

Venice Area Orchid Society News

November 2015

**Next Meeting: Wednesday Nov. 4, 7 pm
Venice Community Center
(doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Speaker: John Salventi

Topic: "Orchid Nutrition"

Prior to involvement in the orchid industry, John Salventi was a health-care professional with more than 20 years of hospital management experience including 17 years at the Lehigh Valley Hospital. John and Tom Purviance opened Parkside Orchid Nursery in 1992.



Parkside grew to be one of the largest multi-genera orchid nurseries in the northeastern United States with five greenhouses, spanning over 14,000 square feet of growing space. After 20 years of operation, Parkside was sold in June.

During the 20 years that they operated Parkside, both John and Tom traveled extensively to maintain an interesting inventory for the serious hobbyist and secured plants directly from the growers. These include frequent trips to South America, Central America, Hawaii and Asia. John continues to travel to South America leading Eco-Tours in Peru and Ecuador. In Peru these trips have included The Manu Cloud Forest, the Wayqechas Biological Research Center, Cusco, and Machu Picchu. He has traveled extensively in Ecuador on several occasions and to Costa Rica twice, once traveling to the rain and cloud forests. John served on the conservation committee of the American Orchid Society and the president's advisory council for the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research.

He has spoken both nationally and internationally at Orchid Societies and Symposia on orchid and conservation topics. John continues to speak and lead workshops on a variety of orchid topics.

See www.everythingaboutorchids.com for additional information.

One of our fine local vendors will be offering a great selection of orchids for sale.

A Message From Your President

Our members have been doing more than growing beautiful, award winning orchids these days. Our new display VP, Jay Loeffler, led us to another first place last month, this time at the Ridge Orchid Society show in Lakeland. Many Lakeland attendees said they enjoyed our annual show and were impressed with our large attendance and professional appearance. And we didn't even have to ask! Nice to hear that people travel from far away to see our show.



Jim Thomas has been making appearances all over, the last heading up our booth at the Consumer Expo on the 2nd and 3rd of October. We sold a lot of plants, gave a lot of growing advice and signed up some new members and sponsors. He'll be at Hazeltine Nurseries and still has time for the monthly Growers Clinics.

Joanna Shaw has been doing a great job with the plant table presentations, giving us a good idea of what's involved in producing those beauties we gaze at each meeting. Cynthia Vance takes great pictures of the orchids as well as writing the narratives for the newsletter. Sharon Kahnoski and her helpers set up those wonderful goodies each month and Suzanne Grimmer takes care of the audio/visual chores for our speakers. The Venice Orchid Project (VOP) team helped the city garner a 5 bloom award for the "America in Bloom Competition", the highest honor! These are a few of the behind the scenes people that make our meetings run smoothly and keep the community aware of what we do.

If you have a few hours each month to donate, please consider helping out with the meetings, show displays or even hanging orchids in trees around the city. This month we will be passing around sign-up sheets for volunteers at our annual show in February. Please consider helping us with some small job and being a part of the Best Orchid Show in Florida!

November will be cooling down, you may be getting some new blooms, and we'll certainly have a lot more friends and parties coming to town. I hope you enjoyed the talk by Ron Midgett last month on Green Cattleyas, a super group of enchanting flowers for sure! Coming up

Continued on page 8

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2015 – 2016

Interim President &

Vice President - Programs

Bruce Weaver, programs@vaos.org

Vice President - Social Affairs

Sharon Kahnoski, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Jay Loeffler, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Mary Amos, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Joanna Shaw, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chair

Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Immediate Past President

Cynthia Vance, CVance@vaos.org

Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

showchair@vaos.org

Director, Education & Outreach

Jim Thomas, education@vaos.org

Volunteers

Ted Kellogg, Webmaster

tmkellogg@gmail.com

John Kahnoski, 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

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

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

Minutes of the October 7, 2015 Meeting

Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Bruce introduced Bob Vedder, who updated us on the America in Bloom competition. Venice has participated in this competition for the last two years. This is a national competition among cities of all sizes from across the country. It is not just a floral competition, but includes all aspects of our city. Judging categories are Floral, Landscaping, Urban Forestry, Environmental, Heritage /Historical, and Overall which includes volunteerism, recreation, and arts. The judges stay for two days and provide a detailed evaluation of the city. Venice Area Beautification, Inc (VABI) is the sponsoring organization and was able to implement many of the suggestions made by the judges last year, including upgrading the entrances to the city. This is the first year that our society assisted with the effort and the Venice Orchid Project placed many orchids into trees in Centennial, Heritage, Blalock and Biehl Parks. This year, our competition included Winterpark, FL, Calabassas, CA, and Hammond, LA. Venice achieved a score of 882 out of 1000 points and WON THE COMPETITION!! Venice now has a "5 bloom" rating (like 5 stars).

