

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Dec. 2013

Orchid Paradise VAOS Annual Show & Sale February 1-2, 2014

The VAOS is proud to host the most popular orchid show on the west coast of Florida. Our show draws nationally known growers, AOS judges from across the country and close to 4,000 attendees from the tri-county area. We are also known for our great food and active participation from our membership. This is our major fundraiser for the year. All members who are physically able to help are encouraged to volunteer for 2-3 hours. Here are the areas where we need your help:

Set Up and Take Down - Arrive Friday 1/31/14 by 11:30am to set up the hall for exhibits, lay plastic, and assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs required. Join us for lunch. Arrive Sunday 2/2/14 by 3:45pm for take down and hall clean up. Four more people needed. Committee Chair: John Masters 474-3701

Clerks - Saturday 7:30am to 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! 16 more clerks needed. Committee Chair: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237.

Front Door Admissions - Sell admission tickets and

Continued on page 4

VAOS Holiday Party

We're having our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7th, 2013 at the Boca Royale Golf and Country Club, 1601 Englewood Road (S.R. 776), beginning at 5:30 pm. The gala event includes dinner, dessert, music, dancing and a fabulous orchid auction. The cost is \$25.00 per person and reservations and payments must be made by **December 1**.

There will not be a monthly meeting in December. The Growers Clinic will be on Thursday, December 12.

WWW.VAOS.ORG

Venice Area Orchid Society, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

A Message From Your President

Here is a wonderful letter I recently received from Peter S. Tobias, President of The Orchid Conservation Alliance:

"Please accept my profound thanks for your exceptionally generous contribution of \$1000 to the Orchid Conservation Alliance. Your donation will be sent in its entirety to Serra Bonita. Because the money we donate to Serra Bonita is matched by the World Land Trust, your donation will buy another 5 acres for that reserve. With your help we are on our way to donating \$50,000 to purchase primary Atlantic Rainforest to preserve the orchids of that exceptional orchid hotspot."



Cynthia Vance



Reserva Serra Bonita

to this article, that VAOS is preserving forever.

(Photos provided for reproduction by OCA/ IOSPE)

Many orchid societies give to OCA. OCA donated \$30,000 in 2013 to expand Reserva Serra Bonita in the southern part of Bahia, Brazil. Run by the Instituto Uiraçu, the reserve is projected to eventually encompass 18,000



Lockhartia lunifera Rchb. f.

acres. The OCA is actively seeking more donations for land acquisition at Reserva Serra Bonito.

In addition to donating annually to U.S. projects, I hope that VAOS can contribute more



Maxillaria leucaimata
Barb.Rodr.

Continued on page 5

Officers 2013 – 2014

President

Cynthia Vance, pres@vaos.org

Vice President - Programs

Jim Thomas, programs@vaos.org

Vice President - Social Affairs

Janice Felski, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Richard Amos, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Ali Hicks, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary & Mentor Coordinator

Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chairs

Jay & Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Immediate Past President & Webmaster

Ted Kellogg, tmkellogg@gmail.com

Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

showchair@vaos.org

Volunteers

The Cullens, Raffle Table

Judy Russell, Plant Table

Jerry Manegold, Technology

Sharon Schneider, Librarian

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 6, 2013 VAOS Meeting

Cynthia Vance welcomed everyone to the meeting, suggesting that members vote for their favorite orchid on the Plant Table. She referenced several tables with plants and merchandise for sale. Orchids from Plantio La Orquidea, Orchid Boutique merchandise, sold by Jane Camarota, and colorful orchid notecards by artist Carol Marcus were available for purchase. The Raffle Table also offered orchids. Cynthia thanked members who brought food items to be donated to the Center of Hope. New members were asked to stand and they were applauded.

Numerous upcoming events were outlined on pink handouts which were placed on chairs. Barbara Wagner will host a huge orchid sale Nov. 9th and 10th. A printed sheet provided all the details, including an extensive list of the orchids offered. Cynthia encouraged all to visit Barbara's sale.

