

Venice Area Orchid Society News

May 2016

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
May 4th, 7 pm**

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

Speaker: Ted Kellogg

Topic:

"When to Hold 'em and When to Fold 'em"



Ted needs no introduction, having contributed to our society for many years and currently serving as our Webmaster. He is an active AOS judge and has been growing orchids and sharing his knowledge and experience for over 50 years. Living in Miami, he purchased his first orchids, three cattleyas, in 1965. Those plants were the beginning of an orchid adventure that has lasted until today. The collection has moved to Tallahassee, Kingston, R.I., Wakefield, R.I., and recently, three locations in Englewood. During these moves, Ted's collection reached a maximum of over 2000 plants and today contains about 650 plants.

During many of our previous meetings, members have been given advice on how to select and grow orchids. Speaker after speaker has told us how to stop pests, bugs, viruses, bacteria, fungi, etc. and what the ideal conditions are to grow our plants. But, which ones should we hold and which ones should we fold? Ted will provide many ideas of how to keep your collection in the condition, size and form that excites you and garners the most ribbons and trophies.

One of our local grower/vendors will have a great selection of quality orchids for sale at our meeting. With many of us dividing and repotting orchids, don't forget the Raffle Table and the Venice Orchid Project.

A Message From Your President

Come May, we say goodbye to many of our orchid buddies as they head to their Northern homes. It seems like they just got here! We'll miss them and look forward to welcoming them back in the fall.



We settle into a quieter routine and focus on repotting our orchids and enjoying those that are in bloom. Many of our plants delayed blooming this year, missing the Englewood show, but then making a magnificent display in April. The Plant Table at our April 6th meeting was one of the best I can remember! I'm continually impressed with the growing skills of our members and the top quality plants they produce.

Many of us enjoyed the VAOS annual picnic - 46 members attended our April 9th picnic at the South Venice Yacht Club and enjoyed juicy burgers, homemade side dishes and good company. Thank you, Judy Loeffler, Bruce Weaver, Robin Parsons, Sally Bonnell and Jim Thomas for your work to make it a success.

We had a lively discussion at our April 14th Growers Clinic where we presented "Top Tips From Experienced Growers." The discussion produced many questions from new growers and also generated more tips and suggestions. We'll now post the handout to our website and update it periodically with new tips. We encourage all our members to contribute their ideas and tips to share with our members. Email them to me at Pres@VAOS.org.

We are all looking forward to our May 4th meeting when Ted Kellogg will present "When to Hold Em - When to Fold Em". What a catchy title! Ted always gives an excellent presentation - don't miss it!

We have one more major event planned for the spring - our annual bus trip to the Redland Orchid Festival on Friday, May 13th. There is still time to reserve your seat to ride in air conditioned luxury to the top annual orchid festival in the country. If you have never been, you need to go. With more than 60 international vendors, this is an opportunity to pick up some orchid varieties we don't often see or have access to locally. Be cautious in purchasing species or cool growing plants that may not thrive in our environment. Question the vendor to ensure it will

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Officers 2016 – 2017 President

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Vice President – Programs & Immediate Past President

Bruce Weaver, programs@vaos.org

Vice President – Social Affairs

Sharon Kahnoski, social@vaos.org

Vice President – Show Displays

Jay Loeffler, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Mary Amos, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Joanna Shaw, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chair

Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

showchair@vaos.org

Director At Large

Renee Bynum, RBynum@vaos.org

Volunteers

Ted Kellogg, Webmaster

tmkellogg@gmail.com

John Kahnoski, Raffle Table

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Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

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Minutes of the April 6, 2016 Meeting

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 PM by noting the unusually spectacular Plant Table and the overflowing Raffle Table. She announced that the VAOS display at the Englewood show not only won First Place for Best Society Display, but also won the AOS trophy. She congratulated Jay Loeffler and the display team and asked him if he could possibly top the fact that he won 2 displays and 2 AOS trophies in 2 shows! He answered he would like to go for a 3-peat! Venice Orchid Society members won a total of 44 ribbons with 68 plants. 15 people helped with the set-up.

Announcements:

• Growers Clinic Announcements

* The Growers Clinic next Thursday night will be Top Tips From Experienced Growers. All are invited. Carol Wood and Rich Amos will do this presentation and ask everyone to share their best tips by emailing Pres@VAOS.org.

* Carol invited anyone to suggest ideas and topics they would like at future Growers Clinics.

* There is a link on the website for the upcoming schedules for both the Growers Clinics and the monthly General Meetings.

* There is a new format for the Growers Clinic. The first 15 minutes will be an opportunity to socialize with other members and sell/swap up to three plants. The next 15 minutes will be a group discussion of any problem plants brought in by members. Enough expert growers will be present to create an informal panel for help. The remainder of the meeting will be whatever the scheduled topic is. Members may bring their own snacks and drinks.

• The speaker for the next General Meeting will be our own Ted Kellogg. His topic is entitled "When to hold 'em and when to fold 'em". It will be strategies for dealing with problem plants, when to keep trying with them and when to toss them and go shopping for new ones.

• The March 19th home/growing area tours were a success. Carol thanked Monroe Kokin, Sybil Levien-Bushell, and Steve & Susan

Continued on page 6

Treasurer's Report

April - 2016

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
3/1/16	\$	32,586.79
Income	\$	760.00
Payments	\$	5,564.56
Closing Balance		
3/31/16	\$	27,782.23

Cash Account

Starting Balance		
3/1/16	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
3/31/16	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
3/1/16	\$	25,054.56
Income	\$	0.85
Closing Balance		
3/31/16	\$	25,055.41

Total Assets

3/31/16	\$	52,877.64
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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
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Plant Table Awards April 6, 2016

The **First Place Blue Ribbon** was captured by Jerry Danzer for his majestic Dendrobium (Den). Upin King 'Serenade' which was packed with many flowers. Jerry grows his plant under a screened pool cage so it receives 70-80% light 8-10 hours a day, having perfect conditions for growing a huge specimen. He ceases watering and fertilizing at Thanksgiving and resumes both when it starts putting out new growth. This is how 'nobile' dendrobiums should be cultivated. Congrats, Jerry!



