

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

April 2016

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,  
April 6th, 7 pm**

**Venice Community Center  
(doors open at 6:30 pm)**

**Speaker: Vern Bloch**

**Topic: "What's Wrong With My Orchid?"**

Vern Bloch is a retired Navy pilot who first became interested in orchids after leaving the service in 1987. Two years later, Vern, and his wife, Helen, became owners of the Palm Bay Orchid Range and participated in many orchid shows around the state. They sold the nursery in 2004 but continue to do business on a small scale. For the past twenty years, Vern has conducted programs for numerous orchid societies ranging from the Florida Keys to North Carolina.



Vern's main interest has always been in the cattleya alliance and he previously gave a great presentation on the subject of Encyclias and Epidendrum, dispelling much of the mystery surrounding these similar and often misclassified and mislabeled genera.

This time, Vern will be answering the eternal question in the minds of all orchid growers: "What's Wrong With My Orchid". He will have a short PowerPoint presentation and bring some examples of typical problem plants. He will guide us through the process of eliminating common causes until we reach the correct solution to our particular problem. Vern loves to answer questions, so make sure you come with a lot of them.

He'll be bringing a nice selection of flowering orchids, especially Encyclias, for sale.

The newsletter will be providing the most current annual schedules for both the monthly meetings and the Growers Clinics as part of the Culture Supplement following the regular newsletter. We hope that this will keep our members up to date with even greater participation.

## A Message From Your President

Wow! What a spectacular end to the show season! VAOS took 1st place and the AOS trophy for our exhibit for the second time in a row at the EAOS show. Congratulations to Jay Loeffler and his team and to all of the members who entered their beautiful plants in our winning exhibit.



With the end of the show season, we now look forward to the many society social events coming up this spring. As I write this article, we're getting ready for our Spring Tour. Three members have generously opened up their orchid growing areas for the March 19th Spring Tour. We always enjoy seeing how other members grow and we usually pick up a few new orchid growing tips. On April 9th, we hold our annual society picnic at a new venue, the South Venice Yacht Club. With plenty of space for outdoor activities and parking, we'll enjoy good food, good company and a chance to get to know those who share our passion for orchids. Then, in May, comes the Redland Orchid Festival, the most popular orchid festival in the country. Sharon Kahnoski has set up a luxury bus trip to the festival for our members. This year we are going on Friday - hopefully less crowded and we'll get first dibs on the best plants from the vendors. Sixty international vendors will be there offering plants we cannot always purchase in the U.S. If you have not been, you owe it to yourself to go!

The 2016 presenters schedule and Growers Clinic schedule offer some interesting and new topics. At our April 6th meeting, Vern Bloch will present "What's Wrong With My Orchid?". At our April 14th Growers Clinic, we'll discuss "Top Tips from Experienced Growers". At our May 4th meeting, Ted Kellogg will present "When to Hold Em, When to Fold Em".

At home, we are tackling those repotting projects we have been putting off and enjoying our blooming orchids that didn't quite open for the EAOS show. Bruce Weaver continues to mount orchids in our Venice parks as he receives plant donations. As you divide your plants, remember to donate divisions for the raffle table and the Venice Orchid Project.

*Continued on page 7*

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

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

**Officers 2016 – 2017  
President**

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

**Vice President – Programs &  
Immediate Past President**

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

**Vice President – Social Affairs**

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**Annual Show Chairs**

Carol Wood

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

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Ted Kellogg, Webmaster

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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

## Minutes of the March 3rd, 2016 Meeting

Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7 PM by pointing out all the wood on the Raffle Table so people can be prepared for the hands-on mounting event at the next Growers Clinic. He also noted that the Plant Table is not the most colorful because our best flowers are in the display at the Englewood Show. Jay Loeffler and the entire display team worked hard on it all day.

Bruce noted other things that are different tonight: this is the only time this year we meet on a Thursday instead of a Wednesday. There is no visiting speaker tonight because he and Steve will be talking about How and Why to mount your orchids. The chairs are in more of an arc so that people can get up close and see the examples of mounted plants.

Bruce also thanked Sharon and John Kahnoski for doing a great job coordinating security for the show. This was mistakenly omitted from the newsletter.

Sharon Kahnoski made the following announcements:

- The annual picnic in April will be at the South Venice Yacht Club on April 9th from 1-4 pm. VAOS will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, brats and plates/plastic ware etc. Other items will be a potluck. There will be games and a member plant sale/swap. There is information available at the membership table; please RSVP

- Sharon is still working out the details of the Redland Orchid Festival bus trip. More info to follow.

