

Venice Area Orchid Society News

September 2014

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
September 3rd at 7:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Alan Koch

Topic: Mini Cattleyas in Warm Climates

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleyas. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

Alan will have plants for sale and you may pre-order plants at 20% discount from the his website:

www.goldcountryorchids.com



A Message from your President:

Growing orchids and attending society meetings is very similar to going to college. If you spend enough time and occasionally pay attention, you may actually start to learn the subject matter. Don't look for that to happen in this message, which is strictly intended to be entertaining as opposed to educational.



John Masters

When you first start with orchids you are bombarded with choices. Same thing at school. Which class, which orchid? What do I buy, what do I study? What can I learn, what can I grow? We generally start buying anything that is blooming. Never heard of culture requirements and couldn't care less. More blooms means more happiness. How important could a plant's needs be? One of my first suicides was an exotic named Dracula (and yes it really looked like a vampire bat). This guy threw himself against the windshield when he realized he had been kidnapped to the blazing heat of Florida.

After a year or two we realize what light, temperature and water really means to an orchid. Then we take steps to satisfy those requirements. We are still buying many varieties but they are more suited to grow for us. We're not afraid of them any more and now we take more classes. We start learning about famine and plague and fertilizers and insects. We start to participate in class and we bring plants to the meeting for the plant table.

We visit the different fraternity houses and we go on member home orchid growing area tours to see how the others party and grow orchids. From what I hear, VAOS has a Ph.d in both areas. Now we are putting plants in shows and winning ribbons but we have to choose a major to really shine. Big cattleyas, small cattleyas, dendrobiums, phals, encyclias and so on. The we go a little deeper. Colors, species, hybrids, mounted, potted, on trees or rocks. There are no easy answers. It really does take years to find your major. Part of your graduate work will be going to seminars and symposiums and shows that you have to travel to attend. Surviving the hotel part is 60% of your final grade.

Ridge Orchid Show

September 20-21

Your blooming plants are needed to create a winning VAOS display.

See page 8 article for details.

Continued on page 5

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2014 – 2015

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Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

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showchair@vaos.org

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Newsletter Production

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Minutes of the August 6, 2014 VAOS Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting with announcements. He commended the Englewood Area Orchid Society for hosting an excellent July Joint Meeting, which many VAOS members attended. This was a Joint Meeting of VAOS and Englewood, with many Englewood members in attendance. John welcomed all Englewood and Sarasota Orchid Society members. They were asked to stand in recognition. John welcomed and recognized all new VAOS members and guests.

There are many VAOS events planned for the months ahead. John announced the Ridge Show in Lakeland will be September 20 and 21. Members were encouraged to prepare their plants by staking and grooming them for the show. Orchids for the show may be dropped off and will be transported to Lakeland. Sarasota is hosting a bus trip to EFG Orchids near DeLand, FL, Oct. 24th; VAOS members are invited. There will be German food, orchid vendors and music. A sign-up sheet was available. A VAOS Greenhouse Tour is being planned for October. Judy Russell has volunteered to host, but other hosts are needed. The American Orchid Society has invited VAOS to present a table top display in Orlando, FL Oct. 29 through Nov. 2 at their AOS Fall Meeting/Slipper Orchid Symposium; Rich Amos, Jay Loeffler and their team will assemble this display. In addition, the Sarasota Society Orchid Show will be January 3-4 of 2015.

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Treasurer's Report

August - 2014

Checking Account

Starting Balance	
7/1/14	\$ 14,697.81
+ Income	\$ 10.00
- Payments	\$ 2,939.28
Closing Balance	
7/31/2014	\$ 11,768.53

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance	
7/1/14	\$ 2,930.66
+Income	0.00
-Payments*	\$ 2,930.66
Closing Balance	
7/31/2014	\$ 0.00

Cash Account

Closing Balance	
7/31/2014	\$ 40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance	
7/1/14	\$ 25,037.88
+ Income	0.85
Closing Balance	
7/31/2014	\$ 25,038.73

