

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

May 2014

**Next Meeting: Wednesday  
May 7th at 7:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Dr. Antonio Toscano  
Topic: "Sex, Lies and Orchids"**

Dr. Antonio Toscano is the director of the Orchid Division, Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota. Born in Brazil, he received his PhD from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, through the University of Reading and has completed several expeditions to the Amazon in search of Pleurothallids. The Pleurothallid alliance of New World orchids includes popular genera such as Masdevallia and Dracula and Dr. Toscano is the world's leading expert on the more than 4000 species of these amazing orchids.



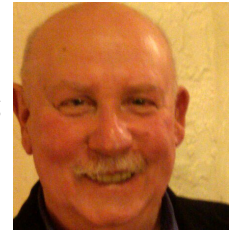
He recently completed a Global Plants Initiative project on the orchid diversity of the rapidly disappearing Atlantic rainforests of S.E. Brazil. VAOS continues to support conservation efforts in this area through our annual contribution to the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

He will discuss the unique form and structure of these orchids as well as their complicated and sometimes "erotic" pollination methods. He'll dazzle us with breathtaking photos from around the world, especially from Brazil.

Orchid Envy", one of our newer local growers, will have a selection of their beautiful plants and arrangements for sale.

## A Message from your President:

The message from the president gives me a chance to cover material that we really don't have time to cover during the meetings. I'm not going to do a summary of the past meeting except when a certain area should be brought to light. I will not use names for fear that my diminished capacity will exclude someone and cause hurt feelings.



John Masters

After the April meeting, our speaker, Rafael Romero, told me how impressed he was with the way the tech committee handled the details of his presentation. He especially liked the phone call before the meeting to determine his specific requirements. I really know what he means because I cannot turn the microphone on by myself. The techies made VAOS look very sharp and I would like to express my appreciation to them. By the way, I thought the raffle gang, the plant table group, and the social committee were outstanding also.

The April Raffle Table was spectacular. I gather, by now you all know that I love a big raffle table and it's not just about the income it generates. A big raffle generates energy at the end of the meeting that I hope you take away with you. I sensed a feeling of togetherness when the members start to gather at the raffle table even though you are competing against each other. Consider this part to be the official begging for you all to keep feeding the Raffle Table!

*Continued on page 5*

## VAOS Spring Orchid Greenhouse Tour

Our annual tour of three beautiful and unique growing areas is **next Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 9am-2pm**. Details may be found on page 7 of the April newsletter. Please note corrected directions from Venice for Jean & Jerry Becker below:

Take SR# 776 south to Manasota Beach Rd. and turn right. Continue on Manasota Beach Rd. for approximately **.6 miles** until reaching a left curve. Almost immediately after entering the curve, turn right onto Belvidere Road.

Travel about 125 feet and turn right onto S. Miami Rd. (just before the Japanese Gardens sign). Continue on S. Miami Rd. approximately **.3 miles** and look for the white Purple Martin gourd bird houses on the left. 5829 is directly across the street on the right.

Call Jean Becker at (941) 416-3050 in case you need further directions. **Note: Gopher turtles are along and in the road and No Parking is requested on the west side of S. Miami. When parking, please keep vehicles on paved surface.**

[WWW.VAOS.ORG](http://WWW.VAOS.ORG)

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

## Officers 2014 – 2015

### **President**

John Masters, [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Programs**

Bruce Weaver, [programs@vaos.org](mailto:programs@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Social Affairs**

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### **Treasurer**

Mary Amos, [tres@vaos.org](mailto:tres@vaos.org)

### **Recording Secretary & Mentor Coordinator**

Peg Fahrenback, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

### **Communications Director & Newsletter Editor**

Steve Vogelhaupt, [csec@vaos.org](mailto:csec@vaos.org)

### **Membership Chairs**

Jay & Judy Loeffler, [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Cynthia Vance, [CVance@vaos.org](mailto:CVance@vaos.org)

### **Annual Show Chairs**

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

[showchair@vaos.org](mailto:showchair@vaos.org)

### **Director, Education & Outreach**

Jim Thomas, [Education@vaos.org](mailto:Education@vaos.org)

### **Volunteers**

Matthew Rinder, Raffle Table

Jean Fairchild, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer/Gary Becker, Technology

