

Venice Area Orchid Society News

July 2012

Venice and Englewood Societies Combine Summer Meetings

The Venice Area Orchid Society and the Englewood Area Orchid Society will combine their meetings this summer. **Englewood AOS** will host the July 9th meeting at Christ Lutheran Church, beginning at 6:30pm. The speaker will be Michael Polen and his topic: "Alternatives to Using Pots for Orchids".

VAOS will host the August meeting on Wednesday August 1st at 7pm at the Venice Community Center. Louis Del Favero of Louis Del Favero Orchids in Tampa will speak on "Growing Species".

Members of both societies are invited to bring orchids for the show table. Guests are welcome! Visit the Venice Area Orchid Society on the web at:

WWW.VAOS.ORG

WHY DO WE NEED A MENTOR PROGRAM?

Orchid growing should be a joy, not a frustration. Experienced growers often reap the rewards of beautiful blooming plants, and sometimes even come home with a ribbon or trophy award. Wow! Now that's awesome! Most of us aspire to that some day.

However, what we hear from beginning FL orchid growers is sometimes much different. "I thought orchids were disposable; I used to throw mine away at the end of the season." "I brought my orchids here from another climate, and

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A Message from your President:

As, many of you know, we are a strong Society with resources to help others. We are also careful to keep one year of funds in reserve – in case that in some year we are not able to have our annual show due to storms, electrical black outs, fire etc.

You all know that our VAOS mission statement states our role is to not only educate our members but also to promote the conservation and protection of native species. To this end, we decided to increase our giving towards conservation.

As usual we will support our national organization as a recognized chapter with a gift of \$500 towards the American Orchid Society. We will also contribute \$1,650 to the AOS special orchid conservation projects in the U.S. If you receive the AOS magazine you'll notice that every other issue reports on efforts to save native orchids in the wild.

We also give \$250 to the North Central Florida Regional Judging Center. They have a large repository of materials to train judges; the judges then volunteer to judge shows at their own expense.. We also gave \$100 to the Pfahl Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia which many VAOS members use. Jay Pfahl is building this free internet catalog in his spare time as a gift to the world. Well, it's not exactly free – but only, now \$10.00 a year!

In the past we gave scholarships to deserving students at Venice High School and too often we didn't hear back from them. This year we decided to donate to the VHS Zoology Club that actually raises monies



Cynthia Vance

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Next Meeting: Monday, July 9th at 6:30 p.m.
Hosted by Englewood Area Orchid Society

Speaker: Michael Polen, Art Stone Orchids, St. Pete, FL
"Alternatives to Using Pots for Orchids"

Christ Lutheran Church
701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood

From Venice:

Travel south on Rt. 41
Bear right at intersection with FL State Road 776
Travel south 6.3 miles (SR 776 becomes N. Indiana Ave.)
Christ Lutheran Church is on the left.

Officers 2012 - 2013

President

Cynthia Vance, pres@vaos.org

Vice President - Programs

Carol Wood (Acting)

Vice President - Show Displays

Richard Amos, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Ali Hicks, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org

Membership

Jim and Gerry Thomas, memb@vaos.org

Directors At Large:

Co-Chair Annual Show

Barbara Wagner

Co-Chair Annual Show

Carol Wood, showchair@vaos.org

Promotion and Advertising

Debra Mattar, promo@vaos.org

Immediate Past President

Ted Kellogg, tmkellogg@gmail.com

Volunteers

Donn Smart, Communications

The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

Newsletter Editor

Carol Wood (Acting)

Newsletter Production

Barry Zack

VAOS Printer

Creative Technology of Sarasota

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jean Fairchild, Venice

Bi Biche Knauf, Osprey

Kaitlin Kuhn, Venice

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:
Carol Wood, carolwoodVAOS@gmail.com
- Written submissions are appreciated.

VAOS Board Update

Bob Wallace has resigned as VP-Show Displays as new work commitments will have him out of town frequently. We thank Bob for his three years of service to VAOS and congratulate him on the many AOS and show awards he earned for the VAOS exhibits he created.

Richard Amos has agreed to take on this important role with help from his wife Mary and a team of members who have consistently participated in putting in quality show displays four times a year. Richard and Mary are long term, active VAOS members who have created our displays in the past. They will bring artistic talent and expert knowledge of orchids to this position. During the transition we'll be evaluating our bulky display building materials toward a change to lighter more transportable materials for future exhibits. We do need a member to help transport display materials from our Public Storage space to shows four times a year. Please contact Cynthia Vance if you can help.

