuchs Orange Nuggett. The outstanding part of this



Rth. Fuchs Orange Nuggett

plant is the intense orange color of the flowers. The color and the waxy surface of the flowers are traits of *Guarianthe aurantiaca*, a species that appears several times in the grandparents of this hybrid. The cross has won two AOS awards, one in 1987, the other in 2005. It has been used as a parent in over 20 registered crosses, with new crosses registered each year.

The charming *Rhyncattleanthe (Rth)* Zul earned the **Third Place** ribbon for Dale and Janet Hoy. This hybrid



Rth. Zul

of *Gur. skinneri x Rth.* Orange Nuggett was registered in 1997. The seedling plants flower from pink to orange and yellow shades and produce lots of flowers. Interestingly, there are no registered offspring from the cross – it may be sterile. It is a plant suited to growing on your lanai.

The **Species of the Month** ribbon went to the largest plant on the table – *Dendrobium speciosum*

entered by Jerry and Kathy Beck. They had recently purchased the plant from Jean Beck, also one of our members. *Den. speciosum* is from the eastern coastal area of Australia. In its native habitat, it often grows on rocks and can be subject to hot and cold (think snow) extremes. The tolerance for temperature variability makes it a good choice for our area and for growing outside. It is known for producing large, heavily flowered plants. A great year of flower production is usually followed by a year of many fewer flowers.



Den. speciosum

The ribbons, **New Member Grower** and **Members Choice**, were awarded to Charlie Rogg for her striking *Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite* with 8 full flowered upright inflorescences. *Phcal. Kryptonite* is a hybrid of *Cal. Rozel* and *Phaius tankervilleae* made by EFG Orchids of Deland, Florida (and participant in the recent VAOS orchid show). The cross has earned several AOS awards and can be grown into a very large clump of bulbs.

(See photo on next page)

**Plant Table Awards February 4, 2015
(continued from previous page)**



Phcal. Kryptonite

Our speaker chose Fredclarkera After Dark ‘SVO Black Pearl’ FCC/AOS, grown by Steve Wiener, for the **Speaker’s Commendation** ribbon. When the judges

first saw this plant in 2004, their award description stated, “this was the blackest orchid the team had ever seen.” The After Dark (Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise) cross has produced many plants with very dark flowers,



Fdk. After Dark

high quality spotted flowers and even a solid green form. The cross has opened a whole new breeding arena led by the hybridizer, Fred Clarke.

-Photos and narrative by Ted Kellogg

Upcoming Plant Sales from our Local Growers

With spring just around the corner, the plant sale season is off to a great start!!

Plantio La Orquidea will be having their Spring Orchid Sale on February 27 and 28 (Friday and Saturday) from 9am – 4pm on both days. Rafael has more than 10,000 sq. ft. of orchids for you to tour and continues to expand the selection of orchids, hybrids, and species. He specializes in S. American species and hybrids as well as novel crosses suitable for our growing conditions. He’s always willing to provide the best cultural information and find the plants that you’re looking for. He’s offering \$5.00 off any purchase over \$25 with the coupon which you probably received in the mail or picked up at our last meeting. If you don’t have the coupon, just let him know that you’re a member of VAOS.

Plantio la Orquidea is located at 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243, on the same driveway as Tropiflora. Directions are in the culture supplement.

Palmer Orchids is having their first sale of the season on March 13, 14, and 15 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) 10am – 5pm Fri., and 10am – 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. You’ll have the opportunity to select from thousands of the very latest hybrids as well as unusual species from around the world. The staff is always helpful and will

make sure that you find just the treasures you’ve been looking for, as well as treasures you didn’t know existed. They’ll be offering bare root plants starting at \$5.00 each and special prices on all the other plants. You’ll receive a free plant with any purchase of \$100 or more.

Palmer Orchids is located in eastern Manatee County at 22700 Taylor Drive, Myakka City, FL 34251. Directions are in the culture supplement.