Total Assets

7/31/2014	\$ 36,847.26
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Submitted by Mary Amos

*Transfer to checking

Support Our 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

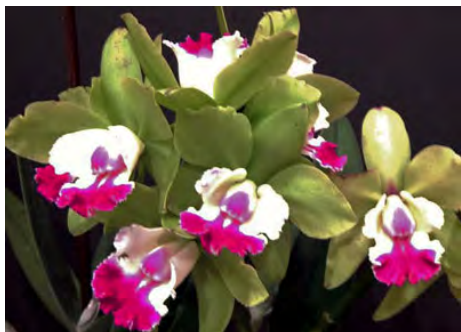
Venice Area Orchid Society News

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
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Plant Table Awards August 6, 2014

Joanna Shaw took the **First Place** ribbon for her plant Lc. Green Veil 'Dressy'. For those of you partial to green cattleyas, this one should be on your list. Waxy green petals and sepals with a brilliant white and purple lip. A cross of Lc. Cuiseag x C. Landate, it is a compact growing cattleya. Very nice, congratulations Joanna!



Lc. Green Veil 'Dressy'

The **Second Place** Ribbon went to Judy Russell for her plant Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS. A very popular orchid due to its vibrant color, it had huge yellow petals with red flares and a red lip. It is a cross of Blc. Faye Miyamoto x Blc. Waianae Flare. Beautiful, thank you Judy for bringing it in to share!



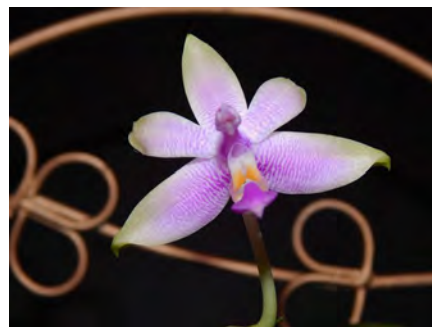
Blc. Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz'

Ed Opatrny from EAOS took both **Third Place** and **Members Choice** for his plant Blc. Eagle Eye (now named Rlc. Taida Eagle Eye). A beautiful 6" white flower with a yellow throat, it is a cross of Blc. Meditation x C. Madeleine Knowton. Nothing is more alluring than the simplicity of a large white cattleya. Congrats Ed!



Blc. Eagle Eye

Ed Opatrny also took the **Best Species** Ribbon for his plant Phal. violacea. This species is native to Borneo, Sumatra and Maylasia, usually growing on trees near low-land rivers. It requires warm, humid and shady conditions and should be kept moist. If you want to try growing a Phalaenopsis species, this one is a good choice. Congrats Ed!



Phal. violacea

We had a tie for **New Member Award!** Jerry and Kathy Beck received the ribbon for their plant V. Bangkhuntian x V. Siraprapa, a pretty pumpkin colored vanda (formerly Ascocenda). Charlie Rogg won her New Member Ribbon for her plant Phal. pulcherrima (formerly Doritis), a terrestrial species native to India through Borneo that grows in shaded, sandy well drained soil. Note that new member Charlie drives all the way from Bradenton to join us. Congratulations to Jerry, Kathy and Charlie for their awards.



V. Bangkhuntian x V. Siraprapa



Phal. pulcherrima

—Photos by Steve Vogelhaupt, narrative by Carol Wood

Northwest Thailand – an Orchid Paradise (Part 1)

A trip to Thailand in the monsoon season and shortly after a military coup – who could have planned it any better? Only yours truly, although I knew that the chances of seeing blooming orchids in the wild were pretty slim.

Leaving sunny Venice on a Monday morning, I arrived in Chiang Mai late on Wednesday afternoon, after stops in Charlotte, Los Angeles, Manila, and Bangkok to change planes. Disoriented by the many time zones and the International Date Line, I checked into my hotel, where I learned that our daughter, from New Zealand, would not be joining me as planned due to her husband being hospitalized for surgery. The next few days were spent in Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand, located more than 700 kilometers north of Bangkok, and home to seven universities and approximately 1.5 million residents. In spite of daytime temperatures of 104 degrees plus and tremendous rains in the afternoons, I had a chance to tour the many temples for which the city is famous and experience the great Thai cuisine in the many street and night markets.