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Mentor Program continued from page 1

and growing orchids in Florida is really different.” “I get confused with all of the different types of orchids, and the sun conditions they need.” “I’ve tried to read books, but I need help with my specific orchids.” “I never do well with bare rooted divisions.”

Some members with a few years of experience have difficulty in one area of orchid culture, such as scale or fungus. In fact, as a semi-experienced grower, I personally had recent help from a Mentor about scale on my orchids. Hopefully, I’ll soon develop a keen eye like he has.

The Mentor Program increases the joy of growing orchids and reduces the frustration. It is a way experienced grower can extend a hand and offer information that may seem quite basic. It says to new members, we are glad you are here and want you to enjoy your orchids and know that you belong. It increases interaction between members and adds vibrancy to our Society. Hopefully, these newer growers will return year after year, contributing to our society by giving of their gifts and talents. And fewer orchids will “commit suicide!”

Must you be an “orchid expert” to become a mentor?

Absolutely not! We are looking for members with enough growing experience to teach basic culture techniques such as sun exposure, watering, fertilizing, pest control and fungus prevention. If needs are expressed that you are not comfortable with, we can find another experienced grower to fill in the gaps. This is a team effort, and we are all helping one another.

BECOME A MENTOR TODAY!

If you would like to be a Mentor or receive Mentoring services please contact Peg Fahrenback, Mentor Program Coordinator, rsec@vaos.org. You may also sign up at our monthly meetings and monthly Growers Clinics.

In My Garden

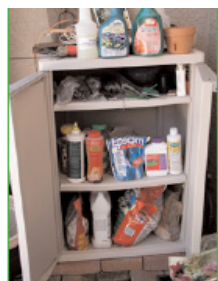
Tony Nacinovich

Ellen took me to the 2005 VAOS Show and subsequent society meeting. We met friendly, knowledgeable people who ran a quick meeting, learned some fundamentals, and won three orchids from the raffle table. Noreen Cervinski told us which ones to choose. We were hooked. I really stopped accumulating and started growing orchids this year.

I finally had sufficient time available to devote to all the necessary chores of keeping about 140 orchids happy. I am a lanai grower. Ours faces north



and that's where our plants have to learn to survive. Shown above is one corner to give you a sense of part of my growing area. In summer, full sun beats down throughout much of the day, cut only by the lanai screen. To fully utilize the space, I grow on wire rack tables from Indoor Garden Supplies. They are tiered so that we can squeeze more plants in and there is good ventilation all around.



Supplies are kept in a Rubbermaid cabinet (wish it were double the size) that keeps chemicals dry and out of sight. Instead of a proper table,

a Workmate (collapsible work-

bench), improvised with a plywood top, is what we use for transplanting.

I mostly grow Dendrobiums, Cattleya types, Encyclias, Vandas and any Fender orchid I can get. I'm a terrible Phalaenopsis grower and envy those who are able to master these beautiful plants. I have six that I am currently torturing.

Spring is the busiest time of year for me. By now I should have all of our plants repotted, cleaned and in pristine condition for the summer heat. I should, but I don't. About 20 more need work, which

might seem encouraging, except that it takes several hours to several days for me to divide one of these poor potbound, strangling specimens (assuming also that I muster the motivation and energy). Like many of us, I tend to



be a generous waterer and have lost a few plants as a consequence.

Since I can't change me, I can change the media. Hydroton—little balls of



clay—is much cleaner than Aliflor and very convenient to use. A mix of 60% Hydroton to 40% bark, charcoal and perlite may be about the right balance for both clay pots and baskets



to get superior drainage. We'll see... Despite being involved with orchids for the past seven years, I'm still a rookie and know it. Fortunately there are members of the Venice Society who are very helpful, knowledgeable, patient and generous with their time. Without their friendship, guidance and counsel, I wouldn't be growing as well today and might miss out on the breathtaking joy of seeing new blooming orchids, like my Blc. Waianae Leopard, from Richard Amos' superbly grown collection.



Note: Please contact the editor if we can highlight your orchid growing area in future newsletter issues.

Plant Table Awards June 6, 2012

Monthly meetings include a show table of members' plants. Six ribbons are awarded each month, four of which are selected by a random team of VAOS member judges. These four awards are First, Second and Third place and Best Species. All VAOS members vote on a plant for the Members' Choice award and there is a Speaker's Choice award.

**First Place: Brassolaelia Sunset Glory
Grower: Cynthia Vance**

Cynthia Vance took first place with her beautiful *Brassolaelia Sunset Glory* (Bl. Richard Mueller x *C. purpurata*).