-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt

**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

Minutes of the February 4, 2015 Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting with announcements about the upcoming orchid show. Members viewed a fast paced video advertisement that illustrated the thousands of spectacular orchids displayed at the VAOS Show each year. A lingering shot of our poster cited all pertinent information including location, cost, hours, etc. Judy Loeffler and Carol Wood created the video in partnership with ABC Networks. It is currently being shown on ABC Networks to promote the Show.

Carol Wood introduced Show Chairs and gave them an opportunity to make brief announcements about their component of the Show. This included: Arts and Crafts, Noreen Chervinski; Orchid Boutique, Jane Camarota; Security, John and Sharon Kahnoski; Membership, Judy Loeffler; Food, Linda Hahn; Displays, Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler; Clerks, Mary Anne DiGrazia; and Admissions, Elaine Ortt.

Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler presented a bright red T-shirt that will be given to volunteers who work at the Show. They also presented the trophy to be given for awards. Each trophy is engraved with the award category and there is a place to insert one's own picture of the orchid.

John Masters announced that Peggy Fahrenback and Richard Amos are completing their terms on the VAOS Board. Joanna Shaw has been nominated for Recording Secretary and Jay Loeffler has been nominated for Vice President, Show Displays. Nominations from the floor were invited, but none were offered. Members may vote

for these nominated board members in March.

John Masters announced the March speaker will be Michael Polen. That meeting will be March 5th, the first Thursday, not the first Wednesday. He cited dates of other area orchid shows including Boca Raton and Naples, and a sale at Plantio La Orquidea. Orchids and supplies are for sale tonight by Jeff Higel of Honeybee Nursery in Englewood. Jeff is a former president of VAOS.

After intermission, VP Bruce Weaver introduced our speaker, Dr. David Benzing, from OH. Dr. Benzing is a retired botany professor from Oberlin College who winters in Sarasota. He has authored books about epiphytes and tropical plants and offered one of those books for sale. His topic was "Why Orchids Have So Many Species." Through discussion and illustrations, Dr. Benzing offered the hypothesis that orchids outnumber most other plant families because orchids are more successful in adapting to their environment.

After the program, John Masters announced that the Growers Clinic will be on Wednesday, Feb. 11th this month. A Tailgate Party will be held in the parking lot at 5:30. Members may bring food and non-alcoholic beverages to share.

Bill Fender 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

SHOW SPECTACULAR!

Congratulations and thank you to all of the VAOS members who contributed their time and talents to produce one of our best shows ever! From start to finish it was spectacular in its beauty, size and energy. Show attendees went away happy with their purchases and our vendors were thrilled with their sales. Show attendance was the highest in five years and up 30% over last years' admissions at 3610. We attribute this in large part to our beautiful show poster and ad designed by Judy Loeffler and our TV advertising on ABC Channel 7 that attracted attendees from outside of Venice. We expect to clear about \$16,000 that will go toward funding our society operations.

Special thanks to some very special people and our Committee Chairs, almost all of whom return every year to manage our show committees:

Ed Soentgen, who returns every year to work the show and is there from start to finish working logistics, set up and take down, heavy lifting, and crowd control. He is our Go To Guy throughout the show. Thank you, Ed.

Elaine Ortt, who takes time during her busy tax season to expertly management admissions with the help of 25 volunteers. Thank you.

Linda and Bruce Hahn, who return each year to man-

age hospitality and the kitchen Friday through Sunday with help from Jane Hyde and Dodi Sullivan. Thank you. We're hearing more interest in publishing a society recipe book this year. Thank you to all who brought in the fabulous food!

Jane Camarota and her team, who work throughout the year to acquire containers and accessories to sell at the Orchid Boutique and then work Thursday night through Sunday to operate the boutique, the raffle and make floral arrangements. Thank you Jane, Frank, Karen Mann, Toni Marie and all of your team.

John Masters, Jerry Daenzer and Jay Loeffler, for improving our facility design layout for the show and for managing set up and take down with help from 22 volunteers. Thank you.

Sharon and John Kahnowski, who did an expert job managing security during our show with the help of 24 volunteers. Thank you.

Mary Anne Digrazia, who efficiently coordinated 27 clerks early Saturday morning to work with the judges. Thank you.