Judy Loeffler announced a newly organized Tailgate Party, to be held prior to the next Growers Clinic on Nov. 14th. At 5:30pm, members and guests will bring chairs, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages and gather in the Venice Community Center parking lot. This will be an opportunity to get acquainted and share one's interest in orchids. Cynthia remarked that membership has reached record highs with over 200 households and 305 individual members. She thanked Jay and Judy Loeffler for their work to encourage and retain membership.

Cynthia presented information about the Dec. 7th Holiday Party at Boca Royale Golf and Country Club. Details were listed on the printed sheet. Reservations must be made by Dec. 1st.

Carol Wood, our Show Chair, reported progress toward the Feb. Annual Show, "Orchid Paradise." She expects attendance to be 3,500 to 4,000 paid admissions. Cost is \$5 per person. Members attend free if

Continued on page 4

Treasurer's Report

November, 2013

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
10/15/2013	\$	1,552.64
+ Income	\$	1,362.00
- Payments	\$	429.38
Closing Balance		
11/15/2013	\$	2,485.26

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance		
10/15/2013	\$	947.04
+Income		1,520.00
-Payments		504.14
Closing Balance		
11/15/2013	\$	1,962.90

Cash Account

Starting Balance		
10/15/2013	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
11/15/2013	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
10/15/2013	\$	25,030.28
+ Income		0.97
Closing Balance		
11/15/2013	\$	25,031.25

Total Assets

11/15/2013	\$	29,519.41
------------	----	-----------

Submitted by Ali Hicks

Support our 2013 Show Sponsors

Platinum

- Edgewood Nursery
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
- Raleigh & Associates
- Stanley Dean State Farm

Gold

- AAA Auto Group
- Burgundy Square Cafe
- Center For Sight
- Daiquiri Deck
- Dr. Frederick Bloom
- Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS
- Happy Puppy Pet Spa
- The Ramada Venice
- Silverstein Institute
- Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community

Silver

- Valenti's Allegro Bistro
- Scottie's Dawghouse And Catering Co.

Plant Table Awards November 6, 2013

The **First Place** ribbon was awarded to Cynthia Vance's plant Bc. Penny Helen 'Kudos' HCC/AOS. Her plant, a cross of C. Penny Kuroda x Bc. Memoria Helen Brown, had 18 flowers - apple green sepals, white petals with



Bc. Penny Helen 'Kudos' HCC/AOS

distinctive purple "lipstick" markings and a purple lip. An unusual eye catching color, this plant was awarded an HCC/AOS with just four flowers in 2002. Cynthia's plant also received the **Members Choice** award. Congratulations, Cynthia!

Cynthia also took the **Second Place** award for her plant Bc. Roman Holiday, a cross of C. Chocolate Drop x B.



Bc. Roman Holiday

nodosa. Beautiful fall colors of orange and yellow with a speckled red white lip. These are long lasting flowers that have the scent of roses.

Good growing, Cynthia!

Mary Anne DiGrazia won the **Third Place** ribbon for her plant Lc. Pure Soul 'Yutaka Morimoto'. Her plant, a cross of C. Dubiosa x Lc. Stephen Oliver Fouraker, had 10 large white flowers with yellow throats and purple darts on the lip. Although not an awarded clone, it is a



Lc. Pure Soul 'Yutaka Morimoto'

hybrid created by Dogashima Orchid Center in Japan in 1994, well known for their many awarded hybrids. Beautiful plant, Mary Anne!

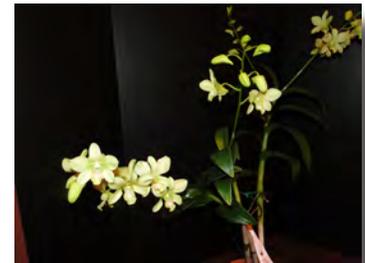
Our speaker, Ted Kellogg, chose Carol Wood's plant, Sophronitis cernua, for **Speaker's Choice**. Now Cattleya cernua, this is a Brazilian species that blooms October



Sophronitis cernua

-December. Carol's plant had 10 small orange/red flowers on two spikes. A miniature, this species requires bright light, warm temps, 75 - 80% humidity year round and grows best mounted.

