

Venice Area Orchid Society News

December 2016

**Next Meeting: Wednesday,
January 4, 7:00 pm
Venice Community Center
(doors open at 6:30 pm)
Speaker: Ted Kellogg
Topic: "Ribbon Judging: Putting
Your Best Plants Forward"**

Your Blooming Plants Are Needed! Sarasota Orchid Society Show January

Our first orchid show of the season, the annual Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) Show and Sale, will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on January 7-8. Set up is Friday, January 6th, from 8am - 2pm. Show hours are Saturday 9am - 5pm and Sunday 10am - 5pm.

Your blooming plants are needed to create our display. We will collect and transport your plants to the show and ensure their safe return to you on Monday following the show. Bring your plants to one of two locations by Thursday January 5th, 6pm:

South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia), 497-4995 (Leave on front porch)

Venice Island: Bruce Weaver, 328 West Bay Dr., Venice, 800-7804 (leave by front door)

Or bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Friday January 6th at 8am.

**All plants must be registered in advance via
email by Wednesday January 4th, 8pm**

Email your plant name with a photo or bloom size and color description to Carol Wood at PlantReg@VAOS.org. Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease and labeled with both the plant name and the owner's name. Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend show. Please water your plants thoroughly and place in a box or container for transport to the show.

We need help transporting plants to and from the show on Friday and Sunday. If you can help, please contact Jay Loeffler at 485-9569.

-Submitted by Jay Loeffler

A Message From Your President

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us already. My, how the months fly by as we get older! We all thought our orchid maintenance chores would be decreasing, but no, now many of us are dealing with thrips and the need to water as we've had no rain in weeks. See the culture tip on thrips in this issue. As our daytime temps hover around 80*, continue to water and fertilize but at a reduced rate. Many of us are still repotting orchids. Phalaenopsis and paphs can be repotted at any time. Mature cattleyas can be divided and repotted but must be well secured with pot clips as the new roots may not emerge until spring. Remember, the best time to repot is when new roots are about 1" long.

We will not have a regular Monthly Meeting or Growers Clinic in December, but we look forward to seeing many of you at our annual holiday party on December 9th at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club in Englewood. Good food, good company, music, dancing and the plant auction - always a fun affair! This year, we will also have a silent auction of the books from our library. This year, each attendee will receive a seedling cattleya. Remember, December 1st is the deadline for paid reservations.

Our next monthly meeting will be January 4th when Ted Kellogg will present "Ribbon Judging - Putting Your Best Plants Forward". Perfect timing, as the Sarasota



Continued on page 7

VAOS will not be having a monthly meeting or growers clinic during the month of December.

The VAOS Annual Holiday Party is on Friday, December 9th. Paid reservations are due on December 1st and must be sent to: VAOS Treasurer, Mary Amos, 413 East Lake Dr., Sarasota, FL. 34232. Please make your check out to VAOS and indicate menu choice(s) on your check. Make your reservation now and join us for a great evening!!

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**

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

Kathy and Jerry Beck, Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw &

Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer, Gary Becker, Dick Lawson,
Technology

Kathy Toth, Mentor Coordinator

Newsletter Production

Barry Zack

VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

Venice Area
Orchid Society News

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

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

Minutes of the November 2, 2016 Meeting

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new members and congratulating the Cubs! She also thanked Steve Vogelhaupt and Mary Ann DiGrazia for opening their homes for the Fall Greenhouse tours last weekend.

It is now three months until our annual show in February. Signup sheets for volunteer slots are up at the front. There are 140 volunteer slots total. Judy Loeffler and Carol Wood unveiled the show poster. The title this year will be "Orchid Bliss". As you may notice, we are starting to brand our show by using the same graphics each year in order to make us more recognizable. Also, this year we will be publishing an annual Orchid Growing Guide magazine and selling ads in it as part of the sponsorship program. We will give these out to the people attending our show.

The VAOS has a mentor program that was originally started by Peggy Fahrenback four and a half years ago. Most recently, Pauline Adam has been coordinating the program and she is just finishing up a two year term. Kathy Toth was introduced as the next coordinator of the program. Since it began, we have had a total of 75 members who were mentored by a total of 15 people. If you would like to join the program either as a mentor or a mentee, please talk to Kathy.