Brassolaelia Sunset Glory

This plant has two well known and respected parents. Well done Cynthia!

**Second Place:
Den. Pearly Shells
Grower: Tawanna Hardenbrook**

The second place ribbon went to Tawanna Hardenbrook for her beautiful *Dendrobium Pearly Shells*.

Tawanna says she bought this plant at one of the Redlands Shows. Like so many orchids offered for sale there, this one might be mis-labeled. Her plant was labeled *Den. Parlshall*. I believe *Pearly Shells* is correct. It was well grown with several well placed blossoms. The parents are *Den. Joan Lushima* x *Den. chrysotoxum*.



Den. Pearly Shells

**Third Place and Members Choice:
Den. Blue Fairy**

It appears that the grower of the orchid earning third place and member's choice is unsure of the name of their plant. It was labeled *Dendrobium Blue Fairy* or unnamed Hawaiian *Dendrobium*. The card did not have the grower's name on it. We believe the plant is *Den. Blue Fairy*. It was really nice and well bloomed. Its parents are *Den. Corinne Le Hovelleur* x *Den. Udom Blue Angel*. Will the grower of this plant please identify herself.



Den. Blue Fairy

**Speakers
Choice: Ctsm.
Francis Nelson
'Thunder'
Grower: Bill
Timm**

Bill Timm sneaked in

winning the speaker's commendation ribbon with *Catasetum Francis Nelson 'Thunder'* (*Ctsm. socco* x *Ctsm. fimbriatum*). Bill's plant earned HCC (78 points) in 2007 at the Tampa Judging Center. Bill named it *Thunder* because just as he was carrying it out of his greenhouse, there was a flash and a real loud thunder clap. The plant had only one inflorescence when it was awarded the HCC.



Ctsm. Francis Nelson 'Thunder'

Species of the Month: *Rhynchostylis retusa*



Rhynco. retusa'

Grower: James Thomas

Rhynchostylis retusa, grown by James Thomas, is a species native to Borneo, India, Laos and Cambodia. It is not unusual to see 200 or more flowers on a single inflorescence. With four inflorescences, you can guess how many flowers this plant has. Great growing Jim!

—Plant descriptions submitted by Bill Timm.

Minutes of the June 6, 2012 Meeting

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting suggesting that members enjoy the orchids on the plant table and vote on their favorite. She also reminded everyone that raffle tickets are available for purchase. Upcoming events were announced. The Home Garden Tour at Mary Anne and Tom DeGrazia's home will be June 9th. Growers Clinic, which teaches basic growing skills, will be June 13. The next monthly meeting will be the Joint Meeting with EAOS at Englewood on July 9. She announced a December 6th bus trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami. Details about all upcoming events were printed on yellow paper and placed on seats throughout the room.

Cynthia thanked Bill Timm for his book donation, "Wild Love Affair" to the VAOS Library, which was given in memory of his wife Connie.

Cynthia asked for help at monthly meetings with refreshments, especially with preparation of coffee, if member continue to want to have coffee service.

Jim Thomas presented the next Growers Clinic topic, Orchids 101 for Beginners. It will be an introductory lesson for growing orchids with a special surprise for those who attend.

Cynthia encouraged members to receive the color, email version of the Newsletter, rather than a black and white, printed version sent via USPS. The email version now has additional features which include growing tips and culture information. VAOS is seeking a Newsletter Editor who will assemble articles for the Newsletter, edit them and coordinate Newsletter production. We also need a volunteer to help with the Newsletter layout and publishing. Volunteers may contact Cynthia Vance.

Carol Wood introduced our speaker Tom Aaron. He owns Green Earth Nursery, in Jacksonville, FL and presented on the topic 'Using and Creating Micro Climates.

Ted Kellogg presented orchids from the Plant Table and cited awards.

The meeting was adjourned following

the raffle.

Respectfully submitted, Peg Fahrenback

President's Message, continued from page 1

and does conservation activities in our area. An exceptional zoology teacher, Barry Rossheim, is the club advisor. When I volunteered for Venice Audubon the club helped fund and refurbish the butterfly garden. This year we gave them \$250 towards the restoration of the Celery Fields in Sarasota with various micro environments to support fauna and flora – and surely there must be native orchids there! The club has agreed to do a short presentation to VAOS this year on their work and we truly look forward to it. I'm proud that our Society has a vision beyond its own concern for its hobbyist members and is willing to reach out to help protect and conserve orchid species -- a worthy mission.