Jean Becker received the **New Member** ribbon for her beautiful green Dendrobium. Her plant had 20 flowers and 14 buds, a lovely pale green flower with a pale pink throat. Although her plant did not have a label, we believe this plant is Den. Burana Green. Good growing, Jean!



Den. Hybrid

Carol Wood's plant, Enc. boothiana, received the **Best Species** ribbon. Carol won this plant as a small mounted seedling at the VAOS meeting raffle table in March 2006. It is native to Cuba, Belize, Mexico and Florida. It is now



Enc. boothiana

greatly depleted in Florida but can still be found in a few mosquito-infested swamps near Key Largo. It has small yellow/green flowers with brown bars and blooms reliably in November each year. This delightful little plant best demonstrates the need for us to work to protect our Florida native species.

Narrative by Carol Wood, photos by Cynthia Vance

Unusual Orchids At Which to Marvel



The Fly Orchid (left)
Scientific Name: Ophrys insectifera
Habitat: Europe
The Dove Orchid (right)
Scientific Name: Peristeria Elata
Common Name: Holy Ghost Orchid
Habitat: Central & South America



VAOS Annual Show & Sale (continued from page 1)

hand out programs Saturday and Sunday. 9 more people needed. Committee Chair: Elaine Ortt 485-5313

Security - 13 more volunteers are needed to monitor exit doors to prevent theft and to ensure visitors don't step into displays. Committee Chair: Bob and Cindy Czarnomski 612-554-8256

Membership Table - Sign up new members, sell books, distribute culture sheets and answer questions. Saturday and Sunday. 10 people needed. Committee Chair: Jay and Judy Loeffler 485-9569

Hospitality/Kitchen and Food - Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. We are famous for our food! On the sign-up sheet, please note the name of your dish and the day you will bring it. We also need 14 volunteers to assist with reheating food and clean up. Committee Chair: Linda and Bruce Hahn 408-7646

VAOS Exhibit - Set up Friday 1/31/14 1pm to 6pm and take down Sunday 4pm. Help set up and dismantle display materials, greenery, and plants. Clean and stake plants and prepare plant labels. 3 people needed. VP Displays: Rich and Mary Amos 552-6723

Signage - Set up and take down show banners and street signs before and after show. Committee Chair: Jay Koths 485-7521

Orchid Boutique - No additional volunteers are needed. Committee Chair: Jane Camarota 488-7283

Classification/Registration - No additional volunteers are needed. Committee Chair: Ted Kellogg 475-7029

Sign-up Sheets will be distributed again at our holiday

party 12/7/13 and finalized at our January meeting 1/8/14. Please note your t-shirt size when you verify the sign-up sheets at our January meeting. VAOS t-shirts will be distributed to all working volunteers by the committee chairs at the show.

Arts & Crafts - For our artistic members - get your entries ready for the arts & crafts table. Pre-register with Noreen so that we can prepare display signs. Bring them in Friday 1/31/14 between 2pm and 4pm. Committee Chair: Noreen Chervinski 505-1304

Patrons - If you are unable to volunteer at the show or bring food, please become a Patron by donating \$25.00. These funds will pay for beverages and kitchen supplies for volunteers and judges over the weekend. Mail your check to VAOS, P.O. Box 443, Venice, FL 34284 and mark it as Patron Donation. Your gift will be recognized in our newsletter.

Members who volunteer their time, bring food or make a patron donation will not be charged admission at the door.

Sponsors - Cynthia Vance is coordinating our corporate sponsor campaign again this year with a goal to raise \$4000. If you do business with a local professional, organization or business who you think may be interested in becoming a sponsor for our show, please contact Cynthia at 483-9165.