Announcements:

- The VAOS display took first place at the Ridge Orchid Society show in Lakeland. Congratulations to Jay Loeffler and his dedicated display team!

- The Venice Chamber of Commerce Expo was a success, with over 3000 attendees. VAOS had a booth, sold plants, and gained new members and sponsors. Thanks to everyone involved!

- There will be a Tailgate Party at 5:30 before the next Growers Clinic. The October clinic will be a hands on potting clinic with Jim Thomas. The November program will feature Renee Bynum and Rich Amos - they will discuss growth and culture of some of the more unusual orchids.

Continued on page 9

Treasurer's Report

October 2015

Checking Account

Starting Balance	
9/1/15	\$ 14,201.32
+ Income	\$ 263.00
Payments	\$ 2,163.48
Closing Balance	
9/30/15	\$ 12,300.84

Cash Account

Starting Balance	
9/1/15	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
9/30/15	\$ 40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance	
9/1/15	\$ 25,049.58
+ Income	\$ 0.82
Closing Balance	
9/30/15	\$ 25,050.40

Total Assets

9/30/15	\$ 37,391.24
---------------	--------------

Submitted by Mary Amos

Newsletter Culture Supplement

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, be sure to check out the Culture Supplement.

Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinics.

This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

Plant Table Awards October 7, 2015

The **First Place Blue Ribbon** went to Renee Bynum for her Dendrobium (Den.) *hymenanthum*. This delightful species plant was approximately 6 x 5 inches with tiny delicate flowers -- 1/2 inch! Knowing how difficult it is to re-cultivate this species, our wise judges gave it top honors. Renee grows this Asian import on a mount outside to receive rain during its blooming season. As with most species, she carefully varies its water and fertilizer needs depending on the month and weather. Excellent care, Renee!

The **Second Place Red Ribbon** and **Best Species Ribbon** were awarded to Linda Schaller for her Cattleya (C.) *walkeriana* with flowers having striking pink lips and many more buds in waiting. Called the Queen of the Brazilian Savannah, it is a bifoliate Cattleya and easy to grow. How easy? Linda hangs it under a tree, departs for the summer and returns to find it blooming in our Brazilian-similar Florida habitat. Well, I'm sure she does fertilize it before leaving. Fine growing, Linda!!



C. walkeriana

The **Third Place Yellow Ribbon** and **Speakers Commendation Ribbon** went to Margaret Cullen for her huge Dendrobium (Den.) *crumenatum*. This (species) plant had 200 + blooms which appeared just for our meeting and closed the next day! Yes, they bloom for 1 day (6-8x a year) after a 10 degree temperature drop and a deluge of rain. This was most fortunate for us and we heartily congratulate Margaret who has nurtured it for 20 +years!!



Den. hymenanthum



Den. crumenatum

The **New Member Grower Pink Ribbon** was awarded to Pat Milone for her Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.) Lois McNeil 'Ace'. This plant had 10-12 lovely lavender flowers all facing forward. As a trusty hybrid, we can count on it to grow furiously

Continued on next page

Plant Table Awards, October 7, 2015 (continued from page 3)



Rth. Lois McNeil

and bloom in early fall. Pat received this division from her mentor, yours truly, and she re-bloomed it beautifully. Congrats Pat!! Time to be a mentor?

The **Members' Choice Green Ribbon** went to Judy Mulligan for her Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Tristar Bouquet 'Hawaii', formerly called Laeliocat-



Ctt. Tristar Bouquet

tleya. We all loved its luscious dark fuchsia flowers on this very hearty plant. Judy grows it on the lanai under a pool cage and hanging under an arbor. It loves 50-60% humidity (Florida!), needs to dry out between watering and comes to bloom if grown under very bright dappled light. Perfect location and perfect job, Judy!

*-Narrative by Cynthia Vance;
photos by Cynthia Vance and Judy Mulligan*

Look Up When you Walk Through the Park. Do You See the Orchids?