Noreen Chervinski and Sandy Price, who coordi-

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VAOS Display and Member Plants Take Top Honors

Wow! What a display! And what gorgeous plants! Our display took First Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit. Our members took home 10 trophies awarded by the AOS judges as well as a total of 53 ribbons. Congratulations to all!

The center piece of our display was a stained wooden swing with a heart shaped cut- out on the seat back. It was built from scratch by Bill Fahrenback. Rich Amos and his team then artfully created the display around the swing over the next seven hours. An alluring wood chip path led up to the swing and created the image they sought - "Love of Orchids", our theme for the show.

Twenty-nine members submitted 85 plants that were displayed in our exhibit and on the Individual Table for judging. Here is a summary of awards:

Trophy Winners

- Most Outstanding Society Exhibit - Venice Area Orchid Society
- Most Outstanding Commercial Class Exhibit - Art Stone/Palmer Orchids
- AOS Show Trophy - Art Stone/Palmer Orchids
- Best In Show - Paph. St. Swithen , Mac Orchids
- Best In Show - Paph. St. Swithen , Mac Orchids
- Best Specimen Species - C. amethystoglossa , Art Stone/Palmer Orchids
- Best Specimen Hybrid - Phal. Ken Avant, Krull-Smith Orchids
- Tony Simborski Memoria Trophy, Best Plant by VAOS member - Ctt. Magic Bell 'Maria Irma' AM/AOS, Nora Berger
- Robert Wagner Memoria Trophy, Most Outstanding Cattleya Alliance Plant - Ctt. Magic Bell 'Maria Irma' AM/AOS, Nora Berger
- Jack Severson Memoria Trophy, Most Outstanding Small Cattleya Plant - Rth. Pop City 'NN', James Thomas
- Alice Sudol Memoria Trophy, Most Outstanding Large Cattleya Plant - Rlc. Hawaiian Agenda 'Florida Winter', Dale Richter
- Jackie Weber Trophy, Most Outstanding Cypripedium Alliance Plant - Paph. Maude Raven, Keith & Dina Emig
- Most Outstanding Phalaenopsis Plant - Phal. Sogo Yukidian 'V3', Dale Richter
- Robert M. Hoffman Trophy, Best Vandaceous Alliance Plant - Angcm. Crestwood, Jane Shapiro



- Margaret Traver Memoria Trophy, Best Oncidium Alliance Plant - Trt. Kuquat 'Kathleen' HCC/AOS, Cynthia Vance
- Most Outstanding Cymbidium Alliance Plant - Cymbidium Mimi, Sybil Levien-Bushnell
- Donald Mitchell Memoria Trophy, Most Outstanding Dendrobium Plant - Den. Palolo Heart, Debi Wolfe
- Connie Timm Memoria Trophy, Most Outstanding Plant from the Diversified Genera - Bulbophyllum Wilmar Galaxy Star, Corey Plasek
- Most Outstanding Miniature Plant - Dendrobium Micro Chip, Sybil Levien-Bushnell
- Most Outstanding Art or Craft Entry - Quilt Orchid, Susan Fender

Ribbon Awards - Plants

- Needlework, First Place, Quilt Orchid, Susan Fender
- Needlework, Second Place, Thread Painting Pillow, Toni Marie Hoffer
- Oil Painting, First Place, Orchid in Yellow and Red, Elizabeth Ann Thomas
- Oil Painting, Second Place, White and Red Orchid, Elizabeth Ann Thomas
- Oil Painting, Third Place, Moloki Rainbown Orchid, Elizabeth Ann Thomas
- Jewelry, First Place, Black Orchid Necklace, Noreen Chervinski
- Photography, First Place, Mahogany Paph, Mary Anne Digrazia
- Photography, Second Place, George King 'Serendipity', Tony Nacinovich
- Photography, Second Place, Golden Yellow Orchid, Tony Nacinovich
- Photography, Second Place, Purple Pouch Paph, Mary Anne Digrazia

Continued on next page

Get Your Plants Ready

Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Show March 6-7

The EAOS Annual Show and Sale will be held on Friday - Saturday March 6-7 at the United Methodist Church, 700 East Dearborn, Englewood. Set up is on Thursday March 5th, 11am - 5pm.