I had arranged for a guide, driver, etc. for a three day orchid tour in Hong Son province, the most remote province in Thailand, bordering Myanmar, but found that the two daily flights in a twelve passenger plane were booked for the foreseeable future. Opting for a rental car rather than the motor bike I had used in Chiang Mai, I set out on the infamous Hong Son Loop, consisting of almost 600 miles and 1,684 curves up and down the mountainous terrain.



Hong Son Province

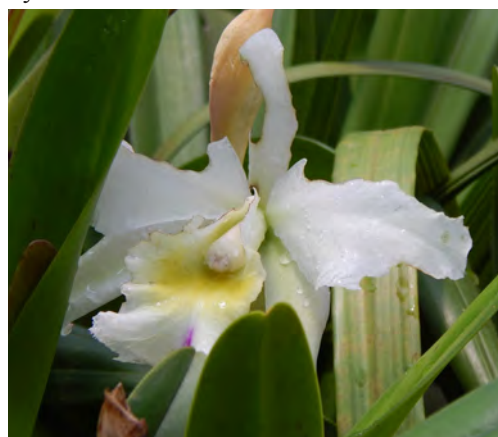
Gorgeous mountain scenery was tempered by the heavy thunderstorms and the many police, military and border patrol checkpoints. I spent the night in a beautiful bungalow in the midst of rice paddies and fish farms in the small town of Pai, best known for the hippies who congregated there in the 60's and 70's. The next day I reached Mae Hong Son, the provincial capital and a laid-back town of 6000 people and met with John, a longtime native of Hong Son, and undoubtedly the best guide for custom orchid tours. We had decided to camp in the na-

tional parks at night to avoid the long trips back to town but reconsidered in light of numerous landslides in the parks we wanted to visit.



The Three Musketeers

John and his driver picked me up shortly after day-break the next morning in their 20+ year old Toyota Land Cruiser and we set out for Tham Pla-Pha Suea NP where we hoped to see some of the sixty eight orchid species endemic to the province. Our first stop was at the Pang Tong Summer Palace and Agriculture Projects Center where we toured orchid research greenhouses and where I saw a rather faded *C. Queen Sirikit* (*C. Bow Bells* x *C. O'Brieniana*) which had been named in honor of Queen Sirikit by Black and Flory in 1958. The International Orchid Register identifies this orchid as *C. Queen Sirikit*. This was the only cattleya that I saw during my month long stay in Thailand.



C. Queen Sirikit

I spotted a very low screened greenhouse in a very shaded part of the grounds with a number of brown seed pods hanging from irrigation misters suspended above several teak logs where several small orchids were visible. John finally managed to find one of the project botanists who told us that the seed pods were mature pods from cymbidiums rescued from orchid poachers and

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President's message continued from page 1

VAOS students are lucky because we have a continuing education program. We have tutors we call mentors. We have a new dean who you will meet at the next meeting. We also have the ever popular Grower's Clinic taught by Dr. Jimmy. Using these programs is the way to maximize the curricular presented by an orchid society that understands what you need.

By the way, you will never graduate.

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for September 2014

If you like to grow your plants in a basket, whether plastic or wood, you have a problem of the media falling through the cracks and holes. One of the best products to use to line the baskets is Sheet Moss. It costs about \$6.00 a bag and can be purchased from orchid suppliers and most garden centers. One bag will line several baskets. It also allows those "strange plants" that send their flower spike down through the bottom of the basket an easy egress out and it does not inhibit the root growth. It doesn't have the restrictions that plastic gutter has and is easier to cut and shape to the basket.