Den. Upin King

The **Second Place Red Ribbon** went to Richard Amos for his beautiful Den. *nobile*, a species. The photo doesn't do justice to the length of the pendant pink plant. The nobile dendrobium is popular because it blooms in winter and early spring, often before other orchids start flowering. Richard hangs it under an oak tree and says he does 'nothing'; however it's clear that our winter drought helps the plant rest and then encourages it to start blooming. Good benign neglect, Richard!



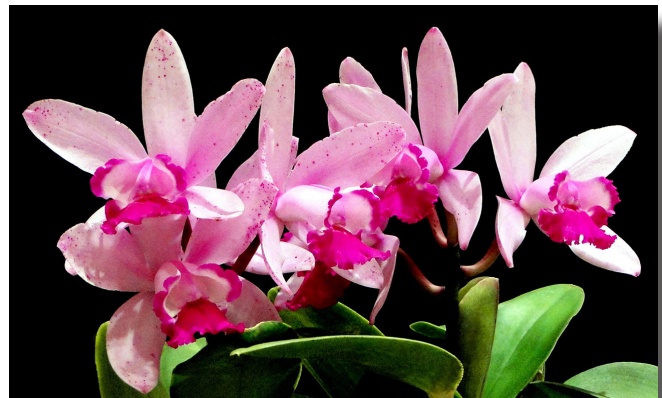
Den. nobile

The **Third Place Yellow Ribbon** was awarded to Debi Sullivan for her impressive Den. Comet King 'Akatsuki', the third nobile Dendrobium to win tonight!!! Debi's hybrid has very striking dark pink and yellow flowers. She also grows her plant under her pool cage where it receives high sunlight from at least 3 directions and she also gives it the necessary winter rest so it wants to bloom in the spring. Beware – without this rest, a nobile will not bloom. Good growing, Debi!



Den. Comet King

The Best Species Purple Ribbon was won by Ted Kellogg for his Cattleya (C.) *intermedia*. The 3-4 inch beautifully formed flowers are pink-lavender in color with magenta on the lip. This species, from Brazil and Argentina, is quite hardy and is known to take temperatures from the mid 20's up to 100 degrees -- easy to grow and a must for your collection! Another benefit – the rose-like aroma of the flowers strengthens as the day progresses and warms. Beautiful fragrant plant, Ted!



C. intermedia

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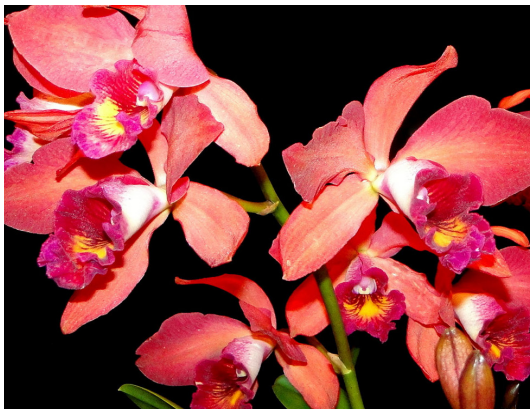
Plant Table Awards (continued from page 3)

The **New Member Growers Pink Ribbon** was awarded to Donna Evans for her Rhyncattleanthe (Rth.) Burana Beauty. It has striking flowers with pink and yellow hues – a wonderful combination with those beautifully shaped flowers. Donna won this plant from the VAOS Raffle Table, and frankly she's not sure of its real name. If it came from one of your divisions, please contact her. But for now we'll stick with the name above because it really looks like Burana Beauty. Donna -- you're already a fine grower!!



Rth. Burana Beauty

The **Members' Choice Ribbon** went to Cindy Royds for her Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Sedona's Glory 'Matrix'. The rosy red of the blooms really caught the attention of our members who 'voted' i.e., wrote her number on a slip of paper and put it in the little box on the Plant Table. Just a reminder to our members -- don't forget to do this! Rlc. Sedona's Glory Matrix is composed of species of which 98% take warm temperatures, love 50%-60% humidity, but as mature plants MUST dry out between waterings. Great job, Cindy!!



Rlc. Sedona's Glory

Speaker's Choice Ribbon went to Renee Bynum for her massive Maxillariella (Max.) *tenuifolia*, 2 feet in diameter with more than 80 flowers, each 1.5 inches wide. The plant was a perfectly round specimen of what is known as 'the coconut orchid' due to its lovely pervasive scent. It's also from the Bulbophyllum genera, one of the largest, and enjoys being in a shady area of your greenhouse and kept moist. Many of us don't grow 'Bulbos' but Renee grows many and is a great source for advice. Thank you, Renee, for lugging in such a magnificent beauty!



Max. tenuifolia

-Narrative by Cynthia Vance
and photos by Cynthia Vance and Donna Evans

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VAOS Spring Home Tour

Our semi-annual greenhouse and growing area tour started under sunny skies and warm temperatures, although thunderstorms were forecast for later in the day.

The first stop was the home of Steve and Susan Wiener who have been growing orchids for over 25 years. They started their hobby in S. E. Pennsylvania and are continuing under the pergola behind their house, which serves as an entrance to their swimming pool. They managed to accommodate more than 150 orchids on custom made shelves that extend from the floor to the vine covered roof which provides just the right amount of light and shade. The pergola is oriented towards the east and the Cattleyas, Phals, Oncidium and other unique genera and species are perfectly arranged and displayed in various unusual mounts and pots. Steve told me that he is a long-time fan of Carter and Holmes Orchids, although the number of their labels in the collection had made that obvious. Steve had lots of advice and tips and a collection of refreshments added to the pleasant stop.



Next was the home of Monroe Kokin, less than ten minutes away in the Stone Wood subdivision off E. Venice Avenue. Monroe divides his time between his Venice house and New Jersey and has travelled extensively all over the world in search of rare orchids for his collection. Monroe first encountered orchids in 1986 at the Longwood Botanical Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. and soon started his collection at Waldor Orchids, with the help of Walter Off, the owner. By 1995, he had reached more than 150 plants and moved to Florida. There he met Frank Smith, co-owner of Krull-Smith Orchids in Apopka, where he worked for a number of months, not for peanuts, but for orchids, starting by pulling weeds and ending his 'career' by repotting and dividing hundreds of cattleyas.