All plants must be registered in advance via email by Wednesday March 4th

Email your plant name with flower color description and size of the flower (larger than or smaller than 5"), or a photo, 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. Please be sure your name is on your pot. Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend

show.

Plants should be delivered directly to the EAOS show site on Thursday morning between 10am and 11am. Plants may also be delivered to Carol Wood (South Venice) or Jim Thomas (North Venice) no later than Wednesday evening 3/4/15 for transport to the show and return.

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

If you would like to help with the display or can help to transport materials to the show, please contact Rich Amos (552-6723) or Jay Loeffler (485-9569).

–Submitted by Carol Wood

WEBINARS AVAILABLE TO AOS MEMBERS

Membership in the American Orchid Society (\$65) offers many benefits including their excellent monthly magazine, access to members' only sections of their website, discounts on plant and book purchases and free or discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta.

AOS membership also gives you access to an excellent series of webinars that you may watch real time or watch recorded webinars at your leisure. Here is the list of upcoming AOS webinars as well as past/recorded ones you may be interested in.

Webinar for February 2015:

February 25, 2015, 8:30 PM EST

Harry Gallis, Accredited AOS Judge and Board of Trustees Vice President will present, *Demystifying AOS Judging: What are those Judges Looking For?*

His plants have received 41 AOS awards and, says Harry, "I very much enjoy growing plants for shows and awards." He entered the AOS judging program in 1991, and is an Accredited Judge and Past Chair of the Carolinas Judging Center in Greensboro, NC. In 1999, he was asked to take on the position of national training coordinator for AOS judges. He served as Chair of the Judging Committee for two years. Harry knows lots about judging; getting plants awarded, and will help us all understand what the judges want and how we might get

one of those awards.

The webinar lineup for the next four months:

March 2015 - Ron McHatton, **Those Pesky Diseases**

April 2015 - Greg Allikas, **Cattleya lueddemanniana**

May 2015 - John Salventi, **The How and Why of Fertilizer**

June 2015 - Peter Lin, **Novelty Phalaenopsis Breeding**

Recorded Webinars:

- **Orchids: Pests and Their Management** - Ron McHatton
- **Demystifying Dendrobiums** - Ron McHatton
- **Introduction: Orchids and Their Culture** - Greg Allikas
- **Orchids Plus: AOS' Digital Orchid Awards Program** - Greg Filter
- **Greenhouse Chat, July** - Ron McHatton
- **Greenhouse Chat, August** - Ron McHatton
- **Lycaste skinneri and its hybrids** - Mario Ferrusi
- **Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids** - Lois Cinert
- **It's All About the Roots** - John Salventi
- **Catasetums, Growing and Loving!** - Fred Clarke
- **Spiders, Gnats, and Greenhoods** - Nile Dusdieker, M.D.
- **Visiting a Rainbow: A Slice of Life from the Reed-**
- **Stemmed Epidendrums** - Cheryl Erins

Go to www.AOS.org to join. Look for the Webinars tab at the top to sign up for new webinars or to view recorded ones..

–Submitted by Carol Wood

VAOS Display (continued from the preceding page)

- Photography, Third Place, Hsinying, Judy and Skip Russell
- Watercolors, Second Place, Backyard Cattleyas, Carol Marcus
- Watercolors, Third Place, Cattleyas in Nature, Carol Marcus
- Multimedia, First Place, Slide Show, Tony Nacinovich
- Multimedia, Second Place, Love of Orchids (slide show), Cynthia Vance

Nora Berger, Dale Richter and Sybil Levien-Bushell deserve special recognition - they won two trophies each for their plants. John Roche took the most ribbon awards at nine.

Thank you Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler and their team - Renee Bynum, Linda Schaller, Jim Thomas, Matthew Rinder, Charlie Rogg, Mary Amos, Peg and Bill Fahrenback, Peg and Steve Hartley, and Jerry Manegold for an exceptional exhibit!