- The Spring Tour will be March 19th. See the sheet up front for info.

Judy Loeffler, the Membership Chair, presided over the election for president. She introduced Carol Wood, the current nominee for president, and asked if there were any other nominations. There were not and the society elected Carol Wood as our next president. Carol stated she was very proud of the society and she is looking forward to working with everyone, great people, and great friends.

Carol announced that our annual show was very successful. She thanked the 120 volunteers and she said she got wonderful feedback from the vendors. We had over 4000 attendees, a new record for us.

*Continued on page 7*

**Treasurer's Report**

**March 2016**

**Checking Account**

Starting Balance		
2/1/16	\$	14,068.02
Income	\$	26,510.21
Payments	\$	7,991.44
Closing Balance		
2/29/16	\$	32,586.79

**Cash Account**

Starting Balance		
2/1/16	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
2/29/16	\$	40.00

**Money Market Savings**

Starting Balance		
2/1/16	\$	25,053.77
Income	\$	0.79
Closing Balance		
2/29/16	\$	25,054.56

**Total Assets**

2/29/16	\$	57,681.35
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*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.

*Venice Area  
Orchid Society News*

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

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

## Plant Table Awards March 3, 2016

So many of our members' beautiful and best plants had been taken over to the EAOS show to be in the VAOS exhibit, that we only had 5 plants on the plant table this evening. Each of them received a well-deserved award.

The First Place Blue Ribbon was captured by Janet Keown for her magnificent *Ryncholaeliocattleya* (Rlc.) Dr. Joe Walker 'Ray Mishima'. The beautiful white trimmed fuchsia and yellow ruffle made these flowers really stand out. Registered in 1994 by J.L. Walker, this plant is a hybrid of 10 other ruffled species with *C. dowiana* making up 1/3 of the plant. Congrats to Janet for growing such a beauty!!



Rlc. Dr. Joe Walker

The Second Place Red Ribbon went to Cynthia Vance for her new *Rhyncattleanthe* (Rhy.) Fuch's Orange Nuggett 'Lea'. She purchased it at our show from Odom's Orchids because she likes the plump roots; R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL, gifted hybridists, created the plant. At purchase, it was only in bud and then most of the flowers came out simultaneously, making it a showy specimen. Kudos to Cynthia for keeping it alive for at least 4 weeks!



Rhy. Fuch's Orange Nuggett

The Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to John Roche for his darling pink *Epidendrum* (Epi.) *centropetalum*. Notice the second word of this plant name is italicized and not capitalized. This denotes that the plant is a species (found in nature) and is not a hybrid created by a grower. It grows mostly in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama -- as an epiphyte 'mounted' on forest trees in the mountains. It's cool that John mounts it so it feels at home. Good work, John!



Epi. centropetalum

The Best Species Purple Ribbon was garnered by James Thomas for his flashy orange *Cattleya* (C.) *aurantiaca*. Now called, *Guarianthe* (Gur.) *aurantiaca*, this plant was discovered by Bateman in 1840 and it loves to grow on the sides of trees in Nicaragua and Mexico. Here Jimmy has created a beautiful mount on cedar wood which allows it to create its orange clusters in a multiflorous presentation. Beautiful mounting, Jimmy!



Gur. aurantiaca

*Continued on next page*



## Culture Tip of the Month

This tip is from the last Growers Clinic where I brought my sickly Den. Burana Fancy x Thonchai Gold, a mericlone that I had bought at Home Depot. With its sparse yellowed leaves, it was a long way from the red ribbon winner at last year's Orlando Show.

Having seen no sign of insect pests and not having subjected it to any winter temperatures below 60 degrees, I had tried at least three fungicides in the last two months, all without any noticeable result.

There was some discussion as to the fertilizer used and the application frequency, supplements, etc. but the suggestion from Renee Bynum, our new Director at Large, proved to be the eye opener. She was quite certain that it was not a fungus problem and asked whether I had removed it from its pot to look at the roots. I had looked at

half the plant and made the diagnosis, without considering that the roots were just as important, if not more so than the pseudobulbs and leaves, in the health of my orchid.

The next morning, after soaking the pot to loosen the rots, I examined the roots and media and immediately saw that the media had decomposed substantially over three years and that many of the roots were either rotten or well on the way. Trimming the dead roots, replacing the media with medium Orchidata bark over a layer of non-bio-degradable foam peanuts for drainage and a quick soak in Mega-Thrive, should get the plant well on the way to recovery. As any doctor will tell you, half a diagnosis is twice as dangerous and misleading as no diagnosis at all.