Volunteers Needed for Newsletter

We need one or two people to volunteer to edit and produce our monthly VAOS newsletter. The Newsletter Editor position involves compil-

ing and editing content supplied by VAOS officers and committee heads such as our plant table awards, upcoming events, upcoming speakers, etc. The Newsletter Production

position involves formatting, publishing and distributing our newsletter to members. If you can help our society to fill these positions please contact Cynthia Vance for more information..

Support our 2012 Show Sponsors

AAA South
Center for Sight
Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS
Edgewood Nursery
Herald-Tribune Media Group
Jacaranda Trace
Retirement Community
Pineapples Island Grill
Raleigh & Associates
Silverstein Institute
Stanley Dean State Farm



Treasurer's Report June, 2012

Checking Account

Starting Balance 5/31/2012\$2,761.48
+ receipts.....\$363.00
- payments\$870.57
Balance 6/18/2012\$2,253.91

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance 5/31/2012\$3,436.11
- payments.....\$77.94
Balance 6/18/2012.....\$3,358.17

Cash Account 6/18/2012\$40.00

M.Market Acct 6/18/2012.....\$30,079.34

Total Assets 6/18/2012.....\$35,731.42

Submitted by Ali Hicks

Board Update continued from page 2

Carol Malott has asked VAOS to find her replacement as VP-Social Events due to family health issues. Carol and Mike have done an outstanding job coordinating our refreshments table at monthly meetings for the past year and Carol was responsible for planning our holiday party at the Venice Yacht Club last year. Thank you Carol and Mike for your service! If you have an interest in planning social events and can help the society in this role, please contact Cynthia Vance.

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 9 at 6:30pm
at Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood

- **Speaker: Michael Polen**
"Alternatives to Using Pots for Orchids"
- Show table entries welcome
- Refreshments

Upcoming Events

July 9 - Joint monthly meeting with Englewood Area Orchid Society. Silent Auction 6 pm, and **meeting at 6:30pm**. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL. Speaker: Michael Polen. Please note this replaces our regularly scheduled VAOS meeting the first Wednesday of the month.

July 11 - Growers Clinic, 7pm. Venice Community Center. Presenters Jim Thomas and Carol Wood. Topic: Repotting Clinic

July 14-15 - Tropical Plant Festival, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL. Saturday 10-4; Sunday 10-3.

August 1 - VAOS joint monthly meeting with EAOS, 7pm. Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Louis Del Favero, Louise Del Favero Orchids, Tampa. Topic: Growing Species

August 3-4 - 2nd Annual Cattleya Symposium, Ft. Pierce, FL. Info: www.odoms.com

August 24-25 - 18th Phalaenopsis Symposium, Orlando. Info: www.phal.org

December 6 - EAOS Bus Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami. \$45 pp. Contact Ann Baldwin, EAOS President, AnnMBaldwin501@frontier.com

Planning ahead: **VAOS Annual Show, February 2-3, 2013**, at the Venice Community Center.

Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org.

Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began last month. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

Patronize Our Local Growers

Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
Jeff Higel
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)
Englewood

Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
Tina & Rafael Romero
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota
www.plantiolaorquidea.com

Barry Rossheim



Mr. Barry Rossheim has been teaching biology and zoology since 1980. He received his B.S. in zoology from Emporia State University and his M.S.E. in science education from Wichita State University. He has been teaching biology and zoology at Venice High School since 1991.

Mr. Rossheim is married to Shala Rossheim, a teacher at Laurel Nokomis School. He has two sons, one currently attending the University of Florida, the other a graduate of UF and currently in the US Army.

Mr. Rossheim is a co-director of the Life Science Community, sponsor of the Zoology Club, a lead teacher for the Costa Rica Global Classroom Project, and was selected for the Next Generation Teacher Program. He is a member of the National Science Teacher Association, the Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association, the Manasota Herpetological Society, the National Audubon Society, the Venice Area Audubon Society, the Sarasota Audubon Society, the Manatee Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club. Mr. Rossheim received the Sarasota County Environmental Educator Award in 2007 and is proud to live in a county that cares so much about their environmentally sensitive lands.

Mr. Rossheim believes he can help save the planet by teaching conservation education. He believes humans are a special species with big enough brains to coexist with other living things on our planet. He believes young people can do a better job with the stewardship of our planet than the example set by our leaders before them. Mr. Rossheim believes young people, our future leaders, are hungry for a future with higher ethical standards.

Mr. Rossheim hopes to inspire students to pursue their studies in science. He also hopes to instill a strong work ethic in his students, and provide them with the kind of education that will empower them to be informed productive citizens and decision makers.