-Photo by Steve Vogelhaupt, narrative by Carol Wood

VAOS Beach Party Picnic & Potluck Saturday, March 21, 2015 12noon to 4 pm

VAOS members and families are invited to a Beach Picnic Potluck. We have reserved the Caspersen Beach Picnic Shelter for our 2nd annual gathering. 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. After lunch we can frolic on the beach, visit and just enjoy a wonderful afternoon together.

VAOS will supply Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage, Buns, and Condiments, Plates, Silverware, Ice and charcoal for the grills.

Please bring a dish to share with your family and others.

We look forward to another fun afternoon of food and friendship at the Beach.

RSVP to Sharon at social@vaos.org no later than March 14th, 2015.

-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for March 2015

The International Orchid Foundation recently announced an agreement to migrate OrchidMap and OrchidAgenda to www.orchids.org, a new free-usage website dedicated to orchid growing.

In addition to information on 527 orchid societies, 444 orchid vendors, 64 public gardens and 36 judging center, the new website database also includes over 150,000 orchid hybrids and more than 30,000 species. Members can add orchids to their collection, upload photos, and share culture tips for each specific plant with other members.

Some sections of the website are still in Beta testing, but the website is certainly worth a look.

I talked about the use of a surgical instrument, similar to flat-bladed scissors, for use in staking and repotting orchids. I've attached a photo of a stainless steel hemostat for those who missed the meeting. The jaws lock and unlock easily and are great for threading staking wires around and through plants. This 12" model was

purchased at Harbor Freight Tools in Sarasota for \$4.99 and I think the Dome Flea Market on SR 776 also has them for sale.

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.

-Submitted by James Thomas

Last Chance to be included in 2015 Membership Directory!! 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

Please don't delay so 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 Judy/Jay Loeffler

SHOW SPECTACULAR! (continued from page 5)



nated our beautiful arts and crafts exhibit with entries from many of our talented members. Thank you.

Ted Kellogg, who developed our show class schedule, managed plant registration and coordinated judging. Thank you.

Rich Amos and Jay Loeffler, who created probably their best display ever and took the First Place Trophy. Bill Fahrenback, who constructed the heart swing center piece of our display. Renee Bynum, who registered and classified 85 member plants and Linda Schaller, who made all of the plant labels. And the display support team - Peg Fahrenback, Jim Thomas, Matthew Rinder, Charlie Rogg and Jerry Manegold, who worked non-stop for seven hours to set up our exhibit. Thank you.

Bill Morris and Jay Koths, who set up and took down 20 show signs and banners around Venice. Thank you.

Mary Amos, our Treasurer, who handled the money in addition to working on our display and at the Membership Desk. Thank you.

"Dr. Jimmy", Jim Thomas our Director of Education and Outreach, who conducted basic orchid culture classes Saturday and Sunday. This was our first time offering classes - they were well attended with positive feedback. Thank you, Jimmy.

Judy Loeffler, who managed the Membership/Information Desk and the 15 volunteers who helped. They signed up 52 new members, distributed hundreds of AOS culture sheets with orchid growing advice and sold \$400 in books and magazines. Thank you.

Cynthia Vance, our show sponsor campaign organizer, who raised \$5,300 from 24 local area businesses and

organizations to sponsor our show. Every year she sets her goal higher and works hard to achieve it. Thank you.

Cynthia also worked with Jerry Manegold to produce the colorful slide show that ran on three screens during the show to thank our sponsors.

My Show Co-Chair, Judy Loeffler, to whom I am so grateful for all of her hard work and could not have managed without her. She handled so many details from trophies, ribbons, t-shirts, sign permits, equipment and logistics and online and TV advertising. We've received so many compliments for her design for our show poster and ads. Thank you, Judy.

Carol and Judy have agreed to co-host the 2016 show and have already locked in the date at the Community Center: February 5-7, 2016.

We feel confident in stating that very few other orchid societies can claim the level of participation we get from our members. Over 120 members, clad in red 'Love of Orchids' theme t-shirts enthusiastically gave their time and talent to help with our show. Every one of you deserves credit for a successful show. Thank you!