Kathy Beck, Librarian

### **Newsletter Production**

Barry Zack

### **VAOS Printer**

Creative Technology of Sarasota

## Minutes of the April 2, 2014 VAOS Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting by recognizing Mary Anne Digrazia, who is now President of the Englewood Area Orchid Society. She also has contributed to VAOS extensively for many years. John enthusiastically reported that our first beach picnic was a big success. About 50 attendees socialized in the comfortable picnic pavilion at Caspersen Beach, enjoying hot dogs, sausages and a wide variety of food brought to share. John thanked Judy Loeffler and Janice Felski for organizing the event. Janice has now resigned as VP Social, and Sharon Kahnoski has been appointed as the new VP for Social Affairs. Sharon then discussed plans for the December Holiday Party. There are three options for party sites: Venice Community Center, where we would need 8-10 volunteers to help with set up and clean up; Boca Royale Golf and Country Club in Englewood; or Jacaranda West Country Club in Venice. Cost would be the same for each of the three options, \$25-\$30 per person. Members voted on each option, with the most hands raised for Boca Royale.

John introduced Barbara Wagner who reported on the May 17th bus trip to the Redland International Orchid Festival. Members may board the bus in Sarasota, Venice or Punta Gorda. Cost is \$37 per person, which includes entrance to the festival and a \$5 coupon discount for a \$25 plant. Participants were asked to bring their own food or purchase it

*Continued on page 5*

### **Treasurer's Report**

March, 2014

#### **Checking Account**

Starting Balance	
3/1/14 .....	\$ 2,349.99
+ Income .....	1,157.00
+ Transfer from Show .....	13,973.25
- Payments .....	3,112.59
Closing Balance	
3/31/14 .....	\$ 14,367.65

#### **Show Checking Account**

Starting Balance	
3/1/14 .....	\$ 17,223.25
+Income .....	0.00
+ Transfer to Checking .....	13,973.25
-Payments .....	250.00
Closing Balance	
3/31/14 .....	\$ 3,000.00

#### **Cash Account**

Starting Balance	
3/1/14 .....	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
3/31/14 .....	\$ 40.00

#### **Money Market Savings**

Starting Balance	
3/1/14 .....	\$ 25,034.54
+ Income .....	0.85
Closing Balance	
3/31/14 .....	\$ 25,035.39

#### **Total Assets**

3/31/14 .....	\$ 42,443.04
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*Submitted by Mary Amos*

## **2014 Show Sponsors**

### **Platinum**

- Absolute Aluminum
- Herald-Tribune Media Group
- Raleigh & Associates
- Stanley Dean State Farm

### **Gold**

- AAA Auto Group
- Frederick Bloom, MD
- Center For Sight
- Daiquiri Deck
- Edgewood Nursery
- Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community
- Davis & Beyer, DDS
- Kennedy-White Orthopaedics
- Pavilion Grill
- Silverstein Institute
- Venice Reg. Bayfront Health
- Retina Assoc. of Sarasota

### **Silver**

- Allegro Bistro
- Burgundy Square Café
- Happy Puppy Pet Spa
- Kerri's Jewels & Gems
- Orchid Envoy

## *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](mailto:csec@vaos.org)
- Written submissions are appreciated.



## Plant Table Awards April 2, 2014

Jim Thomas took the **First Place** ribbon for his tiny and delightful plant, *Rodrumnia Windsong x Tolumnia Elfin Star*. *Tolumnias* are part of the *Oncidium* family and are also referred to as equitant *oncidiums*. They are tiny plants that come in an amazing array of colors and are endemic to the Caribbean. You will often



*Rrm. Windsong x Tolu. Elfin Star*



*Den. Upin King 'Serenade'*

see these plants for sale at Home Depot or Lowe's. They require high humidity, bright indirect light, daily watering while in active growth and must dry out quickly. Their leaf span rarely exceeds 6-8". They are commonly grown in 2" pots and a 4" pot can be a specimen. Nice plant Jimmy!

Jerry Daenzer won the **Second Place** ribbon for his plant *Dendrobium Upin King 'Serenade'*. Jerry's plant, a cross of *Den. Wave King* and *Den. Upin Red*, had more than 120 flowers on 14

spikes! This *Dendrobium* requires a dry winter rest with little water or fertilizer during the winter months and also needs cooler temps to promote blooming. Jerry and his wife Mary are part time Venice residents and leave their orchids on their lanai and under trees for half of the year - proof that these beautiful plants can thrive without our constant attention. Good growing Jerry!

Tony Nacinovich won the **Third Place** ribbon for his *Phalaenopsis Memoria Regina Busse*. This is one of my favorite phals with unusually shaped pale yellow petals with magenta spots and a peachy cream lip. It is a cross of



*Phal. Memoria Regina Busse*

*Phal. Goldiana x Phal. Deventeriana*. A well grown phal, Tony, thanks for bringing it in!