**Point to Remember:** Once you've eliminated the insect pests, don't reach for chemicals until you're sure that the media is fresh and that the roots are functioning!! Removing the orchid from its pot is not difficult or damaging as long as you take the time to soak the pot.

*-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt, newbie after many years*

### Plant Table Awards (continued from page 3)

The New Member Growers Pink Ribbon was awarded to Natalia Romero for her beautiful pink Phalaenopsis (Phal.) with its striking red lip. The Phal was mounted in a conch shell with a small tillandsia bromeliad to give the presentation balance. Such wonderful artistry! We don't know the exact name of this phalaenopsis, but now we can just enjoy the beautiful art form that Natalia has created. Thank you, Natalia -- we're glad you've joined VAOS!



Phal. hybrid

*-Narrative and photos submitted by Cynthia Vance*

### Please Support Our 2016 Show Sponsors

Herald Tribune Media Group  
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Dr. Tibbils - Hearing Clinic of Venice  
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Silverstein Institute  
Southgate Animal Hospital  
Stanley Dean State Farm  
Youthful Aging  
Classic Creations in Diamonds & Gold  
Crow's Nest Restaurant  
Edgewood Nursery  
Orchid Envy  
P.S. Printing  
SunBulb  
Thai Bistro

## EAOS Show - VAOS Exhibit Takes AOS Show Trophy

How do you top taking 1st place exhibit and AOS trophy at our Venice show? Well, you do it again! The Englewood (EAOS) show was our last of the season. Jay Loeffler and his team created an amazing exhibit reflecting the show theme "Orchids By Lemon Bay". Our exhibit showcased large pieces of drift wood artfully arranged and covered with orchids. The bow of a workboat, built by Bruce Weaver, juttied out from the display. Beautiful ferns and moss surrounded and showcased each of the beautiful members' orchids in our display. All of the planning, creative design and hard work by Jay and Bruce paid off and with our members' beautiful plants, won the 1st place award and AOS trophy.

Sixteen members registered 68 quality plants that were artfully arranged in the exhibit. VAOS members were awarded a total of 44 ribbons as detailed below.

### **Trophies and AOS Certificate**

AOS Show Trophy, Most Outstanding Exhibit - VAOS  
First Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit - VAOS  
HCC/AOS Certificate, 77 points, Gcy. Pixy Pokai x  
Enc. cordigera 'Paradise', Carol Wood (Jim Roberts cross)

### **Ribbon Winners - Plants**

Rich Amos - 1 red ribbon  
Rick Belisle - 1 red ribbon  
Nora Berger - 2 blue ribbons  
Renee Bynum - 1 blue, 1 red ribbon  
Peg Fahrenback - 1 blue ribbon  
Sharon Kahnoski - 3 red ribbons  
Steve Keller - 1 blue ribbon  
Judy & Jay Loeffler - 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon  
Natalie McKinney - 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon  
Tony Nachinovich - 3 yellow ribbons  
John Roche - 3 blue, 7 red and 3 yellow for a total of 13 ribbons!  
Linda Schaller - 2 blue, 1 yellow ribbon  
Joanna Shaw - 1 blue, 2 red ribbons  
Steve Vogelhaupt - 1 yellow ribbon  
Carol Wood - 5 blue, 1 red ribbon

### **Ribbon Winners - Arts & Crafts**

Mary Anne Digrazia - 1 blue, 1 yellow ribbon  
Carol Marcus - 1 blue ribbon  
Tony Nachinovich - 1 red ribbon



Congratulations to our trophy and ribbon winners and our thanks to Jay and his team: Bruce Weaver, Judy Loeffler, Rich and Mary Amos, Renee Bynum, Linda Schaller, Carol Wood, Jim Thomas, John Roche, Sharon and John Kahnoski, Peg and Bill Fahrenback, Steve Keller. What a way to end the show season!

*-Narrative by Carol Wood,  
photos by Carol Wood and Steve Vogelhaupt*





## A Tribute to Jane Camarota

The VAOS is fortunate to have long time member Jane Camarota in our society. For the past 17 years, Jane has dedicated herself to running the Orchid Boutique at our annual show. The Orchid Boutique is unique to the Venice show, offering floral arrangements and orchid related jewelry and accessories for sale as well as managing the plant basket raffle. They raise about \$3000 each year that our society uses to support local and national orchid conservation projects.