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Editor's note: On behalf of all our members, a special thanks to Carol Wood, our other Show Co-Chair. She coordinated all vendors, societies, suppliers, artists, photographer and wrote the TV commercial, print and internet ads and show brochures. Carol recruited the committee chairs and volunteers and prepared the show assessment to improve next year's show. Carol was the backbone of the show and made everything run smoothly and on time. Thank you!

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 5th, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

• **Speaker:** Michael Polen

• **Topic:** "Orchid Potting Without Pots"

• Show table entries welcome

• Bring plants for the Raffle Table

• **Members whose last name begins with E, F or G should bring treats to share.**

Refreshments from other members are always welcome.

Upcoming Events

February 27-28 (Friday and Saturday): 9am - 4 pm, Plantio La Orquidea Spring Orchid Sale, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL.

March 5 (1st Thursday): VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Michael Polen, Topic: "Orchid Potting Without Pots". Orchids and various mounts will be for sale.

March 6-7: Englewood Orchid Society Annual Show, United Methodist Church, 700 East Dearborn Street, Englewood. Set up Thursday, March 5th, 11am - 5pm. See Page 7 for details.

March 7-8: Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show & Sale, Egyptian Shrine Activities Center, 4050 Dana Shores Dr., Tampa, FL

March 12 (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim

Thomas, Topic: "Hands-on Repotting Without Pots Workshop". See article beginning on page 1 for details.

March 13-15 (Fri thru Sun): Fri 10am -5pm, Sat, Sun 10am - 4pm, Palmer Orchid Spring Sale, 22700 Taylor Dr., Myakka City, FL.

March 13-15: Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show and Sale, Fairchild Gardens, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL.

March 21 (Saturday): VAOS annual picnic at Caspersen Beach, 12-4pm. Please RSVP to social@vaos.org NLT March 14, 2015. See Page 8 for details.

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 collectibles and species". Guillermo will have great orchids to sell.

Planning Ahead

May 15-17 (Fri - Sunday): Redland International Orchid Festival. VAOS is

planning another bus trip and details will follow.

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@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/>

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



"Join Us" and Share
your Orchid Photos

Search for us as
"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

Directions to Spring Orchid Sales

Plantio La Orquidea (February 27-28th)

3480 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, FL:

From I-75N take exit 213 and turn left onto University Pkwy

Continue 4.2 miles on University Pkwy and turn right on US-301 N

Continue on US-301 N for 1 mile and turn right on 77th Ave E/Tallevast Rd

Continue .8 miles on Tallevast Rd to destination on right (same driveway as Tropiflora)

Palmer Orchid (March 13, 14, 15)

22700 Taylor Drive, Bradenton, FL:

From I-75 N take exit 217A and merge onto FL-70 E towards Arcadia

Continue 9.9 miles on FL-70 E and turn left onto CR 675 Ramp/Waterbury Rd

Continue 3.9 miles on Waterbury Rd and turn left on Taylor Drive; look for mailbox on left side of Waterbury Rd

Palmer Orchid will be on the left

March in Your Orchid Collection

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

March Climate Data:

Average high: 80.7

Average low: 64.0

Average mean: 72.4

Average rainfall: 2.56"

Whilst March never comes in like a lion in South Florida, occasionally it slinks in like a bob cat. Frost is not unheard of in the first few days of the month. The more cold sensitive genera, hard cane dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis and vandas may well need some protection even into the middle of the month. Overall, however, March brings us some of the most ideal orchid growing conditions of the entire year. Dry air, low humidity and wide swings of day to night temperatures optimize both blooming and rooting of most orchids. In March, Nature gives orchidists growing outside a free sample of what life would be like with a covered green house. With little or no additional water falling from the sky and drying breezes acting like fans, we are in total control of our plants' water needs. Now, we can water properly: very heavily, and allow the plants to dry thoroughly in the near desert air before the next heavy application of water.