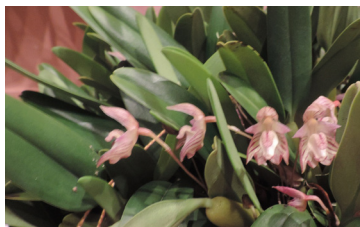
Rich Amos took the **Best Species** ribbon for his specimen plant of *Dendrobium friedericksianum*. Rich is an expert at growing specimen *dendrobium* plants - last month he took the first place ribbon for his *Den. primulinum*. Like *Den. primulinum*, *Den. friedericksianum* blooms on pendent, leafless stems and requires reduced water and no fertilizer during the winter



*Den. friedericksianum*

months. It is endemic to SE Thailand where grows on tall trees. Congrats Rich, a beautiful well bloomed plant!

Renee Bynum won **Speakers Choice** for her specimen plant of *Bulbophyllum ambrosia*. Pronounced bulb-oh-FILL-um, this species is native to Vietnam and China. It prefers shade to dappled light, strong air movement and perfect drainage. Bulbos have very distinctive flowers and this one was gorgeous with delicate pink striped flowers.



*Bulb. ambrosia*

Bulbos resent having their roots disturbed and will sometimes sulk for a year or two have being repotted.

A beautiful, well grown plant

Renee!

Cindy Royds took the **New Member** ribbon for her hybrid *phalaenopsis*. Nothing is lovelier than a well bloomed, graceful *phalaenopsis*. This one had multiple branched flowers with a red lip. Congratulations to our new member, Cindy, for a plant well grown!

Peg Hartley received the **Members Choice** award for her plant *Miltoniopsis* (syn. *Miltonia*) *Lennart Karl Gottling*. A cross of *Mps. Timberline* x *Mps. Pearl Ono*, her plant had 8 red/white flowers. *Miltonias* have very distinctive flowers all with "waterfall"-like markings on the lip. Typically cool growing, be sure to purchase a plant bred for warmth tolerance for our SW Florida climate. Congratulations Peg!



*Mps. Lennart Karl Gottling*

Photos by Ted Kellogg. Narrative by Carol Wood

# Bus Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival

By now, most of you are aware the super bowl of orchid shows is right around the corner, starting May 16th through the 18th. I am not trying to sell bus tickets. By now, you know whether you are taking the bus or not.

This piece is about what you might find if you go to this orgy of orchid sales. Picture 60 vendors from all over the world displaying their plants under pop-up shelters set along walkways in the 37 acre Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, Florida. This park is dedicated to 500 varieties of tropical fruit, flowers, plants, trees and vegetables. On any other weekend, this park would be worth the trip by itself. There are at least 10 vendors selling orchid related items ranging from books to clothing to jewelry. There is a food court that actually makes eating almost adventurous. Who doesn't want curried goat at an orchid sale? The first big tent is the show tent. The vendors have entered their best orchids for judging by AOS judges. This is probably the most spectacular gathering of killer plants in one place most of us will ever see. Do not miss this.

Mid-May at Redland is generally the starting time for the blast furnace weather we know and love in Florida. These will be the hottest first three days of the year. Luckily, we can count on a torrential downpour or two each day to cool us off. Almost like Woodstock with the medical emergencies.

The show opens at 9am on Friday and you can almost hear and feel the stampeding crowd entering the park. This is the day of the hardcore, degenerate, orchid buyers. Sound like anyone you know? This sale is known for its vast quantities of bare root orchids at great prices generally displayed in the lower racks of the tents. The Friday crowd will be on hands and knees examining every plant in every tent. Twice! This is an easy day for the vendors who are not at their best on Friday morning after the party Thursday night sponsored by the organizers of the sale.

Saturday the busses start arriving. This is a crowd that knows four hours goes real quickly when you are trying to see every plant in every tent. This is why it pays to

*Redland Orchid Festivals, Inc. presents*



18th Annual  
**REDLAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
ORCHID FESTIVAL**

**May 16-18, 2014**

9:00AM - 5:00PM

**Fruit & Spice Park  
24801 SW 187th Ave.  
Homestead, Florida**

*America's Favorite  
Orchid Festival!*

admission - \$10  
children under 12 - free

visit the website (you'll find it) and make a map of the park and locate the vendors you must see. I can't begin to offer a game plan other than to warn you that thinking too much does not work. If you see the plant of your dreams, pick it up and buy it. It won't be there when you get back. Luckily, everyone has a different idea what the dream plant is. Bring your own food. You won't have time to feed and shop correctly. I will be there all weekend, mostly around tent 14 with Rafael. Mostly means in and out, but mostly in.