Join us for the VAOS Growers Clinic the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next Growers Clinic - Stakes & Clips - will be held Sept 11th, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Bring your problem plants for expert advice. Guests are always welcome

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas



Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

Our speaker, Courtney Hackney was selling both orchids and a book he published titled "American Cattleyas." John advised that Courtney was selling this book to VAOS members at a huge discount at the meeting. The August Growers Clinic will focus upon "Potting Without Pots," offering hands-on instruction for mounting an orchid.

After the break, Bruce Weaver, VP Programs, introduced Dr. Hackney, describing his extensive background in growing, hybridizing and studying orchids, specializing in Classic Cattleyas. Courtney Hackney is a Professor of Biology at the University of North Florida where he is Director of Coastal Biology. His PowerPoint presentation outlined historical aspects that impacted the commercialization and growth of the orchid industry. He presented the history of hybridizing for color characteristics over the past 50-60 years. Numerous color photos in his book beautifully illustrate this information.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Peggy Fahrenback ,
Recording Secretary*

'Stakes and Clips' VAOS Growers Clinic September 11th, 7pm, Venice Community Center

Do you know the difference between 9 and 14 gauge wire? Would you rather pay \$1.75 for a 3-pack of rhizome clips or less than \$1.00 to make several clips? The clips can be made to fit each size pot.

We will learn how to make these clips and plant stakes from lengths of wire and save us \$\$\$\$\$. You will need to bring a pair of Engineering Pliers and yourself. We will have some wire for you to practice bending.

Engineering or "Lineman" Pliers can be purchased at Lowes or Home Depot for \$10 to \$23. Choose a pair that fits your hand comfortably.

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas



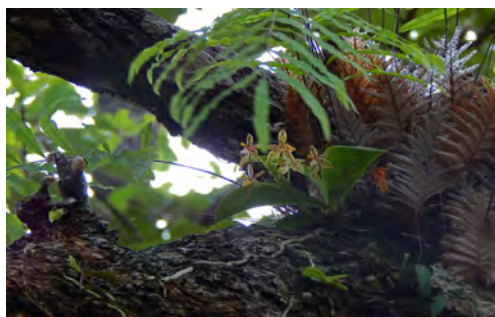
Northwest Thailand – an Orchid Paradise (Part 1) Continued from page 4

that the logs either had been inoculated with (or naturally contained) the appropriate fungus, possibly rhizoctonia, for the germination of the seed falling from the pods. The misters were programmed to emit the exact amount of moisture for germination. The small orchids on the logs appeared to be thriving and the botanist thought they might be relocated in another six months.



In situ cymbidium propagation

Meanwhile, our driver had been consulting some of the military personnel providing security for the compound as to the state of what he optimistically called roads. Assured that the road under construction had actually been completed the previous week, we set out for Pang Ung Lake and Doi Lan, the highest mountain in Hong Son province and within sight of the Myanmar border. John and I hiked through the forest while our driver went ahead and we immediately spotted literally dozens of orchids in the dense jungle, mostly high in the trees. While most were out of bloom and impossible to identify, we did find two flowering orchids that I was able to photograph with my Nikon 830 mounted on a steady tripod.



Phal. cornu-cerv



Robiquieta succisa

We lunched in the cab of the truck as it was raining pretty steadily, dining on homemade green papaya salad, cold noodles and spicy chicken, finishing with sticky rice, coconut milk and sliced mango from John's garden. With both the rain and the road getting steadily worse, we passed Pang Ung Lake and several small Hmong villages where the water buffalo were enjoying the rain and steadily climbed towards Doi Lan, lost in the clouds and rain. By the time we reached the summit at 6430 feet, the sun was shining brightly and John and I decided to climb a small tree to photograph a blooming orchid. Unfortunately, we disturbed several nests of red ants that used the leaves as shelter from the rain. Thankfully, red ants are one of the few species of insects that aren't poisonous in Thailand, but inflict very painful bites nevertheless and we must have made a real sight as we scrambled to get out of our clothes. I'd be grateful for an identification of this orchid as well as corrections throughout the article.