The ideal growing conditions of March present a great opportunity to get our plants off to a superlative start on the new growing season. The virtuous among us, who have already re-potted their cattleyas and other sympodials as they have finished blooming across the winter, can smile serenely, assured of their place in orchid heaven. For us few reprobate it is still not too late to catch up with virtue. In addition to flowered-out plants, now is also the time to replant those genera which are breaking or ready to break their dormancy; i.e. catasetums, Mormodes, calanthes and those Himalayan Dendrobium species that have finished flowering. Now is also an excellent time to re-pot those hard cane dendrobiums that need it, with the reminder that they really don't like to be disturbed and relish their roots being crowded in the pot. For those commercially mass produced plants grown in peat based mixtures, repotting is necessary in any case as the peat mix will not last out the summer and will likely rot all the roots. Hopefully these will have rooted so thoroughly that the roots have formed a solid mass that can be shifted undisturbed to a new only slightly larger pot. Otherwise the roots will need to be washed clean of soft medium and lightly trimmed. Rock, tree fern, coconut husk, charcoal/wood chip mixes are best replacement media for the long haul. All of these materials have a life expectancy of several years before they break down in South Florida's wet humid summers.

Attention to fertilizer in March will pay high dividends later on. As many sympodial orchids are commencing their growth cycle, now is a good time to apply slow release fertilizer to last the season. The 13-13-13, 180 day formula marketed at Home Depot as 'Dynamite' (Nutri-cote in commercial sizes) is the best available to hobby growers. Its plastic coating is superior to others and relatively unaffected by heat, an especially important consideration in South Florida. Applied now it will be exhausted by September when we want to slow our plants down in anticipation of bloom and dormancy. The wide temperature swings of March also maximize the effectiveness of high phosphorous 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer. The extra phosphorous in these formulas probably does not really stimulate flowers (most likely the opposite) but does help rooting. Two applications a week apart will speed the rooting process. Return to regular 15-5-15 fertilizer weekly thereafter as the excess phosphorus in the "Bloom Booster" interferes with minor element absorption to an inordinate degree in our highly alkaline South Florida water.

Vandaceous orchids should be breaking vigorous new roots in March. This is the ideal moment to top them if they have grown too tall and if they have three good roots on the top cutting. Conserving one or more leaves on the old plant's stump will insure a bountiful production of offshoots. Sliding the knife or shears down the stem before making the horizontal cut usually preserves an extra set of leaves. Now is also the ideal time to remove and reset offshoots of vandas and ascocendas. Again take care each has three or more roots and be sure you tie them firmly in their new container until they have rooted solidly.

March is also the month for acclimatizing sun-loving plants to full sun. Vandas, dendrobiums and reed-stemmed epidendrums that have not been blooming as they should because they are in too deep shade can be gradually moved to more light. This is best done in two or three stages, moving the plants a short distance every few days and always keeping them with the same side orientated towards the sun. Without this gradual acclimatization, the bright clear sunlight of March can scorch even the most sun-loving of orchids.

The chief blot on the otherwise nearly ideal growing scenario of March is Thrips. March is the month when we are asked most frequently "Why do my Vanda flower spikes grow ½ inch and then die?" The answer, like the answer to so many problems with orchids in South Florida, is Thrips. The hot dry weather of March favors Thrips which are ubiquitous in our landscapes. The drought of March drives them from their homes in our lawns and shrubberies to seek the cool lush oasis of our orchid collections. Most orchidists recognize the symptoms of Thrips on their flowers: the silvered, sand blasted appearance and the withering of the flower parts. Many do not recognize the earlier symptoms which show up on the root tips of vandas and ascocendas as a pitted ring at the point where the green growing root tip is maturing into white. Left unchecked,

this damage will cause the root tip to wither. When Thrips pressure subsides and the root re-starts growth, a brown ring remains. Orthene (acephate) is the chemical of choice for Thrips because of its low toxicity and residual action. Knoxout and Malathion are recommended also by the Florida Department of Agriculture. A non-chemical solution is liquid dish soap applied at the rate of 2oz (6tbs) per gallon of water. Be sure to water the plants the day before applying soap and take care to drench the plants thoroughly, covering not only all the surfaces but penetrating into leaf axils and other nooks and crannies where the reclusive Thrips loves to loiter. Surf the Thrips out of your collection and you will get the growing season off to a good start.