

NEWSLETTER

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

NOVEMBER 2017

November General Meeting

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1st at 7pm

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

Speaker: Michael Polen

Topic: Get Your Orchids Ready For a Winning Display

We are fortunate to have Michael Polen, the owner of Art Stone



Orchids in St. Petersburg and a premium supplier of orchids and potting supplies since 1986, back to speak on one of his favorite topics: "Get Your Orchids Ready For a Winning Display".

Michael has twice been president of the West Coast Orchid Society and speaks at many societies. He continues to participate in numerous orchid shows, including several appearances at our annual show. Art Stone Orchids/Palmer Orchids have previously won many AOS and society show

trophies for their outstanding displays and orchids.

Michael will be discussing various techniques for getting your orchids ready to enter and win. He always has a few tricks up his sleeves and this presentation is one you won't want to miss.

Michael will have supplies and orchids for sale and will be happy to answer your questions.

November Events

November 1st (Wednesday)
Monthly meeting, Venice
Community Center.
Speaker: Mike Polen

November 9 (Thursday)
VAOS Growers Clinic
Venice Community Center
Room F, 7pm. Donn Smart
"Paphiopedilums'



Newsletter Quick Links

VAOS 2017 Show Sponsors

VAOS 2017-2018 Officers

Orchid Resources

A Message from Your President



After record breaking temperatures in August, September and the first half of October, we are finally getting into cooler, breezy temps – feels good!!!. As the daily temps drop, we can start to reduce watering and fertilizer. Some dendrobiums require a dry winter rest (see culture tip). Other orchids may require added protection for cooler nights. The day/night temp differential brings our Phalaenopsis into spike and many of our cattleyas are in sheath getting ready for winter and spring blooms. This is a pleasant time of year to be out with our orchids, grooming and staking them in preparation for the upcoming shows.

This year we celebrate the 5th anniversary of the VAOS Mentor Program, founded by Peg Fahrenback in 2012. The article in this newsletter provides a program update – thank you Peg for your vision in founding this very successful program!

In October, we started the sign up process for our Orchid Show volunteers. Please see the summary list of volunteer positions in this newsletter. We will continue sign up at our November meeting and growers clinic and at our holiday party. The final list of volunteer assignments will be published in our February 2018 newsletter before the show. As my Show co-chair Judy says: "It Takes an Army". We hope that all of our members will sign up to help us produce a successful annual show.

At our November 1st monthly meeting, we will unveil our 2018 show poster. Our show theme is "Orchids & Oldies". We hope to have some antique cars on display in front of the community center for our show as well as 50's, 60's and 70's music throughout the weekend event. Black tee shirts with the theme on the back will be given to all show volunteers and we encourage you to wear blue jeans from the period or poodle skirts if you have them!

This month two of our local growers will hold their fall sales events. Plantio La Orquidea on November 10 - 11 and Palmer Orchids on November 17-19. Faced with growing competition from the mass production Asian markets, it is so important to support our local growers and annual show vendors –please come out to support them.

As the holidays approach, we will take a break from our regular meetings. There is no monthly meeting or Growers Clinic in December. Instead, we invite you to join us at our annual holiday dinner party at the Boca Royale Country Club in Englewood on December 8th. A beautiful venue and fun event – we hope that you can join us.

The VAOS Growers Clinic Team is updating our "Top Tips" list on our website and we invite all of you to submit your tips. Have you changed your culture practices that produced more blooms? Have you found a particular technique to watering, fertilizing or supplements that has produced better results? Please share your tips with us —we want to hear from you.

Last February we hosted a "Seedlings Competition" at the 2/3/17 Growers Clinic. Each participant was given a seedling of Den. Microchip to grow. Fourteen members accepted the challenge and we will have the awards night at our January 11th Growers Clinic with prizes for the best grown seedlings. Get your plants ready!

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Enjoy this cooler weather and quality time with your orchids.

Volunteer for our 2018 Show

Friday February 2nd 11am -8pm Set Up Saturday February 3rd 10am - 5pm Sunday February 4th 10am - 4pm

Show	When	Job	#
Committee			Volunteers
Value 200 (no. 1.0. d. c. d. c			Needed
Set Up Coord: Jerry Daenzer 284-5001	Friday 2/2/18 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 2/4/18 3:45pm - 6pm	Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh/rested volunteers needed.	10
Clerks Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 2/3/18 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!	30
Front Door Admissions Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 2/3/18 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/4/18 9:45am - 4pm	Sell admission tickets. Cashier skills required. A sit down job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.	30
Show Hosts Coord: Sharon Kahnoski 616-581-9131	Friday 2/2/18 11:30 - 7pm Saturday 2/3/18 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/4/18 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.	70
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

Orchid Society Business

Minutes from October 4th, 2017

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new and returning members and guests. She reviewed the format for our meeting and said she hoped all of us had no serious hurricane damage. Our last meeting in September was sparsely attended due to the impending Hurricane Irma.

Announcements:

- The next Grower's Clinic is October 12th and we will be doing a hands-on repotting clinic.
- Our next general meeting will be November 1 featuring Michael Polen of Art Stone Orchids. He
 always creates a stunning display for our annual show and he will speak on preparing your
 orchids for a winning display.
- The November 9th Grower's Clinic will be Donn Smart explaining how he grows Paphiopedilums.
- We are consolidating 2 of our storage areas into the new storage facility near the Circus Bridge.
 We are looking for volunteers to help us move.
- Thanks to everyone who attended the Jim Roberts/Florida Suncoast Orchids open house. He is our only local vendor to sustain major hurricane damage and the VAOS made a donation to him. Two other local growers have open houses coming up-check the newsletter for information.
- November 11th will be the Englewood Area Orchid Society annual plant sale. All are invited to both shop and participate. If anyone wants a table to sell plants, please see Mary Ann Digrazia.
- During the month of December we have no monthly meeting but we do have our annual holiday party at the Boca Royale country club in Englewood. Sign up begins this month, please see Sharon Kahnoski to sign up.
- Our annual orchid show is coming up on Feb 3rd and 4th— save the date! We will unveil the poster at the next meeting. We will also start volunteer sign up.

Bruce Weaver spoke briefly about the Venice Orchid Project. We have been mounting orchids throughout the parks in the City of Venice over the past 2 years. Many of them are doing very well and some are blooming. Bruce will go out to Palmer Orchids soon and get more plants; he may need volunteers to help place them. Palmer's has been very supportive and supplying us with low cost, easy to grow plants.

Bruce introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids in Michigan. She spoke on the topic of Japanese Orchids. Dr. Uthus covered several genera of Japanese orchids, then focused mainly on Neofinetia (now Vanda) falcata.

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the plant table. Jerry and Kathy Beck did the raffle table. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10.

Submitted by Joanna Shaw, recording secretary.

Treasurer's Report September 2017

Operating Fund Starting Balance 09/01/17 \$ 22,095.37

+ Income \$ 95.00 - Payments \$ 2,494.48 Closing Balance 09/29/17 \$19,695.89

Petty Cash \$40.00

Total Operating Fund 09/29/17 \$19,735.89

Reserve Fund

Starting Balance 09/01/17 \$ 25,065.36

+Interest Income - 7/31 -8/31- 9/29 \$1.88

Closing Balance 09/29/17 \$ 25,067.24

Submitted by Mary Amos

Venice Area Orchid Society 2016 – 2017 Officers

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 - Robin Parsons - csec@vaos.org

Membership Chair - Judy Loeffler - memb@vaos.org

Annual Show Chairs - Carol Wood, Judy Loeffler- showchair@vaos.org

Volunteers

Jay Loeffler (Webmaster) - Website@vaos.org

Kathy and Jerry Beck, - Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw & Cynthia Vance - Plant Table

Sue Grimmer & Dick Lawson - Technology

Kathy Toth, - Mentor Coordinator- mentor@vaos.org

October 2017 Plant Table Final

Attention New Members: Please bring in your blooming plants. We'd love to see them! If you have been a VAOS member for less than 2 years you just might be awarded The New Member's Ribbon!



First Place and Blue Ribbon was captured by **Rick Belisle** for his huge 3-foot Dendrobium (Den.) Airey Peach with 60 flowers that towered over the plant table. Rick grows his orchids under his pool screen that keeps out 20% of the sun so the leaves don't burn. With sun coming from all directions all day, his plants grow vigorously. He also stakes his plants so the roots can attach themselves to the pot and nourish the plant without the moving wind causing them to break and interrupt the feeding process.

Congratulations, Rick!

Second Place and Red Ribbon went to Cynthia Vance for her gorgeous Vanda (V.) L.M. Velthius x V. Dr. Anek. "Dr. Anek" hybrids from Thailand are highly desired. Cynthia loves both the coloring and shape of this vanda flower – it's her favorite vanda. She bought it from Plantio La Orquidea, Sarasota and it came as twins. Since its 'separation surgery' she still waits for its sister to produce. It hangs in full sun from an arbor and is watered daily unless it rains. A special joy of growing Vandas is that there is no need to re-pot!



Beautiful plant, Cynthia!



Third Place and Yellow Ribbon was won by Ted Kellogg for his unusual exotic Catasetum (Ctsm.) Green Gene, a hybrid created by JEM orchids which unfortunately left Florida after too many hurricanes! During its growing season it enjoys water and fertilizing regularly and when the plant drops its leaves to rest, it should be watered about 2x a month to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling. When new growth appears resume normal feeding. It's always special to meet a Catasetum at our VAOS meeting!

Thanks, Ted.



Best Species Ribbon was also awarded to Ted Kellogg for his darling yellow Catasetum (Ctsm.) pileatum. Often called the "Felt-capped Catasetum" or "Mother of Pearl Flower" it is a species found in the wild from Trinidad to Ecuador. It is a lowland species where it occurs as an epiphyte. Because it is adapted to a hot, humid rainforest with only a short dry winter season, it's one species that may not go completely dormant for any period of time.

Congratulations, Ted!

New Member Growers Ribbon was given to **Aimee Godsey** for her spectacular dark red Dendrobium NOID with such a beautiful plant shape. NOID means No Identification because somehow the ID tag was blown away by the wind, discarded by mistake during repotting or never was in the pot. In fact, this particular Dendrobium was inherited by Aimee from her mother in law, so it is very special.







Member's Choice Green Ribbon was also awarded to Aimee Godsey for her second Dendrobium (Den.) NOID, pronounced "No-Oid" in case one wasn't sure. This is a hearty multiflorous Dendrobium in which the flowers bring extra delight because they start out a light pink and then transition to a darker pink during its flowering cycle – producing a wonderful bouquet! We are glad you joined VAOS, Aimee, and anticipate seeing more of your lovely plants. Beautiful job, Aimee

Speaker's Choice Ribbon was granted to **Donn Smart** for his dainty 6-inch tall Pecteilis susannae which hails from eastern and southern Asia including Russia. This is from Donn's expanding terrestrial collection; It also has a dormancy period before its underground tuber sends out a shoot 3 months later. Donn didn't mean to have the plant judged for he only wanted us to enjoy it. However, our wonderful speaker, Dr. Kristen Uthus, a devotee of small Japanese orchids, fell in love with Donn's bright little treasure.

Excellent specimen, Donn!





VAOS Holiday Dinner Party

Friday December 8th, 2017

Boca Royale Country Club 1601 Englewood Rd. (Rt 776)

5:30pm Happy Hour with Cash Bar— Dinner 6:30pm Followed with an Orchid Auction and dancing to the music of George DeJong

\$25 Per Person

Dinner options: Prime Rib, Chicken Pectate', Grouper Vegetarian/Vegan: Vegetable Stir Fry

RSVP: As soon as possible to: social@vaos.org [attach your menu choices]

Make check out to VAOS

mail to: PO BOX 443Venice, FL. 34284-0443 Or sign up at our November 1st meeting



Membership Dues Are Now 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 our November 1st meeting or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

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

Please do not delay so that you can be included in the 2018 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information - address, phone and email address. Please check our 2017 Membership Directory to see if your entry needs editing.

If your contact information has changed, please notify Judy Loeffler, Membership Chair at: memb@VAOS.org

Submitted by Judy Loeffler

November Culture Tip – Dendrobium Care

Thanksgiving Day marks the time of the year to provide some of your dendrobiums a "dry winter rest" to mimic their natural habitat. This includes Den. nobile, Den. chrysanthum, Den. anosmum (superbum), and other dendrobiums that are typically deciduous, pendant or produce flowers on the cane. These orchids require high light, no fertilizer, little water (only what nature provides) and cooler nights to produce their flowers. Resume normal watering and fertilizing in the spring once your plant has flowered.

Other types of dendrobiums including Phalaenanthe ("Phal. type") or Spatulata (Antelope type) are warm growers and can be fed and watered throughout the year. These dendrobiums are evergreen and produce their flowers on long graceful stems. Note that Phal. type dendrobiums are sensitive to cooler temperatures below 60* and should be protected. Do some research if you don't know what kind of dendrobium you have. Many growers separate those plants requiring a dry winter rest by hanging them in trees or high in their growing area to ensure they are not watered or fertilized with the rest of their collection.

November Growers Clinic

Please plan to join us at our November 9th Growers Clinic when Donn Smart will share his tips on growing Paphiopedilums. Many of us love these orchids but struggle to grow them successfully – we look forward to Donn's presentation!

Venice Community Center, Room F, enter at left side of building, 7pm.

All members and guests are welcome.



Photo from our VAOS
Growers Clinic held on
October 12 th

Hands on Repotting Clinic

Update on the VAOS Mentor Program



In the spring of 2012 VAOS member Peg Fahrenback conceived of the idea for a mentorship program for new society members. It would encourage the new members to learn more about growing while getting to know other society members and it would provide an opportunity for experienced growers to share their knowledge and love of orchids. The program took off immediately with an average of 16 new mentees mentored each year. Peg got the program off the ground and managed it for two years. In 2014 Pauline Adam

took over and in 2016 Kathy Toth became the Mentor Program Coordinator.

Now in our fifth year, we are pleased to tell you that a total of 84 mentees have completed the program with help from 21 mentors. We currently have 11 active mentees and 10 mentors. Many of our mentees go on to become active volunteers with our society (Kathy Toth was one of our early mentees!) The program has been a resounding success. We continue to receive inquiries from other orchid societies asking for guidance as they work to establish their own mentor programs.

Thank you Peg Fahrenback for your vision and thank you Pauline Adam and Kathy Toth for your good work. Thanks to the mentors who contribute their time and talent to work with new growers. For our many mentor program graduates we hope that it was a good learning experience for you and we welcome new mentees.

If you are interested in the Mentor Program please contact Kathy Toth, Mentor Program Coordinator at mentor@vaos.org



Palmer and Plantio La Orquidea Fall Orchid Sales are this month

Two of our local growers are holding major sales events this month. Plantio La Orquidea's sale is November 10 – 11 and Palmer's Fall Open House is November 17 –19. Their sale flyers appear at the end of this newsletter.

VAOS is planning 'road trips' to these sales events on Friday November 10th to PLO and Friday November 17th to Palmers, departing at 9am both days. If you would like to go and need a ride or would like to carpool, please contact Sharon Kahnoski at Social@vaos.org or 616-581-9131.

Both of these growers offer a large variety of quality plants and have been long-term vendors at our annual show. Please come out to support them!

VAOS Gives Me Great Pride



Last month I had a story in our newsletter "Why I grow the orchids I grow". I would like to thank everyone for all the nice comments that were said to me at our last meeting and through emails, it proved my point of the story. Carol Wood has been asking me over the last few months to let it be published in our newsletter. What you may not know is that I wrote that story for an essay contest for the American Orchid Society. The Dillon-Peterson Essay contest was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the AOS Bulletin (now Orchids). I did not win the contest (I really thought I would... EGO?)

One of the rules for this contest was that non-winning entries would also be considered for publication by the editor of Orchids and may be used in Orchids or other AOS publications

with the written permission of the author. Judging was in May of 2017 and when I received the email that I was not the winner, I was still very pleased. The review team really liked it and they indicated when the decisions were announced that they wished to publish my article at a future date. Even though my essay did not win, the judges felt that the essay was an excellent feature, illustrating how societies can support their members.

It is with great pride that I can tell you that the essay will be published in the November issue of Orchids magazine from the American Orchid Society. I think this really proves the point of the story and would not have happened if not for all of you, the wonderful members of the Venice Area Orchid Society.

This is but one story from our society and I would ask that you take a moment and think of your "Story" and maybe sharing it with our members. It does not have to be an essay, but a few words of why you grow the orchids you grow may inspire someone else.

Thanks for giving me my story to share. Jay Loeffler





www.vaos.org

Thousands of Blooming Orchids, Orchid Classes, Orchid Art & Supplies









PALMER ORCHIDS

Fall Open House









Friday, November 17 from 10 am – 5 pm Saturday, November 18 from 9 am – 5 pm Sunday, November 19 from 10 am – 4 pm

Repotting Demonstration Saturday at 11 am

Lots of blooming plants and bare root divisions starting at \$5.00 and up!

Come out and see all of the beautiful plants we have to offer you!

UF/IFAS Scientists Preserve the Endangered

Ghost Orchid



University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers believe they're on the verge of helping conserve the popular but endangered Ghost Orchid, a plant that's often poached.

"We've successfully developed procedures to culture plants from seeds in the lab and then successfully acclimatize them into our greenhouse," said Michael Kane, professor of environmental horticulture at UF/IFAS. "We've also obtained a high survival and vigorous re-growth rate when they're planted back into the wild."

This rare orchid is unique for several reasons. First, it resembles a ghost when its white flower moves at night; hence, it is known as the Ghost Orchid. It is also leafless, and its roots attach to the bark of the host tree.

About 2,000 ghost orchids remain in Florida, all the more reason to step up efforts to stabilize the current populations, Kane said. The Ghost Orchid also grows in the Bahamas and Cuba. However, researchers are learning that these populations are thriving in very different environmental conditions than those in South Florida.

UF/IFAS scientists are trying to give ghost orchids the best chance to survive after they're planted back in the native environment. Until now, there's only been non-scientific information on ways to grow the Ghost Orchid, Kane said. There's no information on how to reliably produce them in a lab or reintroduce them into nature.

Kane and doctoral student Hoang Nguyen are trying to change that trend. For three years, Kane and Nguyen, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have worked to bring Ghost Orchid seeds back from Southwest Florida to a propagation lab at the UF campus in Gainesville to see if they can germinate the seed under sterile conditions on a gelled medium and then transfer the plants into a greenhouse.

Their latest results showed they could develop a successful seed culture technique for the Ghost Orchid so they can replant it in the wild. Orchid seeds in the wild won't germinate unless they are infected with a mycorrhizal fungus, Kane said. The UF/IFAS researchers worked with Larry Zettler, biology professor and director of the Orchid Recovery Program at Illinois College, to stimulate seed germination in the lab.

The scientists' work has been so successful that Nguyen won the outstanding research poster contest at last June's meeting of the Society for In Vitro Biology. Their study is currently being considered for publication.

Recently, they brought some of the plants back to their native habitat in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Collier County, Florida, and about 70 out of 80 of these Ghost Orchids have survived and are vigorously growing, Nguyen said. They are seeing similar results with Ghost Orchids planted later at the Naples Botanical Garden.

"For orchid conservation, this is big," Kane said. "We are very excited."

Ghost orchids became more famous through a popular book, "Orchid Thief," about a man arrested for stealing them from trees in a forest in Collier County, near the Everglades. The book was made into a 2002 movie, titled "Adaptation," with Meryl Streep.

By: Brad Buck, 352-294-3303, bradbuck@ufl.edu /

Source: Michael Kane, 352-273-4500, micropro@ufl.edu



Friday and Saturday November 10 and 11, 2017 9 AM to 4 PM



PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 (Wednesday): Monthly meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Mike Polen Topic: Get Your Orchids Ready For a Winning Display

November 9 (Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm. Donn Smart "Paphiopedilums"

November 10-11 (Friday-Saturday): Plantio La Orquidea Fall Sale 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243. www.plantiolaorquida.com see coupon in this newsletter.

November 11 (Saturday): Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Annual Members Plant Sale. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood. 8am –12pm www.eaos.org

November 17 – 19 (Friday – Sunday): Palmer Orchids Fall Sale 22700 Taylor Dr. Bradenton, FL 34211 www.palmerorchids.com. See flyer in this newsletter.

December 8 (Friday): VAOS Annual Holiday Dinner Party Boca Royale Country Club, Englewood. See details in this newsletter.

December - No monthly meeting and No Growers Clinic.

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, FL 33609. at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info:



Contact Us

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

President Carol Wood

pres@vaos.org

Membership Judy Loeffler <u>memb@vacs</u> oro

Visit us on the web at