

Venice Area Orchid Society News

November 2016

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
November 2, 7:00 pm
Venice Community Center
(doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Speaker: : Fred Clarke

Topic: "Today's Mini and Compact Cattleyas"



Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 33 years and has been hybridizing for 25 of those years. With over 25 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery: Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Cattleyas come in many colors and shapes and the mini and compact cattleyas dazzle and sparkle with their diminutive size, robust growth and presentation. Fred will discuss the most important breeding plants and their influence on the present day hybrids available to the orchid enthusiast. He'll identify those most suited for our growing conditions and cover the 'best growing practices' for growing these little gems.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids.

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has

A Message From Your President

November brings cooler temps and soon we'll be able to shut off the AC and open our doors and windows. November in Florida is delightful! One more dose of magnesium (Epsom Salts) this month in place of regular weekly fertilizer will benefit our plants. Come Thanksgiving, at the end of the month, it will be time to isolate those dendrobiums requiring a drier winter rest and no more fertilizer until Spring. Catasetums are dropping their leaves and will soon be ready for their dormant winter rest with no water or fertilizer. Give them a little water only if the pseudobulbs start to shrivel. Stake your plants for upcoming show displays. Slowly decrease watering and fertilizing as the days grow cooler and shorter.

At our November 2nd meeting, Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, CA, will be our fourth 4-star speaker in a row at VAOS! Alan Koch in August, Mac Rivenbark in September, Roy Tokunaga in October and now Fred Clarke. When you see Bruce Weaver (VP, Programs)

Continued on page 7



Here's What's Coming Up This Month

- Wednesday, Nov 2nd, Monthly Meeting:
Fred Clarke - Mini Catts
- Friday-Saturday, Nov 4-5th,
Plantio La Orquidea Plant Sale
- Thursday, Nov 10th, Growers Clinic:
Other Orchids for Your Collection

received eight FCC's, four AM's and the coveted 'Award of Distinction' on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. He's a renowned international speaker and always has great tips for novices and experienced growers alike. He'll be happy to answer your questions and will have a fine selection of his quality orchids for sale.

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2016 – 2017 President

Carol Wood, pres@vaos.org

Vice President – Programs & Immediate Past President

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Sharon Kahnoski, social@vaos.org

Vice President – Show Displays

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tmkellogg@gmail.com

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Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw &

Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer, Gary Becker, Dick Lawson,
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Newsletter Production

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VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

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

Minutes of the October 5, 2016 Meeting

Steve Vogelhaupt called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new members and guests.

Announcements:

- The VAOS participated in the Ridge Orchid Show in Bartow, Florida on Sept 17th and 18th. Our display took first place among 5 society displays! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up and the members who lent plants for the display.
- The next Growers Clinic will be Thursday, October 20th here at 7pm. Renee Bynum and Rich Amos will speak about Dendrobiums. This will be a nice practical follow-up to our program tonight.
- The Fall Greenhouse Tours are coming up on Saturday, October 29 from 9am-1pm. These will be hosted by Steve Vogelhaupt and Mary-Ann DiGrazia who will be opening their growing areas for display. There are flyers with directions and more info at the front table tonight.
- The Englewood Area Orchid Society annual plant sale will be Saturday, October 22nd. It will take place at the Christ Lutheran Church on Rt 776 in Englewood from 9am to 1pm.
- Our next meeting will be November 2nd, featuring Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids in California. Fred is known throughout the orchid world for his breeding work with mini cattleyas and he will have many for sale. He will be speaking on mini cattleyas.
- The annual VAOS Member Plant Sale will be Saturday November 12th from 9-1pm. Any VAOS member can sell plants or plant related items; it is not limited to orchids. All members are welcome to participate. It will be in downtown Venice around the gazebo adjacent to the Farmer's Market. This is the same weekend as the Chalk Festival.
- The annual Holiday Party will be on December 9th at the Boca Royale Country Club on Rte.776 in Englewood. We will have dinner, dancing, an orchid auction and a DJ. We will purchase nearly 40 orchids from Palmer Orchids for the auction.
- Judy Loeffler, Membership Chair, reports that our current membership is 304.

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Treasurer's Report

October 2016

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
9/1/16	\$	22,673.18
Income	\$	326.00
Payments	\$	1,233.73
Closing Balance		
9/30/16	\$	21,765.45

Cash Account

Starting Balance		
9/1/16	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
9/30/16	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
9/1/16	\$	25,059.10
Income	\$	0.62
Closing Balance		
9/30/16	\$	25,059.72

Total Assets

9/30/16	\$	46,865.17
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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.

October 2016 Plant Table Awards

The First Place Blue Ribbon was captured by Sally Bonnell for her humongous and beautiful Fredclarkeara (Fdk.) After Dark. She actually didn't know the orchid's name but our newsletter editor, Steve Vogelhaupt, knew! As part of the Catasetinae family, this new grex was created by the great hybridizer, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, CA, who is also our speaker in November. He creates amazing orchids. Sally's plant grows on a bench next to her house under her live oak tree. Believing that "orchids can thrive on intelligent neglect," she ignores it, though sometimes sprays and fertilizes it. Surely the summer rains helped it grow furiously. Great job, Sally!



Fdk. After Dark

Both the Second Place and Speakers Commendation Ribbons (right) went to Sharon Kahnoski for her hearty Dendrobium (Den.) Princess Misaki. Not all 6 spikes were blooming yet, but those that were, showed a stunning deep red color. Sharon grows it in a tree and lets "Mother Nature take care of it." No doubt the dappled light 8-12 hours a day plus the heavy rains spurred its tremendous growth. Sharon occasionally uses Jack's Classic liquid fertilizer, recommended by Jeff Higel, one of our local vendors, at Honey Bee Nursery. For receiving two awards on 1 plant, double congratulations, Sharon!

The Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to Joanna Shaw for her lovely Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Summer Christmas 'Maria'. Joanna was thrilled for it's the "first time it's really bloomed" – having 8 flowers this year. She also loves the picotee on the lip – meaning that the border edge is a different color all the way around (purple) than the flower's base color, white. Hybridizers love to accomplish this kind of beauty. The originator, Dogoshima Orchid Center in Japan, has created more than 252 hybrids, this one being a hobbyist's favorite. Kudos to Joanna for such a fine specimen!



Lc. Summer Christmas



Den. Princess Misaki

Continued on next page

Plant Table Awards (continued from page 3)

The Best Species Purple Ribbon went to Bill Rich for his extraordinary Stanhopea (Stan.) *occulata*. In 1832, the English botanist, John Lindley, ‘discovered’ this species and introduced it to collectors. It grows in Mexico and Central America as an epiphyte on trees in humid forests or as a terrestrial on cliffs at 1000 to 3000 meters in altitude. Stanhopeas flower from the bottom of their growing containers and only bloom for 3-4 days. Luckily our VAOS meeting occurred during its time! Rich says that it “thrives on neglect but needs lots of water” so he turns on his sprinkler for 30 minutes 3-4 times a week. Great job, Rich!



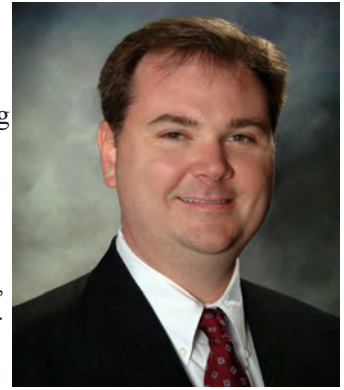
Stan. *occulata*

The Members’ Choice Ribbon was awarded to Gina Feinstein for her sparkling dark pink Dendrobium with its flowing phalaenopsis-type flower inflorescences. Though the name is unknown, phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums are derived from Den. *bigibbum*. The name “dendrobium” is from the Greek dendron (“tree”) and bios (“life”); it means “one who lives on trees”, or, essentially, “epiphyte”. Most dendrobiums don’t like to be repotted and prefer to have their roots grow out and around the pot, as if it were . . . a tree! Gina said that the mother plant died, but it had many keikis, so she planted them together to create this display. Beautiful creation, Gina!



Den. hybrid

The New Member Growers Pink Ribbon was also granted to Bill Rich for his Catasetum (Ctsm.) John Burchett x Clowesia (Cl.) Grace Dunn. This charming orchid had 8 yellow flowers draping from a hearty broad-leaved plant. One way Rich fertilizes, is that he buys mesh fabric, cuts it, fills with Nutricote time-release fertilizer, and seals these little pockets with little twisty ties. He places one on top of the media and it lasts for 6 months until this plant’s rest time. Bill enjoys growing unusual orchids and we enjoy his ‘oddities’. Though a new member to VAOS, he’s a knowledgeable grower and we’re delighted, Bill, that you’ve joined our club!



Ctsm. John Burchett x Cl. Grace Dunn

-Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance





VAOS HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY

Friday - Dec. 9, 2016

Boca Royale Golf & Country Club
1601 Englewood Rd.

5:30pm Happy Hour w/cash Bar
6:30pm Dinner
[choice of one entrée per person]

Menu

Prime Rib

Shrimp stuffed w/ crab meat

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Other Options:

Vegetarian or Gluten Free with prior notification

All Dinners include rolls & butter, salad, coffee & dessert

Dessert: Carrot Cake

8pm Orchid Auction

followed by dancing to the music of Teddy James
\$29 per person

Paid reservations by Dec. 1st to
VAOS Treasurer, Mary Amos
413 East Lake Dr., Sarasota, FL. 34232

Please clearly indicate your dinner choice(s) on your check !



Volunteer for our 2017 Show
Friday February 3rd, 11am -8pm Set Up
Saturday February 4th, 10am - 5pm
Sunday February 5th, 10am - 4pm

Show Committee	When	Job	# Volunteers Needed
Set Up Coord - Jerry Daenzer 284-5001	Friday 2/3/17 11:30am - 2pm	Set up the hall for exhibits. Lay plastic, assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs needed.	10
Take Down Coord: Carol Wood 497-4995	Sunday 2/5/17 3:45pm - 6pm	Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh volunteers needed.	10
Clerks Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 2/4/17 7:30am - 10:30am	Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience as the judges share their knowledge of what makes a quality plant and flower!	27
Front Door Admissions Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 2/4/17 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/5/17 9:45am - 4pm	Sell admission tickets and hand out programs. Cashier skills required. A sit down job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.	30
Security Coord: Sharon & John Kahnoski 616-581-9131	Friday 2/3/17 11:30 - 7pm Saturday 2/4/17 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/5/17 9:45am - 4pm	Monitor entrances and exits. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. Serve as Show Host for AOS judges, other societies and vendors. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Some sit down jobs.	60
Hospitality/Food Coord: Linda & Bruce Hahn 408-7646	Friday , Saturday and Sunday	Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Bring to kitchen by 11am each day. Sign up your dish and what day. Help with clean up Saturday or Sunday	All

Sign-up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings, growers clinics and holiday party

Minutes of the October 5, 2016 Meeting (continued from page 2)

• Steve, the Newsletter Editor, brought up the fact that he is having some difficulty sending batch emails, including our newsletter, to members with Verizon/Frontier and AOL. Often the emails never reach the recipients and are diverted as spam. He and Judy Loeffler have both been on the phone with the providers trying to resolve the problem to no avail. Steve asked people who are not receiving the newsletter and other email blasts to check their spam folders and to consider calling the providers themselves. If any members decide to change their email provider to a different carrier, please let Judy Loeffler, Membership Chair, know the new email address ASAP. Newsletters will be posted on the website as well.

Bruce Weaver introduced the speaker for the evening,

Roy Tokunaga of H & R Nurseries in Hawaii. Roy spoke on Dendrobiums-species, hybrids, and culture. There are over 1200 different types of dendrobiums in 40 different sections. Roy showed us the specific structure of the flower that is unique to all dendrobiums and causes them all to be grouped within this genus. He reviewed basic cultural requirements for the better known groups and commented on the ones that do best in this part of Florida. He had a nice selection of orchids for sale.

Kristin Shaw and Joanna Shaw presented the Plant Table, Kathy and Jerry Beck followed with the Raffle Table. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10pm

-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary

President's Message (continued from page 1)

thank him for the great job he is doing! Bruce works hard to coordinate with other Florida orchid societies to bring in internationally known speakers to Venice.

November is the month when our show preparation gets into full swing. Just a few months now until our February 4-5 annual show! Your show committee has already completed many of the planning tasks involved. Show vendors are confirmed and other societies have been invited to participate. Show ads are done and ready to be placed in print and non-print media. Show posters, flyers and signage have already been printed. Our show sponsorship campaign is in full swing. Awards and trophies will soon be ordered and show layout diagrams are being

tweaked. In November, we start the show volunteer sign up process. As my Show Co-chair, Judy Loeffler, says -"it takes an army". We are fortunate to have such a large and active society and everyone turns out to help. Our annual show is our major fundraiser of the year. Show proceeds fund our facility rent for meetings, speaker fees and social events throughout the year.

We'll start the volunteer sign up process at our November 2nd meeting. Look for the article in this newsletter that describes show volunteer needs and pick a job that best suits you.

-Carol Wood, President

Culture Tip for November 2016 (Sterilizing Pots and Stakes)

We all know to sterilize our cutting tools, preferably by flaming them with a propane torch. It is also necessary to sterilize pots, clips and stakes. Clay and plastic pots can be sterilized by immersing them in a 10% bleach solution for several days, then rinsing and allowing them to dry in the sun. Scrub the pots to remove debris before soaking. A covered five gallon bucket works well and the bleach will not evaporate if kept tightly covered. Clay pots may also be sterilized by putting them through the dishwasher and then baking them in a 400* oven for two hours. Be sure to scrub pots thoroughly beforehand.

Pot clips, stakes and hangers may also be sterilized in a bleach solution. A good approach: pick up a screen mesh trash basket, load it up and drop it into your bleach solution. Avoid soaking for more than one day to prevent rust. Rinse and allow to dry. These practices will help to prevent the spread of disease.

Please join us at the next Growers Clinic, Thursday, November 10th for a presentation on Other Orchids for Your Collection. Bring your problem plants and questions for expert advice. All members and guests are welcome

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Show Sponsorship Campaign Underway

Our 2017 show offers our sponsors an opportunity to advertise in our show magazine, entitled "Annual Orchid Growing Guide". Show sponsors may purchase 1/3, 1/2 or full page ad space in the publication to be distributed at the front door to show attendees. The Guide will include information on our society and the show as well as month by month growing tips and top tips for popular orchids. It will be a publication to keep and refer to throughout the

year following our show.

If you have a relationship with a local business or organization that may be interested in advertising, please contact our sponsorship campaign coordinators.

Cynthia Vance 941-483-9165 facilitationfla@aol.com

Suzanne Grimmer 941-493-7861

suzannegrimmer@comcast.net

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Please Support Our 2016 Show Sponsors

- Herald Tribune Media Group • Costco Wholesale • Family Dermatology
- 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
- 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

Support Our Local Growers

• **Honey Bee Nursery**
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776),
Englewood, FL (941-474-6866)
• **Palmer Orchids**
22700 Taylor Dr.,
Myakka City, FL 34251(941-322-1644)

• **Plantio La Orquidea**
3480 Tallevast Rd,
Sarasota (941-504-7737)

• **Orchid Envy**
339 Venice Ave. West,
Venice, FL (941) 266-6351
• **Florida SunCoast Orchids**
8211 Verna Bethany Rd.,
Myakka City, FL (941-322-8777)

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

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

Upcoming Events

Oct. 29, (Saturday) 9am - 1pm:
VAOS Fall Greenhouse Tour (See Culture Supplement.)

Nov. 2, (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting in Venice Community Center, Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, Speaker: Fred Clarke, Topic: Mini-Catts.

Nov. 4 - 5, (Friday & Saturday) 9am - 4pm : Annual Fall Orchid Sale, Plantio La Orquidea. See Culture Supplement for details and coupon

Nov. 10, (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Doors open at 6:45 pm, clinic starts at 7:00 pm, Speakers: Renee Bynum and Ricard Amos, Topic: Other Orchids for your Collection. Be sure to bring your problem plants and questions for advice from our experienced growers.

Nov. 12, (Saturday) 9am - 1pm:
VAOS Member Plant Sale. Cancelled due to lack of participants.

Nov. 19 - 20: Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show, info: Vincent M. Dicks, 954-946-4951;
vincedic@att.net.

Dec. 7 (2nd Wednesday):
No monthly meeting

Dec. 8 (2nd Thursday):
No Growers Clinic

Dec. 9, (2nd Friday): VAOS Holiday Dinner and Orchid Auction, Boca Royale Golf and Country Club, SR 776 (Englewood Road). See flyer on page 5 in this newsletter

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"**

VAOS Fall Greenhouse Tour of Member Growing Areas
Sat. Oct. 29, 2016 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

This year's Fall Tour includes two members' growing areas in S. Venice and Port Charlotte. Please be careful when parking not to block driveways and mailboxes. Thanks to our hosts, Mary Anne Digrazia and Steve Vogelhaupt !

Mary Anne Digrazia: Mary Anne has been a long-time member of VAOS and is also president of the Englewood Area Orchid Society. She will be opening their beautiful gardens that flow through their extensive property. Follow the paths and take in the palms and many fruit trees such as mango, loquat, lychee nut, papaya and avocado. Trellises with flowering vines share the area with cacti, passion flowers, euphorbia crown of thorns, bromeliads and Poinciana trees. You'll be able to peek into her orchid house and admire the many others hanging in and among the trees along the paths.

Directions: 3058 Mauck Terrace
Port Charlotte, FL. 33981

Take SR. 776 (Englewood Road) south through Englewood. After passing traffic light at Winchester Blvd, turn left on Wilmington Blvd and continue 3 miles to Jennings Blvd and turn left. Continue on Jennings about 3 miles and turn right at Quinlan Avenue. Continue across Gillot Blvd and continue 2 blocks to Holcomb Rd. Turn left at Holcomb and continue 3 blocks to Mauck Terrace which is a cul-de-sac. The house is well marked.

Steve Vogelhaupt: Steve has been growing orchids intermittently for a number of years, killing his first cattleya while in Bermuda in 1992. Since then, he's improved a bit and has been a member of the VAOS since 2011 and presently serves as the Communications Director and Newsletter Editor. His collection of just over 200 orchids is on his east facing lanai and surrounding holly trees. He's constantly, and probably too often, experimenting with new culture methods and has 25 orchids of different genera and sizes growing semi-hydroponically. He has cattleyas, dendrobiums, and encyclias, mainly hybrids, but also some species, as well as a scattering of miscellaneous genera. He's finally decided to focus on compact and mini cattleyas and will have a number of orchids for sale.

Directions: 4807 Jacaranda Heights Drive
Venice, FL 34293

Take US 41 south to SR. 776 south to the first traffic light at Jacaranda Blvd. Turn right and turn right again at the stop sign. His house is at the end of the cul-de-sac on the left.

Save the dates, the Plantio La Orquidea Fall Open House is coming November 4th and 5th.

FALL ORCHID SALE

Friday and Saturday | November 4 and 5, 2016 | 9 AM to 4 PM



- .- Browse through 10000+ sq ft of Orchids.
- .- Thousands of Orchids, species and hybrids to choose from.
- .- Advice on Orchid Growing from Experts. Free Parking.

Plantio La Orquidea, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243, Same driveway as Tropiflora

PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA

**3480 Tallevast Rd.
Sarasota, Florida 34243**

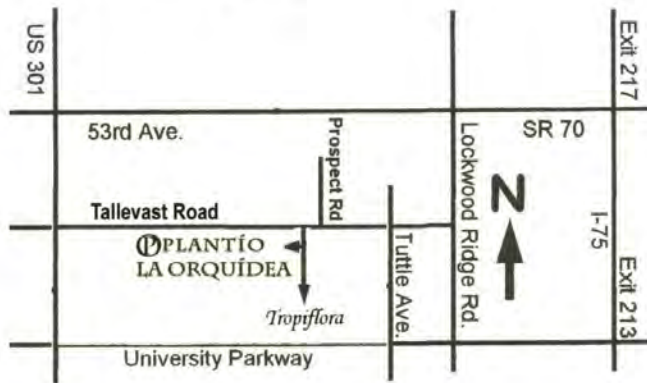
Phone: 941-504-7737

E-mail: info@plantiolorquidea.com

**Free Plant
Raffle**

\$ 5 off any purchase over \$25

Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only the
dates of the event



**It is that time of the year again, save the dates
and get ready to come and have a wonderful
time.**



2016 Dillon/Peterson Essay Prize

The American Orchid Society (AOS) is now accepting entries for the 2016 Gordon W. Dillon/Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest. So let your imaginations run wild and the winner will receive a cash prize and certificate suitable for framing.

This year's theme is: Why I grow the orchids I grow. Membership in the American Orchid Society is not necessary to enter the contest. The deadline is November 30, 2016. The winning entry, if any, will be published in the June issue of the following year.

Contest Rules:

- ◆ The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
- ◆ The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
- ◆ Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words in length.
- ◆ Manuscripts must be submitted in English, typewritten and double-spaced or submitted in Word or other compatible electronic format.
- ◆ Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
- ◆ Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.
- ◆ Non-winning entries will be returned to the contestant if requested. Such entries are eligible for resubmission in subsequent contests. These non-winning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications including the AOS website.

Email all entries to Ron McHatton at rmchatton@aos.org. Paper submissions should be mailed to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize at AOS headquarters: Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33156.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

The Cattleya Alliance in Mexico with Ron McHatton

Thursday, October 27, 2016 @ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT *Members only*

Mexico is home to some spectacular orchids that are showy on their own and readily breed with the large cattleyas. Join Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education, as he presents the best of the Cattleya Alliance found in Mexico.

Register now using this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4336286219300551937>



Cattleya aurantiaca 'Mario Palmieri Di Pollina' AM/AOS; Photographer: Otto Tinschert

How to Grow Killer Ondonts without getting Frostbite with Russ Vernon

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 @ 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EST *Members only*

The regal Odontoglossums have a long tradition of finding favor among orchid connoisseurs. Their colorful and often intricately patterned flowers make them well worth the effort to grow them if you can provide the right conditions. Join Russ Vernon as he shows how their cultural requirements can be easily met.

Register now using this link:

<http://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/member-only/odont-culture;-russ-vernon.aspx>



Odontoglossum Teresa Heinz Kerry 'Solar Place' AM/AOS; Photographer: Ross Leach

Please note: These two webinars are available to members only. Many other excellent webinars are available at the AOS website, for members and non-members. They can all be viewed at your convenience and provide great photos and lots of great culture information.

November in Your Orchid Collection

Courtesy Dr. Martin Motes from his monthly newsletter and his book *Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month*

November Climate Data

Average high: 81.2

Average low: 67.5

Average mean: 74.4

Average rainfall: 3.43"

In November we can no longer afford to be dominated by the illusion, so easy here at the northern edge of the tropics, that summer will never end. Although Indian summer persists for the whole winter in South Florida, November is the month to prepare our plants for those short sharp blasts of cold which are inevitably coming as each successive cold front pushes the overall temperature a little lower and a little lower. Each day is shorter too. The loss of daylight savings time should awake us to the fact that there are less hours of sunlight to save our plants from the chill of the night. Many genera are already anticipating this sea change and have completed their growths for the season. Some like *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches*, *Calanthe* and the nobile dendrobiums are even beginning to shed their foliage in preparation for the cool, dry season. While the Himalayan *Dendrobium* species of the nobile and *Callista* types, calanthes, cymbidiums and a few others, actually relish temperatures down to near freezing, and most cattleyas and *Oncidium* alliance species and hybrids are not bothered by temperatures in the mid-thirties, the majority of the genera which we grow, vandas, evergreen dendrobiums, *Phalaenopsis* and others, benefit from being protected from the cold. Now, while the first breathes of cool air remind us that more and stronger cold is in the offing, is the time to start thinking about protecting our plants.

In nature nearly all the tender tropical epiphytic orchids native to South Florida are found nestled in the bosom of deep hammocks where they are well protected from the wind. This observation leads us to think of protecting our orchids from the north and northwest winds. Creating or utilizing already existing wind breaks to the north and west of our orchids will limit the ability of the wind to steal the warmth out of our plants. The critical factor is not the low temperature that the air reaches but rather the temperature to which the plant tissue is chilled and for how long. This is why limiting the movement of cold air over our plants is essential. In still air, plant tissue (mostly water but with some dissolved salts) retains heat for a long time and is aided by the plants' metabolism. The very goings on of life generate heat, therefore considerable exposure to still air is needed to chill a plant to the temperature of the surrounding environment. Not so if wind enters the picture. Wind can quickly rob the plant's surfaces of heat, chilling the plants' tissue deeper and deeper. When the plant's temperature tolerance is reached, at best growth ceases or worse yet damage ensues. Slowing the cooling process and limiting

the hours of exposure to sub-optimal temperature is the best gift we can give our plants for the holidays.