Sunday is the vulture crawl day with everyone looking for the last day sale bargains. I learned this my first year selling there when a small but intensely loud woman started screaming "Last day sale" over and over so fast I had no idea what she was saying. It was a little scary. The real vultures drag carts the size of mini-vans around and attempt to fill them from whatever hasn't been sold; primarily from foreign vendors who don't want to ship the plants home or who have not made a local connection to unload on. By 5pm I hate orchids and selling orchids. I need an I.V. and 12 hours sleep. And then I get sick for three days and depressed for a month. I love Redland!!

*Submitted by John Masters*

## Facebook Reminder

Our Facebook page is alive and well and has many visitors and followers with lots of neat ideas, gorgeous photos, and culture tips. Once you logon to Facebook, search for us as [VeniceArea OrchidSociety](#).

We've recently received inquiries as to the best place to post member requests for orchid sitters while on vacation, orchids and orchid supplies, and other orchid related matters. Our Facebook page is an ideal venue for such notices as more and more of our members join the fun.

When you post on Facebook, please be aware of the need for safeguarding sensitive information. Remember that what you post is available to all users! Don't give out the dates and destination of your vacation, your address or other personal info. Interested members can contact you via Facebook "Message" which is private between members, allowing you to make the necessary arrangements.

*Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt/J. Loeffler*





### Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip

While we're all aware of the need for good drainage for virtually all our potted orchids, we sometimes find ourselves faced with unique situations requiring a unique solution.

Whenever you pot/repot an orchid into a large or deep pot, special attention needs to be given to adequate drainage, no matter what the potting medium. The orchid may be destined for a show specimen, rather than being divided, or may have a large root mass, such as a cymbidium, which shouldn't be disturbed.

This is the ideal time to use an inverted two inch plastic pot over the central drainage hole of the clay pot, as shown. The empty plastic pot is kept in place by the non-biodegradable foam peanuts and potting media that you normally use and prevents the drainage hole from becoming plugged by decomposing media.

The plastic pots are available from Honey Bee Nursery on SR 776 or from various orchid supply vendors online.

Join us for the VAOS Growers Clinic the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7pm, VCC.

*—Submitted by Richard Amos, photos by Steve Vogelhaupt*

### President's message continued from page 1

Having sat in the back of the room for many years and then moving to the podium is a bit of a jolting experience. Cynthia (I know I used a name), made it look easy. I am starting to get used to it and realized I actually enjoyed the meeting. Every now and then, I looked over to the membership table where most of the directors sit. I could be wrong, but I think they are almost starting to relax. I know they were wondering how far off the reservation I would stray once I had a microphone in my hand; just wait until I find a gavel! I used to heckle a bit and I certainly would not be surprised if it happens to me but do

ask that the heckling be clever.

We are currently working on some projects for the coming year that should prove entertaining and hopefully a bit educational. We are talking about reviving the members' plant sale in the fall and inviting commercial growers to participate. It could be a really satisfying day if we get a lot of participation from the group. I started something like this in Englewood many years ago and it was a big hit.

Enough already.... Come to the May meeting. Bring a friend, bring a plant, bring a snack!

### Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

at the festival, as the bus will not stop for meals. Checks are to be sent to Mary Amos, Treasurer; May 10 is the final date for sign-ups.

John discussed the upcoming Spring Home & Garden Tours, referring to a printed sheet providing detailed information. Saturday, April 26th, VAOS members will be welcomed into the homes/gardens of Jean & Jerry Becker, Jimmy & Gerry Thomas and President John Masters. John will have plants for sale. John also announced Tropiflora's 15th annual Spring Festival and distributed coupons for \$5 off a \$25 plant purchase.

Jimmy Thomas reported the next Growers Clinic will be a "hands-on" potting class. Members are to bring one plant and one pot; other supplies will be provided.

John Masters reported the increasing presence of our

VAOS Facebook page, initiated by Jay Loeffler. A group called Florida Orchid Growers recently posted a May 4th picnic and orchid swap at the home of John Roche in Punta Gorda. Details are on Facebook. John also complimented members for bringing magnificent plants for the Plant Table and the Raffle Table. He reminded members to support the Raffle Table through donations.

John introduced our speaker, Rafael Romero, who presented the topic "Orchid Tales." Rafael is one of our local growers; he owns Plantio La Orquidea on Tallevast Road in Sarasota.