Announcements:

- This weekend there will be an Open House at Plantio La Orquidea in Sarasota. There is a coupon for \$5 off in the newsletter.
- The next Growers Clinic will be November 10. Renee Bynum and Rich Amos will be discussing "other" orchids.
- The VAOS member annual plant sale on Saturday November 12th has been cancelled due to lack of participants.
- Next month there is no regular meeting and no Growers Clinic.

We will have our annual holiday party on December 9 at the Boca Royale Golf and Country Club on Rte.776 in Englewood. We will have dinner, dancing, an orchid auction and a DJ. We will purchase nearly

Continued on page 4

**Treasurer's Report
November 2016**

Operating Fund	
Starting Balance	
10/1/16	\$ 21,765.45
Income	\$ 300.00
Payments	\$ 2,819.22
Closing Balance	
10/31/16	\$ 19,246.23
Petty Cash	
\$ 40.00	
Total Operating Fund	
10/31/16	\$ 19286.23
Reserve Fund	
Starting Balance	
10/1/16	\$ 25,059.72
Income	\$ 0.64
Closing Balance	
10/31/16	\$ 25,060.36

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.

November 2016 Plant Table Awards

To the best of my knowledge, this was the first time that one of our members swept the First, Second and Third Place Ribbons as well as the Speaker's Commendation Award

The First Place Blue Ribbon was awarded to Donn Smart for his beautiful *Bratonia* (Brat.) *Kauai's Choice*, previously known as *Miltassia* (Milt.) The plant was registered by Yamada Nursery in 1998 and is a cross of *Brassia* (B.) *arcuigera* and *Bratonia* *Aztec*. The plant displayed three erect inflorescences, each displaying many typical spidery *Brassia* type flowers with long thin purple petals and an elongated white broader lip. Since neither of the parents display the prominent purple color, it is likely that it comes from its *Miltonia* ancestors. The plant can bloom multiple times throughout the year, with flowers lasting up to six weeks, depending on climatic conditions. Thanks, Donn, for sharing such a beauty!



Brat. Kauai's Choice

Both the Second Place Red Ribbon and Speaker's Commendation Ribbon also went to Donn Smart for his spectacular *Cynodes* (Cycd.) *Jumbo Puff* (photo upper right). A cross between *Cynoches* (Cyc.) *warscewiczii* and *Mormodes* (Morm.) *badia*, the plant was registered in 2001 by Jumbo Orchids, a name certainly befitting the two elegant arching pendant inflorescences with dozens of electric yellow waxy flowers and very substantial pseudobulbs. The culture is identical to that for *Catase-tums* and *Cynodes* can bloom two to three times per year, with the flowers lasting up to three weeks under ideal climatic conditions. I detected a spicy sweet fragrance which reminded me of cherries while photographing the plant, although the scent is supposed to be more prevalent in the mornings. Congratulations, Donn, for this fine specimen.



Cycd. Jumbo Puff

Donn received his fourth award of the evening, the Yellow Third Place Ribbon, for *Vanda* (V.) *Purple Spots*. While not listed in The Royal Horticultural Society Register, it is likely that it is one of the many cultivars of *V. Gordon Dillon*, registered by Thai-Am in 1978. The two large erect inflorescences displayed multiple large purple spotted flowers, obviously the result of the massive root system. The flowers were among the largest that I have seen on a *Vanda* and the colors sparkled. Great job, Donn!



V. hybrid

The Best Species Purple Ribbon was presented to Carol Wood for her *Phalaenopsis* (Phal.) *tetraspis* 'C#1', also known as *Phal. speciosa* var. *christiana* (photo next page). No matter the name, the two lengthy horizontal inflorescences each carried a number of fragrant dark pink flowers. Native to the swamps of Sumatra, many plants have white flowers with sepals or petals colored in red, while others have random red petals or sepals, and

Continued on next page

Plant Table Awards (continued from page 3)



Phal. tetraspis

yet others come out as nearly all red. There is evidence that suggests the preponderance of red is influenced by the temperature and light, with cooler temperatures and brighter light producing most red. The plant flowers sequentially, often on old spikes, so care should be taken to leave the spikes in place until they turn brown. Another great job, Carol!

The New Member Growers and Members' Choice Ribbons were presented to Peggy Rappenecker for her

Rhyncholaliocattleya (Rlc.) Walnita Char 'Big Red', previously known as Potinara (Pot.). The hybrid was created by Hawaii Hybrids in 2006 and is a cross of Rlc. Edisto and Rlc. Miya's Radiance. The plant displayed several spikes, each carrying several large and beautiful burgundy red flowers. The spikes were upright, with great separation even without staking, so you most likely have a great future at upcoming orchid shows. Congratulations, Peggy, for growing such a beauty!



Rlc. Walnita Char

-Narrative and photos by editor

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

40 orchids from Palmer Orchids for the auction. December 1st is the sign up deadline. When you send your check in to Mary Amos, be sure to put your menu choice(s) on the check.

Bruce Weaver introduced the speaker for the evening, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California. Fred gave an animated and fascinating talk about Catasetums, a genus including 130 species. According to Fred, Catasetums are excellent hobby plants for sale, especially for us in Florida, as the climate here is similar to their native

Venezuela.

Fred's website, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com, provides comprehensive cultural guidance and gives you a chance to order some of the species Fred displayed. Fred also had a nice selection of plants for sale, including many of his own hybrids..

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the Plant Table and Kathy and Jerry Beck followed with the Raffle Table. The meeting was adjourned approximately at 9:15pm.

.-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary

Lost a Plant Label? Need Culture Info or Parentage?

If you've lost the label from your orchid, we may be able to help you identify it. Email a photo of the bloom and the plant to Pres@VAOS.org. I'll share it with the Growers Clinic team and we'll try to ID it for you.

Wondering what your plant's parentage is or looking for culture advice for a special orchid? Send an email to me with your plant name and question and our group of experts will help.

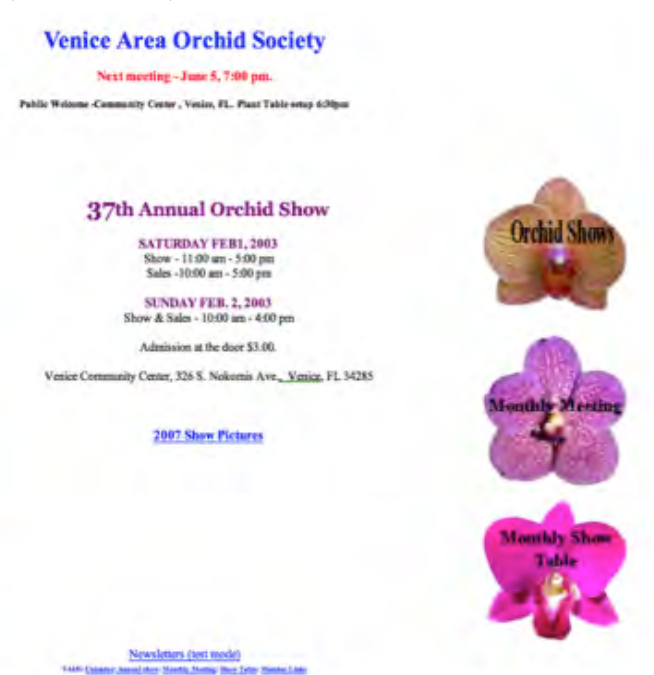
-Submitted by Carol Wood

VAOS WEB – Past, Present, Future

Do you recognize this? This is the first page of our website that appeared on our own server in 2002. Prior to 2002 the society had our website on a Herald-Tribune public service site. The site was relatively static and provided the equivalent of the public service announcements that appeared in the newspaper. When we moved to our own server, hosted by Bluedomino.com, we became responsible for its design and function. This site was written in html and was designed using an html editor. The site contained many links that remain part of the basic web site today. It was labor intensive to maintain, new copy was added after each meeting showing the next meeting, show information, etc. The VAOS monthly newsletter online was an experimental effort (at that time the size of the electronic newsletter and the speed of internet connections made web-based delivery slow.)

In 2010, member Bob Wallace decided that our site should be more interactive with the membership. Bob took editorial control of the site, added substantial content to the site and moved it to a WordPress theme that provided for members to ‘blog’ about their orchid interests. A few members did, but much of the blogging was done by non-members pushing non-orchid content. The open blog was soon shut down and a moderated blog continued for a time, but it had limited activity. In 2012 Bob moved from the area and I took over the website again. For a couple of years the website remained similar to what Bob had constructed, with primarily editorial changes and enhancements.

By 2015 the VAOS Board of Directors became concerned that the website was not serving the best interests of the society. Several themes arose during meetings to consider the directions the website should take. The Board wanted a website that was less cluttered, friendly to phones, pads and computers, and could be maintained by someone with a moderate amount of technical knowl-



edge. After reviewing several options we selected the WordPress theme, Catch Evolution Pro, and implemented it for the VAOS.org website.