We have always relied on our member volunteers at our annual show. Your participation has been a huge part of the success we've enjoyed. Thank you for volunteering!

-Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, Show Co-Chairs

Minutes of the November 6, 2013 VAOS Meeting (Continued from page 2)

they are volunteering. Carol introduced Judy Loeffler as the new Co-Chair; Barbara Wagner continues to assist in many ways, providing her extensive knowledge and experience. Carol Marcus, the artist who created the beautiful Show poster, was introduced and the poster was unveiled. Members applauded enthusiastically. Sign-up sheets were distributed and members were encouraged to support the Show by volunteering.

Cynthia introduced our speaker, Ted Kellogg. Ted is Immediate Past-President of VAOS and our Web Master; he registers orchids for each Annual Show and makes many other contributions. Ted is an active AOS Judge and

has been growing orchids for more than 50 years.

Ted gave a brief history of how orchids were originally named and explained how names have changed over time. His PowerPoint presentation illustrated the meaning of each part of an orchid name. Understanding this information will make the names of our orchids more meaningful. It will help with researching our orchids and properly registering them for shows.

Plant Table orchids were presented by Ted Kellogg and Jim Thomas; awards were announced. The meeting was adjourned following the Raffle.

-Respectfully submitted by Peg Fahrenback

Members' Corner

I'm sure most of you remember reading about the adventures of Bruce and Victoria Weaver as they travelled through Southeast Asia on the hunt for orchids in exotic locales. Bruce recently mentioned that they were planning another trip next spring, this time to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, and Peru, highlighted by a trip to Machu Picchu.

He shares our opinion that orchids are everywhere and

will be keeping a sharp eye out during their travels. Cynthia Vance snapped this picture after our last meeting and we can tell that he's raring to get started!!



Bruce Weaver

-Article by Steve Vogelhaupt, photo by Cynthia Vance

Tailgate Party a Huge Success

We held our first ever Tailgate Party on Thursday, November 14, 2013 with more than 35 members attending the event. The weather cooperated, the food was great and everyone enjoyed the evening! The party was the first of a series of activities and events that will make it easier to get to know each other in informal social settings. A Potluck Party is planned for next spring at one of the pavilions at Caspersen Beach and details will be in future newsletters.

With no formal program or presentations before the following Growers Clinic, everyone had plenty of time to get acquainted, trade recipes, share orchid lore and secrets and enjoy the evening. Special thanks go to Jay and Judy Loeffler, Jimmy Thomas, and the others who helped organize the event!



-Article by Steve Vogelhaupt, photos by Cynthia Vance

VAOS Membership Dues Increase After Jan. 8 Monthly Meeting

At the October board meeting of the VAOS Directors, a decision was made to increase our annual dues to \$20 per household in order to cover our increasing costs of operation. We have not increased our dues for over a decade. The new rate will be effective Jan. 9, 2014. Members who join or renew by bringing their check to the Jan. 8 meeting may pay the current rate of \$15.

Dues must be received by January 8th so that you can be included in the 2014 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 Jay and Judy Loeffler, Membership Chairs, at memb@vaos.org. Thanks to all who have paid their dues and made corrections.

Please mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:
Ms. Ali Hicks, Treasurer
P.O. Box 443

President's Message (continued from page 1)



Dichaea pendula (Aubl) Cogn.

in the future. We are able to do this because you, our members, make VAOS a financially secure society -- through your donation of time (volunteering) or money (being a patron) for our annual orchid show. We look forward to your participation again in our upcoming "Orchid Paradise" show. Thank you!



V.A.O.S. IS NOW ON FaceBook

"Follow Us" and Share your Orchid Bliss
Search for us as

"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.

- **Speaker: Jim Roberts**
- **Topic: "A Few Encyclias to Enjoy"**
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 7, 2013:

VAOS Holiday Party, Boca Royale Golf and Country Club. \$25 per person. Dinner, dessert, music, dancing and a spectacular orchid auction. Open bar. **Reservations by December 1.**

December 12, 2013:

VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Topic: Open discussion with Q & A. Bring your problem plants for expert help.

