



# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at [www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

May 2017

## May General Meeting

**Next Meeting: Wednesday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Speaker: Roy Krueger**

**Topic: Grower, Know Yourself**

Roy moved down here about twelve years ago, bought a house, and inherited three orchids from the previous owner. He soon discovered that orchids multiply faster than rabbits and he now has over 500, with his favorites being Cattleyas and unusual Dendrobiums. Roy grows his orchids in a pool cage, on trees, under arbors, on wind chime holder racks and along his fence out of the reach of squirrels. He's neither a born orchidist nor a commercial grower, just an extremely talented hobbyist and his experience and knowledge are displayed at the many classes he teaches at various societies.

He served five years as the President of the Manatee Orchid Society and four years in various positions with the Sarasota Orchid Society, writing a monthly article called Orchids We Should Grow. Roy has spoken at many clubs and societies over the years on many orchid topics and is well known for his how-to classes and hands-on approach. Bring your questions and be prepared to learn and have a great time at the May meeting.

Orchid Envy will have a great selection of plants for sale at our May 3rd meeting.

**Special thanks to Natalie and Dusty also for your plant donations for our Venice Orchid Project!**

## May Events

**May 3**

**VAOS monthly meeting  
Roy Krueger Topic:  
"Grower, Know Yourself".**

**May 11**

**VAOS Growers Clinic  
Orchid Basics Part 1 – Air,  
Light, Water, Fertilizer,  
Supplements.**

**May 19 -21**

**Redland International  
Orchid Festival, Homestead  
Florida**



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# A Message from Your President



Congratulations to Jay Loeffler and his team for creating a spectacular display at the Englewood Area Orchid Society Show on April 6th. Their efforts took 1st place Society Display Trophy, the AOS Trophy, seven plant trophies and 52 ribbons. I marveled at the color flow, the artistic placement of plants, the subtle placement of props and gazed into the arbor wishing I could just step into the display and explore the path to see where it ended. So much work went into this display and I am so proud of Jay and his team as well as all the members who exhibited their beautiful plants. Well done! We ease into late spring and summer

now as many of our friends head to their Northern homes and the pace slows. We're excited about the upcoming Redland Orchid Festival and the possibility of acquiring some unusual plants that are only offered by the international vendors. If you've not been to Redland Orchid Fest you must experience it. In our orchid gardens, we're assessing what needs our attention - repotting, staking, special care – all the daily chores we enjoy so much. And, we're waiting impatiently for the much-needed rain. Kathy Toth reports that we have seven new mentees joining our Mentor Program. Welcome! We hope it is rewarding to you and we thank our mentors for their time and enthusiasm. A perfect day for me is a day with no appointments or obligations that allows me time to putz around with my orchids all day. Wishing you all some quality time to putz with your orchids – you will both benefit!

*Carol Wood, President*

## Orchid Society Business

Minutes from April 5th, 2017 Monthly Meeting— Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new members and noting the last minute speaker change. Vern Bloch had an illness in the family and Rafael Romano agreed to speak to us tonight on 3 days notice! This weekend we will be participating in the Englewood Area Orchid Society annual show. Display set up is tomorrow and we can bring plants directly from the plant table tonight if they have been registered.

Announcements:

- Mary Anne Digrazia, president of EAOS, announced she has a few remaining volunteer slots she needs filled for the show this weekend.
- Sharon Kahnoski did a recap of the annual picnic which occurred on April 1st at the South Venice Yacht Club.
- Sharon also announced that seats are remaining for the Redland Orchid Festival Bus trip. We will open the remaining seats to members of the Sarasota and Englewood orchid societies starting tonight.
- The next Grower's Clinic will be April 13th. This will be our annual hands-on mounting clinic. Doors open at 6:45pm. Bring a plant and a mount and we will have plenty of supplies and guidance.

- The 6th annual Venice Beer Bash will be Saturday May 27th. This year the orchid society has been invited to participate and this will allow us to raise money for orchid conservation and Venice High School student scholarships.
- A thank-you went out to Bruce Weaver for making a new box for member badge storage.

Bruce Weaver introduced the speaker for the evening, Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquidea in Sarasota Florida. The subject for the evening was Brassavola hybrids, a very forgiving and easy to grow category of orchids. Rafael also had a nice selection of plants for sale.

Joanna Shaw and Jim Thomas presented the plant table. Jerry and Kathy Beck did the raffle table.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

*Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary*

### **Treasurer's Report**

April 2017

Operating Fund Starting Balance 03/01/17.....	\$39,110.89
+ Income .....	\$1,117.17
- Payments .....	\$14,524.22
Closing Balance 03/31/17 .....	\$25,703.84
Petty Cash .....	\$40.00
Total Operating Fund 03/31/17 .....	\$25,743.84
Reserve Fund	
Starting Balance 03/01/17.....	\$25,062.84
+Income .....	\$ .64
Closing Balance 03/31/17.....	\$25,063.48

*Submitted by Mary Amos*

## **Annual Picnic Recap**

Our annual picnic was held at the South Venice Yacht Club on Saturday April 1st. There were 60 members in attendance and a very enjoyable lunch and afternoon was enjoyed by all. The Yacht Club catered the meal [J.F. Ducky's catering] of Chicken, Pulled Pork, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad along with ice tea & lemonade. Attendees were asked to bring a dessert to share and WOW! what a display of goodies. If you can imagine at least 30 varieties of homemade and purchased delights. If you failed to get your sweet tooth satisfied that was a loss. All were encouraged to take some home for later enjoyment. Kathy Toth acknowledged the current and past Mentors and Mentees. They were presented with their pins and encouraged to keep up their great efforts with growing their orchids. If you were not able to attend please see Kathy at a future meeting and she will see that you receive your pin and congratulations. A couple members brought plants and an amazing book to sell and all went to new homes to be enjoyed.

*Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski*

# My Pride and Pleasure - VAOS Display at EAOS

By Jay Loeffler, VP Displays



It is with Pride and Pleasure I get to write this wrap up for VAOS display at the Englewood Area Orchid Society show and sale. I have had the honor of displaying our member's plants for 2 seasons now and I think this is our finest moment to date.

I overheard someone from another society say that "Venice is at the top of their game right now" and with these results they may just be right.

- AOS Display Trophy 85 pts.
- 1st place Society Display
- 7 plant trophies
- Dendrobium acerosum that earned a CCE/AOS
- 52 ribbons for 65 plants registered (that's 80% awarded!)
- 27 blue, 18 red and 6 yellow

Our members can grow some mighty fine orchids.

This display idea started before we finished last year's Englewood show. Bill Fahrenback took an idea I had for an Arbor and brought it to life. Bill is just one of our members who helps with the props for our displays. My wife Judy was even coloring the arbor with a homemade vinegar and steel wool stain.

VAOS has wonderful volunteers who step up and add to each display that we do. Bruce Weaver always has an answer to my "Need for tree" in the display. Bruce has made them every time I have asked. In addition, he has cool birds that we hide in the displays.

AOS Trophy award description: "A wonderfully constructed naturalistic 10' x 10' floor display with a nautical theme, flowing from the top of a wooden arbor nicely located in the corner of the exhibit, flowing over with white Phalaenopsis and Cattleya plants, blending with good variety into yellows and reds to the left along with a well-placed leafless tree; pinks and purples to the right with a well-placed semi-hidden Captain's hat, exhibit displayed excellent color flow, with a wide variety of genera that garnered seven trophies with a fabulously grown specimen Dendrobium acerosum that earned a CCE/AOS."



VAOS has many members that helped the team with our exhibits over the past two seasons, involving constructing and transporting display materials, cleaning and prepping greenery, plant registration, plant labels, designing and setting up the display and take down on the last day. This could not have happened without the following volunteers: Carol Wood, Ted Kellogg, Judy Loeffler, Bob Loeffler, Bruce Weaver, Ken Dolan, Peg & Bill Fahrenback, Sharon & John Kahnoski, Renee Bynum, Linda Schaller, Donn Smart, Rich & Mary Amos, Steve Keller, Lou Kiesling, John Roche, Kristin Shaw, Jim Thomas, Judy Chisholm and Pete Lippa.



I am already working ideas for the next season of displays and hope I can get our members the same type of results they received from the Englewood show as listed below.



Here is the list of VAOS member ribbon and trophy winners:

- ⇒ **Richard Amos** – 4 blue, 2 red and Trophy:  
Best Vanda
- ⇒ **Nora Berger** – 1 blue
- ⇒ **Renee Bynum** – 3 blue, 2 red and AOS Trophy –  
CCE/AOS 91 pts. Den. cacerosum
- ⇒ **Judy Chisholm** – 1 blue and Trophy – Best  
Phalaenopsis
- ⇒ **Sharon Kahnoski** – 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow ribbon
- ⇒ **Steve Keller** – 1 blue, 2 red 1 yellow and Trophy –  
Best Diversified Genera
- ⇒ **Tony Nacinovich** – 1 red
- ⇒ **John Roche** – 2 blue, 4 red ribbons
- ⇒ **Linda Schaller** – 1 blue, 1 red ribbon
- ⇒ **Joanna Shaw** – 1 red, 2 yellow ribbons
- ⇒ **Donn Smart** – 6 Blue, 2 red and 1 yellow and Trophy – Best Cymbidium
- ⇒ **Jim Thomas** – 2 blue, 2 red ribbons
- ⇒ **Steve Vogelhaupt** – 2 blue and Trophy – Best Cattleya Alliance
- ⇒ **Carol Wood** – 4 blue, 1 yellow and 2 Trophies – Best Large Cattleya and Best Small Cattleya

