

Venice Area Orchid Society News

January 2012

Mark Your New Calendars with the 2012 Show Schedule

VAOS members traditionally participate in the following orchid shows, as well as Ridge Show in Lakeland in September.

Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Saturday, January 7
Sunday, January 8

Venice Area Orchid Society Show
Saturday, February 4
Sunday, February 5

**Englewood Area Orchid
Society Show**
Friday, March 16
Saturday, March 17

*(Setup is always the day preceding
the first show day)*

Attending orchid shows provides an opportunity to see the latest introductions and pick up a few selections for your own orchid collection.



The Venice Area Orchid Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

Orchid Growers Clinics are informal question and answer sessions addressing questions from new orchid growers or growers with problem plants. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center.

Guests are welcome.

Visit the Venice Area Orchid Society on the web at:

www.vaos.org

Happy New Year!

~Good Things Are Happening in 2012~

time for
Enchantment

VENICE SHOW & SALE

FEBRUARY 4 & 5

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Bob Scully

"Big Cattleyas – Prospects for their Return"



Bob Scully

Bob Scully, a second-generation Orchid Specialist, grew up around orchids when his family ran Jones & Scully, an important firm in the development of the orchid hobby and trade in Miami, Florida. Bob later became president but when Hurricane Andrew blew through that area in 1992, the business was literally blown away.

Today, Bob spends his time with Tiger Orchid Products focusing on Growing and Production consultancy. He also is active with numerous orchid and horticulturally affiliated organizations. Bob and his wife Susan live in Sarasota, FL.

Since Bob is not a commercial grower, Fender's Flora will bring plants to sell at this meeting.

Membership Dues – only \$15!

Now is the time to renew your membership to the Venice Area Orchid Society. Membership is an opportunity to protect your orchid investment by developing and expanding your knowledge of growing beautiful orchid plants, learning from area experts and growers who generously share their experiences. It is rewarding to participate in the activities of such an active, energetic club.

**Membership dues are only \$15 per household each calendar year
and are due by January 1**

Pay Treasurer Ali Hicks at the next meeting or mail your check, *payable to VAOS*, to:
Ms. Ali Hicks, Treasurer, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

Dues must be received by January 1st so that you can be included in the 2012 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information—address, phone and email address. Please check your 2011 Directory to see if your entry needs editing.

To join, send your dues to Ali with your contact information.

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

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

Published monthly.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.

Please direct comments to:
Ellen and Tony Nacinovich
<vaos.newsletter@gmail.com>
<tnacinovich@verizon.net>

Written submissions are appreciated.

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Monthly Checklist for January and February

Cattleya

Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

Cymbidium

We are well into the flowering season now. Outdoor growers should be cautious of freezing temperatures. Damage starts to occur below 30 F. Be diligent about tying the inflorescences for best arrangement of the flowers. Also watch closely for slugs and snails. If weather is quite wet, protect the plants from the rain and this will help to reduce the risk of botrytis spotting.

Lycaste

The most glorious of all orchids, Lycaste, will be moving toward their flowering season. Make sure the palm-like leaves do not interfere with the emerging inflorescences. Tying them loosely together often is helpful. Some growers cut the leaves off at the pseudobulb, but this removes part of the attractiveness of this elegant orchid. Resist picking up the plant to inspect those beautiful buds and then setting it down in all different directions as the flower buds will be forced to re-orient themselves to the light source each time and will not open as nicely as they should. Keep plants a little drier during the shorter days.

Odontoglossums

Odontoglossums and their intergeneric hybrids offer a great splash of color now. Though once thought of as being difficult to grow and requiring cool temperatures due to the emphasis on odontoglossum breeding, the new intergeneric hybrids made using *Oncidium* and *Brassia*, for example, are just the opposite. These plants are quite content in more intermediate conditions. New growths generally emerge in the spring, later forming beautiful plump pseudobulbs. Look for the flower spikes to emerge from the inner sheath of the pseudobulb. If your plant's pseudobulbs are shriveled, then the plants have been kept too dry or too wet. Inspect the roots to determine which condition prevailed. If the lead pseudobulb is large, plump and green (and back bulbs are shriveled) but no flower spike is evident, the plants may have been kept too dry.