January 8, 2014:

VAOS monthly meeting, 7 pm, Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL. Speaker: Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids. Topic: A Few Encyclias to Enjoy. Jim will have orchids for sale.

January 11-12:

Sarasota Orchid Show, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL.

Info: www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

January 16:

VAOS Growers Clinic. 7pm, Venice Community Center. Topic: Open discussion with Q & A. Bring your problem plants for expert advice. **Note:** This is a change from previously announced date.

January 17-19:

Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society Show, War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Info: www.flos.org

January 25-26:

Manatee River Orchid Society Show, Bradenton Municipal Auditorium, 1005 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton, FL. Info: www.manateeriverorchid-society.com

Planning Ahead:

January 31, 2014, VAOS Annual Show set up at Venice Community Center

February 1 & 2, 2014, VAOS Annual Show: Orchid Paradise

Saturday: 10am to 5pm (displays open at 11am)

Sunday: 10am to 4pm.

Ongoing:

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

Orchid Judging takes place at the **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: www.fncjc.shutterfly.com

Patronize Our Local Growers

• Honey Bee Nursery (941-474-6866)
2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776)
Englewood, FL

• Palmer Orchids (941-322-1644)
22700 Taylor Dr., Myakka City, FL
34251

• Plantio La Orquidea (941-504-7737)
3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota

December in Your Orchid Collection

Courtesy: Martin Motes, PhD., Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month

Progress of the Season December 2013

After an exceptional wet late start, early autumn has given way to an unusually cool and dry November. While there have been no extraordinarily cold nights, temperatures have been consistently and persistently somewhat below normal. The large weather systems that have produced these below average temperatures have also kept our air excessively dry. The growing season is definitely over for all of our seasonally growing sympodial orchids. This is a good thing; let those cool loving dendrobiums(see Fla. Orchid Growing, pp. 31-35 for which ones), catasetums, calanthe etc. rest. For our vandas, the cool and dry has been stressful. Weather like we have been having dictates that one rise early to water those vandas which warms them to about 60F (15C) giving them an early start on the warming of the day. On the windiest days, a second light pass of water late morning will help keep their roots in active growth.

Whilst the temperatures have been a little chill for our vandas, they have been just right for mites. The unusually dry conditions this November have also furthered their cause. Fortunately the weather has also been low enough to add oil to our arsenal against these pests. Three tablespoons of cooking oil in one gal of water, sprayed to cover all leaf surfaces top and bottom is very effective in controlling mites. Frequent agitation to maintain the oil in suspension is essential. Also essential is a second spraying in seven to ten days with a miticide (See Fla. O. Growing p. 171 for recommended chemicals). Liquid dishwashing soap, at 4 tablespoons per gal. is also very effective and serves to wash away some of the oil which can be damaging to our plants should the weather prove capricious and suddenly expose our plants to unseasonable high temperatures.

Weather like we have been having reminds us of why we live in South Florida: it should also remind us that setting our thermostats at 80 would allow us to enjoy the outside air nearly all year.

December Climate Data

Average high: 77.5

Average low: 62.2

Average mean: 69.9

Average rainfall: 2.18"

December marks the beginning of the serious dry season in South Florida. While this additional dryness provides relief from autumnal rains that can bring so many fungal problems, December is also the month of shortest day lengths. This contracted period of light, on the contrary, reduces severely the drying potential for our plants. Nature thus both gives and takes away from us in December. We must make sure, therefore, that we do not aid the dark side of the force by improper watering. In December, above all,

one must stick strictly to the cardinal principles of orchid watering: water early in the day so that your plants have as many hours as possible to dry, and water heavily when you water, allowing longer intervals between watering to dry plants thoroughly. This practice maximizes the benefit of the dryer air in December and minimizes the adverse effect of shorter day lengths.