I have indicated to the Board that I will continue with the website until March 2017. VAOS members Jay Loeffler and Renee Bynum have volunteered to take over our website maintenance at that time. I will work with them to transition the website and webmaster functions. VAOS uses the mail service of the BlueDomino for society officers and volunteers. BlueDomino provides a ‘sandbox’ to explore new ideas and features for the site. The WordPress ‘dashboard’ is used to add and edit content to the site. Jay Loeffler maintains the VAOS Google Calendar available at the site.

The Webmaster works in conjunction with the Board regarding the content and organization of the site. The Webmaster is not responsible for developing content – that comes from officers and volunteers. We welcome content input and suggestions for improving our website from our members. Please contact tmkellogg@gmail.com or Carol Wood pres@vaos.org with your suggestions.

-Submitted by Ted Kellogg

2017 Membership Dues Are Due

Now is the time to renew your Venice Area Orchid Society Membership. Dues are only \$20.00 per household each calendar year.

Please pay Treasurer Mary Amos at the next meeting or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

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

Dues must be received by January 1st so that you can be included in the 2017 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information- address, phone and email address. Please check your current Directory to see if your entry needs editing. Should your contact information have changed, please notify Judy Loeffler, Membership Chair, at memb@vaos.org

-Submitted by Judy Loeffler

Volunteer for our 2017 Show

Sign up continues for our 2017 show. Here is an updated list of where we need help. Sign-up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings, growers clinics and holiday party

Show Committee	When	Job	# Volunteers Needed(2.5 hr slots)
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.	3
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.	6
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!	17
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.	20
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. Many sit down jobs.	60
Orchid Boutique Coord: Janet Hoy & Karen Mann 445-9076	Friday 2/3/17 1pm - 7pm Saturday 2/4/17 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/5/17 9:45am - 5pm	Staff the Orchid Boutique sales area and sell floral arrangements and accessories. Help to set up and organize the work area and to create floral arrangements. Sell raffle tickets.	30
Hospitality/Food Coord: Linda & Bruce Hahn 408-7646	Friday , Saturday and Sunday (bring to kitchen by 10am daily)	Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Sign up your dish and what day. Help with clean up Saturday & Sunday	All



President's Message (continued from page 1)

Orchid Society show is January 7-8 and our own show follows on February 4-5. Please continue to groom and stake your plants in preparation for the upcoming shows; see Culture Supplement for tips.

January 12th starts our monthly Growers Clinic 2017 season. We have added more hands on potting clinics and will focus on basic culture based on input we received from Growers Clinic survey participants. On January 12th, we will kick off the "Success With Seedlings" competition. We'll provide seedlings, pots and media for the potting session. Then we'll ask you to bring your

plants back in November to see how you've done. Special prizes for the winners!

Show preparation is well underway. We started the volunteer sign up at our November meeting - please see the list of volunteer needs in this newsletter. Our show sponsor team is doing an amazing job of recruiting sponsors for our show. Thank you, Cynthia Vance and Sue Grimmer, for the great job you are doing!

Wishing all of our members a Happy Holiday and a safe and Happy New Year

-Carol Wood, President

Culture Tip for December 2016 (The Dreaded Thrips!)

With the drop in humidity, many of us are discovering thrips on our orchids. One of the most dreaded and difficult pests to control, they can destroy your flowers before you even know you have them.

Early warning signs: Look for indented rings or girdling around the new root tips. On developing buds, look for pitted, stippled, or shriveled buds. Undetected and untreated, thrips will damage your flowers. You'll see deformed blooms and water soaked spots especially along the petal edges. Thrips are visible to the naked eye - tiny, slender, black insects that will move quickly when disturbed.

Whatever treatment you chose, you will have to treat every 3 to 7 days until eliminated. One of our members sprays flower buds every morning with alcohol (drugstore 70% Isopropyl) to control/eliminate trips. If you have a large collection, you may consider a prophylactic treatment of Orthene this time of year.

Standard treatments include:

- Neem Oil, paraffin Oil
- 50/50 alcohol and water with a few drops of Dawn dish liquid
- Safer Insecticidal Soap
- Acephate (Orthene or generic) - a systemic



The St. Augustine Orchid Society's website has a terrific article on thrips - Google "Thrips on Orchids" to find it.

There will be no Growers Clinic in December. Our next clinic is January 12, 2017 in Room F, Venice Community Center, 7pm, doors open at 6:45pm. Topic: Success With Seedlings - hands on potting clinic and competition (VAOS will provide seedlings, plastic pots, media, clips & stakes). All members and guests are welcome.

-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 Sigh • 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, January 4, 2017, 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

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). Deadline for paid reservations is on December 1st, so don't delay!

Dec. 9 -11, 9am - 5pm: R.F. Orchids is having their "Annual Preferred Customer Sale", invitation/details in Culture Supplement.

Upcoming

Jan. 4 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting in Venice Community Center. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm, Speaker: Ted Kellogg, Topic: Ribbon Judging:

Putting Your Best Plants Forward.

Jan. 7-8 (Sat – Sun): Sarasota Orchid Society Show, "A Symphony of Orchids", Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL.

Jan. 12 (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, Doors open at 6:45 pm, clinic starts at 7:00 pm, Speaker: Renee Bynum, Topic: Hands-on Potting Clinic and competition. (VAOS provides seedlings, plastic pots, media, clips & stakes.) Our experienced growers are available to answer your questions and help with problem plants.

Jan. 13-15 (Fri – Sun): Tamiami International Orchid Festival, info: www.orchidfestival.com.

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Kathy Toth, Mentor@vaos.org

Orchid Judging takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, McLoughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa,**

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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

Preparing Your Plants for the Show

With the Sarasota, Venice, and Englewood orchid shows taking place in the next few months, members should start thinking about some of the steps they need to take to insure that their plants score high in the competitions.

At least a month before the show, take a good look at your orchids and select those that you want to enter. If possible, segregate them from your other plants to avoid last minute disease or insect problems, maintaining their orientation to the light to prevent buds and flowers twisting towards the light. In general, plants with green or white flowers should be placed in a shadier position while pink and red flowers will benefit from a sunnier location.

Orchids that produce tall spikes will normally require the support of one or more stakes made from bamboo cane, strong galvanized wire, or other materials. Ties can be made with floral wire, raffia, soft green string or similar flexible plant tapes; avoid the use of twist ties. The materials should be as inconspicuous as possible to avoid distracting the judges from the plant and flowers. Staking is easiest and most effective if done from the early stages of spike development.

Cymbidium and dendrobium spikes need to be trained as soon as they appear by inserting a cane or wire behind the spike, being careful not to injure close lying roots. Once the spike has reached about a foot in length, a tie should be applied making a figure eight with the knot next to the cane. Once the buds begin to form, place a second tie just below the first bud. If you decide that the spike should arch, an extra cane may be needed. Otherwise, use additional ties as needed to keep the spike straight.

Odontoglossums and their inter-generic hybrids are trained in the same manner. Some arch naturally while others produce an upright spike and those that naturally branch will show their flowers better with the terminal spike erect. Again, use the thinnest wire or cane, snip off excess string from the knots, and trim the support even with the highest point of the spike or flower.

Paphiopedilums only require staking up to the point where the spike and buds have formed. A thin cane should be placed behind the stem and tied once on the stem and once below the flower bud. After the bud has opened, a final tie may be made if necessary to lift the angle of the flower.

Phaleonopsis hybrids benefit more than other orchids from proper staking. Spikes should be trained upright once they reach eight inches and the last tie should be placed under the first bud. Phaleonopsis are normally allowed to arch from this point, but additional staking may be needed to support the spike as flowers open.

Cattleyas are normally trained to grow vertical pseudobulbs and consequently need less staking. A stake should be placed behind the flowering pseudobulb while the buds are still in the sheath and a single tie made at its base. A second tie is required where the bulb and the leaf join and ties on the flower stem should only be made after the flower has opened and set.

Excellent illustrations are available at
www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming/groomed.htm and
www.orchidworks.com/showguide/grooming/sprays.htm.

Carefully check the plants, pots, and growing medium for any signs of disease or pests and treat as needed. If pests and diseases are severe or widespread, it may be better to wait for a later show opportunity. It's a good idea to place a few pellets of slug and snail bait at the base of the spike to eliminate these pests.