Water buffaloes at play



Unidentified orchid - Doi Lan

The road down the other side of the mountain was much better and John and I were able to take a couple of dozen more photos of mystery non-blooming orchids, mainly bulbophyllum and dendrobiums, while our driver was busy filling his backpack with wild mushrooms. We recuperated back at my hotel with a bit of local brew and then all had dinner at the Crossroad Bar.

The next morning, we headed south to the Mai Samat Waterfall, approximately 50 miles south east of Mae Hong Son, passing several Hmong villages along the way. Our driver spotted a large clump of flowering orchids in a tall tree which I was able to photograph, but not identi-

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Northwest Thailand – an Orchid Paradise (Part 1) Continued from page 6

fy. The same orchids were numerous for the next couple of miles and John decided to stop at the next village to see if anyone could identify them, or more likely, had “borrowed” one to decorate their home. Although several were visible along the street and hanging from roofs, the villagers had no information other than that they flowered almost overnight after heavy rains.



We finally reached the water fall(s) later in the afternoon but had to continue on as a military checkpoint made it clear that photography was not allowed, for whatever reason. As usual, the soldiers were in their combat uniforms, complete with helmets and flak vests in the 100 degree heat, armored personnel carriers and machine guns, but polite once they saw a foreigner in the truck.

Always having a Plan B in mind, John detoured us to Pha Bong Hot Springs, one of the numerous hot springs in the area. We were the only visitors and had the chance for a dip in the clear water. The springs were in a deep valley and we saw numerous clumps of what we identified as *Den. fimbriatum* growing on small trees and old fence posts in the dappled shade. On the way back home, we saw a number of leafless orchids growing both on trees and rocks which we were unable to positively identify, although John thought they might be *Chiloschista lunifera*. John also “rescued” a small orchid which had fallen out of a tree.



Chiloschista lunifera ?



rescued orchid

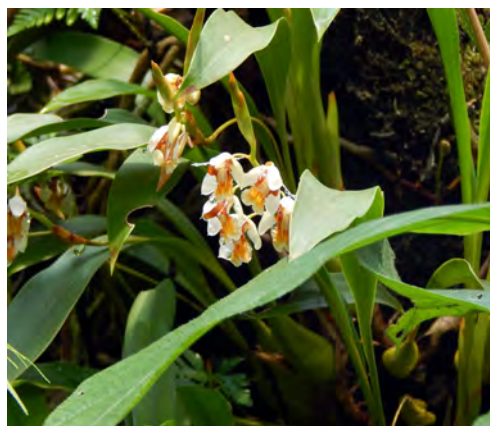
The last day started with heavy rain and a major power outage due to landslides between Chiang Mai and Hong Son. With our planned trip to the Mae Surin NP rained out, John decided that we would have better weather further south, so headed towards the Mae Sariang Royal Project (MSRP) and the adjacent co-

nifer and deciduous dipterocarp forest. As I had planned to spend a few days in Mae Sariang on the way back to Chiang Mai, I checked out of my hotel and we convoyed in two vehicles.

The Royal Project concept was developed by the present Thai king and other members of the royal family in 1969 and continues to this day. The aim is to improve the living conditions of the northern indigenous tribes by replacing opium production with sustainable agriculture and horticulture, improved infrastructure and local health and social services. MSRP encompasses approximately 35 square miles at an altitude of 2500-3200 feet and has an average climate of 75 degrees. Met by the project director, we were treated to lunch and then a short tour to observe the Karen and Lua women weaving tapestries while the men were weaving large baskets to store rice and produce. We then hiked a couple of miles through gorgeous forests to the Mae Kok waterfall where I was astounded at the vast number of orchids in the trees and shady nooks. On the way back to the project, we saw the many opium fields that had been converted to cabbage, cauliflower and pumpkin as well as orchards of Chinese apricots and other large tracts that had been left to return to their natural state.



Another mystery orchid



Pholidota articulata

Story and photos by Steve Vogelhaupt

Ridge Orchid Show September 20-21

The Ridge Orchid Society's 52nd annual show at the Lake Mirror Center in Lakeland FL will be held Sept 20-21. Set up is Friday Sept 19th at 10am. Rich and his display team will travel to Lakeland on Friday Sept 19th to put in the VAOS display, returning on Sunday Sept 21st for take down.