When nature has delivered a light overnight or early morning rain as she often does in December at the leading edge of a cold front, add to her efforts by watering thoroughly that same morning and skip out watering for an extra several days afterwards. With this method you can use the general dryness of December to give yourself much of the advantage of a greenhouse in terms of controlling watering. As in all aspects of orchid culture, keen observation is the key to success. In cooler weather your plants need much less water. Moreover cool air even at the same relative humidity, strips less water from your plants because cool air has less water holding capability. Always be sure that your plants really need water before you roll out the hose in December. Remember to use at least one of the standard tests for dryness: the finger dug slightly into the media test or the newly sharpened pencil coming dry like a knife from a well-cooked custard, or test by hefting a pot that you know the weight of, both wet and dry and be sure that it has attained sufficient lightness. When you are sure they are dry, water them until you are sure they are very wet, then let the drying air of December do its magic to ward off leaf spotting diseases.

Himalayan dendrobiums of the *nobile* and *Callista* (*D. aggregatum*, *chrysotoxum*, etc.) Sections require no additional water (beyond rain) in December. Remember, those of you who water (or, even worse, fertilize) these dendrobiums in December, will be punished by having your flowers taken away in Spring. Some growers, who have the space, isolate these dendrobiums along with other types that want hard drying such as *Catasetum*, *Cynoches*, *Mormodes*, and *Calanthe*. Another strategy is to hang these plants high or at the edges of your collection reminding oneself to neglect them and also avoid watering them by mistake. Some growers achieve the same result by turning the pots of these genera on their side in November or December, to avoid catching water from whatever source. Plants of some of these genera that have finished flowering can even be removed from their pots and stripped to bare roots in anticipation of repotting them in new media when they break growth in the spring.

Most sympodial orchids are resting in December and require less fertilizer. Biweekly or even monthly applications of a balanced fertilizer or 15-5-15 are still desirable. Nitrate nitrogen is the most readily absorbed in cooler weather; therefore, at least one more application of the potassium nitrate/magnesium sulphate (at 1 tbs. each per gal.) recommended in November is still a good idea. It's good stuff! *Vanda*, *Phalaenopsis* and other monopodial orchids should be fertilized right through the winter although both the amount of fertilizer and the frequency of application can be reduced. Remember reddening of the foliage is not natural, nor is it a response to the cold per se but rather a symptom of nutritional deficiency. The plants are asking for more potassium and magnesium. Give them the groceries.

December can be cold. Frost has occurred in the first week of the month and unforgettably, the coldest temperatures ever recorded in South Florida were registered

on December 25, 1989. If you haven't taken some of the precautions outlined in the November Newsletter, get busy! Keep a close eye on the forecasts during this volatile month.

Remember that hard cane dendrobiums of the sections Spathulata and Phalaenanthe are the most sensitive of commonly cultivated orchids. They resent temperatures much below 60 degrees F. Phalaenopsis are next most sensitive, then vandas. Protect all these genera more carefully.

If you are getting a jump on Spring potting chores by repotting sympodial orchids that have finished blooming, it is particularly important that you take extra care in securing them in their containers. These plants may not be sending out new roots for several months, enough time for them to be shaken loose from insufficient staking. Passing cold fronts can bring brisk winds in December. When new roots start to form on insufficiently secured plants, wind moves the plant and chafes the new root tips off. Improperly secured plants are never able to root properly and slowly pine away. If you love them you must tie them up, tie them down. This is also especially true of mass produced orchids sold in Home Depot, K Mart etc. The soft, peat based media used to grow these commercially produced plants in the controlled environment of a greenhouse often does not provide sufficient purchase to secure the plants in the rough and tumble of a South Florida orchid collection buffeted by harsh winter winds.. You probably should already have re-potted them into more durable medium but until you do, tie 'em up"

Keep those vandas, phalaenopsis and hard cane dendrobiums as warm as you can. Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza!