

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

March 2016

**Next Meeting: Thursday,  
March 3rd, 7 pm  
Venice Community Center  
(doors open at 6:30 pm)  
Speakers: Bruce Weaver and  
Steve Vogelhaupt  
Topic: Thinking Outside the Pot**

Two of our members will be discussing the basics of orchid morphology, their nutritional and moisture needs as well as decorative aspects relating to mounting. **Members are encouraged to bring ONE successfully growing mounted specimen, blooming or not, for demonstration and perhaps to add to the Plant Table.**

There will be a wide assortment of wooden mounting material on the Raffle Table, and Orchid Envy, one of our local growers in downtown Venice, will have a wide variety of plants and supplies for sale, including small orchids suitable for mounting at our next clinic.



This will be a fun and informative topic for novice and intermediate growers alike and is a lead-in to the next Growers Clinic on Thursday, March 10, when we will have our annual Hands-On Potting Without Pots event. Members planning to attend this clinic are asked to follow the same guidelines as for the recently conducted Potting Clinic, with the exception of bringing a suitable mount instead of a pot.

## Important Reminder

Our next monthly meeting will be held on the **1st Thursday, March 3** due to meeting space unavailability. We ask members to bring one successfully growing mounted orchid to assist our speakers. This is also our annual meeting and we'll be holding the election of new officers.

## A Message From Your President

Our annual show is over, but will not be soon forgotten. Record crowds, happy vendors, beautiful displays, artwork and exhibits helped to create a wonderful experience for our visitors this year. The fact that the VAOS took top society honors, won the AOS trophy for our display and the show ran so smoothly from the Mayor's speech to the final sweep of the brooms, is testament to excellent planning and the teamwork of our members. The weather outside was blustery, but we certainly put on a warm welcome for our orchid enthusiasts on the Suncoast. We even had two tour buses from Michigan stop by!



This is my last President's Message and it's been a fun and rewarding experience to fill in over the past year, but what a way to go out! This is how it must feel to be Peyton Manning, ready to retire and winning the Super Bowl. And like a quarterback, you are only as good as your team, so many thanks to those who pulled off a success like our 50th show. Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, as Co-Chairs, did a magnificent job in organizing everything. Jay designed a fantastic display and his great team turned it into the show trophy winner. Ed Soentgen handled security (and a lot of other things!) with professionalism. Linda Hahn took care that everyone ate well, Ted Kellogg handled the judging with May Anne Digrazia taking charge of clerking, Jane Camarota had the boutique looking perfect, as usual, and so many others pitched in to make sure that all went well. Really, I should mention everyone if we had space, as we were all a part of making the VAOS show the best orchid show in Florida.

Now it's on to Englewood, down by beautiful Lemon Bay, and we can finish the show season there. That's not the end of the orchid season as we have several great speakers lined up and some very educational and enjoyable Growers Clinics coming soon. The March 3rd meeting will feature a talk on mounting orchids and you are asked to bring one

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

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## Officers 2015 – 2016

### Interim President &

### Vice President - Programs

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

### Vice President - Social Affairs

Sharon Kahnoski, [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

### Vice President - Show Displays

Jay Loeffler, [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

### Treasurer

Mary Amos, [tres@vaos.org](mailto:tres@vaos.org)

### Recording Secretary

Joanna Shaw, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

### Communications Director &

### Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, [csec@vaos.org](mailto:csec@vaos.org)

### Membership Chair

Judy Loeffler, [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

### Immediate Past President

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

### Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

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

### Volunteers

Ted Kellogg, Webmaster

[tmkellogg@gmail.com](mailto:tmkellogg@gmail.com)

John Kahnoski, Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw &

Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer, Gary Becker & Jerry

Manegold, Technology

Pauline Adam, Mentor Coordinator

Kathy Beck, Librarian

### Newsletter Production

Barry Zack

### VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

## Minutes of the February 3rd, 2016 Meeting

Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7 PM by asking "Who has blooming orchids? We need them for the upcoming show!"