An Update on the Venice Orchid Project

Last year the VAOS and the Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), with the support of our city leaders, began a project to plant and mount orchids in our city parks and trees. About 50% of the initial 100 plants have survived the squirrels and weather and are thriving. And because divisions of mature plants and not seedlings were planted, we should start to see some blooming orchids this spring.

While the project continues, we are starting to see some real interest and results:

- In October 2015 Venice won First Place (Five Blooms) in the national America In Bloom Competition. Bob Vedder, of the Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), led this effort supported by the VAOS Venice Orchid Project (see Meeting Minutes in this issue for more detail).
- The Venice City Council has invited Jay Loeffler to their October 27th session to brief them on the Venice Orchid Project which continues to receive strong support from our city leaders, including Mayor John Holic.
- Many members are now contributing orchid plant divisions for the project - thank you! We have found that the following types will thrive here:

.Encyclias - Both species such as tampensis and hybrid crossings. Summertime bloomers.

.B. nodosa and hybrids (i.e. B. Little Stars, Bl. Yellow Bird). Continuous blooming once established, grow to huge specimens.

.Broughtonias - Long lasting May to August bloomers, well suited to mounting in trees.

.Other Cattleya species and hybrids, particularly bifoliate that grow well mounted.

We appreciate your plant donations - please keep them coming!

- VAOS has begun to produce Press Releases to promote the Venice Orchid Project and our upcoming annual show. The 10/13/15 press release is included in the supplement to this newsletter.
- We're getting ready to start an orchid foster care program to grow seedling plants until they are ready for mounting. VAOS will provide member volunteers with 3 compot seedlings - two for you to keep and one for you to "foster care" and grow until of suitable size for mounting.

Please contact Jay Loeffler, VOP Coordinator, if you would like to donate plants, sign up for our foster care program or volunteer for the project. We are proud to be an active and visible contributor to our community and our city of Venice.

*-Submitted by Carol Wood,
VOP Enthusiast and Volunteer*

A Rousing Success!!

On October 17, 30 VAOS members got together at the Venetia Community Clubhouse to celebrate the successes of the mentorship program during the past twelve months. Each mentee spoke a little about their experience as newbies, which inevitably included gratitude for their tutoring and for the society. They were presented with their official graduation pins to wear with their nametags.



We shared an informal sandwich lunch and made some new acquaintances. There were some interesting door prizes including fully blooming orchids, a couple of orchid books, and even some bare root "noids." All the mentees went home with something, while the board members and mentors who attended beamed with pride for their accomplishments.



Following the lunch, we took a look at my growing area. I made the most of my large lanai with special areas for vandas, cattleyas and dendrobiums and also have a huge oncidium and a pendulous cymbidium. I almost gave both of those away because they seemed to be reluctant bloomers, but patience paid off and they are now among my favorite plants.



Everyone again thanked Peg Fahrenback, who got the program off to a great start, and the Board for its continuing support.

*-Narrative by Pauline Adam, Mentor Coordinator;
photos by Jay Loeffler and Steve Vogelhaupt*



VAOS HOLIDAY PARTY

TUESDAY DEC. 8, 2015

Boca Royale Golf & Country Club

1601 Englewood Rd. [SR.776]

5:30 pm Happy Hour w/cash Bar

6:30 pm Dinner [Choice of one entrée]

Menu

Beef – Prime Rib

Chicken – Apple & Sage stuffed Chicken Breast

Fish – Salmon Nicoise

[Charbroiled Atlantic salmon topped w/artichoke hearts,
tomatoes, peppers & capers tossed in a white wine & olive oil sauce]

Other Options:

Vegetarian or Gluten Free with prior notification

All Dinners include rolls & butter, salad, coffee & dessert

8pm Auction followed by dancing

\$29 per person

Reservations by Dec. 1st to:

VAOS Treasurer, Mary Amos

413 East Lake Drive, Sarasota, FL. 34232

Please clearly indicate your dinner choice on your check

GEARING UP FOR OUR 50th ANNUAL SHOW

A popular Florida orchid grower told us recently that the Venice Orchid Show ranks in the top three in the state of Florida - quite a compliment! We attribute our success to top quality orchid vendors, our advertising and outreach efforts, an ideal venue at the community center and most importantly, our active and enthusiastic member participation. The VAOS is one of the largest and most active orchid societies in Florida and just about all of you

turn out to work our annual show. And the excitement leading up to and during our show is palpable!

Your 2016 Show Co-Chairs and Committee Chairs have been busy with show planning and preparation. Here's the show schedule and a brief status update. Following that is the list of volunteers needed for the show. We'll begin the member volunteer sign up process at our November 4th meeting.

Show Schedule

Friday 2/5/16 Set Up 11:30am - 7pm
Saturday 2/6/16 Show & Sale 10am - 5pm
Sunday 2/7/16 Show & Sale 10am - 4pm
Sunday 2/7/16 Take Down 3:45pm - 6pm

Show Status Update

- All show vendors have been confirmed and are excited to participate in our show again this year. We continue to maintain a waiting list of interested vendors.
- All show Committee Coordinators have been confirmed and have started work on their committees. Committee Coordinators are identified in the matrix below.
- Vendor contracts will go out this month. Other Society invitations will go out this month.
- Our show theme, poster and ad graphics are finalized and will be presented to members at our November 4th meeting.
- Our show advertising plan and budget is set and ad orders are going in. Our TV ad order (ABC Channel 7) is in place.
- Online advertising posts have been initiated.
- Show press releases have been written and are ready to go.
- Because this is our 50th anniversary show, special events and exhibits are being planned.
- Design and printing of show publications, handouts

and brochures is underway

- The show classification schedule (for judging and awarding plants) is being revised
- AOS judges have been invited to our show
- Facility lay-out for vendor sales booths and display areas is being finalized. Greenery, stanchions and other supplies have been ordered.
- The Show Sponsorship Campaign is well underway with a \$5500 goal.
- Trophies have been ordered.
- Show signage has been ordered or is completed.
- Show T-shirts have been designed and will be provided to all working volunteers at the show. This year: purple with gold trim.
- The Orchid Boutique staff has been working throughout the year to acquire containers for plant arrangement sales.
- The show project plan that tracks planning progress and all show related income and expenses is being updated monthly for the Board of Directors review.

Volunteers Needed for 2016 Show & Sale

Show Committee	When	Job	# Volunteers Needed
Set Up Coord: Carol Wood 497-4995	Friday 2/5/16 11:30am - 2pm	Set up the hall for exhibits. Lay plastic, assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs needed.	10
Take Down Coord: Carol Wood 497-4995	Sunday 2/7/16 3:45pm - 6pm	Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh volunteers needed	10
Clerks Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 2/6/16 7:30am - 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!	27

Continued on next page

Volunteers Needed for 2016 Show & Sale (continued from previous page)

Show Committee	When	Job	# Volunteers Needed
Front Door Admissions Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 2/6/16 9:45am - 5pm and Sunday 2/7/16 9:45am - 4pm	Sell admission tickets and hand out programs. A sit down cashier job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.	24
Security Coord: Sharon & John Kahnoski 616-581-9131	Saturday 2/6/16 9:45am - 5pm and Sunday 2/7/16 9:45am - 4pm	Monitor building entrances and exits. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. A sit down job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday	24
Membership Table Coord: Judy Loeffler 485-9569	Saturday 2/6/16 10am - 5pm and Sunday 2/7/16 10am - 4pm	Sign up new members, sell books, distribute culture sheets, answer questions. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday	12
Hospitality/Food Coord: Linda & Bruce Hahn 408-7646	Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Bring to kitchen by 11am each day. Sign up your dish and on what day. Help with clean up Saturday or Sunday	12

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Reminder – VAOS Member Plant Sale, Saturday, November 14, 9am – 1pm

Now's the time to select the plants you'll be selling at our Annual Plant Sale. Check them for insects or diseases, stake and clean them if necessary and organize your display. A plant label is required and a color photo of the flower will help you sell plants out of bloom.

Reserve your space now to sell plants (not limited to orchids) and supplies. Contact Sharon Kahnoski at social@vaos.org to reserve or with questions. We'll be setting up around the gazebo near Tampa Avenue, adjacent to the Venice Farmers Market. You'll need to

bring your own table(s), chairs and cold drinks. A few tables will be available for members who have only a few plants to sell. If you don't have plants to sell, bring your friends and join us anyway!

The Chalk Festival and the Saturday Farmers Market is taking place at the same time, so we'll have lots of visitors. Orchid Envy and Honey Bee Nursery will also be participating. A donation of 20% of sales proceeds is requested to benefit VAOS.

