

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

June 2017

## June General Meeting

**Next Meeting: Wednesday June 7th, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Speaker: Mark Reinke**

**Topic: "Decoding Dendrobium: The Suprising Orchids  
You Thought You Knew!"**



Why would anyone familiar with orchids be surprised by the genus Dendrobium? Perhaps because the Dendrobium plants most commonly seen for sale are not necessarily what does well under cultivation in our temperate latitudes, but what is easy and inexpensive to mass produce in outdoor orchid ranges at low elevation in Thailand and Indonesia. Yet, these showy plants that often prove difficult to rebloom in our collections represent only a tiny sampling of this widespread and diverse genus that comes from many different climate types, and from sea level to more than ten thousand feet above.

Mark's program offers a comprehensive introduction to the genus, clarifying some of the native climates and cultural needs of the sections you may already have basic familiarity with, and introducing you to some that are only now becoming more available commercially. Hopefully you will be pleasantly surprised by how many of these new introductions would do well alongside your Phalaenopsis or Cattleya orchids, offering long lasting, colorful blooms without the need for high heat, high light, or annual starving or chilling.

## June Events

**June 7th**

**VAOS monthly meeting  
Mark Reinke Topic:  
"Decoding Dendrobium"**

**June 8th**

**VAOS Growers Clinic  
Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots,  
Media, Repotting, Tools**



## Newsletter Quick Links

[VAOS 2017 Show Sponsors](#)

[VAOS 2017-2018 Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

## General Meeting continued..

Mark Reinke, and his partner Gary Collier, left Atlanta city life behind more than a decade ago and now own and operate a small commercial orchid nursery in a remote part of the extreme western tip of South Carolina called Marble Branch Farms, where they are propagating their own new and unusual hybrids in the Cattleya alliance and other genera as well. Mark began growing orchids at the age of 12 when his family lived in the St. Petersburg, FL area. He has been a life-long horticulturalist and orchid grower and is active in both the Atlanta Orchid Society and the Western North Carolina Orchid Society. He has served in many capacities for the Atlanta society over the years including being president twice, and continues to write plant descriptions and cultural information for their newsletter. Mark will have plants for sale at the meeting, including some of the more recently available Dendrobium species and hybrids Mark will be talking about in his program.

## A Message from Your President



The Redlands bus trip May 19th was a resounding success! With a nearly full bus, our members enjoyed the day and brought home some beautiful orchid plants. Our thanks to Sharon Kahnoski and Mary Amos for organizing the trip and to Kathy and Jerry Beck, Jim Thomas and Joanna Shaw who served as hosts on the bus trip.

At our last board meeting your Board of Directors approved our annual budget.

Our budget is based on last years' income and expenses with adjustments and we monitor our spending throughout the year against our budget. Due to the success of our annual show in February, we had funds available this year for gifting, donations and scholarships. The board approved donations to the American Orchid Society (AOS) general fund, to the Florida North Central Judging Center and to the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department Endangered Ghost Orchid Project. In addition, we awarded two \$1000 scholarships to University of Florida students. Samantha Demott, a Venice High School graduate, will study Zoology and Biology. Jameson Coopman is a graduate student with a M.S. Environmental Horticulture degree who is involved in the University Endangered Ghost Orchid Project. We have invited both students to address our members at an upcoming meeting or to submit an article for publication in our newsletter.

Funds have also been budgeted for the Venice Orchid Project (VOP) and for ongoing member social events and trips including the Redlands bus trip. The VAOS continues to maintain a reserve fund to cover our expenses in the event that we cannot hold our annual show. Few members are aware that our show was in jeopardy two years ago when the Venice Community Center came close to closing their facility due to mold concerns. The reserve fund is essential as our annual show proceeds represent 77% of our annual income.

I invite our members to contact me if they have any suggestions for gifting. I am proud of our society and pleased that our success allows us to support such worthwhile projects in orchid education and conservation as well as scholarships and our local community.

*Carol Wood, President*

# Orchid Society Business

Minutes from March 4th, 2017 Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new members and guests.

- Thanks went out to Natalie and Dusty from Orchid Envy for bringing a variety of plants for sale.
- Carol mentioned the recent article about the Venice Orchid Society in the Paradise Living supplement of the Venice Gondolier. It was emailed to all members and is a very nice article worth reading.
- Carol also mentioned the new newsletter format and encouraged everyone to check and make sure they received it. If not check your spam folder.
- On PBS tonight at 10 pm is an interesting show called "Plants Behaving Badly". It is a 2-part series about both orchids and pitcher plants and Carol encouraged us to check it out.
- The next Grower's Clinic is Thursday May 11th and we will be covering Orchid Basics part 1 including air, light, water, fertilizer and supplements.
- The next general meeting will be on June 7th. Mark Reinke from Marble Branch Farms will be speaking about Dendrobiums.
- The following Grower's Clinic will be June 8th and we will cover Orchid Growing Basics part 2. including pots, media, repotting and tools.
- Friday May 19th is the Bus Trip to the Redland Orchid Festival. There are 10 seats left, last call to sign up.
- On May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, the city of Venice will host the annual Venice Brew Bash. The VAOS will be participating this year as a non-profit and we are looking for volunteers to pour beer and perform other functions. The VAOS will share in the proceeds – we can put these funds towards orchid conservation and scholarships.

Bruce introduced the speaker for the evening, Roy Krueger. The topic for the evening was Grower, Know Yourself. Essentially Roy encouraged us to choose orchids that will thrive under our own growing conditions and style of growing. Roy presented some of the orchid growing basics that we will cover more at the next Grower's Clinic including light, temperature and water.

Orchid Envy had a good selection of plants for sale.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

*Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary*

# Treasurer's Report

May 2017

Operating Fund Starting Balance 04/01/17.....	\$ 29,203.84
+ Income .....	\$860.00
- Payments .....	\$4,428.53
Closing Balance 04/30/17 .....	\$25,635.31
 Petty Cash .....	 \$40.00
 Total Operating Fund 04/30/17 .....	 \$25,675.31
 Reserve Fund	
Starting Balance 04/01/17.....	\$25,062.84
+Income .....	\$.58
Closing Balance 04/30/17.....	\$25,063.42

*Submitted by Mary Amos*



## AOS Membership Benefits

The American Orchid Society is the leader in worldwide orchid research and conservation. Your \$65 a year membership supports their efforts and provides substantial membership benefits that include:

- A subscription to ORCHIDS magazine
- Annual supplement to ORCHIDS (this year the supplement is Phalaenopsis)
- Member-Only Webinars on Orchid topics as well as live Q & A
- Member-Only Content on the website from cultural information to growing tips
- Free "Your First Orchid" 64-page, illustrated book
- Annual Orchid Source Directory
- Event Calendar for orchid shows and events
- Online help desk
- Free and discounted admission to nearly 300 botanical gardens & arboreta
- 10% discount on back issues of ORCHIDS magazine and AOS published books
- 5% discount on all purchases from top orchid and orchid supply vendors
- \$30 off an order of \$100 or more from select vendors with a two-year AOS membership.
- Digital only membership is available for \$40 a year.



## Add Some Summer Bloomers to Your Collection



Bro. sanguinea v. aurea x Bro.  
sanguinea 'Star Splash'



Enc. tampensis x Enc. randii



Bro. Hamlyn's Masterpiece



Enc. Gay Rabbit

If you have enough orchids, you will always have something in bloom. For those of you with smaller collections who yearn for flowers during the hot summer months, consider encyclias and broughtonias.

Encyclias bloom from May through July on long sturdy spikes that produce an abundance of small purple, green, white, bronze flowers. You can see our most common encyclia species – tampensis – blooming in Myakka State Park right now. Encyclias have also been planted in the trees of several area parks by the Venice Orchid Project. Encyclias grow well mounted, in pots or baskets and in my experience are more resistant to pests and diseases. Their beautiful long green foliage is pretty throughout the year.

Broughtonias are also summer bloomers, producing a profusion of small but colorful flowers in May through July. They also bloom on long sturdy spikes and colors range from solid yellow, white and purple to splash petal. They grow well in small pots or tree fern baskets. Hamlyn's Orchids in Jamaica is the most well known hybridizer of broughtonias but many local vendors sell crosses.

Try these orchids and add some color to your orchid garden this summer!



### Culture Tip — Water Quality

At our May 11th Growers Clinic Bruce Weaver did an excellent job presenting Basic Orchid Culture Part 1 - Air, Water, Light, Fertilizer. Bruce stressed the importance of water quality – the PH should be in the 6 to 6.5 range. If it is outside of this optimal range, your plants cannot take up fertilizer/nutrients. You can test your water with pool test strips, have your local pool supply store test your water, or have a lab test your water with a complete analysis and fertilizer recommendation. Please join us at the next Growers Clinic on June 8th when we will cover Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting and Tools. Bring your problem plants for expert advice. Guests are welcome.

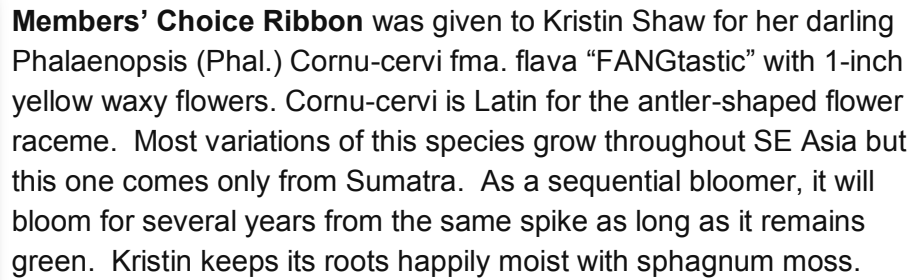
## A close-up photograph of a single, vibrant pink orchid flower. The petals are large, ruffled, and have a slightly wavy edge. The center of the flower features a prominent, elongated, yellow and orange structure, likely the labellum or a part of the reproductive system. The flower is set against a solid black background, which makes the bright pink color stand out. A green leaf is visible on the right side of the flower, extending upwards and outwards.

<<<<<<<<<< Kudos to Cynthia!

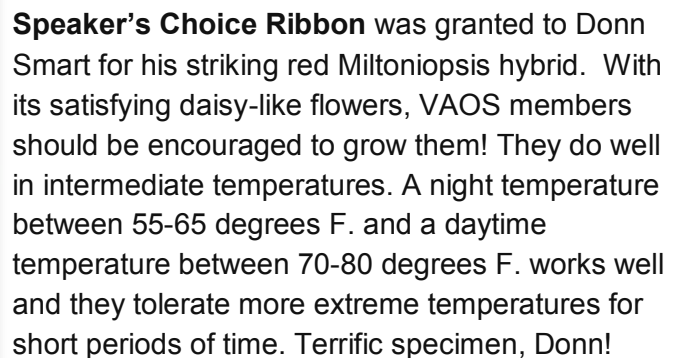
Congratulations, Debi! >>>>>>>>>>



<<<<<<<<<<<< Great growing, Joanna!



**Best Species Ribbon** was won by Ted Kellogg for his lovely *Cattleya* (C.) *mossiae*-semi alba. Hailing from Venezuelan forests, C. *mossiae* is a cherished member of the genus. It's the national flower of Venezuela and used often for cattleya hybridizing. It comes in a variety of colors ranging from pure albas (whites) to dark purples and we're pleased that Ted also displayed a darker form for us to see.



**New Members Ribbon:** We encourage our VAOS new members to bring in their blooming orchids! If you've been a member for less than 2 years, your plant only competes with other new members. There are ribbons waiting for you!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**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.

**June 10-11 (Saturday-Sunday):** Central Florida Orchid Society Show “Out of this World Orchids”, National Guard Armory 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave., Orlando, FL. Info: [cflorchidsociety.org](http://cflorchidsociety.org)

**July 5 (Wednesday):** No VAOS meeting

**July 10 (Monday):** Joint VAOS/EAOS meeting at EAOS. 6:30pm Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave. (Rt. 776), Englewood. Speaker: Louis del Favero.

**July 13 (Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center. Doors open 6:45pm. Hands on Repotting Clinic

## Contact Us

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



**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/)