Jane generally starts the day after our show, rising early to attend yard sales, church bazaars and thrift shops in search of the perfect containers for floral arrangements or unique jewelry or accessories. A skilled buyer and negotiator, Jane often monitors price reductions and returns to a thrift shop to get the best price. Near the show date, Jane assembles her team to plan for the show. Many of her team members have worked with

Jane for years. They include: her husband Frank, Karen Mann, Janet Hoy, Don and Pat Stoecker, Barb Schuette, Irene Thimm, Bev Manypenny, Noreen Chervinski, Cindy Randt, Toni Marie and Rita Toole.



Our show vendors donate cut flowers for the floral arrangements and members contribute greenery from their yards. Dendrobium sprays are purchased from Tampa and free bouquets are given to our wheelchair attendees at the show. What a nice gesture!

Jane just turned 85 and while she will continue to purchase items throughout the year to sell at the show, Janet Hoy will assume management of the Orchid Boutique at our 2017 show.

So when you see Jane, wish her a happy birthday and thank her for her years of service to the VAOS.

*-Submitted by Carol Wood*

## VAOS Annual Picnic & Potluck Saturday, April 9, 2016 1 – 4 pm

VAOS members and families are invited to our annual Picnic Potluck. We have reserved the South Venice Yacht Club for our 3rd annual gathering. The club is located at 4425 Yacht Club Drive, Venice, FL 34293. From US 41, turn west on Baffin Drive. Continue on Baffin Drive until it turns slightly right and becomes Yacht Club Drive.

The club will be on your left. Plenty of parking and indoor restrooms are available as well as sheltered picnic tables and a huge charcoal grill. Indoor seating is available in case of inclement weather. We'll be having a Member Plant Sale/Swap Meet, so bring your orchids to sell or trade. There is plenty of space for games and to chat and

just enjoy a wonderful afternoon together.

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

Please bring a dish to share with your family and others, as well as beverages of your choice.

**We need additional chairs, so bring what you have.**

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

RSVP to Sharon at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) or 616-581-9131 ASAP.

*-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski, VP, Social*

## News From the Growers Clinic

We've decided to try a few enhancements to our existing Growers Clinic format to make the experience even more enjoyable and relevant to all our members.

Beginning with the next Growers Clinic on Thursday, April 14th, we'll have the first 15 minutes set aside for getting acquainted and renewing old acquaintances. The next 15 minutes will be set aside for member questions and problem plants. Those with problem plants will be encouraged to describe the problem as they see it and then we'll have responses and tips from more experienced growers. We will take photos, as necessary, and select

one or more of the plants, questions and responses, for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. This way, even the members who are unable to attend will benefit from the discussion.

Finally, we'll attempt to integrate hands-on activities as much as possible in response to member requests. How these changes develop and if they are continued depends on member feedback, so don't be shy!!

*-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt*

# Redland International Orchid Festival

Friday, May 13, 2016

Here's the event you won't want to Miss!!

The annual festival is held at the beautiful Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, FL.

More than 60 orchid vendors come from all around the world. During the bus ride, we will give you tips on which orchids to purchase that thrive in our area and will make sure everyone is comfortable and having a good time.

The trip was changed from **Saturday to Friday** in response to member requests so that we'll avoid the biggest crowds and have the pick of the best plants and deals before they're gone.

**\$40 per person:** Includes \$10 festival admission, bus trip, gratuity for the driver, and a \$5 discount ticket for the purchase of an orchid of \$25 or more. Also a snack and water will be provided. **What a deal!!!**

**Departure Times and Locations: (arrive 15 minutes before departure time)**

- **7:00am – S. Sarasota** – Bank of Am. In Gulf Gate Mall @ Route 41 and Clark Rd.
- **7:30am – Venice** - Venice Community Center (south parking lot, park on outside edge, street side)
- **8:30am – Punta Gorda** – Wal-Mart Supercenter on Taylor Rd. (park @ rear of lot near center of lot)

**Arrival time at Festival:** 11-11:30am

**Return trip: Bus will leave festival at 4 PM**

## Minutes of the March 3rd, 2016 Meeting (continued from page 2)

The net profit to the society was approximately \$19,000! Bruce Weaver and Steve Vogelhaupt gave a nice presentation on mounted orchids. There were many mounted plants brought in by members as examples, some looking wonderful, some not so much. We were able to identify both the advantages and the challenges of growing mounted orchids and we are now ready for a hands-on session at the next Growers Clinic.

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the Plant Table.

The Raffle Table had many different types of wood and potential orchid mounts, but there were not many plants. Don't forget to donate any extra divisions or unwanted plants to future Raffle Tables.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10.

*-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary*

**SHARP!!** (If all are ready, we will leave earlier) There is room under the bus to keep your new orchid purchases safe for the return trip. We will hand out markers for each person's plants. Also bring boxes or bags to carry and store your plants. Make sure that your purchases are clearly labelled with your name before placing in the under-bus storage. There will be a rest room stop going and coming back.

Bring a hat and sunscreen, umbrella, a jacket or sweater for bus with A/C and a small cooler since we do not stop for dinner on the way back. There is plenty of international food for sale at the park.

**Payment by April 14th for VAOS MEMBERS with no refunds after April 14th.** After this date, we will invite SOS and EAOS members to fill remaining seats. You may sell your seat, but **please** notify Sharon Kahnoski @ 616-581-9131 if you do so.

- Make \$40 check payable to VAOS and mail to **Mary Amos, 413 E. Lake Dr. Sarasota, FL 34232**

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

- **Seating is limited, so send your check ASAP.**

Need more info? Contact Sharon Kahnoski at 616-581-9131 or [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org). For festival information, vendors and map, etc., visit: [www.redlandorchidfestival.org](http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org)

*-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski, VP, Social Affairs*

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

As I start my term as President of VAOS, I thank all of our members who contribute their time and energy and enthusiasm to making this a first class orchid society that has been so rewarding to be a part of!

*-Carol Wood, President*

## Support 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

### • Honey Bee Nursery

(941-474-6866)  
2383 Englewood Road  
(Rt. 776),  
Englewood, FL

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 7:00pm**  
**at Venice Community Center**  
**(Doors open at 6:30pm)**

- **Speaker:** Vern Bloch
- Bring your blooming orchids for the Show Table
- Bring orchids for the Raffle Table
- Bring your friends and treats to share.

## Upcoming Events

**April 2 - 3:** Jacksonville Orchid Society Show, info: John Van Brocklin 904-307-4557, [scubagator35@gmail.com](mailto:scubagator35@gmail.com)

**April 6 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS Monthly Meeting, Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, Speaker: Vern Bloch, Topic: What's The Matter With My Orchid?

The Raffle Table is anxiously waiting for your orchid divisions with surplus plants.

**April 9 (2nd Saturday):** VAOS Spring Picnic with Plant/Sale Swap, South Venice Yacht Club. Please RSVP to Sharon at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) ASAP. See article on page 6.

**April 14 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7 pm, Venice Community Center, Speakers: Carol Wood, Richard Amos and team, Topic: Top Tips From Experienced

Growers. Be sure to bring your problem plants and questions for advice from our experts.

**May 4 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS Monthly Meeting, Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, Speaker: Ted Kellogg, Topic: When to Hold em, When to Fold em.

**May 12 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7 pm, Venice Community Center, Speakers: Jay Loeffler and Rich Amos, Topic: Water and PHood for Orchids. Be sure to bring your problem plants and questions for advice from our experts

## Upcoming

**May 13 (2nd Friday):** Bus Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival. See page 7 for complete information. **Reservations and payment for VAOS members is due April 14th.**

## Ongoing

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

**Orchid Judging** takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, Mc-Loughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609.** at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

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



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



# When to Start Fertilizing in Spring

February 2013

By Dr. Courtney Hackney, [hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:hackneau@comcast.net)

The only real rule of orchid growing is that the rules are just guidelines. Winter was brief and many different orchids are blooming earlier and initiating growth early relative to most years. Orchids that rely on day length instead of temperature for blooming are following their normal blooming and growth pattern. Readers of this column know my normal advice is to limit fertilizer applications to warmer months, but this year is different because the environment where my orchids are growing has been different. My orchids that rely on temperature to start are in a different growth stage than those that rely on day length. How do I know that some have started their growth cycle and others not? Should fertilizing applications begin if some orchids are growing and others are not?

There are many hanging orchids in my greenhouse, not just because of space, but because they are some of the "canaries" that tell me how my orchids are interpreting light levels and temperatures. Especially important in my greenhouse are bifoliate cattleyas, such as *C. leopoldii* and *C. guttata*. When these species initiate their new growth, spring is officially here no matter what the calendar says and they are getting close to initiating new growths.

Many of my spring blooming cattleyas and papahs are orchids that use temperature to tell them when to grow and flower. Unfortunately, this year these will be finished flowering when the spring orchid shows need exhibition plants. Many of these have almost always bloomed within a week or so of the same time each year, but this year will be an exception based on buds I see swelling in the sheaths.

When orchids initiate new growths, it is time to begin using fertilizer regularly and at higher doses. After several months of flushing during the fall and winter, nutrients adhering to media have largely been lost or used up. During the last several years, I have limited fertilizers in an attempt to avoid producing lush foliage that can be attacked by bacteria and fungi.

There are some orchids that do receive regular fertilizer, albeit at lower levels in winter. Those include orchids that are growing and blooming such as phals and papahs, which I keep in different places. Many cymbidium growers follow a similar fertilizer regimen, but use fertilizer higher in phosphorus, the middle number, starting in fall.

Hobbyists with just a few plants have an easier time making the decision because they can look at each plant and decide to fertilize or not. This is really easy if Nutricote, which lasts six months, is your fertilizer of choice. The balanced formulation is an excellent one for all orchids and safe to use. I usually add it to the surface of the medium in early March, but recommend adding it now if your orchids are starting to grow new leaves or breaking eyes for new pseudobulbs. If you cannot find Nutricote in your local store, check with Carter & Holmes Orchids. They sell small quantities. If your temperatures

have not been as warm as here in north Florida, you might need to wait a little longer. Let your orchids tell you when you need to begin adding fertilizer.

It will be interesting to see if there will be extra bulbs or leaves this year with a longer growing season.

*Editor's notes:* Although the article was written in 2013, it could just as well have been written for this year as conditions are similar, if not identical.

Experts from our Growers Clinic recommend the use of Dynamite extended release fertilizer (in the red container), available from Home Depot and identical to Nutricote, but in smaller sizes. Osmacote is not an acceptable substitute in our climatic conditions.



22<sup>ND</sup> WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8-12, 2017

GUAYAQUIL CONVENTION CENTER

GUAYAQUIL | ECUADOR

## CONFERENCE PRICES

2016

2017

### Regular Registration

Opening ceremony, 4 days of conference and exhibition.

USD 300

USD 320

### Bundle: Registration + Companion

Sharing the Ecuadorian World Orchid Conference experience with your significant other

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## **Monthly Meeting Speakers and Topics (2016)**

Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> - Vern Bloch, "What's wrong with my Orchid?"

May 4<sup>th</sup> - Ted Kellogg, "When to hold 'em, When to fold 'em"

June 1st - Bruce Holst, "Belize Orchids", Marie Selby Gardens

July 11<sup>th</sup> - Joint mtg. at Englewood

Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Alan Koch, "Mini Cattleyas", Gold Coast Orchids

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> - TBA

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> - Roy Tokunaga, "Hawaiian culture and production", H & R Orchids

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fred Clarke, "Mini Catts, new introductions and care, possibly Catasetum care also", Sunset Valley Orchids.

## **VAOS 2016 GROWERS CLINIC SCHEDULE AND TOPICS**

**1/14/16 - Local and Online Resources for Orchids, Supplies & Culture Info (Presentation) - Jay & Carol**

**2/11/16 - - Dividing and Repotting Clinic (Hands On) (1 of 2) - Judy, Joanna & Team**

**3/10/16 - Potting Without Pots /Mounting Orchids (Hands On) - Bruce, Steve & Team**

**4/14/16 - Top Tips from Experienced Growers (New Presentation) - Rich & Carol & Team**

**5/12/16 - Water and PHood for Orchids (New Presentation) - Jay and Rich**

**6/ 9/16 - Water Culture for Orchids (New Presentation) - Rick Belisle & Steve**

**7/14/16 - Pests & Diseases Part 1 (Presentation) - Carol, Jay & Bruce**

**8/11/16 - Pests & Diseases Part 2 (Presentation) - Carol, Jay & Bruce**

**9/8/16 - Dividing and Repotting Clinic (Hands On) (2 of 2) - Judy & Joanna & Team**

**10/13/16 - Dendrobiums (Presentation) - Rich & Renee**

**11/10/16 - Other Orchids for Your Collection (Presentation) - Rich & Renee**

**No December Growers Clinic Meeting**

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### **GROWERS CLINIC FORMAT:**

<b>7:00 - 7:15pm</b>	<b>Social, meet &amp; greet, plant trades and sales (limit 3 to member)</b>
<b>7:15 - 7:30pm</b>	<b>Problem Plants Evaluation &amp; Advice and Q&amp;A</b>
<b>7:30 - end</b>	<b>Program</b>