-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski

President's Message (continued from page 1)

the 4th of November will be John Salventi who will discuss orchid nutrition and how to keep your plants flowering at their best. Take advantage of the cooler weather and we'll see you soon.

Happy orchiding,

-Bruce Weaver, Interim President & VP, Programs

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

• **Orchid Envy**
(941) 266-6351
339 Venice Ave. West,
Venice, FL

• **Florida SunCoast Orchids**
(941-322-8777)
8211 Verna Bethany Rd.,
Myakka City, FL

Meeting Minutes (continued from page 2)

- There are 31 people signed up for the Mentor/Mentee social event on October 17 which is being hosted by Pauline Adam, our Mentor Coordinator.

- 2 local orchid vendors, Honey Bee Nursery and Orchid Envy, will join us at our Member Plant Sale in downtown Venice on November 14th. Anyone interested in setting up a table to sell their own plants should contact Sharon Kahnoski. You must bring your own table and you can sell any kind of plants or related items, not just orchids. VAOS asks for a 20% donation of each individual's total sales at the completion of event. If you don't want to set up a table, come anyway and buy plants as well as enjoying the Farmer's Market and the Chalk Festival that same weekend.

- The Christmas party will be on Tuesday, December 8th at the Boca Royale Golf and Country Club. There are flyers available at the membership table. There will be good food, music, dancing, and an orchid auction.

- There will be no October home/growing area tours this month. Sharon asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to be on the spring tour.

Ron Midgett of New Earth Orchids in Santa Fe was the speaker for the evening. He is an AOS judge and has been growing and hybridizing orchids for 46 years. Ron presented the history of hybridizing green cattleyas and had lots of interesting cattleyas for sale.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15.

-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for November 2015

Start getting ready, the cooler weather is coming. Before you bring any plants inside, check the plants, container and the media. Be sure there are no hitchhikers that you will bring inside. If any are found, use a good insecticide on the plant and media.

Check to be sure that you know what the cooler temperature limits are for each type of orchid you have and remember that some types of plants have to have some cooler weather to set the blooms.

As the temperature drops, you will water and fertilize less. The plants cannot handle the amounts they can in the summer when they are in active growth but still need some water.

If you are not moving the plants, this is a good time to clean the area around the plants and under the benches. This will remove hiding areas for the creepy crawlers

that move in closer looking for a warm spot. It also removes areas that could harbor fungus. Spraying the benches and the plants with SA20 or similar, available at MRT and other locations, will give you added insurance.

This should be a relaxing time for you and your plants as some need a rest as do we. Store up the energy level as we all will need it come spring.

Come to the monthly Growers Clinic held at the VCC every second Thursday, at 7:00p.m. for great orchid growing topics and tips presented by our panel of experts. Members may bring up to three plants, pots, mounts or similar for sale. Bring your questions and problem plants. Check the Upcoming Events section of the newsletter for late changes.

-Submitted by Jimmy Thomas

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 4th, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

- **Speaker:** John Salventi
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share.

Upcoming Events

October 24 & 25: Tampa Orchid Club Show, USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL.
Info: cents4me@aol.com

October 30 – November 1:
Delray Beach Orchid Society Show, Old School Square Gymnasium, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL.
Info: aojax@comcast.net

October 31 – November 1: 17th International Slipper Orchid Symposium, Sheraton Orlando North in Maitland FL.
Info: www.slippersymposium.com

October 31 – November 1: Plantio La Orquidea's Fall Orchid Sale, 9 am - 4 pm both days. 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota 34243. See Culture Supplement for details.

November 4 (1st Wenesday):
VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: John Salventi, Topic: Plant Nutrition

November 7: EAOS Member Fall Plant Sale, Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood

November 7 & 8: Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show, Emma Lee Olsen Civic Ctr., 1801 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL vincedic@att.net

November 12 (2nd Thursday):
VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speakers: Rich Amos and Renee Bynum, Topic: Growing Uncommon Plants. **Tailgate Party 5:30pm in parking lot.**

November 14 (Saturday): VAOS Member Fall Plant Sale, Gazebo, downtown Venice Centennial Park, (9am - 1pm)

December 8 (Tuesday): VAOS Annual Holiday Party & Auction at Boca Royale Country Club. Reservations and payment NLT December 1.