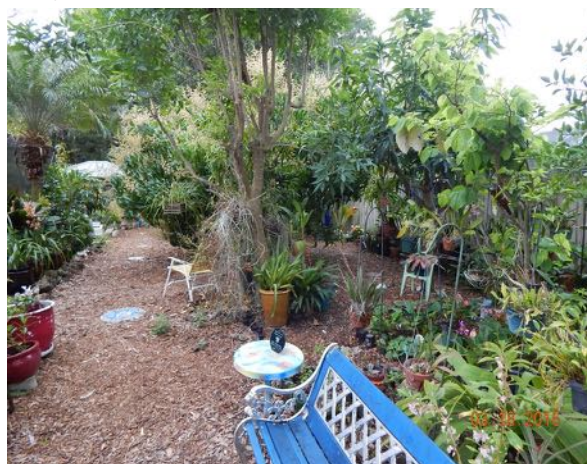
In 1999, he moved to the Sarasota area and immediately joined both the Venice and Sarasota orchid societies. When he built his present home, he added an attached 24' x 36' reinforced aluminum screen room, screened to provide 50% shade. He installed a five zone overhead

watering, misting and fertilization system and hangs approximately 450 cattleyas from a reinforced overhead grid system. Although specializing in Bulbophyllums, he has extensive collections of other genera, species and hybrids and had a number of cattleyas and oncidium for sale.



For more information, culture tips and gorgeous photos, check out his website at www.orchidphotography.com.

Last, but certainly not least, was the home of Sybil Levien-Bushell and her husband, in the Mission Valley subdivision. With storm clouds gathering on the horizon, I joined many other visitors starting at the large enclosed swimming pool which was surrounded by many orchids in unique containers and settings. After a stop for cool refreshments, I joined Sybil and one of the groups heading toward what turned out to be multiple secret hide-aways where Sybil entertained and educated us with the many different orchids, bromeliads and native plants that festooned the trees, unusual and repurposed stands and containers. Unfortunately, it was time for a dash to the car with my camera as the rain started to fall in earnest.



It was a wonderful Saturday and many, many thanks to everyone for inviting us into your orchid settings.

-Narrative and photos by editor

My Favorite Orchid

Now that our fabulous show season has come to an end, it's time to look back on the growing season to pick our personal favorite. In my case, the *Caulocattleya* (Clty.) Spring Fragrance was the undisputed winner. I bought the plant from Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids, at one of the local shows in 2013 and it won a blue ribbon in its class at the EAOS shows in 2014 and again in 2015.

I repotted the plant in the late spring of 2015 into a mixture of medium Orchidata and medium charcoal into an 8" clay pot and will repot again later this year, hoping to avoid dividing, and creating a specimen plant for next year. Spring Fragrance is a bifoliate cattleya which very much resents repotting any time other than when there is clear evidence of new root growth, not just new growth, usually in late spring and early summer.



The fragrant hybrid is a cross of *Cattleya* (C.) Hawaiian Wedding x *Caularthron* (Cau.) *bicornutum* and was registered by Hawaii Hybrids in 2006. This year, it displayed 11 inflorescences with a total of 54 flowers and had a

good chance at another blue ribbon, except that it bloomed four days too late. Never one to give up hope, I considered the AOS judging at the Florida North Central Judging Center in Tampa, but that took place a few days after the flowers had begun to fade.

The plant is a relatively easy grower with few disease or pest problems, although the many inflorescences need special attention when it comes to staking so that the flowers are best displayed.

-Article and photo by Steve Vogelhaupt

Minutes of the April 6, 2016 Meeting (continued from page 2)

Wiener for their hospitality. There will be an article in the next newsletter and then we will plan the Fall Home Tours. If anyone is interested in volunteering to show off their growing area, please contact Sharon Kahnoski.

- The annual picnic is upcoming on April 9th at the South Venice Yacht Club from 1-4pm. The society will provide meats, utensils, water and ice. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish and a few extra plants to sell and swap.
- On Friday, May 13, we have a bus trip planned to the Redland International Orchid Festival. Payment of \$40 is due April 14th and includes admittance to the show. After the 14th, we will open the remaining seats to members of the Sarasota and Englewood Orchid societies.
- Bruce Weaver is collecting plants again for the Venice Orchid Project. This is a continuing project to naturalize orchids into the parks in and around the City of Venice. He is looking for donations of *Spathoglottis*, *Epi. radicans*, and any *Encyclias* or *Brassavolas*. So far, the plants placed last year have about a 50% survival rate, which is pretty good. The next park to be planted will be Pinebrook Park. The Venice Gondolier will run an article on the VOP in the April 23rd edition.

- A request was made by Jay Loeffler to the Venice City Council to change the official city flower to *Encyclia tampensis*, AKA the Florida Butterfly Orchid. The City Council will consider this request on April 18th at 9am. All are encouraged to wear your purple VAOS shirts and show up in support of this request. New member Dick Lawson has been kind enough to join Suzanne Grimmer on the tech support team for the general meetings. Thank you!
- We have 71 new members from the show! That gives us a total of 277 members.

Bruce Weaver introduced the speaker for the evening, Vern Bloch. Vern is a long time orchid grower and he gave a presentation of the 3 categories of problems seen in orchid plants: Pests, Diseases, and Physiological problems related to culture. Vern also had some great plants to sell.

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the gigantic plant table which was dominated by many beautiful varieties of *Dendrobium nobile*.

The Raffle Table was unusually plentiful this month thanks to Peg Fahrenback's generous plant donations. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15.

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 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 30th for VAOS, EAOS and SOS MEMBERS with no refunds after April 30th. You may sell your seat, but please notify Sharon Kahnoski @ 616-581-9131 if you do so. If you miss the deadline, check with Sharon before sending your check and making your plans.

- 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. For festival information, vendors and map, etc., visit: www.redlandorchidfestival.org

Many of the vendors take pre-orders through late April for you to pick up at the show, so check their websites.

-Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski, VP, Social Affairs

President's Message (continued from page 1)

thrive in your growing area. Many of the vendors take pre-orders through late April for you to pick up at the show. Go to www.redlandorchidfestival.org and check out the websites of the vendors.

As you divide and report your plants this spring, remem-

ber to share your divisions with the Raffle Table and the Venice Orchid Project. Enjoy your orchids and this great weather!

-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
- **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

Growers Clinic – Thursday, April 15, 2016

Approximately 45 members and guests attended the event during which Carol Wood and Richard Amos presented Top Tips From Experienced Growers. With handouts, a PowerPoint presentation, and lots of personal experience, Carol and Richard provided many tricks and tools of the trade ranging from dealing with pests and diseases to genera and species specific culture tips. There were lots of great questions from the audience and Carol brought a collection of orchids illustrating the topics.

The complete handout from the clinic is attached in the Culture Supplement and will be posted and periodically updated on the VAOS website at www.vaos.org.



An unexpectedly large number of members brought problem plants and a lively discussion, chaired by Richard, ensued. Space permitting, I'll include a selection of the problems and solutions in the newsletters.



Several members brought plants that had various leaf spotting issues and the consensus was that leaf spotting was normally no great cause for concern as long as three conditions were met: (1) the plant is growing and flowering normally, (2) new shoots show no spotting and, (3) the spots are not expanding or progressing. A number of other problems were traced to insufficient water getting to the leaves, usually caused by insufficient watering, the wrong media or root issues not allowing the water

to reach the pseudobulb and leaves. We'll try to make some logistical and layout changes for future clinics and welcome and comments or suggestions. Please send them to csec@vaos.org or Carol at pres@vaos.org.



-Article and photos by editor

Mentor Page



Need a Mentor?

If you are a new grower who is puzzled about the orchid basics – sun, water, fertilizer, diseases and pests – you have an opportunity to be paired with an experience grower. You'll get short term private tutoring to help you grow with confidence. It doesn't matter if you have just a couple of orchids or an entire patio full; the program is available for you.

We request that you attend at least two Grower's Clinics before you ask for a mentor; you'll get a head start

and be better able to ask the important questions about your own plants.

You can get the mentor request form from the membership table at our monthly meetings or directly from me, the the Mentor Program Coordinator, Pauline Adam. If you have any questions, contact me at mentor@vaos.org.

Happy Orchid Growing Everyone!

Become a Mentor?



The Program Needs You Now

I'm looking for a few new members to come forth and help with this important program. You just need enough growing experience to teach basic culture techniques such as sun exposure, watering, fertilizing, pest control and fungus prevention. If other needs are expressed that you are not comfortable with, I'll find another experienced grower to fill in the gaps.

This is a team effort that keeps new members involved and our organization strong. Mentors and beginning growers are typically paired by geographic area. It's often a very rewarding experience for both.

Most successful growers had a special someone who played a role in their interest in orchids. Maybe you can be that special someone for a new grower.

With over 71 new members, it may be a challenge for me to give them the attention they need. So, please volunteer. It doesn't take much time - just a couple of home visits and the our new members are on their way.

Please contact me at the next meeting or write me at mentor@vaos.org.

Pauline Adam
Mentor Program Coordinator

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

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

Upcoming Events

April 23-24: Vero Beach Orchid Society Show, info: Douglas Mew, (772) 713-5165, vbos@verobeachorchidsociety.org

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 7-8: Volusia County Orchid Society Show, info: Jennifer Reinoso, (386) 822-3178, jenorchid@bellsouth.net

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.

May 13 (2nd Friday): Bus trip to Redland International Orchid Festival, **see page 7 for the most current information.** For those who can't make the bus trip, the festival runs from Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15.

June 1 (1st Wednesday): VAOS Monthly Meeting, Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, **Speaker:** Bruce Holst, **Topic:** Belize Orchids.

June 9 (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7 pm, Venice Community Center, Speakers: Rick Belisle and Steve Vogelhaupt, Topic: Semi-hydroponic Culture with hands-on participation. Be sure to bring your problem plants and questions for advice from our experienced growers.

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@vaos.org

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

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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

TOP TIPS FROM EXPERIENCED GROWERS

VAOS GROWERS CLINIC

4/14/16

This publication was prepared by the VAOS Growers Clinic Team with input from our members and other experienced orchid growers.

Members are encouraged to submit their orchid growing tips via email to Pres@VAOS.org. This publication will be updated periodically and maintained on the www.VAOS.org website. Tips are organized in the following categories:

Air/Light/Water

Cold Weather & Storm Protection

Fertilizer & Supplements

Genera/Species Specific

General

Mounts and Baskets

Pests & Diseases

Pots & Media

Repotting

Tools of the Trade

****These tips are a compilation of ideas, but, what works for others may not work for you. Make small changes and evaluate results. Modify these tips to your growing area, work style and culture.**

Air/Light/Water

How important is air circulation? Good air circulation around your orchids is critical especially during the warmer months to reduce the risk of fungus and pests. The higher the heat, the more water and air circulation is needed. Ceiling fans work well supplemented with smaller fans to maintain a slight breeze around your plants 24/7. Avoid crowding plants to allow air to circulate around them. (VAOS Members)

Keep That Air Circulating! - Run fans 24/7 year round. Florida is very humid. Moving air prevents bacteria (which loves humid conditions) to grow and attack your orchids. Though your electric bill will increase slightly, this practice will save you from throwing out several of your orchids due to brown or black bacterial rot. Each of those grown orchids are worth \$25-60.00 or more. (Cynthia Vance)

How much light and/or shade do my orchids need? Cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums and phragmipediums flourish in bright light with 15% to 30% shade - about what a screened patio, lanai or pool cage provides or a shade tree. East or south exposure is best. Slowly acclimate your new orchids to higher light conditions to avoid sunburn. Phals, papahs and bulbos require bright, indirect light - they often do well under a patio overhang providing them protection from the sun and rain. Vandas require high light. **The most frequent reason for lack of blooming is too little light.** There are micro-climates in every growing area and often moving a plant to another area will improve blooming. Watch for and adjust for seasonal changes in sunlight exposure in your growing area. (VAOS Members)

Light: Two layers of screen turns out to be great light for growing phalaenopsis and angraecums. One layer can be your pool cage screen and the other layer can be suspended over your plants. They can tolerate this level of light all day. (Joanna Shaw)

Screen Density - If your pool cage or lanai growing area faces west and you are concerned about too much sunlight, consider rescreening with 20-20 vs. the standard 18-18 screen mesh density. Added benefits - eliminate no-see-ums and more shade/protection from skin cancer. (Carol Wood)

Light: Looking at your orchid's leaf shape and growth habit can indicate the light levels a plant needs. For example, leaves that are very narrow and point straight up, such as brassavolas, indicate bright light. Leaves that are wide and lay flatter, indicate shade, such as Phals. Leaves that are in between - indicate light needs that are in-between. Also the color of the leaves show if you are giving too much or not enough light. Very deep green indicates too little light, very light green indicates too much light. Most of the orchids we grow should be a nice grass green shade. (Renee Bynum)

How Often Should I Water my Orchids? Water your orchids once or twice a week or more frequently when it is very hot. Water thoroughly, wait 15 minutes and then water thoroughly again. Allow cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums to dry out before the next watering. Use the pot "heft test" to determine if the pot is light and the plant needs watering. Bulbos, phals, paphs and phrags require more frequent watering - keep them evenly moist but not wet. Vandas and other mounted plants grown with no media will require daily watering during the warm months. Seedlings will require more frequent watering. Do not use a water softener - the salt will kill the plants. (VAOS Members)

Water well when you water - When you water, place your hose down very close to almost into the pot so all the media gets thoroughly wet. You may want to go around your orchid collection twice. With the use of New Zealand Orchata which many in our society use, you will need to water longer so this 'hard' media absorbs the water totally and also more often for this media appears to dry out faster. (Cynthia Vance)

Watering: If you are unsure whether your plant is still damp deep inside the pot, use a small bamboo stake such as chopsticks or the sticks used for grilling. Carefully insert the stake into the middle of the pot, and leave it in. To check to see if the pot is still damp deep inside, pull the stake out. If the stake shows any moistness, then it is still damp inside the pot. Be sure to put the stake back into the same spot to prevent root damage. (Renee Bynum)

Cold Weather & Storm Protection

Some Dens Hate the Cold - Did you know that one of the most sensitive orchids to cold in south Florida is the Phalaenopsis-type Dendrobium? These orchids that can grow to over 6' tall, are sensitive to temperatures below 55°. Cold won't kill them but they will drop their leaves, quickly resembling a palm tree. Bring them in or protect them from the cold. Other dendrobiums can tolerate cooler temps. Some, such as nobile, need a cooler dry winter rest to initiate flowers.

Clay Pots Provide Stability - Set plastic pots into clay pots for stability.

Bunge Cords - Small bungee cords can securely attach large pots and baskets to the bench or shelf in storm conditions.

Sheets, Not Plastic - During cold weather cover your plants with old sheets and not plastic. Plastic prevents air flow and if left on the next day your plants will cook in the sun.

Fertilizer & Supplements

What type of fertilizer should I use? Any good orchid fertilizer will do, some people even use tomato or African violet fertilizer. Use a 20-20-20 balanced fertilizer and supplement occasionally with calcium and magnesium. Or use a Michigan State University (MSU) - type fertilizer that contains micro-nutrients including calcium and magnesium. The rule of thumb is to fertilize "weekly-weakly", using 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. fertilizer to a gallon of water. When the plants' pseudo bulbs have matured and the plant begins dormancy in the cooler months, fertilize less frequently. (VAOS Members)

Nutricote time release fertilizer - . Many local growers recommend supplementing with a timed-release fertilizer (Nutricote sold as Dynamite in the red plastic bottle at Home Depot). Apply in March/Spring and September/Fall each year. 1 tsp. to 6" pot, sprinkled around the perimeter of the pot. (VAOS Members)

Fertilizer: Cut the amount the label recommends in half and fertilize each time you water. Rotate several types of fertilizers. Different types of fertilizers have different minerals and some fertilizers cannot be mixed together. By rotating them you will cover a greater amount minerals for the plants than using only one type of fertilizer every time. (Jim Thomas)

Dynamite Bird Nests - Bob Hague, former owner of Venice Orchids, suggested that time release fertilizer is most effective if it is in contact with the media. Therefore, suspending a small bag of time release fertilizer over a mounted plant may not be as effective as embedding it into the media. Use moistened cocoanut husk to form a small birds nest and wrap it around 1 tsp. of Dynamite. Tuck down into the mounted plant so that it is in contact with the mount and roots. This will ensure its application with each watering. (Carol Wood)

PH Level - PH should be in the 5.7 to 6.8 range in order for the plant to absorb fertilizer. Too high or too low PH will reduce the availability of nutrients which will result in a desiccated plant. It is the PH of the media combined with the water/fertilizer solution that gives the true PH reading. To check your PH, fertilize the plant as normal and collect the water that drains out of the pot in a bowl or plastic bag. Let sit one hour. Test PH using an aquarium test kit. Test periodically to ensure your plants are absorbing your fertilizer.

Seaweed Extract Supplement - I use KelpMax seaweed extract as a supplement to encourage root development. Add to fertilizer mix once a month. Soak rootless plants

prior to repot. Drench freshly potted plants. 1TBS/gallon. FirstRays.com has info and carries product (Carol Wood)

Oyster Shell - Top dress paphs to add needed calcium.

Dolomite Lime - Bill Fender, former owner of Fender's Flora, used 20-20-20 fertilizer and supplemented with Dolomite Lime to add calcium and magnesium. Broadcast, top dress or mix into media when repot. Will raise PH level.

Calcium Deficiency - New lead rot may be calcium deficiency and not bacterial or fungal problem. Ensure your plants are getting calcium and magnesium by using a fertilizer with these elements (MSU type, Peters Cal-Mag, Grow More). If you use a fertilizer that does not contain Cal-Mag, you'll need to supplement.

If the Weather's Hot - If it's hot, don't fertilize or spray pesticides - will leave a burn spot if pools on leaves. Best to spray pesticides at sunset.

General

What orchids grow best here?

Cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, vandas and bulbos grow well outdoors in our area. Phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums grow well but require more shade and should be hand-watered and not exposed to rainfall. Phragmipediums grow well and prefer to have their "feet wet" (set in saucer of water). Most cymbidiums, miltonias and odontoglossums are cool growing plants and will not bloom well here unless purchased from a local grower and bred to be "warmth tolerant". Any species plant requires special attention - your success is based on your ability to match its' natural habitat

Rewetting Sphagnum Moss - It's difficult to rewet sphagnum moss once it dries out - add soap. (Keith Davis)

Staking with Plant Hangers - Keith Davis puts plant hangers on all pots to use for staking. Better than sticks that wobble in pots/media.

Some Good Advice from John Roche - Some plants need to stay wet, some plants want to stay moist, and some plants would like to dry out now and then. Don't put these together.

2. I believe more harm is done to our plants by us. If left on their own, they have survived for eons.

3. I read a quote somewhere, a beginner grows flowers; a master grows roots. If a plant looks sick, check the roots.

4. There can be too much fertilizer and there can be too little fertilizer, there must be a spot in between that works for yours.
5. Watch the sun, it is moving south to north to south every year, what may be shady today will be sunny tomorrow, move plants accordingly.
6. BTW, some trees lose leaves in the spring be careful putting plants under them.
7. You'll know you have accomplished something when you can give plants away.

Orchids Are Like Humans - They need their personal space and dislike crowding. When they "shower" they like a good soaking and then to dry off fast. They prefer regular, moderate meals to monthly binges. They love a warm sunny and breezy day and enjoy cooler evenings. (Carol Wood)

Seedlings: Keep your seedlings front and center - they will require more frequent watering and repotting and a little more shade. Monitor them closely as they are more susceptible to disease. Don't put your seedlings between your larger plants. Remember: #1 Get them to survive. #2 Get them to thrive. #3 Get them to bloom. (Carol Wood)

Set Up Work Zones - As your collection grows it can become overwhelming, especially when it comes to repotting. A good approach, proposed by Roy Klinger, Past President of VAOS, is to break your collection down into "Zones". Tackle one zone at a time - pick up each plant - examine, clean, treat, stake and repot the plants as needed in that zone. You'll feel a sense of accomplishment, no longer overwhelmed, and ready to tackle the next zone.

Expanding Your Growing Area - Michael Polen gave us a great presentation on expanding your growing area by going vertical. Add lattice work or wood or wire fencing to hang your plants from. Install plant hangers on your pool cage or lanai beams. Suspend PVC pipe along the top of your lanai. Add an arbor. (Carol Wood)

Cleaning Your Plant Leaves - Club soda, milk and lemon juice will remove spots from leaves. Use cotton balls or paper towels to wipe leaves. (Jim Thomas)

Hose Off Pests - Bob Hague recommended using a strong jet of water from the hose to blast off scale and other pests.

Sphag & Bag Back Bulbs - Put holes in the two corners of a newspaper plastic bag. Add Styrofoam peanuts and damp sphag. then back bulbs. Place bag in low light and wait for roots to develop. (Keith Davis)

Genera/Species Specific Tips

.What Orchids Bloom Continuously? - Several. Some are *B. nodosa* and hybrids, Bl. Yellow Bird and *Psychopsis*. These orchids will bloom continuously once mature. *B. nodosa* (Lady of the Night) grows well mounted and blooms non-stop once mature. A hybrid, Bl. Yellow Bird, never seems to stop blooming. Don't cut the stems of *Psychopsis* - new buds form behind each flower. *Psychopsis* grows well in lava rock and hates having its roots disturbed - don't repot - pot up! (Carol Wood)

Pint Size Alternatives - Love those large vandas, dendrobiums and cattleyas but lack the space to grow them? Here are some smaller alternatives. Vandas grow to 5' plus with their roots extended - consider some smaller but similar varieties such as *Vandonetia* or *Ascofinetia*. *Phalaenopsis*- type dendrobiums grow to 6' high or taller. Consider some of those cute multi-flower dens such as *Microchip* and *Den. kingianum*. Look for "compact" cattleyas as an alternative to the larger standard cattleya varieties. (Carol Wood)

Growing Success: Species vs. Hybrids - With a species orchid, the grower needs to adjust the growing conditions to essentially mirror the conditions in the wild. With hybrids, while the grower still needs to consider environmental conditions, the orchid has a greater ability to adjust to less than optimum conditions due to a wider genetic diversity. Thus, the grower has greater latitude and isn't immediately punished by the suicide of the plant. Also, species orchids are often found only in specific micro climates which are difficult, if not impossible, to adequately duplicate in our growing conditions. A 'few' of the vendors at Redland, especially when confronted by an obviously inexperienced buyer, won't hesitate to sell the leftover and expensive species without mention of special requirements. At the very least, our newer members should ask specific questions and google the plant and ask more experienced members for advice. I'm writing this from experience!! (Steve Vogelhaupt.)

Nobile Dendrobiums - Nobile dens require a dry winter rest to produce buds. Hold off fertilizing until the buds are set to produce the most prolific blooming.

Bifoliate Cattleya Species - Most bifoliate (2 leaves per pseudobulb) cattleyas are from Brazil. Many exceed 2' high at maturity. Grown best in baskets. Critical to only repot and divide bifoliate when new root growth has started.

Mounts and Baskets

Molded Plastic Baskets - The new molded plastic baskets will never rot as many wood baskets will do. Once plants are placed in baskets they are almost impossible to remove and repot later. Bill Fender warned that rotted wood baskets could be toxic to roots. Chose your basket wisely as it likely will be the permanent home for your plant. . (Carol Wood)

Place pot in basket to prevent sideways growth - Place your potted plant into the basket to ensure vertical and not horizontal growth out the sides of the basket. (Carol Wood)

Baskets - Secure the rhizome at the top of the basket with sticks stuck through the basket to ensure vertical growth. (Michael Polen)

Mounting Orchids - Be sure to place the new roots against the wood/mount. Consider using cocoa nut husk instead of sphagnum moss as a pad between the roots and mount. Use plastic bird netting, fishing line or plastic cable ties to hold plants securely in place on their mounts.

Tree Fern Mounts - Make sure to mount the plant "with the grain" of the tree fern.

Pests & Diseases

Pest and Fungus Control: Many pest and fungus problems can be avoided by keeping your growing area clean and increasing air circulation during hot weather. Monitor your plants carefully and if you find a problem isolate the plant and treat it. Remove dry sheaths where scale often hides. Spray clean your work areas and plant shelves with Physan or a 10% bleach solution.

Common pests in our area are scale, thrips, aphids, mealy bugs and slugs. If you have a small collection or if the problem is not widespread, try a non-chemical treatment first - Neem Oil, All Seasons Oil, 50/50 alcohol and water solution or just plain dish washing soap in water. Several treatments will be necessary. Saturate the plant, spraying under the leaves. Do not spray oils on a hot day. See www.firstrays.com for some popular home remedies.

If a pest problem is widespread or cannot be eliminated by non-chemical treatments, the next step is a pesticide. Merit 75 or Orthene WP 97 is recommended for scale, thrips, mealy bugs and aphids. Follow label directions carefully and wear protective

clothing. Rotate pesticides. Routine preventative spraying with pesticides is not recommended.