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## FINAL CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR REDLANDS ORCHID FEST BUS TRIP LIMITED SEATING

**The Redland International Orchid Festival will be held in Homestead FL May 19 – 21, 2017.**

Sign up now to secure a seat on the bus for only \$30 pp. This includes bus trip and driver gratuity, the \$10 admission fee and a \$5 discount ticket for purchase of an orchid \$25 or more. Snacks and water will be provided on the bus.

Departure is 7am from the Venice Community Center South Parking Lot on Friday May 19th. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early. This is the only pick up and drop off point for the event this year.

Estimated arrival time is 11am – 11:30am. For return, the bus will leave the festival at 4pm sharp. There is room under the bus to keep your orchid purchases. We suggest you bring boxes or bags to carry and store your plants. Please label them with your name. One rest room stop is planned for each leg of the trip. We also suggest you bring a hat, sunscreen, umbrella, a jacket or sweater (bus A/C) and a small cooler as we will not stop for dinner on the return trip. More than 60 orchid vendors from around the world will sell orchids as well as orchid classes and great food.

Seating on the bus is limited to 41 people. Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) and Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) members have been invited to reserve seats. You may sell your seat but please notify Sharon if you do so. **Make your \$30 check payable to VAOS and mail to: VAOS, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443** Seating is limited so do not delay. Contact Sharon Kahnoski at 616-581-9131 or [social@vaol.org](mailto:social@vaol.org) for more information.

For festival information visit [www.redlandorchidfestival.org](http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org).

*Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski, VP, Social Affairs*

## A close-up photograph of a Phalaenopsis orchid. The plant features several large, white flowers with prominent pink veining and pink centers. The flowers are arranged in a cascading cluster. A single, broad, green leaf is visible on the left side of the plant. The orchid is potted in a white container filled with brown, fibrous potting medium. The background is a solid, deep black, which makes the light-colored flowers stand out.

<<<<<<<<<< Congratulations, Sue!

A close-up photograph of a cluster of orchids, likely Vanda species, featuring deep purple petals with prominent white speckling. The flowers are arranged in a dense, overlapping group, with some buds visible. The background is solid black, which makes the vibrant purple and white of the orchids stand out. A portion of a green, segmented orchid leaf is visible in the lower right corner.

A close-up photograph of a Phalaenopsis orchid. The plant features several large, bright pink flowers with prominent, ruffled petals and a darker pink center. The leaves are broad, green, and glossy. The orchid is potted in a dark, textured container, and the background is a solid black, making the plant stand out.

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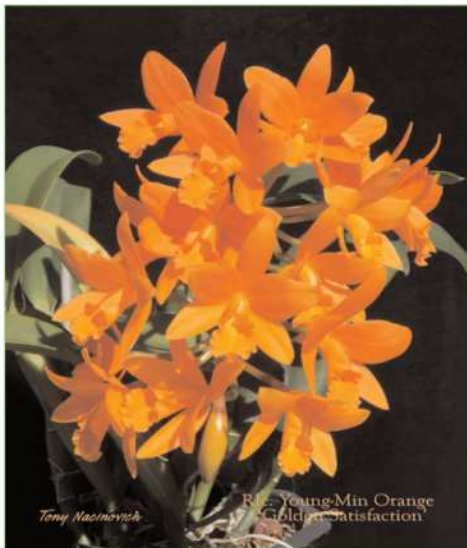
# Orchids Through My Lens...

—Tony Nacinovich

Photography has been a part of what I do ever since I bought my Kodak Brownie Hawkeye in the '50s. I never knew what the photos would look like until I got the developed prints at the drug store. I started to learn from my mistakes and to not waste film. Today, there's no film! You can make all the mistakes without guilt.

Ogilvy & Mather Advertising in New York City was where I worked for 28 years but had nothing to do with photography. I succeeded because I appreciated that creativity and innovation were critical in every aspect of my work. David Ogilvy encouraged us to make advertising that was interesting. This culture continues to guide my photography today. Now you know my mindset.

Eleven years ago we joined the Orchid society to learn orchid cultivation—how to grow and bloom plants worthy of exhibition. We met the best



growers in orchidom and they shared what they knew. Today, our collection occupies our entire lanai – more than 230 orchids – and I relish each new learning. As a rookie grower, I took photos to help me put names and faces together so I could

remember which was which. Snapshots.

I ambitiously made labels with pictures of plants. (The sun bleached them all white.) If snapshots are all you ever do with your orchid photography, you'll enjoy the pleasure of seeing how your plants prosper and expand year after year. Good fun. Take lots of pictures (name the file for when you lose the tag).

Soon, I realized there could be a larger dimension to my orchid hobby. Are you occasionally mesmerized by how beautiful an orchid can be? Have you ever felt that orchids seem a blend of witchcraft and romance that congers up our deepest passions? Are they the product of sorcerers because they work a magic on us? How can I bottle all that beauty? For me, it became a challenge to learn how to arrest and capture the allure I was seeing in my garden –



not just another picture of a pretty plant, but stunning, dramatic shots bringing orchids form, color and sensuality to life through my lens.

I follow a few guidelines. Here are some things you can do to take better photos.

1. First, you need to **learn photography fundamentals**. Your cell phone may be great for photos to share on Facebook. For quality, hi-resolution shots, you have to control all the factors that make for a special photo, including color, light and focus. I keep learning new things my camera can do.

2. **Get a good digital camera** that will allow you to control the speed and aperture. Learn how to use it. My first digital was a 5-megapixel Olympus, given to me by a neighbor and photo editor of The New York Times. It was simple to use and I used it lots, learning how to make it take the picture I wanted. Many novices get equipment that's too complicated. Some learn to use the camera, but soon forget what they learned because of non-use. They get discouraged and quit.



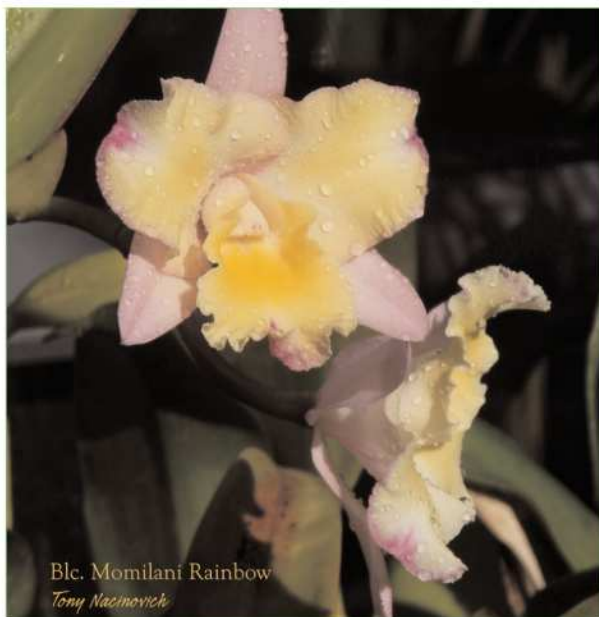


**3. Learn how to groom and pose your plants** in different light to display their finest qualities. Many a great shot is spoiled by unseen spider webs, speckles of dust, unsightly sheathing, blocking leaves, or, God forbid, scale. If you photograph a plant with flaws, they'll be magnified when you enlarge your work.

**4. Use a tripod or monopod.** Better shots result from a steady camera. And, shoot on a calm day. A gentle breeze can create movement that might blur the image. If you set the camera speed fast, the lens must be more open, resulting in a shallower depth of focus. So, some blossoms might be out of focus.

**5. Play with light.** I use no artificial light. Shooting in natural light heightens the challenge and brings its own rewards. The orchids look differently as the light changes through the day. Their appearance evolves in the daylight. And, many blossoms alter color as they mature.

**6. Determine where you want the viewer's attention focused.** Where does the eye travel over the photo? The greater the effort put into planning, the more time the viewer will spend with the photo. Shoot. Look at your shots on the big computer screen. Shoot again and fix what needs fixing.



**7. Think differently.** When a friend asked me to shoot his AOS awarded plant with 134 flowers, it was a struggle to capture its grandeur. Changing perspective and posing the plant so it could be shot down from the top was the solution. You can see my photo in the next edition of OrchidWiz: Den. Andree Millar 'Avery Lynn'.

**8. Take the shot when everything's perfect.** Start with you being fully in the mood to work.

The plant has to be at the stage you like, cleaned with fully mature blooms and coloration. The light must be optimal. Mornings and afternoons work best for my location. Midday tends not to work for me. Light comes straight down, creating deep shadows. But, sometimes midday works! Experiment.