Planning Ahead

January 2 - 3, 2016: Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show. Orchid Sale only

February 6-7, 2016: VAOS Annual Orchid Show and Sale. Set up Friday February 5th

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/>

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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



Orchid Show & Sale

Venice Area Orchid Society Presents

Fifty Shades of Orchids

February 6th & 7th, 2016

Saturday 10am - 5pm

(displays open at 11am)

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Venice Community Center

326 S. Nokomis Ave.

Venice, Florida

Admission \$5

(under 10 free)

www.vaos.org

Thousands of Blooming Orchids, Orchid Classes, Orchid Art & Supplies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Look Up When you Walk Through the Park. Do You See the Orchids?

Venice, Florida October 15, 2015: For years the city of Venice has promoted itself as "the Shark's Tooth Capital of the World". However, after multiple beach renourishment projects it's becoming increasingly difficult to find those shark's teeth on our beaches. It may just be in the not- so -distant- future that Venice has a new claim to fame - "the City of Orchids" - thanks to an ongoing community project to populate our city parks and trees with Florida friendly orchids.

In 2014 the Venice Area Orchid Society (VAOS) and the Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), with the support of our city leaders, began a project to plant and mount orchids in our city parks and trees. About 50% of the initial 100 plants have survived the squirrels and weather and are thriving. And because divisions of mature plants and not seedlings were planted, we should start to see some blooming orchids this spring.

The Venice project is nowhere near the scale of the Million Orchid Project initiated by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Coral Gables, FL where 50,000 orchid seedlings will be planted in the coming years. However, their project does serve as a terrific role model to initiate our own - to reintroduce Florida friendly orchids to Venice.

South Florida was a natural orchid paradise 100 years ago. Loss of habitat, urban development and poaching has decimated their numbers to the extent that they have no hope of recovering on their own. Many Florida 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 are not parasites and do not damage the trees. They require little maintenance and can grow and bloom for decades once established.

Planting orchids in our city landscape will enhance the beauty of our Island City and delight our residents and visitors for years to come. So the next time you walk through one of our downtown parks, look up. You might just see a blooming orchid!

The Venice Area Orchid Society is one of the largest and most active orchid societies in Florida with over 300 members. The annual Venice Orchid Show and Sale, held the first weekend in February each year, draws more than 4000 visitors.

Venice Area Orchid Society, Venice Orchid Project Coordinator, Jay Loeffler.
disp@vaos.org. 941-416-3268

END

###

*The Herald Tribune is the premiere sponsor for the VAOS annual orchid show and sale

FALL ORCHID SALE

Friday and Saturday | November 6 and 7, 2015 | 9 AM to 4 PM



- .- Browse through 10000+ sq ft of Orchids.
- .- Thousands of Orchids, species and hybrids to choose from.
- .- Advice on Orchid Growing from Experts. Free Parking.

Plantio La Orquidea, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243, Same driveway as Tropiflora

PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA



PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA

3480 Tallevast Rd.

Sarasota, Florida 34243

Phone: 941-504-7737

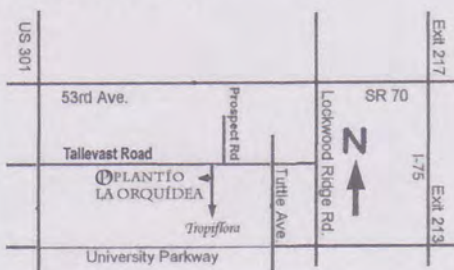
E-mail: info@plantiolaorquidea.com

Free Plant
Raffle

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1
MANASOTA, FL

\$ 5 off any purchase over \$25

Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only the
dates of the event



Water Culture Basics

Water culture is something we've been experimenting with since Nov. '95. The idea is simple: Culturing Orchids in no media except for water. The water is present all the time. For those wanting to experiment with this method of Orchid culture, we're presenting a few guidelines to help you.

Container

The container we prefer most is glass, though we've even used Rubbermaid containers with as good a success as with glass. The container needs to be deep enough to accommodate a large root system and the rim of the container should support the bottom leaves of the plant if possible. For pseudobulbous plants, a stake can be tied to the plant which will support it in the container.

