

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

June 2012

## Did you know?



See Member's Corner on page 5



Epc. Rene Marques 'Tyler'



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 sessions, usually with a topic, 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](http://WWW.VAOS.ORG)

## A Message from your President:

I'm especially impressed that 27 members attended our Growers Clinic again!! This tells me that all of us want our new purchases to bloom again! So here are some must-have resources for you.

**The VAOS Orchid Resource Guide** – We gave this to you when you became a member. It was written by VAOS members and we made it short and easy on the basics.

**VAOS Website** ([vaos.org](http://vaos.org)): In the blank space at the right, choose "Cultivation" and fine articles with explanatory photos will appear. Most were written by our VAOS master growers.

**Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month**, by Martin Motes, PhD. This is the ONLY orchid book written for Florida's changing climate, which tells you what do monthly with an easy check list at each chapter's end. Our new members say this is the best book they've purchased.

**Four Seasons of Orchids**, by Greg Allikas and Ned Nash. You will be



Cynthia Vance

*Continued on page 5*

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Tom Aaron,  
Green Earth Nursery, Jacksonville  
"Using and Creating Micro Climates"**



Tom Aaron

Tom Aaron was born and raised in an agricultural family with experience growing citrus, corn and soybeans among other edible crops. At the age of 12 Tom and his younger brother became interested in growing plants and began experimenting with dozens of african violet stem cuttings to create more plants. After that it was just a matter of time before Tom would eventually start his own orchid farm and a landscape and interiorscape design business.

Tom holds two degrees in the Horticulture Sciences and currently operates an orchid farm and orchid propagation lab in Northeast Florida with his wife Kim - Green Earth Nursery & Landscaping. Tom has been active in and served on the Board of Directors for the Jacksonville Orchid Society.

Tom's presentation, entitled "Using and Creating Micro Climates" will focus the grower on how to be perceptive of your environment, to learn from your own experiences and to be able to create areas inside and outside of your home where your orchids can thrive and grow. You'll learn about the basics: Temperature, Humidity, Water & Light, and how to use them in creating a micro climate. Tom will also share some tips on how to enhance the overall quality of your orchids.

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

## Officers 2012 - 2013

### **President**

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

### **Vice President - Programs**

Carol Wood (Acting)

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

Bob Wallace, [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

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Carol Malott, [soci@vaos.org](mailto:soci@vaos.org)

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Ali Hicks, [tres@vaos.org](mailto:tres@vaos.org)

### **Recording Secretary**

Peg Fahrenback, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

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Jim and Gerry Thomas, [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

### **Directors At Large:**

#### **Co-Chair Annual Show**

Barbara Wagner

#### **Co-Chair Annual Show**

Carol Wood, [showchair@vaos.org](mailto:showchair@vaos.org)

#### **Promotion and Advertising**

Debra Mattar, [promo@vaos.org](mailto:promo@vaos.org)

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The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

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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:  
Carol Wood, [carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com](mailto:carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com)
- Written submissions are appreciated.

## VAOS

Join this active and vital organization to:

- Develop and expand your knowledge of growing extraordinarily beautiful plants.
- Learn culture techniques and secrets from area experts and growers who generously share their experiences.
- Participate in a variety of field trips to shows, member's growing areas and commercial nurseries.
- Protect your investment. Orchids can be expensive but you can increase your collection economically by participating in our monthly raffles.
- Make new friends with delightful and fascinating people who share your passion for orchids.
- Participate in an active club involved in shows, exhibits, tours, trips, parties and fun activities — all featuring orchids.

## VAOS GROWERS CLINIC

### **Next Clinic:**

Wednesday, June 13th, 7pm,  
Venice Community Center

**Topic:** Choosing the Right  
Pot or Container and Media  
for your Orchid

Just purchased a **B. nodosa**  
and wondering what is the  
best container and media to  
use? Put it in a clay pot, bas-  
ket or mount it? Just received  
a Mother's Day **Phalaenop-**  
**sis** and wondering how to  
keep it alive and rebloom it  
next year?

Join us at the **VAOS Grow-**  
**ers Clinic** on June 13th to  
get answers to these questions.

The Growers Clinic has become a popular event under Jim Thomas' leadership. Last month 27 people attended the clinic to learn "Tips and Tricks" from Experienced Growers. On June 13th we'll focus on different types of pots and containers (clay and plastic pots, baskets, mounts, rafts); different types of media (bark and bark mixes, coconut husk chip (CHC) mixes, sphagnum moss, inorganic media); how and where to buy quality media; how to clean and store media; and the best containers and media for commonly grown orchids.

Bring in your problem plants for personal advice. Guests are welcome!



Jim Thomas



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## Too Many Orchids?

by Bill Fender

Having “too many orchids” is really not a problem if we can properly take care of all of our orchids and, consequently, our orchids bloom well and remain disease and pest free.

However, challenges arise when we crowd our collection or hang more orchids over our benches. Doing either of these will block the light and diminish air circulation, thus providing perfect conditions for diseases and pests to thrive and not be noticed until there is a major problem.

We have recently discovered the “solution” to the problem of too many orchids. We have even give the solution a name: **WOW!** When an orchid bloom opens and I don’t say, “WOW!” that orchid is history. This is an extremely efficient way to have a wonderful, manageable orchid collection.

Whoa, don’t panic! There are some basic guidelines. Usually these are plants that I have had for years and now there is something better in my collection that blooms at the same time. Also, and this is not unusual, I have multiple plants of the same orchid blooming at the same time. This is the result of dividing and not sharing the divisions. Be sure to share your “extra” orchids with friends and other orchid enthusiasts. Societies appreciate raffle plants, too.

Sometimes I just don’t like the growth habit of one of my orchids. A large plant in a 6 inch pot (that should be in an 8 inch pot) has just bloomed for the first time with two flowers. The flowers may be gorgeous, but I would much prefer a more prolific bloomer. When I remove this large plant, I will have room for several smaller ones that will hopefully bloom more frequently.

As an orchid matures, its growth habit becomes more evident. It may grow very tall, leggy, become too heavy or just become too sprawling. That means I have to find a way to keep it erect or contained. Stakes and clay pots do help. I will always have a few of these in my collection but not as many as I once had.

There comes a time when “collecting” evolves into “selecting.” After growing orchids for a while you probably know what you like and what you don’t like. There are, of course, many characteristics to consider: fragrance, plant size when mature, flower size, flower quality, color, bloom frequency and season, adaptation to your culture. Once you decide what you prefer in your collection, you will have a guideline to help you improve or upgrade your personal collection.

This selection process also evolves. We have concentrated on spring and fall-blooming seasons for orchid shows and compact cattleya-types for windowsill growers. Sometimes we need more lavenders or reds or yellows or we need fragrance. Orchid growing is not a static hobby.

Many times we upgrade our collection without remembering to cull our collections. You know the results: too many orchids. Instead of adding on another room to your home or building another greenhouse, why not dispose of those orchids that you don’t really enjoy as much or that don’t grow and flower as well so that you can provide the orchids you love with more space, sufficient light, and good air circulation? Now you’ll be able to enjoy the full potential of your orchids.

### Happy orchid growing!

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## Orchid Bonanza For the Mentor Program

Thanks to the generosity of Richard Amos and the hard work of Jim Thomas, the Mentor Program had an orchid bonanza during the months of April and May. Richard Amos donated very large, healthy Phalaenopsis and Cattleya orchids. Jim Thomas carefully divided and trimmed them. Peg Fahrenback researched hybrid names, prepared tags and distributed the orchids. In April, each mentor and their mentees received a Phalaenopsis division. During May, each participant received a division of C. Mem. Robert Strait ‘Blue Hawaii.’ Mentors picked up the bare rooted plants and assisted mentees with potting and caring for them. We give hearty thanks to Richard, Jim and all of the Mentors. It was a perfect example of VAOS teamwork.

What a privilege, to be guided by experienced orchid growers. The Mentor Program is highly individualized and participants learn basic growing skills such as potting, sun exposure, watering, pest control, and fertilizing, etc. Some Mentees need help with a single issue such as scale or “Why won’t my orchid bloom?” Mentoring is typically a short term experience, but may create lasting friendships. Beginning growers are urged to also attend monthly Growers Clinics (2nd Wed.), an ongoing avenue of learning. Jim Thomas and Carol Wood, long term growers, present a different topic each month and answer questions about orchids brought in by members. The Mentor Program and Growers Clinic is a dynamite duo for becoming a successful orchid grower.

We need more Mentors. Experienced and beginning growers are typically paired by geographic area. It can be a very rewarding experience for both. Most successful growers had a special someone who played a role regarding their interest in orchids. Our most recent Mentor to sign up is Richard Amos. Richard has grown orchids for more than 50 years and has earned a very long list of show awards.

Consider becoming a Mentor for VAOS. Sign up forms are at the Membership Table at our monthly meetings. Helping beginning growers will keep our Society strong. If you have questions, please contact Peg Fahrenback, Mentor Program Coordinator. [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)



## Plant Table Awards May 2, 2012

Monthly meetings include a show table of members' plants. Six ribbons are awarded each month, four of which are selected by a random team of VAOS member judges. These four awards are First, Second and Third place and Best Species. All VAOS members vote on a plant for the Members' Choice award and there is a Speaker's Choice award. Plants from commercial growers are not eligible for ribbons. Plants are named as presented with minor editing corrections.

**First Place, Members' Choice and Speaker's Choice:** *Coelogyne South Carolina*. Grower: Jane Camarota

This is a hybrid of *Coel. Burfordiense* x *Coel. pandurata* registered by Carter & Holmes in 1996. Seven clones have won AOS awards. Jane says her plant blooms reliably once a year but the flowers last for only one week. Congratulations to Jane, a triple ribbon winner!



*Coelogyne South Carolina*

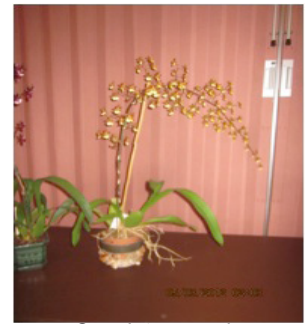
**Second Place:** *Oncidium Intergeneric Alliance Everglade HCC/AOS*. Grower: Tawanna Hardenbrook

While unable to verify the name and award of this plant,

it is a cross between two different genera (Intergeneric) both of which are members of the *Oncidium Alliance*. Tawanna says this is the third blooming of her plant.

**Third Place:** *Bulb. Jan Ragan*  
Grower: Bill Timm

Unfortunately we do not have a photo of Bill's plant. *Bulb. Jan Ragan* is a cross between *Bulb. lobbii* 'Kathy's Gold' AM/AOS and *Bulb. facetum* 'Gold Country'. Bill grows many bulbos and species in his greenhouse in North Port. He waters daily using overhead sprinklers and RO water with diluted fertilizer injection. He runs fans 24/7.



*Onc. Intergeneric Alliance Everglade HCC/AOS*



*Brassavola tuberculata*

**Best Species:** *Brassavola tuberculata*  
Grower: Bill Timm

*B. tuberculata* is a species native to Brazil. It grows as a compact plant and Bill's plant was covered with blooms.

### You're Invited to EAOS Garden Tour

**When: Saturday, June 9th - 9:00 am to 12:00 noon**  
**Where: Mary Anne & Tom DiGrazia, Gulf Cove**

Mary Anne DiGrazia invites VAOS members to join a garden tour at her home on June 9th. For those of you who have not visited before, Mary Anne and Tom have a spectacular river front property filled with unique and beautiful plants and trees and a delightful Orchid House.

#### DIRECTIONS From Venice:

- Rt. 41 Tamiami Trail South
- Right on 776 toward Englewood for approx. 15 miles
- Left on David Blvd.
- Left on Gilot Blvd.
- Right on Quinlan Ave.
- 2nd Left on Holcomb Rd.
- 3rd Right on Mauck Terrace to end of road

3058 Mauck Terrace "Gulf Cove" Port Charlotte 33981  
Phone: 941-697-9237

## Minutes of the May 2, 2012 Meeting

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting by directing members' attention to a printed handout that outlined upcoming events. These included the Growers Clinic on the second Wednesday of each month and the Redlands International Orchid Festival bus trip May 19th. It also highlighted the new Mentor Program. She welcomed our new VAOS member, Jean Fairchild.

Cynthia also announced that Carol Wood has completed registration of the orchid hybrid given to members attending the April meeting. Carol registered it through the Royal Horticultural Society as RLC. Memoria Jack Severson, in honor of VAOS' first president. Members can place that name on their seedlings.

Peg Fahrenback gave a brief description of the Mentor Program, explaining that it is for beginning growers and those who might have an issue with growing orchids and need some help. More Mentors are needed to share their knowledge and experience with others.

Cynthia added that Richard Amos recently donated orchids that were given to Mentors and their Mentees. They are being used to teach skills of orchid potting and care.

Barbara Wagner announced the bus trip to the Redlands International Orchid Festival; she discussed information cited on the yellow flyer.

Cynthia presented the new Welcome Brochure created by Debra Mattar, Promotion and Advertising Director. This yellow publication details information about our annual Show, meetings, benefits of membership, VAOS history and our website. Debra was thanked for her work.

Jerry Manegold introduced the speaker, Jim Roberts, owner of FL Suncoast Orchids. He has been growing orchids for 30 years. Jim's presentation, "What's Wrong with this Picture?" gave photo illustrations of the many growing challenges presented by orchids. He helped members to recognize

## President's Message, continued from page 1

inspired by the magnificent photos by master photographer, Greg Allikas. The special green pages 54-79 have excellent instructions and photos on re-potting.

**American Orchid Society** website: aos.org Under "All About Orchids" choose a specific topic you are interested in under their 'Video Library'. This is a terrific visual way to learn. Their book, **Your First Orchid – A Guide for Beginners** should also be in your library.

Remember, growing orchids is an art but more so a science. I can assure your success when you study these resources and implement their suggestions.

signs of orchid issues and offered possible solutions for each. Jim was a teacher by trade and he encouraged questions and interaction. He recommends the AOS Primer "Pests and Diseases" that may be ordered online.

Jim Roberts and Jim Thomas presented orchids from the Plant Table and cited awards.

The meeting was adjourned following the raffle. *Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback.*

## Volunteers Needed for Newsletter

We need one or two people to volunteer to edit and produce our monthly VAOS newsletter. The Newsletter Editor position involves compiling and editing content supplied by VAOS officers and committee heads such as our plant table awards, upcoming events, upcoming speak-

ers, etc. The Newsletter Production position involves formatting, publishing and distributing our newsletter to members. If you can help our society to fill these positions please contact Cynthia Vance for more information.

## Volunteers & Refreshments Needed for June 6th Meeting

Volunteers are needed to set up

refreshments at our June 6th meeting. Come early to set up drinks and servingware on the refreshment table. Contact Cynthia Vance to volunteer.

Members are also requested to bring sweets or snacks to share at our break.

## Members Corner

### Did You Know???

This newsletter introduces a new monthly by-line focused on our members. We invite you to share your tips on growing - general culture tips or tips on a particular orchid. Do you have a photo of a special plant or a specimen plant too big to bring in that you would like to share? We are also interested in photos and a description of your growing area. Many of the culture tips and knowledge we gain comes from our fellow members. We invite you to share your knowledge! Contact Carol Wood at [carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com](mailto:carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com) for information or to submit an article.

I've grown Epc. Rene Marques 'Tyler' for years and have two plants of this beautiful hybrid. I love the flower shape and contrasting colors. A mature plant I acquired last year at the VAOS Fall Plant Sale has been in bloom for several months. While I normally trim the spikes after blooming, I somehow neglected this plant, only to see it form new buds on old, previously bloomed inflorescence. Who knew? I didn't!

The other plant I grow that has a similar growth habit is Psychopsis Butterfly. It forms new buds under each flower and has bloomed continuously since October 2006 with just short breaks during cold spells.

—Carol Wood

## June in your Orchid Collection By Dr. Martin Motes

June Climate Data

Average high: 89.5

Average low: 75.2

Average mean: 82.4

Average rainfall: 8.54"

June is the most dramatically tropical month in South Florida. As the southeast Trade Winds blow cool moist air off the Gulf Stream daily, as surely the heating effect of the center of the peninsula percolates up massive thunder heads. The increased cloud cover drawing a veil across the afternoon sun provides much cooling relief for our plants late in the day. Because of this additional cloud cover, our plants are less stressed than in the brightest of May sunshine. The increased humidity makes June feel hotter to us, but this humidity brings blessed balm to our plants from the unrelentingly dry heat of late spring. The shading clouds are also the harbinger of the almost daily rains that arrive like clockwork with the thunderstorms that re-circulate the moisture laden air back toward the ocean in the afternoon. These showers can drop the temperature 10-12 degrees in almost no time, again bring our plants relief when they need it most in the peak heat of the day. In June, such soaking rains that can sometimes be an inch or more an hour are the norm rather than the exception. For orchids grown outside in South Florida this month, how to dry them out becomes more the question than how or when to water them. For most sympodial genera (cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, etc.) the natural rainfall of June is sufficient. Only in those rare once or twice times during June when no rain falls for nearly a week is it necessary to think of watering sympodial orchids in June. Even then it usually is a thought that can be dismissed. A thorough, "hard" drying in this first month of the rainy season is usually of much more overall value to sympodial orchids than the slight extra push of additional water. Harder plants that have not been pushed with extra water are much more disease resistant than softer more lushly grown orchids. Vandas and other high water requirement plants may still need periodic watering in June but remember that these types too relish occasional "hard" drying and the heavy often lingering, rains of June are just the nostrum for re-hydrating them even when they have become as dry as the cork in a wine bottle dry. When watering in June, remember at no season is the standard 'water early in the day' rule more relevant; those extra hours of drying are crucial. If your vandas or other orchids really need water, water early in the morning to allow time for them to dry not merely by night but by the time the all too likely afternoon thunderstorms arrive to soak them again. Be sure when you water that the roots of the vandas are saturated until they turn overall dark green. This will still take two applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. June is the archetypical month for careful but totally thorough watering. For those of us committed to sloth, this month is one in which benign neglect becomes a virtue.

With an eye to efficient drying which the season demands, June is an excellent time to review the spacing of our plants. Always give your plants sufficient space to allow for good air circulation to permit rapid drying. Crowded plants stay wetter longer encouraging fungus and bacteria. Scale and mealy bugs also thrive on the soft lush growth generated by overcrowded, overshadowed plants. Mites too love the extra protection from dislodging rain that overgrown plants provide. When looking at the spacing of your plants also allow some extra space for the new growth that will be rapidly developing in the new growing season. Remember your well grown plants will be much larger at the end of the rainy season when the fungi are savagely on the prowl. Plants and trees in your yard also will have grown in the past year and will be growing more in the rains of summer. June is a good time to think of pruning vegetation that is blocking light and air from our orchids. Come the true heart of hurricane season in September you will be glad that you did! Tree pruning alas, slips to a

low priority in the face of an approaching storm. Your orchids will be glad right away that you pruned, rewarding you with harder, healthier growth sure to produce yet more lavish blooms in season.

A persistent problem in June is how to apply liquid fertilizer to our plants under these often persistently wet conditions. As all of our orchids are in rapid growth in June they need to be fed, ironically this comes in the face of super abundant moisture. While rain contains minute quantities of nitrogen, heavy persistent rain can in fact strip nutrients from our plants by reversing the normal osmotic process. To a degree this effect of the heavy rains can be positive leaching away any excessive fertilizer salts that have accumulated over the dry season but overall the rain leaves them needier than before. Those of us who have kept our plants well nurtured in May will be ahead of this curve but we all must keep our plants fat and happy at the onset of the heavy growing season. For orchid grown in pots with media, the relatively new, slow release fertilizer widely sold as "Dynamite" (*i.e.* Nutri-cote) is of especial value at this time of year. Other brands of slow release fertilizer have not proven to be as reliable (neither consistent nor durable) under the hot humid conditions of South Florida. In general, a good rule in June is that when some opportunities to water present themselves, think rather of applying liquid fertilizer instead of just water. Remember too, the oft repeated bad advice to water your plants before fertilizing them is particularly erroneous in June when over-watering can quickly have negative consequences. In June, as always, replace a watering with an application of the proper concentration of liquid fertilizer. Another frequently sought strategy is to apply fertilizer in conjunction with fungicidal sprays. In general it is not advised to combine balanced fertilizer (20-20-20, 18-18-18) with sprays because with South Florida's highly alkaline water. Any phosphorus in the fertilizer tends to bind up most of the trace elements when conjoined to South Florida ground water. Phosphorus (a very active metal) can also have adverse reactions to the fungicide itself, lessening or abnegating its effectiveness. The solution to this dilemma is to use a fertilizer without phosphorus when a bit of nutrition is desirable. The best source is potassium nitrate 13-0-44 (available at farm supply stores in 50lb. bags) which provides the additional potassium our plants crave. 1 Tbs. per gal can be added to the spray solution. Be sure to use "Spray Grade" not "Prilled" which would need to be dissolved in hot water. Thiophanate Methyl, Cleary's 3336 or its combination Banrot or Duosan should be applied prophylactically in June. Keep a sharp eye on your plants for any signs of black rot (*Pythium*). Should soft black or brown spots appear, they should be excised immediately using a sterile knife as this disease can spread quickly in wet conditions. Banrot gives good control but Alliette is the best fungicide to control this disease if it persists.

To minimize the need to apply fungicides, June is an excellent time to review our overall sanitation and cultural conditions in the growing area. It is always important to keep the growing area as clean as possible. In June, cleanliness becomes even more essential because water is the chief vector of most orchid diseases. Dead leaves, roots or other dead orchid tissue frequently harbor diseases that can be loosed upon our orchids by the heavy rains of June. Weeds (dead or alive) can hamper air flow and also harbor disease. This month whatever one can do to enhance air circulation is a plus. Under cover, fans to move air are of great value to Phals and other genera. Hopefully, if we have been doing a good job, our plants will have grown significantly since last year's rainy season. They all may well need more space. Remember that old time orchid growers would say one needs a cat to be a good grower in South Florida because a cat should be able to walk orchid benches without knocking plants down when they are properly spaced.

Snails and slugs will have the whole world as their stage in June and can travel considerable distances to eat our tender orchid shoots. Baits containing metaldehyde are very effective if applied evenly and often. Remember, bait draws the pests; spread it thinly but repeat weekly for thorough control. Snails and slugs always require multiple applications. Overly heavy applications of bait will merely waste in the heavy rain.

Although mites and to a degree Thrips are washed away by the heavy rains of June, the warm conditions of summer speed the growth of scale and mealy bugs. At the first sign of either of these pests spray with soap at 2 oz. per gal or an appropriate insecticide. Oil is no longer an option in the heat of summer. If the soap doesn't prove effective enough, try something stronger but apply with care early in the morning or late in the evening as the high temperatures of mid-day in June can exacerbate phytotoxic reactions.

June is still a great month for top cutting strap leaf vandas, teretes (papilionanthes) and reed stem epidendrums. Most sympodial orchids are already in growth and unless their media is totally broken down are probably best left undisturbed till their new growths have matured and they have flowered. If you have not gotten your *Phalaenopsis* out of last year's sphagnum moss wait no longer! Phal roots in soggy medium in June are a receipt for "Fails".

For those of us so in love with Florida that we would never think of insulating ourselves with air-conditioning, the rains of June provide pleasant relief from the harsh Mediterranean sun of late spring. As my son Bartholomew at age two so aptly said "Rain sweet as honey". Enjoy! Our orchids do.

*(Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month, all rights reserved.)*





Handouts Distributed at the VAOS Growers Clinic 5/9/12

## RESOURCES

### Beginner Orchid Books

- Golden Guide to Orchids
- Your First Orchid - A Guide for Beginners, AOS
- Understanding Orchids, William Cullina

### Classics

- Mary Noble: You Can Grow Orchids; You Can Grow Cattleya Orchids; You Can Grow Phalaenopsis Orchids
- Rebecca Northen: Home Orchid Growing; Orchids As House Plants

### Coffee Table Books

- Flora's Orchids, Timber Press
- The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids, A. Pridgeon, Ed.
- The New Encyclopedia of Orchids, I. la Croix
- The Orchid, Mark Griffiths
- The World's Most Beautiful Orchids, Greg Allikas and Ned Nash

### Florida Orchid Culture

- An Intro to Orchids, A Guide to Orchid Growing in the Subtropics, So. FL Orchid Society
- Florida Orchid Growing Month By Month, Martin Motes, PhD
- Orchid Growing In the Tropics, Orchid Society of So. East Asia

### Florida Native Orchids

- Wild Orchids of Florida, Paul Martin Brown
- Wild Love Affair, Essence of Florida's Native Orchids, Connie Bransilver

### Genera Specific Books

- The Classic Cattleyas, Chadwick and Chadwick
- Dendrobiums and It's Relatives, B. Lavarack, W. Harris, G. Stocker
- Culture of the Phalaenopsis Orchid, Bob Gordon
- Paphiopedilum Growers Manual, Lance Birk



- Tropical Slipper Orchids, Harold Koopowitz

#### Identification and General Culture Books

- AOS Growing Orchids
- Botanica's Orchids
- Ortho Books: Complete Guide to Orchids
- Simon & Schuster's Guide to Orchids
- Taylors Guide to Orchids

#### Non-Fiction/Must Reads

- Orchid Fever, Eric Hansen
- The Orchid Thief, Susan Orlean

#### Pests & Diseases Books

- Pests and Diseases , AOS

#### Websites

##### Online Forums

AOS Forum <http://www.aosforum.org/forum>

Garden Web Orchid Forum <http://forums2.gardenweb.com/forums/orchids>

The Orchid Source Forum <http://forum.theorchidsource.com>

Orchids Interactive <http://www.orchidsinteractive.com>

Orchid Geeks <http://www.orchidgeeks.com/>

Each forum has a search engine and FAQ section, good resources for specific culture advice.

##### Online Supplies

Kelley's Korner [www.kkorchid.com](http://www.kkorchid.com)

OFE International [www.ofe-intl.com](http://www.ofe-intl.com)

Roberts Flower Supply [www.orchidmix.com](http://www.orchidmix.com)

First Rays [www.firstrays.com](http://www.firstrays.com) (great source free info)



IGS (Stainless steel shelves) [www.indoorgardensupplies.com](http://www.indoorgardensupplies.com)

The above online suppliers sell excellent quality media for growing your orchids as well as fertilizers, pesticides, plastic pots, hangers, etc. Some local resources for supplies include:

- Honey Bee Nursery (Jeff Higel) - Orchiata Bark, Sphagnum Moss, Orchids
- Home Depot – Clay slotted pots; wooden baskets; Dynamite fertilizer (in red canister)
- Lowes - Pots, baskets, fertilizer, pest control
- MRT Garden Center - Chemicals and fertilizers
- Hick's Supplies - VAOS February show vendor

### Online Species Information

Brazilian orchid species info [Mirandaorchids.com/brazilianorchidsVGA.htm](http://Mirandaorchids.com/brazilianorchidsVGA.htm)

- Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia  
[www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)  
10,600 species in 763 genera - best resource for species native habitat info.
- RHS/Kew Checklist [www.kew.org/science/orchids](http://www.kew.org/science/orchids)

### Online Vendors

If you can't find what you are looking for locally, here are some online vendors that offer good quality plants:

Andy's Orchids (great species)	<a href="http://www.andysorchids.com">www.andysorchids.com</a>
Byrd's Orchids	<a href="http://www.byrdsorchids.com">www.byrdsorchids.com</a>
Carmela Orchids ( NBS)	<a href="http://www.carmelaorchids.net">www.carmelaorchids.net</a>
Carter & Holmes (Seedlings)	<a href="http://www.carterandholmes.com">www.carterandholmes.com</a>
Exotic Orchids of Maui (NBS)	<a href="http://www.maiorchids.com">www.maiorchids.com</a>
Gold Country Orchids	<a href="http://www.goldcountryorchids.com">www.goldcountryorchids.com</a>
H&R Nurseries (seedlings)	<a href="http://www.hrnurseries.com">www.hrnurseries.com</a>
Krull-Smith Orchids	<a href="http://www.krullsmith.com">www.krullsmith.com</a>





Odom Orchids ( BS)                      [www.odoms.com](http://www.odoms.com)  
Parkside Orchids                      [www.parksideorchids.com](http://www.parksideorchids.com)  
Plantio La Orquidea (local)           [www.plantiolaorquidea.com](http://www.plantiolaorquidea.com)  
Sunset Valley Orchids                [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

### **Software and Subscription Services**

**AOS Beginners Newsletter** - Register at [www.aosforum.org/phplist](http://www.aosforum.org/phplist)

**Martin Motes Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month** - Monthly emails available by request from [Martin.Motes@gmail.com](mailto:Martin.Motes@gmail.com)

**Orchid Wiz** - Comprehensive orchid research software available by subscription ([www.orchidwiz.com](http://www.orchidwiz.com)) including hybrid registrations and AOS awards, images, and Baker culture data for species.

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### **Growing Tips - VAOS Growers Clinic**

**Watering** - Soak 'em once or twice a week then let them dry out. A strong hose spray knocks off pests.

**Light** - If they aren't blooming, they aren't getting enough light. Move them around to find the right "micro climate" in your growing area.

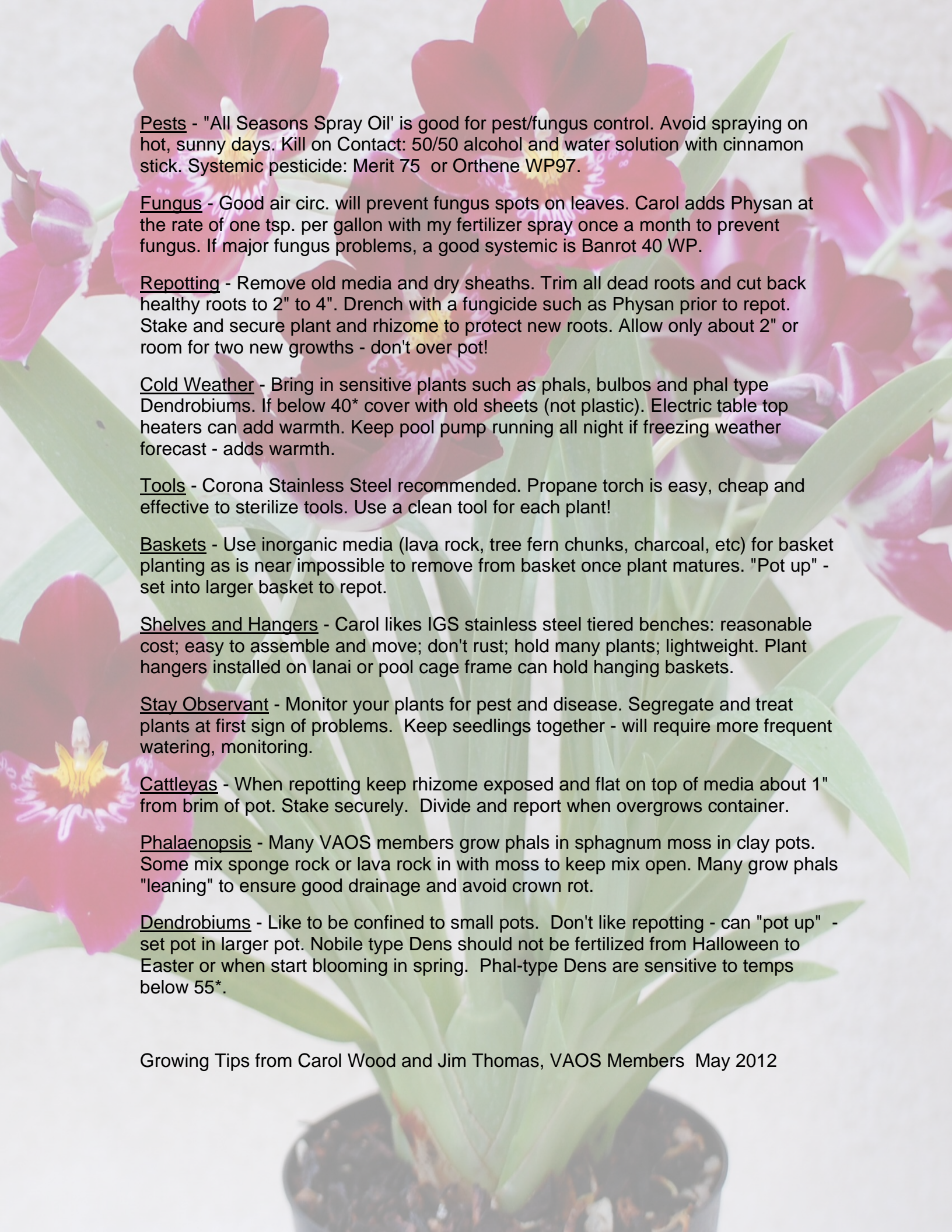
**Fertilizer** - Use Dynamite time release fertilizer (Home Depot red container) on all orchids twice a year (April and October). Supplement once or twice a month during active growing season with a fert that contains micro-nutrients such as MSU 12-6-13 or Jacks 16-4-20 Cal Mag.

**Air Circulation** - Critical during hot months of summer and after rain to prevent fungus. Use ceiling fans and supplemental fans to provide constant air flow around your plants.

**Media** - Whatever your preference as long as an open, fast draining mix. Orchiata Bark now available at Honey Bee Nursery, Englewood. Larger the pot - larger the pieces of media.

**Pots** - Clay pots for mature plants and plastic pots for seedlings and moisture loving plants. Set plastic pots in clay for added stability. To reuse pots, soak in 10% bleach solution for several days then rinse and dry in sun.





Pests - "All Seasons Spray Oil" is good for pest/fungus control. Avoid spraying on hot, sunny days. Kill on Contact: 50/50 alcohol and water solution with cinnamon stick. Systemic pesticide: Merit 75 or Orthene WP97.

Fungus - Good air circ. will prevent fungus spots on leaves. Carol adds Physan at the rate of one tsp. per gallon with my fertilizer spray once a month to prevent fungus. If major fungus problems, a good systemic is Banrot 40 WP.

Repotting - Remove old media and dry sheaths. Trim all dead roots and cut back healthy roots to 2" to 4". Drench with a fungicide such as Physan prior to repot. Stake and secure plant and rhizome to protect new roots. Allow only about 2" or room for two new growths - don't over pot!

Cold Weather - Bring in sensitive plants such as phals, bulbos and phal type Dendrobiums. If below 40\* cover with old sheets (not plastic). Electric table top heaters can add warmth. Keep pool pump running all night if freezing weather forecast - adds warmth.

Tools - Corona Stainless Steel recommended. Propane torch is easy, cheap and effective to sterilize tools. Use a clean tool for each plant!

Baskets - Use inorganic media (lava rock, tree fern chunks, charcoal, etc) for basket planting as is near impossible to remove from basket once plant matures. "Pot up" - set into larger basket to repot.

Shelves and Hangers - Carol likes IGS stainless steel tiered benches: reasonable cost; easy to assemble and move; don't rust; hold many plants; lightweight. Plant hangers installed on lanai or pool cage frame can hold hanging baskets.

Stay Observant - Monitor your plants for pest and disease. Segregate and treat plants at first sign of problems. Keep seedlings together - will require more frequent watering, monitoring.

Cattleyas - When repotting keep rhizome exposed and flat on top of media about 1" from brim of pot. Stake securely. Divide and report when overgrows container.

Phalaenopsis - Many VAOS members grow phals in sphagnum moss in clay pots. Some mix sponge rock or lava rock in with moss to keep mix open. Many grow phals "leaning" to ensure good drainage and avoid crown rot.

Dendrobiums - Like to be confined to small pots. Don't like repotting - can "pot up" - set pot in larger pot. Nobile type Dens should not be fertilized from Halloween to Easter or when start blooming in spring. Phal-type Dens are sensitive to temps below 55\*.

Growing Tips from Carol Wood and Jim Thomas, VAOS Members May 2012

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, June 6 at 7 p.m.
- Speaker: Tom Aaron, Green Earth Nursery  
"Using and Creating Micro Climates:"
  - Show table entries welcome
  - Refreshments

## Upcoming Events

**June 6** - VAOS monthly meeting, 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Tom Aaron, Green Earth Nursery, Jacksonville. Topic: Using and Creating Micro Climates

**June 13** – Growers Clinic, 7 pm. Venice Community Center. Presenters Jim Thomas and Carol Wood. Topic: Choosing the Right Pot or Container and Media for Your Orchid.

**July 9** – Joint monthly meeting with Englewood Area Orchid Society. Silent Auction 6:00, **meeting 6:30pm** Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Please note this replaces our regular-

ly scheduled VAOS meeting the first Wednesday of the month.

**July 11** – Growers Clinic, 7pm. Venice Community Center. Presenters Jim Thomas and Carol Wood. Topic: Repotting Clinic

**August 1** – VAOS joint monthly meeting with EAOS, 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL Speaker: Louis Del Favero, Louise Del Favero Orchids, Tampa. Topic: Growing Species.

Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

## Support our 2012 Show Sponsors

AAA South  
Center for Sight  
Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS  
Edgewood Nursery  
Herald-Tribune Media Group  
Jacaranda Trace  
Retirement Community  
Pineapples Island Grill  
Raleigh & Associates  
Silverstein Institute  
Stanley Dean State Farm

## Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content starting this month. We'll include culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

## Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)  
Jeff Higel  
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)  
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)  
Tina & Rafael Romero  
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota  
[www.plantiolaorquidea.com](http://www.plantiolaorquidea.com)