Paphiopedilum

The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a *paphiopedilum*, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

Phalaenopsis

Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of *phalaenopsis* at orchid shows and sales.

Zygopetalum

For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

Source: www.AOS.org –The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

A Message from Your President:



Cynthia Vance

A Wonderful Holiday Party—

What an evening! The Yacht Club was a lovely venue to launch the Holidays and we gazed down at the boats in their holiday splendor during the party. A record eighty-one members attended and it was beautiful seeing so many dressed up for the occasion especially the men in tie and jacket. The ladies were also beautifully attired.

Thanks to the following people for making the event a grand success!

Arrangements: Carol Malott, VP Social — thank you for your careful planning.

Reception and Drink Tickets: Thank you for coming early to assist — Mike and Karen O'Brien, Louis and Elaine Ort, Jane and Frank Camarota, Peggy and Dick Thompson, Jay and Lynette Koths and Ali and Ed Hicks.

Our Splendid Auction Volunteers: Thank you for your talents and enthusiasm — Bill Timm, best auctioneer in S. Florida, Jerry Manegold, organizer, and knowledgeable promoters Bill Fender, Toni Marie and Jimmy Thomas who described the beautiful plants with great exuberance – helping us net nearly \$1000!

The Plants: Thank you members who did the hard work of dividing plants and lugging them to the event. We had 40 plants, one painting and OrchidWiz Express to auction. Special thanks to those of you that bid and won!

Our members were buzzing all night, so much so, it was difficult to hear the music. Next year we'll make sure we can really dance!

Progress on our Annual Show and Sale

“**Enchantment**”, Feb 4-5, 2012: All the committee work and tasks to be done to prepare for the show are on schedule. If you are a new member you will surely want to sign up as a volunteer for this is really the most fun we have together during the year. Call Barbara at 923-7706 to see what you can do.

We made some vendor changes to enhance the quality of the show's offerings. For our volunteers, instead of T-shirts, we are giving a special gift to each of you (it's a secret) and your membership badges will signal to attendees that you are there to assist them.

New and prospective members desire more training in repotting, so we will have promotion cards to be added to each purchase encouraging them to attend our meetings. We will be selling some excellent books on growing orchids to educate and encourage beginners to become serious hobbyists.

We are offering photographers a special time, early Sunday morning, to come and take pictures (for a fee) before the public enters.

We will be giving guided tours to groups, and 1 group has signed up already.

Sponsorship fundraising is going very well with returning well-known sponsors – Jacaranda Trace, State Farm Insurance, and AAA, etc. and new ones, such as Center for Sight and Pineapples Island Grill, etc.

We still need our members to become patrons. This is a long-time tradition – so kindly send in \$25-\$100, so we can continue to keep our membership dues low. Our superb monthly speakers and meetings are a big part of the budget – and we know how much their presentations mean to you. We will be pleased to publish your names in our Show Program, so try to bring a check, even if a small one, to the January meeting.

Finally, our Board is looking ahead to another successful New Year, and we look forward to working with you as we share our delight in orchids, together, while making our Society thrive.

—Cynthia Vance



Plants Needed for VAOS Exhibit at Sarasota Show

All members are encouraged to bring plants for the VAOS exhibit at the Sarasota Show, to be held the weekend of January 7th and 8th.

Submitting a plant for exhibit and judging or volunteering to work on an exhibit can be a tremendously gratifying experience. Some tips for grooming your plants for exhibit are on page 5.

Please bring your plants to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on Friday, January 6th at 10 a.m.

For those unable to deliver plants at that time: The plants can be brought to the VAOS meeting on Wednesday, or brought on Thursday to Bob Wallace's home. (941/ 485-4240)

A REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR ALL PLANTS. Entry forms are available online at www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

A Call for Orchids Magazines

Please bring your old issues of Orchids magazines to the VAOS library, where they are being collected for the membership table at the February VAOS show. Orchids magazines are much in demand by attendees, who don't mind the age of the magazine.



December 9, 2011

*Christmas Party
at the
Venice Yacht Club*



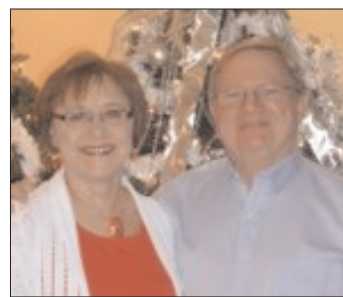
Auction



Photos: Carol Wood



Bill Timm, Auctioneer
Extraordinaire



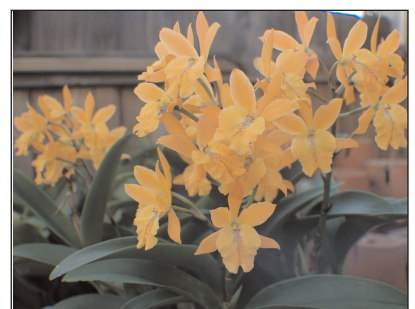
Plant Table Awards



First Place & Members' Choice:
C. maxima
Grower: Bob Wallace



Best species: Bulbophyllum virescens
Grower: Bill Timm



Second Place: Eplc. Don Herman 'Spots'
Grower: James Thomas

Growing Tips

By Dr. Courtney T. Hackney

Experienced hobbyists have learned a lesson over the years that many newer hobbyists do not like to hear. If an orchid wants to die, don't spend a lot of time trying to save it. This is often a hard lesson for new growers who just spent what seemed like a large amount of money for a gorgeous orchid plant in flower or for some unusual species that a speaker was selling. The fact is that once an orchid plant starts "toward the light" it's hard to stop it. Also, growers with many plants want to remove that potential carrier of disease from the growing area as well as spend their limited time on other orchids that are growing well.

There are times, however, when you just are not willing to let an orchid die. It might be a very rare and hard-to-find orchid, or it might be the first orchid you purchased. Just about everyone has "nostalgic" orchids in their collection. While difficult, orchids headed toward that great mulch pile in the sky can often be brought back. Here are some of the tricks of the trade.

Before reading this, remember that orchids do not have immune systems like animals. Treating orchids requires that you understand and take advantage of the mechanisms that orchids use to fight disease and pests.

Instead of moving disease fighting cells to the infection like we do, orchids instead separate healthy cells from unhealthy cells by building walls between healthy and unhealthy tissues. Infection of a plant has an entry point every time. This fact can be as important in treating an orchid as the diagnosis.

The first step is coming up with a diagnosis. If you can see where the problem started, there is an excellent chance that the plant can be saved. Often, the tip of a leaf or a new growth turns black indicating where the rot has started. If there is healthy tissue on the rhizome or at the

base of the leaf the orchid can generally be saved.

Most fast acting diseases are caused by bacteria. If bacteria have penetrated to new growths or reached the center of a phal or vanda, it is often too late, but it can be worth a try if it is a very special plant. My first tactic is to remove all of the black or dead tissue, which requires removal of the plant from the pot. Totally wash all media from roots. I use a small jet from a hose to wash the orchid. Next, I spray the entire plant with household hydrogen peroxide. Then, place the plant on a newspaper in a spare room where there is plenty of air movement and little humidity. The main point is to kill the bacteria and stop the infection.

Check the plant each morning and night before bed for any soft or watery spots and remove any you find followed by spraying the new wound with hydrogen peroxide. Your plant should remain dry and will look desiccated. Avoid the temptation to mist. If after a week no new rot spots have appeared and the orchid is green, you have a chance to save it. Put the plant at the bottom of a new clay pot and set it in a shady part of the greenhouse. At this point, I will move it out when I water because I do not want the plant to get wet until I see signs of growth. When new roots or leaves appear, water it. Once roots begin to attach to the pot, gently place a small quantity of media in the pot and leave it alone until it is clear that the orchid has resumed growing. Next move it back to the proper light level. If caught early, an orchid with rot can be saved.

Dr. Courtney T. Hackney is with the Dept. of Biology, Univ. North Florida. He writes a monthly column and is a contributing writer for several Florida orchid societies.

*Email: hackneau@comcast.net
December 2011*

Some Suggestions for Grooming Your Orchids For Home or Show

The following are some tips for preparing plants for exhibiting, whether at home or for a show (notes from a presentation by Mike Polen to VAOS).

- Strip dried sheathing
- Shine leaves with club soda or rubbing alcohol to leave a natural, matte finish. This will wash away calcium or fertilizer deposits.
- Prep your plant with the thought that you want the blossoms at eye level of the judges
- If blossoms are cramped, use a styro-foam peanut or cotton ball to separate
- Stake your plant, preferably using brown or black ties, or make a bamboo stake with a floral wire hook.
- Hide colored pots by setting into a green plastic pot.
- You can also hide unsightly pots with packing tape and sheet moss (run a strip of packing tape around the pot; then reverse it and cover sticky side with sheet moss)

Shows are great places to buy orchid supplies, especially those that are too heavy to ship. Working on the setup of your local orchid society's show can be a fantastic educational experience, as can clerking for AOS judging at a show.

Nominations for New Officers

A nominating committee, comprised of Cynthia Vance, Carol Wood, and Peg Farenbach is seeking members willing to serve in several officer positions whose terms are ending in March. Two-year terms for several offices will be open this year – President, Vice President for Programs, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Director-at-Large.

Please contact a committee member if you are interested in an office or know of a good candidate.

Elections will be held in February, with new officers installed at the March 2012 meeting.

If called to fill a board position, plan to just say "Yes."

Visit VAOS on the web at:
www.vaos.org

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, January 4 at 7 p.m.
- Speaker: Bob Scully, "Big Cattleyas - Prospects for Their Return"
 - Show table entries welcome
 - Plants for sale from Fender's Flora
 - Refreshments

Upcoming Events

January 4 – VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. Venice Community Center. 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Bob Skully, Tiger Orchid Products & Services, "Big Cattleyas – Prospects for Their Return."

January 7-8 – 2012 Sarasota Orchid Society Show, "Orchids By The Sea," Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota, FL.

January 11 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7 p.m. VCC.

January 20-22 – Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

January 1-22 – Manatee River Orchid Society Show, Manatee Civic Center, 1 Habon Blvd., Palmetto, FL.

January 28-29 – Tamiami International Orchid Festival, Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center, Miami, FL.

February 1 – VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. at the VCC. Speaker: Greg Allikas, "Pedilonum Dendrobiums."

February 3 – Setup for VAOS show VCC. 1 p.m.

February 4-5 – VAOS Show (see poster at right)

February 8 – VAOS Orchid Growers Clinic, 7 p.m. VCC.

February 10-12 – Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show, Orlando Garden Club, 210 E. Rollins St., Loch Haven Park, Orlando, FL.

February 11-12 – Boca Raton Orchid Society Show, Safe Schools Institute 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33431.

VENICE AREA ORCHID SOCIETY
Presents
Enchantment
VENICE
ORCHID
SHOW & SALE

Excite and delight your senses.
Experience the passion – thousands of exotic blooming orchids in 20 artistically inventive displays.
Purchase unique, vigorous growing orchids bred for the Gulf Coast, supplies, and orchid art from 15 premier vendors. Learn how to grow these enchanting treasures and how to keep them blooming again and again.

February 4 & 5

Saturday	Sunday
Sales: 10 to 5	Sales: 10 to 4
Show: 11 to 5	Show: 10 to 4

THOUSANDS OF BLOOMS WILL ENCHANT YOU

Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice, FL
Admission \$4