Two or three days before the show, remove any dead bracts and sheath remnants as well as discolored and damaged leaves. Leaf tips that have been damaged should be trimmed using a sterilized blade in such a way as to present a natural shape. Any cuts should be treated with a suitable fungicide. The upper and lower surfaces of all leaves should be cleaned using a cotton swab and clean water or a mixture of milk and clean water. In case of water spots caused by hard water, a dilute solution of vinegar/lemon juice and water may be used. Algae, mineral deposits and grime should be cleaned from the pots and all protruding stakes should be trimmed. If allowed, pot covers or moss trimmed baskets may add to the desired effect.

Check the labeling to make sure it is clear and accurate. The genus name is followed by the species or hybrid name or seedling cross and varietal name, then any award abbreviations. Also, make sure that the pot is clearly labeled with your name and registration number.

Water your plants as needed the day before the show. Your plants may be subjected to low humidity levels and high temperatures during transport and air conditioning during the show. Check to see if your plants need additional temporary staking during transport. Tissue paper can be placed between individual flowers to prevent them rubbing during transit.

Submitted by editor

Editor's note: This is a reprint from the December 2012 issue of our newsletter.

AOS News

Memberships

If you've even considered becoming an AOS member, now is the perfect time to act. Go to www.aos.org and click on Become a Member to see a multitude of discounts, special gifts, and a long list of benefits available to new and/or renewing members. Some of these discounts and benefits are limited time only, so don't delay.

An AOS Membership would make a perfect holiday gift for yourself or for family members and friends.

Upcoming Webinars

Monday, November 28, 2016: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education (Just like a Growers Clinic, only on steroids, on demand in the comfort of your home)

Tuesday, December 13, 2016: Maudiae Paphs: Past, Present & Future with Dave Sorokowsky **members only**

Tuesday, January 10, 2017: Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education

Wednesday, January 25, 2017: Novelty Cattleyas, Spotted and Splash Cattleyas with Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids **members only**

Tropical Splendor *Photo Exhibit*

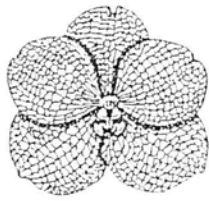


The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast hosts a photo exhibition for orchidist and photographer, Tony Nacinovich in November and December 2016. The exhibit entitled "Tropical Splendor" will connect you to the exquisite natural beauty of orchids and inspire you to learn more. Bay Preserve is located at 400 Palmetto Avenue in Osprey. The exhibit may be viewed during the hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. It's suggested that attendees go in groups of at least five.

In February 2006, Tony attended the annual Venice Orchid Society Show. He was amazed by these exotic and enchanting plants and the discovery that the West Coast of Florida was the perfect place to grow them. With the help and support of Orchid Society members, he learned how to grow these botanical treasures and keep them blooming again and again — each successive bloom surpassing the previous as the plant matures. His photographs provide a unique challenge to arrest their radiance and splendor and thereby share his passion with others.

Tony grows 230+ orchids on his lanai near Spanish Point. His photos attempt to capture their diverse colors and forms using only natural light, which enhances and illuminates their radiance. His plants and photos have been awarded more than 60 times at major Florida orchid shows.

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast saves land, forever, protecting those special natural lands that make this region extraordinary. Working with landowners, businesses, and government, Conservation Foundation protects the character and natural integrity of the bays, beaches, barrier islands and their watersheds on Florida's Gulf Coast. A nationally accredited land trust, the Foundation purchases natural areas, holds land conservation agreements and educates for responsible land and water stewardship in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee Counties. Learn more at www.conservationfoundation.com.



rf.
Orchids, Inc.

28100 S.W. 182 Avenue Homestead FL 33030
305-245-4570 Fax 305-247-6568
info@rforchids.com

November 5, 2016

Dear Orchid Friends,

Let your members know about our biggest sale of the year with an announcement in your newsletter!

Please plan to come on down to Homestead on the weekend of Dec. 9-11, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 5pm daily! Everything is going to be on sale (and we mean *everything* – well, not gift cards, but everything else!), so don't miss this chance to get incredible bargains on blooming plants, supplies, new arrivals, garden décor, gifts and more. Sale starts Friday, Dec. 9 and runs through the weekend. This is the weekend of our "preferred customer" sale – the public sale is the following week – so you'll have first chance at all the goodies.

Of course we'll also be having garden tours on Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, at 11am and 3pm.

Contact us for special arrangements for society bus groups!

Plan now to come to Homestead for this fantastic weekend! Please let us know your plans so we can coordinate with you.

Warmest regards,

Robert Fuchs
President

Michael Coronado
Vice President