Treat **slugs** with slug and snail bait pellets (sprinkle small amount on top of media) available from Home Depot or Lowes. Elimination of mites may require a miticide such as Kelthane or Pentac. Ants can be eliminated with Orange Guard, Sevin or Orthene.

Neem oil and All Seasons Oil will control pests and also fungus. For widespread fungus problems treat with Banrot 40 WP or Zyban. Preventative spraying with Banrot or Zyban in spring and early summer will help to prevent fungus problems during the rainy season. (VAOS Members)

Dreaded Scale - Scale is the most dreaded and common pest for us. Once you see it you already have a problem. Left untreated it will kill your plant and will spread rapidly through your collection. Look for yellow spots and tiny "turtle shells" on your leaves and cotton like masses at the base of the pseudobulb and under the dry sheath. Isolate and treat the plant once a week for three weeks. Check nearby plants for scale. For small scale infestations use an alcohol/water/soap mix. Large scale infestations may require systemic pesticides such as Orthene (Acephate 97UP) or Merit. For severe scale, remove the plant from its pot, treat it and repot in fresh media. (Carol Wood)

Dreaded Thrips - Right behind scale, thrips are the second most dreaded and common pest. Thrips will ruin the flowers you have waited all year to enjoy. Look for indented rings or girdling around the new root tips and pitted or stippled buds. On flowers look for tiny slim black crawlers under the petals. Treat as you treat scale above. (Carol Wood)

Scale Treatment - I have found that the best treatment for scale is if the infestation is large, remove the plant from the pot and all media, spray the whole plant with 409 cleaner, use a soft toothbrush on all areas of the plant, set the plant aside for 4 days, recheck the plant for scale if none is seen then repot in new media, if scale is found spray the plant again and set aside for 4 days. Follow this order until no scale is found. If the original infestation is small, do not take the plant out of its media but spray the infected area with 409 and clean the area with the soft toothbrush then respray the area. You can put the plant back on the table but keep watch for any new signs of scale. (Jim Thomas)

Rotate Chemicals: Make sure you rotate the use of insecticides, fungicides and any home treatments you might be using. See the manufacturer's label or website for recommendations. Insects and fungi develop resistance to insecticides and fungicides while spider mites develop resistance to miticides when products with the same MOAs (method of action) are used. Simply using different chemicals doesn't mean that you are

providing different MOAs. If you're rotating between Orthene and Malathion, you're staying within the same MOA; the same being true of Aliette and Phyton 27 for fungicides.. In general, suggestion is to rotate fungicides with each treatment and to rotate insecticides with each insect generation. Lots and lots of great charts and articles are available online. (Steve Vogelhaupt)

Fungicide - Jeff Bradley was a speaker at the cattleya symposium who grows many heritage cattleyas. He told us this natural alternative to chemical fungicides: put one tablespoon of cinnamon and one tablespoon of sulfur in a cup of water, shake, and let sit overnight. Pour off the liquid into a hand held spray bottle and use this spray as a fungicide. He feels it is so powerful he can even stop crown rot in a phal. (Joanna Shaw)

Alcohol Spray - An effective homemade pesticide spray: 50/50 alcohol and water + 2 cinnamon sticks + a little dish liquid or 409. Spray once a week for 3 weeks.

Ivory Liquid Soap - The lady who grew beautiful, blemish-free orchids on her backyard fence and never used anything but Ivory Dish Detergent in water to control pests and diseases.

Pesticides Rotation - Spray pesticides three times, one week apart. Rotate pesticides.

Hydrogen Peroxide - Recommended in treatment of bacterial infections. Spray or pour on plant and media.

Pots & Media

Importance of Open Media in SW FL - Orchids grown outdoors in South Florida require an open mix that drains rapidly after our heavy rains. Many growers use a bark mix (bark, charcoal, sponge rock) or a cocoanut husk chunk (CHC) mix (CHC, charcoal, sponge rock). Other growers use a partial or 100% inorganic mix composed of one or more of the following: lava rock, charcoal, aliflor (clay pellets), dyna-rok, sponge rock or other media for their mature plants. Many growers use Orchidata bark either mixed with charcoal and sponge rock or straight up. Use smaller size media for seedlings or fine root plants and larger size media for mature plants. Some growers prefer sphagnum moss in clay pots for Phalaenopsis, but sphagnum moss holds water, is tricky, and should not be used in plants exposed to rainfall. The best quality media can be found at local orchid nurseries or purchased through online orchid suppliers.

Benefit of Inorganic Media - The benefit of using inorganic media (clay pellets, lava rock, charcoal, dyna-rok, etc.) is it never breaks down. You can repot anytime without removing the old media and without disturbing the roots. (Keith Davis)

Clay or plastic pots? Using clay or plastic pots is a matter of personal preference. Clay pots dry out faster and help to keep plants cooler in hot weather. They also add weight to stabilize the plant in heavy winds. Plastic pots are less expensive and hold moisture longer. Many growers pot seedlings and moisture loving plants in plastic and mature plants in clay. Some outdoor growers will set plastic pots into clay pots for added stability. Azalea (short) clay pots with slotted holes work well. Aircone plastic pots are popular. Whichever pot you choose, be sure that it has sufficient drainage holes. Wood or plastic baskets are also popular and are used for vandas, agraecums and those genera that like to wander. (VAOS Members)

Cocoanut Husk Chips - CHC is a great media to use in a mix. Be sure to soak and rinse it three times, with the final rinse in Calcium Nitrate to remove all salt residue.

Repotting

Don't repot - Pot Up! Sometimes a plant is so content in its pot you might decide to "pot-up" - place it in a larger pot and fill in media around it. This approach eliminates damaging the roots and subsequent plant set back and many orchids just hate to have their roots disturbed. This approach is perfect for those Brazilian species that grow so tall. Set the small pot they grew in as a seedling into a basket and let it take off! Potting-Up is also a good approach for plants you wish to grow into specimen size plants. Dendrobiums prefer tight small pots and resent repotting so they are also perfect candidates for Pot-Up. This approach works best if you use primarily non-organic media such as clay pellets, lava rock, charcoal, sponge rock, etc. It will not deteriorate as bark will do after a few years. (Carol Wood and Renee Bynum)

When Should I Repot? - A frequent question at the Growers Clinic is When Should I Repot? Our standard reply is when the media breaks down or when the plant is overgrowing the pot. Here are some other recommendations from the Growers Clinic Team:

- Orchids will become more quickly established if repotted when the new roots are about 1" long on the newest growth.
- Paphiopedilums can be repotted at anytime and should be repotted each year.
- Phalaenopsis can be repotted at any time (even when in bloom) and should be repotted about every two years if potted in sphagnum moss.
- Most cattleya alliance plants can be repotted after blooming but must be well secured in the new pot as new roots may not break out until spring.