**9. Know the rules of composition** and when to ignore them! Examine your plant and determine the best perspective. Turn it around. Think what the photo will be like. If you're going to print the photo, what format? 8x10 is not the same format as 11x16 or 20x30. Cropping will occur. Plan for it. One way is to avoid framing too tightly.

**10. Illustrate characteristics** or tell about the orchid with your photo. For example, the AOS describes BLC. George King 'Serendipity' (above) flowers as "soft pink, progressing to salmon-peach and onto apricot-peach." This photo catches it all. You can do it with the right plant, the right time and a big dose of luck.

Take lots of pictures. Share them with friends who'll give you their honest opinion. Don't take criticism personally. It'll make you better, not demoralize you and force you to work harder.

Tony Nacinovich--orchids.thru.my.lens@gmail.com



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## Cultural Tip

### Can't See the Trees for the Forest

Plants in baskets typically cannot be unpotted without severely damaging the roots. You can remove rotted parts of the wood basket and then reset it into a larger basket. A helpful technique to encourage new growth in the center of these plants is thinning. Remove the leafless pseudobulbs and older p-bulbs and yellow leaves to open it up. Cut as close to the base of the p-bulb as you can and then dust with cinnamon. This will allow air and sun into the center of the plant to encourage new growth. Peel away dry sheaths to expose new eyes at the base of p-bulbs to sunlight – they will develop more quickly.

Here is a photo of my twelve year old *C. leopoldii* 'Mendenhall with five new maturing growths that resulted from clearing out the forest.



**Please join us for our May 11th Growers Clinic when Bruce Weaver & Team will present: Orchid Basics Part 1: Air, Light, Water, Fertilizer & Supplements. Bring your problem plants for advice. 7pm Venice Community Center. Guests Welcome.**



At our April 13th Growers Clinic, Steve Vogelhaupt led our annual Orchid Mounting workshop. We enjoyed his knowledge, orchid psychology and humor during this fun and well-attended clinic. Thanks Steve!



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Venice Brew Bash will be Memorial Day Weekend in Downtown Venice. This 4 hour event in downtown Venice is in its 6th year and is a one of the City's signature events. This offers sampling of over 60 plus craft beers and will also feature live music, beer for sale on tap, local merchant vendors and local food vendors. The event is the perfect opportunity for beer aficionados, beer lovers or just the casual beer drinker. Brewery Representatives will be available to answer questions and educate attendees of their brewing processes and flavor profiles. The event prides itself on bringing the community together during the off-season and promoting traffic to the downtown businesses.

From year to year a non-profit is selected to receive a percentage of the proceeds from the event. The VAOS has been selected as this years non profit for its beatification efforts through the Venice Orchid Project.

We thought this might be something fun and different to participate in!!! We would like to use these additional funds to further our mission of orchid conservation and education by making some substantial donations in these areas.

Volunteers are needed to help with check in, run beer to the pouring stations and pour 3oz beer samples. The VAOS will also have a tent at the event to promote membership. We would love for you to come out and help!

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the May meeting.

Check in - Shifts (2:30 - 5:00 pm & 5:00 - 7:30 pm)

Beer Runner - Shifts (2:30 - 5:00 pm & 5:00 - 7:30 pm)

Beer Pourers - Shift (2:30 - 7:00 pm)



## 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 (941-322-1644)

**Plantio La Orquidea** - 3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota, FL (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)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 3 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS monthly meeting in Venice Community Center. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Speaker: Roy Krueger Topic: "Grower, Know Yourself".

**May 3 and May 10:** PBS special: Plants Behaving Badly – Orchids and Carnivorous Plants, two part series. 10pm both nights

**May 11 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center. Doors open 6:45pm. Bruce Weaver & Team. Topic: Orchid Basics Part 1 – Air, Light, Water, Fertilizer, Supplements. Bring your problem plants for help.

**May 17 – 21 (Wed – Sun):** AOS Spring Members Meeting, in conjunction with the Redland Orchid Festival. Visit [aos.org](http://aos.org) for details

**May 19 -21 (Fri-Sat-Sun):** Redland International Orchid Festival, Homestead Florida. VAOS sponsored bus trip Friday, May 19th, see inside for details.

**June 7 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS Monthly Meeting in Venice Community Center. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm. Speaker: Mark Reinke, Marble Branch Farms, Topic: Dendrobiums.

**June 8 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center. Doors open 6:45pm. Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting, Tools.

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

**Orchid Judging** takes place at Christ the King Catholic Church, McLoughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: [www.fncj.shutterfly.com/](http://www.fncj.shutterfly.com/)

## Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid  
Society  
PO BOX 443  
Venice, FL 34284-0443



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

Visit us on the web at  
[www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)