Jimmy Thomas and Renee Bynum presented orchids from the Plant Table and announced awards. The meeting was adjourned following the Raffle.

*Respectfully submitted by Peggy Fahrenback*

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, May 7, 7:00pm**  
**at Venice Community Center**

- **Speaker:** Dr. Antonio Toscano
- **Topic:** "Sex, Lies and Orchids"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

## Upcoming Events

**April 26(Saturday):** Spring Orchid Greenhouse Tour, 9am-2pm. **Note change for driving directions on page 1.**

**May 7(Wednesday):** VAOS monthly Meeting, 7pm, Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice. Speaker: Dr. Antonio Toscano, Topic: Sex, Lies and Orchids -. Orchid Envy, our guest vendor, will have plants for sale.

**May 15(3rd Thursday) note- Change from usual date:** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Renee Bynum, Topic: Paphiopedilum (Slipper Orchids) 101. Bring your questions and problem plants for expert advice.

**May 17(Saturday):** VAOS Bus Trip to 2014 Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL.

### Ongoing:

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, [rsec@vaos.org](mailto:rsec@vaos.org)

Orchid Judging takes place at **Christ the King Catholic Church, Mc-Loughlin Center – Room C, 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609.** at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

**V.A.O.S.**

**IS NOW ON FaceBook**  
**"Like Us" and**  
**Share your Orchid Bliss**  
**Search for us as**  
**"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"**



## 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
- Florida SunCoast Orchids  
(941-322-8777),  
8211 Verna Bethany Rd.,  
Myakka City, FL.
- Orchid Envy, 339 Venice Ave.  
West, Venice, FL  
Tel: (941) 266-6351

# When to Start Fertilizing in Spring

February 2013

By Dr. Courtney Hackney, [hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:hackneau@comcast.net)

The only real rule of orchid growing is that the rules are just guidelines. Winter was brief and many different orchids are blooming earlier and initiating growth early relative to most years. Orchids that rely on day length instead of temperature for blooming are following their normal blooming and growth pattern. Readers of this column know my normal advice is to limit fertilizer applications to warmer months, but this year is different because the environment where my orchids are growing has been different. My orchids that rely on temperature to start are in a different growth stage than those that rely on day length. How do I know that some have started their growth cycle and others not? Should fertilizing applications begin if some orchids are growing and others are not?

There are many hanging orchids in my greenhouse, not just because of space, but because they are some of the "canaries" that tell me how my orchids are interpreting light levels and temperatures. Especially important in my greenhouse are bifoliate cattleyas, such as *C. leopoldii* and *C. guttata*. When these species initiate their new growth, spring is officially here no matter what the calendar says and they are getting close to initiating new growths.

Many of my spring blooming cattleyas and papahs are orchids that use temperature to tell them when to grow and flower. Unfortunately, this year these will be finished flowering when the spring orchid shows need exhibition plants. Many of these have almost always bloomed within a week or so of the same time each year, but this year will be an exception based on buds I see swelling in the sheaths.

When orchids initiate new growths, it is time to begin using fertilizer regularly and at higher doses. After several months of flushing during the fall and winter, nutrients adhering to media have largely been lost or used up. During the last several years, I have limited fertilizers in an attempt to avoid producing lush foliage that can be attacked by bacteria and fungi.

There are some orchids that do receive regular fertilizer, albeit at lower levels in winter. Those include orchids that are growing and blooming such as phals and papahs, which I keep in different places. Many cymbidium growers follow a similar fertilizer regimen, but use fertilizer higher in phosphorus, the middle number, starting in fall.

Hobbyists with just a few plants have an easier time making the decision because they can look at each plant and decide to fertilize or not. This is really easy if Nutricote, which lasts six months, is your fertilizer of choice. The balanced formulation is an excellent one for all orchids and safe to use. I usually add it to the surface of the medium in early March, but recommend adding it now if your orchids are starting to grow new leaves or breaking eyes for new pseudobulbs. If you cannot find Nutricote in your local store, check with Carter & Holmes Orchids. They sell small quantities. If your temperatures

have not been as warm as here in north Florida, you might need to wait a little longer. Let your orchids tell you when you need to begin adding fertilizer.

It will be interesting to see if there will be extra bulbs or leaves this year with a longer growing season.

*Editor's notes:* Although the article was written in 2013, it could just as well have been written for this year, as conditions are similar, if not identical.

Experts from our Growers Clinic recommend the use of Dynamite extended release fertilizer (in the red container) rather than Nutricote for our climatic conditions. Dynamite is locally available from Home Depot.