### Announcements:

- Judy Loeffler played for us the television ad for our upcoming show
- Carol Wood announced that there is only 3 days left until the annual show (!) and that everything is in order and on track. She noted we need blooming orchids from our members in order to create an award winning display. She noted Jay is also asking for examples of mounted orchids to put in his educational display. Further show details and volunteer information was announced and Karen Mann announced greenery needs for the Orchid Boutique.
- Carol also asked that we welcome and thank the sponsors that will be located in the lobby of the show. Cynthia Vance and Suzanne Grimmer did a great job with sponsors this year, raising over \$6000.
- Judy revealed a poster that will be on display at the show-She and Jay found newspaper ads and articles from our very first show in 1965.
- 2016 dues are due. Judy will generate a new membership list after the show. All members please pay up!
- Sharon Kahnoski announced that she is looking for 3 people to host the spring home/growing area tours. The date is not yet set pending input from the hosts.
- The annual picnic in April will be at a new venue, the South Venice Yacht Club on April 9th from 12-3 pm. It will be a BBQ, pot luck, member plant sale/swap, and games will be available as well.
- The Redlands Orchid Festival bus trip will be on Friday this year instead of Saturday in the hopes of beating some of the crowds. The date will be Friday May 13th, more info to follow.
- Joanna Shaw announced that the next Growers Clinic on 2/11/16 at 7 pm will be a dividing and repotting clinic. Attendees should bring a plant that has already been removed from the pot and cleaned, as well as an appropriate pot. We will provide potting mix and assistance with dividing and staking securely into the pot.
- Mary Anne Digrazia reminded us the Englewood Area Orchid

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### Treasurer's Report

February 2016

#### Checking Account

Starting Balance		
1/1/16	\$	16,663.11
Income	\$	1,675.00
Payments	\$	4,270.09
Closing Balance		
1/31/16	\$	14,068.09

#### Cash Account

Starting Balance		
1/1/16	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
1/31/16	\$	40.00

#### Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
1/1/16	\$	25,052.92
Income	\$	0.85
Closing Balance		
1/31/16	\$	25,053.77

#### Total Assets

1/31/16	\$	39,161.79
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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 February 3, 2016

The First Place Blue Ribbon and Speakers Commendation went Steve Vogelhaupt for his striking Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Warpaint (Cattleya (C.)Tango x Guarianthe (Guar.) *aurantiaca*. It had a cluster of more than 30 brilliant red flowers. One of the fastest growing of all cattleyas, this plant started as a 3 pseudobulb division less than three years ago. Steve said that the plant had spider mites a month ago, so he put 2 Tbsp. of cooking oil in 1 gal. of water and sprayed both sides of all the leaves. Two weeks later he put 4 Tbsp. of Dawn soap in 1 gal. of water and again sprayed the plant. Result -- no more spider mites! Great job, Steve, for the recovery of this beautiful specimen!



Ctt. Warpaint

The Second Place Red Ribbon was awarded to Debi Sullivan for her gorgeous Cattlianthe (Ctt.) Spring Fires 'Lenette' (Ctt. Fires of Spring x Ctt. Fire Island). It was a lovely plant with 8-10 beautiful peach-colored flowers with darker red lips. It was created in 1984 by Daniel Harvey at the Beall Orchid Co., Seattle and we're thrilled it came to Florida. Great growing, Debi!



Ctt. Spring Fires

The Third Place Yellow Ribbon and Members' Choice Ribbon went to Jackie Wagner for her handsome Paphiopedilum (Paph.) (Small World x Surveyor) x (Arafura Sea x Signature). The cross Arafura Sea x Signature was registered as Paph. Pancho by O. Duerbush in 2014. This is a typical so-called 'bull dog' Paphiopedilum due to its hefty size. Jackie grows it on her lanai (with AC) in muted light which seems to work in Florida. Yours truly had a similar plant and when I put it outside in the high heat and humidity, it died in 3 days. Congrats to Jackie -- one of our few successful Paph growers!



Paph. (Small World x Surveyor) x Pancho

The Best Species Purple Ribbon was awarded to Richard Amos for his Cattleya (C.) *lueddemanniana* x self. Its exquisite lavender is so beautiful that Joanna Shaw, our table presenter, said it made her heart flutter. Endemic to the northern coastal range of Venezuela, it grows from the sea level up to 1,800 feet elevation. For some orchid collectors, it's most special because it will bloom 2x a year if one lives near sea level. Beautiful job, Richard!



C. lueddemanniana

*Continued on next page*



## Culture Tip of the Month

This is the time of the year when we would normally begin to increase/initiate fertilization and watering for our standard and semi-standard nobiles such as parishii, anosmum, aphyllum and nobile. Our unusually wet and warm winter so far means that we have to be extra careful to examine each plant to determine if that plant is at the proper stage for flower initiation.

In general, these orchids should receive no fertilizer between the time new growth has matured in the fall and the time when the initiation of flowers along the canes is evident. Too early or too heavy fertilization will produce few, if any flowers and many leaves and keikis. Assuming our wet weather continues, little additional water is needed until after flower buds are well formed.

While my anosmum, aphyllum and parishii lost their leaves as usual, but show no sign of flower buds, my Red Emperor 'Prince', another nobile hybrid, retained most of its leaves and is now initiating flower buds along the existing canes. That means it's time to move it from the top of the holly tree and slowly begin a fertilization program.

Don't let the calendar or the experiences from previous years dictate the resumption of summer cultural requirements. Remember, each species is unique as is each plant within that species.



Den. Red Emperor 'Prince'

*-Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt*

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

The New Member Growers Pink Ribbon went to Kristin Shaw for her Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.) Psycho Bride. It is a darling compact plant with its 3-color flowers, often sold at Home Depot, to those drawn to its curious name. But there is nothing psycho about this plant – “she” is charming and her low flowers make her a lovely table centerpiece. Also she has a lightly fragrant lemony smell if you stick your nose in the flower. Kudos to Kristin!



Rth. Psycho Bride

*-Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance*

### Please Support Our 2016 Show Sponsors

Herald Tribune Media Group  
Costco Wholesale  
Dr. Tibbils - Hearing Clinic of Venice  
Gettel Hyundai  
Hoskins Pest Control  
New Dawn Travels  
Pamela Hogan - Realtor  
Region Solar  
Center for Sight  
Daiquiri Deck  
Davis & Beyer, DDS  
Family Dermatology  
Gardens of Venice - Retirement Residence  
Kennedy-White Orthopedic Ctr.  
R.A.V.E  
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

## CONGRATULATIONS VAOS MEMBERS - A VERY SUCCESSFUL SHOW!

Once again, VAOS members turned out in force to produce a hugely successful annual orchid show. The feedback I heard from attendees was all positive. Beyond complimenting the beautiful orchids and displays, I heard comments that made me especially proud of our society - "How do you get so many members to volunteer for your show?" "Look at all those purple shirts!" "Everyone is so pleasant and helpful!" We've heard from several of our vendors that the Venice orchid show is considered one of the top three in the state. And this is the reason why - every year our members sign up, show up and do their job with enthusiasm.

Thank you, Judy Loeffler, my Show Co-Chair, who effectively ran the show in my absence and quickly resolved every issue or question that came up. Judy's non-stop energy, passion and enthusiasm for our society and our show are so evident! And to Ed Soentgen, who worked tirelessly from set up to take down to ensure everything ran smoothly, thank you.

Jerry Daenzer and his team had very little time to set up the display area before the vendors pushed through the backdoor at 1pm on Friday. His pre-planning, accurate measurements and organized approach were critical. Thank you, Jerry and Ed and the 15 volunteers who helped with show set up. Thanks also to the 12 volunteers who delayed their Super Bowl plans to stay and clean up the community center at the end of the show.

Our front door admissions chair Elaine Ortt and her 30 volunteers sold tickets to just over 4000 show attendees with a smile. Thank you.

Our hospitality team led by Linda and Bruce Hahn managed the kitchen throughout the weekend and we appreciate the delicious food brought in by our members. (I still have to wonder if it's the orchid show or the food that attracts the AOS judges from around the country to work our show.)

Jay Loeffler and Bruce Weaver created the most spectacular exhibit and took the AOS Show Trophy as well as First Place Exhibit. They worked for months to design and construct a country cottage facade and brick pathway that, populated with 80 orchid plants, was just exquisite. I found it hard to view our exhibit as there was always a crowd in front of it. Jay also designed and constructed the Educational Display depicting the Venice Orchid Project that received a blue ribbon award from the AOS judges. Thank you Jay and Bruce and the display team members. We're in awe!

Sharon and John Kahnoski managed our show security again this year supported by more than 30 member volunteers. Not the most exciting, but an absolutely essential job - thank you.

Jane Camarota and her Orchid Boutique team raised over \$2000 for our society through their sale of orchid floral arrangements, jewelry and accessories. They also hosted the plant basket raffle raising \$680. Every year, the Orchid Boutique hands out bouquets to wheelchair bound attendees - what a nice gesture! Thank you.

Twenty-six members signed up this year to serve as AOS judge clerks under Chair Mary Anne Digrazia's guidance. The judges appreciate our help and we appreciate their knowledge of what makes an orchid plant award worthy. Thank you.

Noreen Chervinski once again coordinated our member Arts & Crafts display on the edge of the stage. Nine members took home trophies for their creative works. Thank you.

Ted Kellogg developed the show plant classification schedule and coordinated plant registration and AOS judging activities. Thank you, Ted.

Thanks to Judy and her team for placing the show signs around town and picking them up after the show. Judy also managed the extensive advertising for our show that resulted in such a good turnout.

Jim Thomas conducted basic orchid culture classes three times a day Saturday and Sunday to a packed audience. Show attendees raved about it. We'll have to add more chairs next year. Thank you, Jimmy.

Judy Loeffler and her team managed the Membership/Information Desk throughout the weekend, answering questions, handing out culture sheets, signing up new members and selling books and old AOS magazines. Thank you.

Mary Amos, our Treasurer, managed the show income and expense accounting before, during and after the show with expertise. Thank you. Show profit will exceed \$18,000.

Cynthia Vance and Suzanne Grimmer led our show sponsorship campaign, raising \$6450 for our society this year. In addition to recruiting show sponsors, they helped their sponsors with marketing materials and developed the slide show that ran continuously throughout the show. Great job - thank you.

Our permit is already in place for our 2017 show at the community center. Please mark the date - February 4-5, 2017.

Thanks again to all who contributed to an outstanding orchid show. I love this society and the wonderful orchid people in it!

*-Submitted by Carol Wood*

## VAOS Exhibit Takes AOS Show Trophy!

Congratulations to Jay Loeffler and his team for their spectacular exhibit at our show! Talk about thinking outside the box - their display background was one of the most original and creative we've seen. Built to resemble a quaint Italian cottage, it was constructed by Bruce Weaver with plywood and "painted" with mud. Complete with a rounded door and a brick pathway, it took our breath away! Twenty-five members registered 81 quality plants that were artfully arranged in front of the cottage, creating an exhibit you just did not want to walk away from. The VAOS display took First Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit. Then, the AOS judges by consensus selected the VAOS display from a total of 13 commercial and other society displays to award the coveted AOS Show Trophy, Most Outstanding Exhibit. VAOS members were awarded a total of 9 trophies and 56 ribbons as detailed below.

### Trophy Winners

AOS Show Trophy, Most Outstanding Exhibit - VAOS  
First Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit - VAOS  
Second Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit - Ridge

Third Place, Most Outstanding Society Exhibit - EAOS  
Most Outstanding Commercial Class Exhibit - Art Stone/Palmer Orchids

Most Outstanding Educational Exhibit - VAOS  
Best In Show, *C. loddigesii*, Phelps Farm  
Best Species, *C. loddigesii*, Phelps Farm  
Best Hybrid, Ctt. Tutankamen, Phelps Farm  
Most Outstanding Plant by VAOS Member, Ctt. Magic Bell 'Irma' AM/AOS, Nora Berger (VAOS)

Best Cattleya Alliance, Gct. Renate 'S&W' AM/AOS, John Roche (VAOS)

Best Small Cattleya, Ctt. Magic Bell 'Irma' AM/AOS, Nora Berger (VAOS)

Best Large Cattleya, Rlc. Pamela Hetherington 'Coronation' FCC/AOS, Dennis Pavlock (SOS)

Best Phalaenopsis, Phal. Chain Xen Plano 'CX399', FCC/AOS, Keith and Dina Emig (Ridge)

Best Vandaceous, Rhy. gigantea, John Roche (VAOS)  
Best Oncidium, Onc. Sharry Baby, Dennis Pavlock (SOS)

Best Cymbidium, Cym. Lovely Moon 'Crescent' HCC/AOS, Hazel Miller (SOS)

Best Dendrobium, Den. sanguinolentum, Renee Bynum (VAOS)

Best Diversified Genera, Lip. Condylolobulbon, Charlie Rogg (SOS)

Best Miniature, Pleur. Allenii, Ken Woodward (EAOS)

Best Arts & Crafts, 'Sensational Cymbidium' Needle point, Sue Dinger (VAOS)



### Ribbon Winners - Plants

Rich Amos - 3 blue, 3 red ribbons  
Kathy Beck - 1 yellow ribbon  
Rick Belisle - 2 blue, 1 red ribbon  
Nora Berger - 1 blue ribbon  
Renee Bynum - 2 blue ribbons  
Sally Bonnell - 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon  
Anita Cervi - 1 blue, 1 red ribbon  
Janet Hoy - 1 yellow ribbon  
Steve Keller - 1 yellow ribbon  
Ted Kellogg - 1 blue ribbon  
Judy & Jay Loeffler - 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon  
Natalie McKinney - 1 yellow ribbon  
Judy Mulligan - 1 red ribbon  
Dale Richter - 1 blue ribbon  
John Roche - 8 blue and 4 yellow ribbons (congrats, John!)

Joanna Shaw - 1 blue ribbon  
Irene Thimm - 1 red ribbon  
Jim Thomas - 2 red ribbons  
Cynthia Vance - 1 yellow ribbon  
Jackie Wagner - 1 yellow ribbon  
Carol Wood - 2 blue ribbons

### Ribbon Winners - Arts & Crafts

Mary Anne Digrazia - 1 yellow ribbon  
Sue Dinger - 1 blue ribbon  
Carol Marcus - 1 blue, 1 red ribbon  
Tony Nachinovich - 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon  
Cynthia Vance - 1 red ribbon  
Julie Williams - 1 blue 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, Ken Dolan, Sharon and John Kahnoski, Peg and Bill Fahrenback, Steve Keller and all the other members who helped to set up and take down our exhibit. Very well done!

*-Narrative by Carol Wood, photo by Cynthia Vance*



## Your Plants Needed for the Englewood Area Orchid Society Show March 4-5

VAOS will participate in the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Annual Show on March 4-5, 2016, our last show exhibit for the winter season. Their show theme is "Orchids By Lemon Bay". Jay Loeffler and his display team need your blooming plants to create a winning display!

EAOS will again hold their annual event at:

Englewood United Methodist Church  
700 East Dearborn St, Englewood, FL

The church is just 8 miles past the Rt. 41 and Rt. 776 intersection. Directions: Travel south on Rt. 776/Englewood Rd for 7 miles. Turn left on E. Dearborn St. then 1 mile to the church on the left.

**PLANTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN  
ADVANCE BY EMAIL TO  
[PlantReg@VAOS.org](mailto:PlantReg@VAOS.org) BY MARCH 1ST.**

Email your plant name with a photo or flower color description and flower size (larger or smaller than 5"). Carol will return your email with your plant registration number. Please label your pot with both your name and your plant registration number.

Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease and in prime condition to last through the show.

Bring your plants to the EAOS Show site on Thursday morning at 11am. If you are unable to bring your plants to Englewood, contact Carol Wood to make alternate arrangements. (Carol - [PlantReg@VAOS.org](mailto:PlantReg@VAOS.org) or 497-4995)

Pick up your plants Saturday evening at the show at 5:15pm, following display take down.