- Species and bi-foliate plants should only be repotted in the spring with new root growth; otherwise, it can set them back for years.

Inverted net pots - When repotting in a 10" or larger pot, place a small 2" net pot over the center pot hole and add media to hold in place. Will increase air circulation and reduce chance of root rot. (Rich Amos)

Sphag over those new roots - Add a thin layer of sphagnum moss over the tips of delicate new roots to protect them from nibbling snails . (Keith Davis)

Remove Dry Sheaths - Remove dry sheaths when repotting to expose pseudo-bulbs to sun - will double your photosynthesis!. (Keith Davis)

Removing Dry Sheaths - As you soak your pot to loosen roots, shoot a hard stream of water down the sides of pseudobulbs and easily peel off the dry sheaths. (Carol Wood)

Don't Bury Aerial Roots - Don't bury aerial roots when repotting - they will die. You can pot them but don't cover with media. When you see new branching developing on the roots start to add media slowly - the roots will survive. (Keith Davis)

Repotting rootless plants - Add sphagnum moss and then slowly add other media after the new roots develop. (Keith Davis)

13 Steps to Successful Repot - 1) Soak plant then remove from pot 2) Remove old media gently - "tickle" it out 3) Trim all dead and spongy roots 4) Spray with fungicide - set out to dry overnight 4) Select new pot that allows no more room than 2 years growth 6) Place small amount media in bottom of pot such as lava rock or clay pellets that will facilitate drainage 7) Place plant in pot with oldest growth side of plant against side of pot 1 1/2" below pot rim. 8) Secure with 1 or 2 pot clips 9) Fill in and tap down media - do not cover rhizome 10) Insert plant tag 11) Water in and spray with fungicide 13) Keep in dry, low light area for 2 weeks then resume normal watering.

Tools of the Trade

Best Label Marker - No. 2 pencil. The only thing that lasts in bright sunlight. (Carol Wood)

Best Label Marker - Sharpie Pro Industrial 500* F Marker (Lowes tool section) - go over twice. (Keith Davis)

Best Labels - Aluminum tags (Jim Thomas)

Best Clippers - Corona Stainless Steel, Straight Snip, AG 493055, \$14.

Best Way to Sterilize Clippers - Bernzomatic Propane (blue tank) with Quickfire Top. Home Depot. About \$10, lasts one year. Set on your potting bench, hold with one hand and pass clippers through the flame. Have not burned myself yet. (Carol Wood)

Best Way to Sterilize Clippers - MAPP Pro Gas Fuel Cylinder - hotter burn than propane - 10 seconds each side. (Keith Davis)

Best Way to Sterilize Clippers - Trisodium Phosphate (TSP). 2-3 Tbs. in water in a plastic container. Sterilizes and cleans clippers without rusting. (Rich Amos)

Best Way to Sterilize Clippers - Crème Brûlée torch (Judy Loeffler)

Worst Way to Sterilize Clippers - Alcohol or bleach or anything other than above.

Best Watering Wand - Wonder Waterer Wand. (Keith Davis)

Best plant shelves - Indoor Garden Supplies (IGS) 4 tier stainless steel shelves, TH485, \$104, easy assembly, lightweight, holds 20 - 24 mature plants. (Carol Wood)

Hose End Sprayer- Soak the nozzle top in soapy water after use to prevent clogs. Dissolve fertilizer in warm water before mixing in the sprayer to prevent clogs.

Label Your Sprayers - The worst story we've heard is the guy who lost his entire orchid collection when he accidentally sprayed Weed-Be-Gone.

Q & A FROM THE GROWERS CLINIC

April 14, 2016

Q. What caused the spots on my phal blossom? Is there hope for the three potinara seedlings?



A. The phal blossom was damaged by botrytis, a fungal disease most often affecting phals and catts. Once the damage occurs, there is nothing one can do. You can prevent the disease by improving air circulation, keeping water from leaves and blossoms, and paying strict attention to sanitation.

The seedlings are 'goners' and too far gone to determine the cause.

Q. What should I do with these catts given to me by an acquaintance, along with a dozen more?



A. My advice would be to pretend you never saw them, and move on! If you want to keep these NOID (unidentified) catts, you have to break/cut the pots, remove what you can of the plants, cut off all dead and sick roots, pseudobulbs, etc., soak in an Orthene solution, repot in new pots and suitable media and wait several years. Any survivors will be patients forever and have the potential to infect your whole collection.

Q. Can you tell me what caused the leaf spots on these two plants?



A. The leaf in the top plant appears to have sunburn damage. The absence of a yellow ring around the black spots indicates no bacterial infection. If the spots are raised, you may have edema caused by late-day watering when the nights are cool. The roots take in the water and the cool temperatures cause the leaf pores to close, trapping excess water in the leaves causing tissue rupture.

The bottom plant also appears to have sunburn damage, somewhat more severe and advanced. The lower leaf is most affected and is susceptible to bacterial infection. Treat area with hydrogen peroxide or remove leaf and treat cut with cinammon. The mottled yellowing indicates a magnesium deficiency which can be treated with Epsom Salt supplement or better yet, the use of a balanced fertilizer containing both magnesium and calcium, such as MSU Cal-Mag or similar.

Note from editor: We really need comments from our readers, positive or negative, suggestions, criticism, etc. regarding this new section. Your comments will determine how and if this will be continued in future newsletters. Send your suggestions to csec@vaos.org or Pres@VAOS.org.

Monthly Meeting Speakers and Topics (2016)

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

May 4th - Ted Kellogg, "When to hold 'em, When to fold 'em"

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

July 11th - Joint mtg. at Englewood

Aug. 3rd - Alan Koch, "Mini Cattleyas", Gold Coast Orchids

Sept. 7th - TBA

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

Nov. 2nd - 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:

7:00 - 7:15pm Social, meet & greet, plant trades and sales (limit 3 to member)

7:15 - 7:30pm Problem Plants Evaluation & Advice and Q&A

7:30 - end **Program**