Protecting our tender plants from exposure to wind must be our primary concern in preparing them for winter. Buildings, walls and even thick hedges can be very effective windbreaks slowing or stopping chill air. Choose places in your garden that offer this sort of protection to your orchid plants wherever possible. The geography of Florida plays into the equation as well. Because the Florida peninsular juts decidedly to the Southeast (Naples is due south of Jacksonville), protection from the Northwest wind is even more crucial than protection from the North wind on the east coast of Florida. Northwest winds are blowing out of the cold heart of the landmass while true North winds have in most locales usually blown over more warm water and less cold land. Regardless of the degree of north, safeguarding our collections from the wind is critical to their healthy maintenance. Not until the air circulating clockwise around the cold high pressure system shifts to the Northeast to blow over the warm Gulfstream can we relax our guard.

Orchids that are grown in shade houses, in patios or pool enclosures can be protected by installing plastic film on the north and west walls of the structure. This can be attached with staples or other devices that allow the plastic to be furled in warm weather and only lowered for those few nights when it is needed. Easiest to come by (Home Depot, or any hardware store) and cheapest, is 6mil clear polyethylene (don't use 4mil; it rarely lasts the winter being exposed to Florida's bright ultraviolet light). One hundred feet by ten costs about \$20. Stored in a dark place, this stock will last the average grower several years and be a very small investment that will yield greatly improved orchids. Handled with care in furling and unfurling, 6 mil plastic usually will get the grower through the winter. If unobtrusive, it may be simply left in place till March. White polypropylene, similar to nursery ground cloth, is used by many nurseries for winterizing. More expensive than polyethylene, it is very durable and will last many more years. Some growers have it cut to size, taped and grommited for easy up and down installation and storing. Universal Supply (1-800-432-3009) has it. Given the dimensions and enough lead time, they can customize it for you.

Getting our growing area ready for winter is one half of the equation. We must also get the plants themselves ready. Healthy, well-nourished plants withstand cold better as do plants that are harder and not too lushly in growth. Because both light and temperature are lower in November and most orchids have slowed their growth, they need less fertilizer. In cooler weather ammoniacal nitrogen is less available to our plants because it needs the assistance of bacterial action to ease its absorption by the plants. Nitrate nitrogen is more desirable therefore in cooler weather, because it is more quickly and readily absorbed by the orchids. Check the label on your fertilizer and try to choose one with a higher ration of nitrate nitrogen to ammoniacal nitrogen for winter use. The very best source for nitrate nitrogen is potassium nitrate (KNO_3). It has the formula 13-0-44. The lower level of the desirable nitrate form of nitrogen is well suited to the continuing but diminished nutritional needs of our orchids in cool weather. The level of potassium is thought to contribute to the 'hardening' of the plants. Try to obtain the

soluble or 'Spray' grade. If only Prills (small beads like tapioca) are available they will need to be dissolved with boiling water, a tedious task.

Potassium nitrate is superlative also because it contains no phosphorus which, in combination with our hard, alkaline water interferes with the plants' absorption of trace elements. Trace element nutrition is especially important to maintain healthy orchids in cool weather: above all, magnesium, the 'major' minor element. The reddening of orchid foliage which is usually attributed to cold is in fact the symptom of magnesium and potassium deficiency. Cold is only the efficient cause of this reddening; the material cause is lack of magnesium. Epsom salts at 1tbs. per gal plus potassium nitrate at the same rate will quickly bring back the green. This regimen can be alternated with a general trace element mixture (follow the package rate) plus potassium nitrate. Indeed, following the recommendations of the Michigan State University study published in the July 2003 issue of Orchids, symptoms of magnesium or potassium deficiency might be a warning that we should have been following something closer to this "winter" fertilizer regimen all year. We now recommend alternating applications of 1TBS each of Epsom salts and potassium nitrate with a balance fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or 18-18-18 year round not just in the fall. Best of all is a 15-5-15 with additional calcium and magnesium. Peters markets one as Excel.

The Epsom salts are as near as your medicine cabinet. The potassium nitrate is more difficult to find but a trip to the nearest Farm supply store is worth the effort. You'll save a bundle on fertilizer and have plenty of potassium nitrate left over to grow the biggest bunch of bananas in the neighborhood.

If you have the energy, November is also a great time for starting to pot those sympodial orchids (cattleyas, oncidiums, et al) that have finished blooming. You'll have a leg up on the Spring potting and will glow with virtue in expectation of the rewards of the Holidays. Be especially careful at this season that the newly transplanted orchids are well secured in their containers. It may be many weeks till they have broken growth and can anchor themselves with their own roots. If the plants are allowed any wiggle room, the newly emerging roots will be chaffed off, sending the plant into a slow and difficult to reverse decline.