Starting Out

Once you've selected which plants(s) you want to grow and the containers you want to grow them in, consider these basics:

- (1) Always use tepid water when initially filling or replacing the water in your containers. "Tepid" has no discernable temperature. It will feel neither warm nor cold.
- (2) Fertilizer strength and type should be the same as for potted plants. We keep fertilizer in the water at all times.
- (3) Water changes should be done weekly with daily additions if needed. Do not allow the water level to drop below the top of the roots for any length of time. So long as the water level is correct, there is virtually no risk of bacterial or fungal infections. Do not remove the algae growth from either the roots or the inside of the container. It's our feeling that it assists with gas exchange within what is basically a stagnant body of water. At the end of each week just dump the water and replace.
- (4) Temperature and light is exactly the same for water cultured plants as it would be if the plants were potted. In other words, follow the same cultural guidelines for the hybrid or species you're growing. Bear in mind that the water will quickly reach room temperature. A cold room will stunt the growth of the plant. A hot room will also stunt the growth of the plant. 65-85 degrees should be the outside ranges of the room with the max in the 80-85 degree range for intermediate growing orchids.
- (5) "Repotting" is basically not needed until the root system has so overwhelmed the container that getting the plant out of the container would cause damage doing so. The roots in these containers will not rot and only rarely die so expect to see more roots than you're used to seeing.
- (6) Miscellaneous thoughts: We have yet to have a plant die in our own experiments. Some plants do seem easier than others though. Phrags especially seem fond of the method, while Phals, though growing nicely, seem somewhat slower than pot culture. Cattleyas, Catasetums, Dens, Mormodes, Oncidiums, Paphs, and Zygos ALL do well. Bear in mind that plants just won't be suitable for this method if they need a rest period. Give it a try, have fun, and be sure and let us know how things work out! If you have any specific questions, feel free to email me.

Below are comments by Robert Lin regarding the differences in water, aerial and media roots, used with his permission.

From: Robert Lin

First, orchid roots function to uptake water and nutrients, preserve water loss during drought conditions, and also allow the exchange of gases to regulate life cycles. Root structures (i.e., cellular shapes, sizes, types, and the number of cells from the cortex to the velamen) will vary from species to species and maybe from plant to plant depending on what and where it is growing. For this and many other reasons, orchids (and other plants) are highly adaptive to changing/varying environments.

Many people have reported that orchid roots develop differently depending on the surface it comes in contact with as it is growing. Roots can grow fully exposed dangling in the air, in contact partially on a surface (e.g., bark), and/or growing in a soil medium. When an aerial root touches a surface, the portion that comes in contact with the surface will adapt differently so that the cellular function is optimized for the plant survival.

For example, the area that contacts a piece of bark will often develop roots hairs on the bottom side, together with smaller velamen cells and thin walled passage cells. This will help an orchid cling to the bark and allow better transfer of water and air on the bottom side as it grows attached. On the exposed side, passage cells become more lignified or suberized for protection and reduce water loss in the air. Roots growing in soil can develop a modified velamen layer but do not always do so like roots exposed to the air.

If roots grow into water, they will adapt to regulate water passage with specialized cell development for a water environment. Established aerial roots placed into water (as compared to new roots that grow in water) usually survive and can adapt because aerial roots have outer cells that are structured to not allow water freely into the plant (but can still regulate gas exchange). This allows time (maybe 3-6 months) for an orchid to readapt and grow water roots in the new water environment. Some aerial roots will rot soon after being placed into water but this can be attributed to physical damage that occurred before being placed in water. A crack along any part of the root will allow water (and therefore fungus/bacteria) into the unprotected center of the root and rot occurs. Some aerial roots just can not adapt to water conditions and die off, but hopefully new water roots have developed by that time.

In general, water roots, aerial roots (attached and unattached), and soil roots are different because the roots have developed differently to optimize and regulate their growing condition. Orchid roots adapt by developing specialize cells based on the surface it touches, so each root can be structurally and functionally different from one another. An orchid will try to adapt physically, chemically, and biologically to an environment to ultimately produce offspring.

Editor's note: This article was sent to me by Cynthia Vance who came upon it as a Facebook link. The article was initially written by Venger's Orchids, Colorado Springs, CO., most probably in the early 2000's. Neither the email address or domain name given is in existence at this time and it appears that the company is no longer in business. There is also no information available on Peter Lin.

While certainly interesting, my recommendation would be to try this with an orchid that you wouldn't mind losing. Ray Barkalow, First Rays, has an excellent free section on his website (www.firstrays.com) dealing with semi hydroponic growing, techniques and supplies.