We need your blooming plants to create a winning display! We will collect and transport your plants to the show and ensure their safe return to you on Monday following the show.

1. Bring your plants to one of three locations by Thursday Sept 18th, 8pm:

- South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia) 497-4995
- North Venice: Jim Thomas, 453 S. Shore Dr., Osprey, FL 966-2479
- Sarasota: Rich Amos, 413 East Lake Dr., Sarasota 552-6723

2. All plants must be registered in advance by Wednesday, Sept 17th.

- Email your plant name with size and color description of the flowers to Carol Wood, ShowChair@vaos.org

3. Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease and labeled with both the plant name and the owner's name. Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend show.

If you would like to participate in setting up our display, help with take down on Sunday, help transport plants and materials to the show, or need further information, contact Rich Amos, VP Displays, at 552-6723.



Fall Home Orchid Growing Area Tour Saturday October 18th, 9am - 1pm

This year's fall tour will include three homes located within a three mile radius of each other in the south Venice area, allowing ample time for visits. Please plan to join us to see how these VAOS members grow their orchids.

Judy Russell (Gulf View Estates off Rt. 776) - Judy would love to show everyone "Her Way" of growing orchids. Although she only has about 65 orchid plants, she feels that the newer members may get some easy ideas on expanding their space to accommodate more orchids. She has many types of orchids and many require different lighting. She can show you how to enjoy making orchid growing fun.

Steve Vogelhaupt (Jacaranda Blvd. and Rt. 776 intersection) - Steve tells us that his very first orchid died but he did not give up and we will all be so grateful

when we visit his display. There are close to 200 orchids scattered throughout the front and backyard. Most are on aluminum or plastic units, others hanging from the lanai roof and walls. The collection is mainly cattleyas and dendrobiums, along with encyclias, vandas, and tolimnias.

Carol Wood (Venetia off Jacaranda Blvd. near Rt. 776 intersection) - Carol grows 450+ orchids in her pool cage. It has become the orchid paradise she always dreamed of when she moved to Venice in 2003. Her collection includes cattleyas, encyclias and phalaenopsis. Gain ideas on growing orchids in a confined space.

We will include directions to all the homes at the October meeting as well as in our October newsletter and on our website.

Submitted by Sharon Kahnoski

Barbara Wagner Orchid Collection Sale - Saturday, Sept 6th

- Saturday, September 6th, 2014
- 9 AM-2 PM (or by appointment, please call 941-923-7706)
- Cash Only
- Orchids, pots, supplies, and benches-also a fertilizer tank
- 6834 Anchor Way, Sarasota, 34231
- Corner of Anchor Way and Regatta Dr.
- Please use the side gate on Regatta Dr.

Florida SunCoast Orchids Greenhouse Sale September 5 - 7

Jim Roberts, one of our favorite annual VAOS show vendors, will hold a greenhouse sale on September 5th through 7th at his nursery located at 8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL. Choose from 1000s of orchids for sale including Cattleya, Brassavola, Broughtonia Hybrids, Encyclia Species and Hybrids, Eppicatts, Dendrobiums, Vandas, Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums.

Visit Jim's website FloridaSunCoastOrchids.com for more information.

In Memoriam

Norma Jean Mueller died 31 March 2014. Norma Jean was co-founder with Walter Perrin of Orchid Etcetera. She was an active member of VAOS for many years.

James (Jim) Dunley died 1 April 2014. Jim was an avid orchid grower. He and his wife, Alice, spent 40 years as members of VAOS. Alice was President and she served as Treasurer for many years. She was the origi-

nator of the Artistic Division in the annual VAOS show.

Zelma Neef died 29 June 2014. For 17 years Zelma served as Membership Chair with her husband, Walter, always at her side. Together, they were among the members who worked tirelessly on behalf of the VAOS.