July in your Orchid Collection

Dr. Martin Motes

Although it mostly passes unnoticed to millions locked in their air-conditioned bubbles, July in South Florida is quite different from June. While the pattern of afternoon showers built from the moisture of the morning's sea breeze persists in July, the thunderstorms are sharper and shorter. The clouds linger less and the foliage dries more quickly. Less quantity of rain falls in July than in June and periods of several days typically pass without a drop. This is good news for orchid growers. July (and August) allows orchidists to focus on the first essential of orchid growing, drying the plant out.

Frequently, neophyte growers ask "What if I go away for several weeks in the summer and there is no one to water the plants?" The response is "That's wonderful". Experienced growers use the break in the rainfall during July and August to dry their plants "hard". Depriving orchids of water for several days until they and the media or baskets they grow in are bone dry is essential to good orchid culture. By drying the plants hard, one deals a severe blow to orchid's natural enemy, fungus. Orchids have evolved to withstand drought because fungus can not. During severe drought fungus' only defense is to cease all growth and retreat into a spore stage. Hopefully (and with good cultural management) these pathogens will not be aroused from this slumber until the first drizzle of September sets in, allowing our plants two months to mature and harden their growth making them less vulnerable to the September conditions which give some advantage again to the fungi.

Careful watering and judicious drying will do more than any other practice to ensure healthy plants. Drought is the orchid plants armor against disease. Be sure that your plants dry as completely as the weather of July permits. Nonetheless, as our plants are in full growth they need adequate water in July therefore after a hard drying, orchid plants need a thorough re-hydration. If the next rain fall is insufficient to saturate pot, roots and media, the grower should add to the natural moisture until he is sure both roots and media are saturated, using two or three applications of water spaced a few minutes apart. When the plants stop dripping is the time to apply the next dose of water. Don't stop watering until the "heft" of the pot tells you that it is holding as much water as it can. More typically in July, orchidists should use these opportunities when more moisture is required to substitute fertilizer for water and saturate the roots and the media in the same thorough manner. In July typically think of fertilizing rather than watering. Weekly applications of a commonly available balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-18-18) at two teaspoons per gal. will supply the nutrients that our plants require in this period of lush growth. This balanced formula should be alternated every other week with potassium nitrate and Epsom salts (one tablespoon each) to supply the extra magnesium and potassium we now know are plants need on a regular basis. Even better (although not so readily available) lower phosphorus fertilizers containing extra magnesium and calcium with a formula like Peter's Excel (15-5-15) have been shown to be the precise fertilizer our plants need. This formula is recommended year round. Hopefully such orchid specific fertilizers will become more widely available. Lowering the phosphorus intake of our plants is particularly important in South Florida because of our alkaline water. Always apply fertilizer in the same way as water, in two to three doses spaced a few minutes apart. Apply the fertilizer to the point of "run off", *I.E.* when the solution starts to fall off the plants; stop and move on to the next plant. Repeat the application a few minutes later when the plants stop dripping. In July more than ever, never, never follow the frequently heard and disastrously bad advice of watering before fertilizing. Always substitute fertilizer for water: now and at every season. Roots saturated with water cannot absorb fertilizer but the prolonged wetness can rot your plants.

Don't give fungus the upper hand by wetting the plant's foliage and roots more often or longer than necessary. Careful watering is especially important throughout the rainy season.

The wise orchidist will have long since finished all of his potting of sympodials and the top working of his vandas but for the rest of us this is the eleventh hour. Autumn is closer than we think and vandas will need at least three months to settle in to their new baskets or pots before the first chill of October tickles their root tips. Unless you can protect them thoroughly from cold, *Vanda* top cuttings and keikies should not be made after the end of July. If you do take cuttings remember the "3 root rule". Count down from the crown and make the cutting beneath the third or fourth root. Keep as many leaves as possible on the stump and you will be rewarded with a greater abundance of offshoots. Always slip the sterile knife or shears down between the stem and the leaves and then cut transversely to save as many leaves as possible. Be sure to anchor the cutting firmly in its new lodging. Tie them up and tie them down! There is no time for mistakes in July.

Thrips are much less of a problem in July as the rain tends to wash them away and doubtless there is an abundance of other lush fodder for them elsewhere in our yards. They can reappear in a prolonged patch of dryness, so if you need to think of watering in July it may be dry enough to worry about Thrips. A prophylactic spraying for Thrips in July will also put a damper on scale crawlers. If a second spraying with soap follows the first by seven to 10 days, the population of mites will be scotched as well.

(Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month)