Please contact Jay Loeffler, VP Displays, for further information. 485-9569

*-Submitted by Carol Wood*

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

Society Annual Show is March 4th and 5th. She had fliers/postcards for us to use to advertise the show and hopes some of us will sign up as volunteers to assist with the show.

Judy Loeffler announced that now is the time that we accept nominations for open positions on the board. She thanked Bruce Weaver for acting as interim president and announced that Carol Wood has accepted a nomination for the president position. Judy asked if there were any other nominations for president and there were none. Judy reported that all of the other board positions and committee chairs will stay unchanged. The election for president will be next month.

Bruce introduced the speaker, Roger Hammer, a professional botanist, naturalist, author and photographer. Roger presented "Hunting Wild Orchids in Florida". There are a 108 wild orchid species in Florida including 2 that are not found anywhere else in the world and some that are also found as far north as Canada. Roger provided a fun-filled look at the great variety of orchid peeping available in Florida.

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the Plant Table.

The Raffle Table was a little sparse this month. Don't forget to donate any extra divisions or unwanted plants for your friends to win and to raise money for the society.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00.

*-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary.*

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

example from your collection that shows how well orchids can grow "outside the pot".

Thank you all for your support these last 8 months and I look forward to serving as your humble VP for Programs in 2016. And thanks also for being such nice people, it's what really counts!

Yours for orchids everywhere.

*-Bruce Weaver, Interim President & VP, Programs*

### 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

• **Florida SunCoast Orchids**

(941-322-8777)  
8211 Verna Bethany Rd.,  
Myakka City, FL

• **Plantio La Orquidea**

(941-504-7737)  
3480 Tallevast Rd,  
Sarasota

• **Orchid Envy**

(941) 266-6351  
339 Venice Ave. West,  
Venice, FL



## Highlights of the 50 Shades of Orchids February 7th Show



More photos from the show on the following page



## Highlights of the 50 Shades of Orchids February 7th Show (continued from previous page)





# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting:

**Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:00pm**  
at Venice Community Center  
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

- **Speakers:** Bruce Weaver and Steve Vogelhaupt
- **Bring one mounted plant to the meeting program**
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring your friends and treats to share.

## Upcoming Events

**February 14- March 27:** Marie Selby Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show. See Culture Supplement for additional information

**February 26-28:** Naples Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show. Info: [rpippen@comcast.net](mailto:rpippen@comcast.net)

**March 3 (1st Thursday):** VAOS Monthly Meeting, Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, **Speakers:** Bruce Weaver and Steve Vogelhaupt, Topic: Thinking Outside the Pot. Please bring a mounted orchid, blooming or not, for demonstration.

**March 4 -5 (Fri and Sat):** Englewood Area Orchid Society Show and Sale. United Methodist Church. Setup Thursday, March 3. See article in newsletter.

**March 5-6 (Sat and Sun):** Tampa Bay Orchid Society Annual Show &

Sale. Info: <http://tampabayorchidsociety.shutterfly.com/>

**March 10 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7 pm, Venice Community Center, **Speakers:** Bruce Weaver and Steve Vogelhaupt, Topic: Hands-on Potting Without Pots. Same guidelines as for Potting Clinic, except bring mount instead of pot.

**March 11-13 (Fri, Sat, Sun):** Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show, info: Jim Longwell (239) 340-5520

**March 11-13 (Fri, Sat, Sun):** Orchid Society of Coral Gables Show, info: Melana Davison (760) 212-8919; [orchidiva@att.net](mailto:orchidiva@att.net)

**March 18-20:** Port Saint Lucie Orchid Show, info: Hellen Wagner (772) 599-3014; [hellenrwagner@aol.com](mailto:hellenrwagner@aol.com)

### Upcoming

**April 9 (Sat):** VAOS Spring Picnic, South Venice Yacht Club, details follow.

**May 13 (Fri):** Bus Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival, details follow.

### 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, McLoughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609.** at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

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



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



## Selby Gardens International Orchid Show

### Celebrating 40 Years at Selby Gardens

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens will be displaying more than 1,000 orchids from the sub-tropics and tropics of the Americas from February 14 – March 27, 2016 at the Gardens' conservatory. Visitors to the Gardens enjoy the included show as part of the larger visitor experience at Selby Gardens, which is the only garden committed to the study and preservation of epiphytes, including orchids. VAOS often has expert and entertaining speakers from Selby at our monthly meetings.

In addition to the Conservatory, Selby features a number of diverse and interesting indoor and outdoor gardens overlooking Sarasota Bay. A café and a gift shop featuring gifts, jewelry, orchids and other live plants are included in the experience.

Current AOS members receive free entry to the Gardens upon presentation of AOS membership card, with the exception of special events, throughout the year.

For further information, visit [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org).



THE ORCHID SHOW  
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AT SELBY GARDENS  
FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 27

## Inocucor Garden Solution® Plant Probiotic

Microorganisms play essential roles in the lives and health of plants – both positive and negative – just as they do in people. In the past, the most common activities related to them in horticulture were the use of chemical disinfectants and fungicides to rid the plants of any infestation or infection. Fortunately, science has advanced beyond that, and the interest in organic gardening has been a major driving force.

You may be familiar with the application of “worm teas” to plants, apparently leading to improved vigor and disease resistance. Some may consider that “pseudo-science”, but in fact, those liquids, whether the exudate taken directly from worm beds, or made by steeping worm castings in water, are just loaded with micro-organisms that interact with both the planting medium and the plant, making nutrients more available, stimulating self-protective responses in the plants, and keeping the populations of damaging pathogens at bay. Unfortunately, the use of such “teas” is riddled with uncertainties.

There have been estimates of as many as 300,000 different species of microorganisms living in the rhizospheres (root zones) of plants, and each one may interact differently with the substrate and the plant. Therefore, unless you inoculate them specifically, you really know neither what is in the “tea”, nor the concentrations of them. When applying them, you are introducing “foreign” cultures into the substrate and the plant and as the microorganisms “battle it out” for supremacy, both among themselves and with those already there – good and bad – the outcome is quite unpredictable, and often short-lived.

The scientists at Inocucor, near Montreal, are at the leading edge of this technology, and have developed a highly complex blend of many such organisms that lend a wide range of benefits to the grower of any crop. The product – Inocucor Garden Solution® – is not just a blend of beneficial microorganisms, but the various species are crafted into what are known as “consortia” that work together, forming stable populations, rather than being antagonistic to each other.

University-led studies have shown that the product, which may be considered to be a “plant probiotic”, significantly improved seed germination rates, prevented the damping-off of delicate seedlings, and led to higher crop yields, with the added bonuses of less application of fertilizers and virtual elimination of the use of chemical fungicides. To the orchid-growing world, besides the general pathogen-suppression action, one of the most significant benefits is the protection and hardiness enhancement of newly-deflasked seedlings.



As an example, consider the plight of *Paphiopedilum tigrinum*. It is one of the more difficult plants to successfully cultivate from seed, but because it is essentially extinct in its native habitats in China, a great deal of effort has been put into learning how to improve the success rate. Holger Perner, PhD, of Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology in China, has found that by treating the seedlings with Inocucor Garden Solution® upon opening the flasks, and continuing with periodic sprayings after potting them up, the survival rate has skyrocketed! In the limited amount of “deflasking” that we have done – primarily paphiopedilums, phragmipediums, and phalaenopsis – we have lost less than 1% of the seedlings since applying the solution. One phalaenopsis grower recently related this:

"I had a large batch of small Phalaenopsis seedlings from a very crowded amateur flask. They weren't doing well - visible patches of white mold, some seedlings just turned translucent and collapsed. They weren't crowded so it wasn't spreading much, just isolated seedlings collapsing. I had decided it was time to do something.

2.5 days after treating with Inocucor at 1:50 rate the white mold appears dead, and there haven't been any additional seedlings collapsing. Really too soon to evaluate effectiveness, but I couldn't have expected more from any product at this point." - Kirk Z.

And here is another review from an orchid grower whose plants are grown outdoors:

"OK, after 3 applications roughly 10 days apart I can say that I see a noticeable improvement in my problem plants where fungal/bacterial problems are concerned. Spotting on leaves on my seedling Paphs and Phrags is almost completely gone and I am not sure if it is my imagination, but it seems like my entire collection looks to be 'healthier'. For those who are curious about my growing conditions during the last 3 weeks of testing they were as follows; Humidity from 51% up to 98%, Temps were from 51 degrees up to 80 degrees, Sun was intermittent, mostly or partly cloudy for the duration, and rained at least daily, or every night. Good news: I believe this is the ticket for me, doesn't hurt my dog or chickens, plants look good, and from additional info I saw on the web it actually aids in the uptake of nutrients. Bad news: I am out of the sample. Mahalo and Aloha" - Fred Dishman

The “good bugs” in the material, or more likely, their metabolic byproducts can have a direct, physiological effect on the plants, as well. Growers of cannabis, for example, have noted that, in addition to better seed germination rates, the plants tend to have reduced inter-node spacing, resulting in a sturdier, stockier, and bushier plant. Here are some additional beneficial outcomes of its use:

- Brookgreen Gardens, a sculpture garden and wildlife preserve in Pawley's Island SC, tried a controlled experiment with their spring bulb plants: In mid-February, one plot of hyacinth bulbs was dipped before planting, and the planting holes saturated with a 1:50 solution. The other plot was prepared and planted using the same methodology, but no Inocucor Garden Solution was applied. By mid-April, when their spring show took place, the plants in the treated plot were 7"-8" tall and in full bloom; those in the untreated plot were just at the beginning of budding, or only about 4" tall.

- In a student greenhouse environment at Clemson University, broccoli seeds were sowed, with half of them "watered-in" with plain water, and half with a 1:100 solution. When the seedlings had germinated, the treated seedlings were again watered with the 1:100 Inocucor solution. Three weeks later, two equivalent sets of 90 plants each were moved to outdoor plots, with the Inocucor-treated seedlings receiving one more treatment at time of planting. Upon maturation, over a three week period, the central heads of the broccoli were harvested (side shoots were not included), all with 10" stem length, and yields compared. The treated plants displayed a 38% improved yield compared to the controls.

- Strawberry plants were grown on a farm in Lambeth, Ontario. Bare-root plants were initially dipped in the Inocucor Garden Solution, then their roots immersed in it for four hours before hand-planting them in the field. Another control set of plants were similarly treated, but using only plain water. Two and a half months after planting, they were treated with 30 ml of those respective solutions. The fruit was harvested every two days over a two month period, and the Inocucor-treated plants showed a 31% increase in yield.

- Ashley Ridge High School in Summerville SC maintains a one-acre edible food garden to give students an opportunity to experience hands-on planting, cultivating, and harvesting techniques. They conducted controlled experiments on both Swiss Chard and Eggplant. To summarize, the Swiss Chard plants treated with the Inocucor Garden Solution averaged 20" high and 25" wide, compared to 12" x 15", for the untreated controls, and the Eggplants yielded 12.1 pounds of fruit, compared to 8 pounds for the untreated ones.

How orchid growers use the product, depends upon the application:

- Deflasked seedlings should be dipped in a 1:50 solution (~2.5 oz/gal) immediately after removal from the flask, then sprayed and watered with that solution daily for one week, every other day for another, then weekly with a 1:100 solution (~3 tablespoons/gallon) weekly until the plants are established and actively growing.



- Diseased plants should be treated as soon as any symptoms of potential ailment is observed. Plants should be soaked for an hour or more in a 1:50 solution, then treated using the same application regimen as that recommended for seedlings, above.

- Normal, probiotic treatment of healthy plants consists of an initial inoculation period, then regular maintenance: drench plants and medium with a 1:50 solution at three successive waterings, then go to a 1:100 solution, applied at least monthly.

One of the best features of Inocucor Garden Solution® is that fact that it actually improves the soil – or any planting medium, for that matter. It is safe to handle, and may be used on any crop, including foods, and is OMRI-listed for use in organic gardening.

If you'd like to learn more, you may see the product label and MSDS on our own website, send us an email, or go directly to our online store, or read more at the producer's website at [inocucor.com](http://inocucor.com).

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