Submitted by Sybil Levien-Bushell

AOS Fall Meeting October 29th - November 2nd

The American Orchid Society will hold its 2014 Fall Members Meeting in Orlando at the end of October. It is being held in conjunction with the 16th International Slipper Orchid Symposium at the Sheraton Orlando North. The event will feature:

- World Famous Speakers
- Orchid Show and Plant Sales
- Vendors from Around the World
- Expert Panel Discussions
- BBQ and Plant Auction
- Special Meetings and Events for the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, the Pleurothallid Alliance and the Slipper Orchid Alliance.

This is a terrific opportunity for VAOS members to hear world-class speakers and purchase orchids from international vendors as well as to attend special AOS meetings and events. Visit www.AOS.org for more information and to register to attend.

The VAOS has been invited to participate in this event and will put in a table top display on Wednesday October 29th, 7am - 7pm. Please mark your calendars as we will need your blooming plants for our display. Take down will be on Sunday November 2nd, 5:30pm - 10pm.

Contact Rich Amos, VP Displays, to participate.
Email: disp@vaos.org

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**
(941) 266-6351

339 Venice Ave.
West, Venice, FL

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPO 2014

VAOS will again be exhibiting at the Chamber of Commerce Expo October 3rd and 4th, 9am - 3pm at the Venice Community Center. Several thousand people attend and we have added new members each year from the Expo and hope to do so again.

We will have plants for sale and will need volunteers to help for the two days signing up new members, selling plants and answering questions.

This has also been a great time to meet and make con-

tact with the area businesses. Each year members of the Chamber Business Community have sponsored and supported our annual show. We can meet them, thank them for their support and prepare for our February show.

Please contact Jim Thomas if you will be able to volunteer for a few hours at the Expo.

Email: Education@vaos.org

Submitted by Jim Thomas

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center

- **Speaker:** Alan Koch
- **Topic:** "Mini Cattleyas in Warm Climate"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

September 3 (1st Wednesday):

VAOS monthly meeting, 7pm, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids.

September 5-7: Jim Roberts Florida

SunCoast Orchids Greenhouse Sale. Friday 3-7pm; Saturday 10 -4pm; Sunday 10-4pm. 8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL. 941-322-8777 Info: FloridaSunCoastOrchids.com

September 6: Barbara Wagner Orchid Collection Sale 9am - 2pm. See article (page 8) for details.

September 11 (2nd Thursday):

VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Thomas, Topic: Stakes and Clips.

September 19-21: Ridge Orchid Society Annual Show, Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland, FL.

Info: ridgeorchidsociety.org/wp/

October 4-5: Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show & Sale. 9-4pm both days. 501 Sunset Dr. So, St. Pe-

tersburg, FL. Info: www.FWCOS.org

October 18: VAOS Fall Home Orchid Growing Area Tour 9 -1pm. See article (page 8) for details.

October 29 - November 2: AOS Meeting in Orlando Florida. VAOS will participate with table top display. See article (page 9) for details.

Planning Ahead

November 1 (Saturday): EAOS member plant sale, Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood.

November 15 (Saturday): 9am - 2pm. VAOS member plant sale in downtown Venice. Contact Sharon Kahnoski, VP Social, to reserve your space now. Email: Social@VAOS.org

December 12 (Friday): VAOS Holiday Party at Boca Royale Country Club.

January 3-4, 2015: Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show. Set up Friday January 2nd, 8am - 4pm.

February 7-8, 2015: VAOS Annual Orchid Show. Set up Friday, February 6, 1pm-8pm

March 21, 2015: VAOS annual picnic at Casperson Beach 12-4pm

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Peg Fahrenback, rsec@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: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

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Fourth Annual Cattleya Symposium held Aug 8th and 9th 2014

St. Lucie County University of Florida IFAS Extension Service, Fort Pierce, FL



The Fourth Annual Cattleya Symposium, sponsored by the University of Florida IFAS, American Orchid Society and Odom's Orchids, Inc. was held August 8th and 9th in Fort Pierce, FL. The conference, organized by John Odom of Odoms Orchids (<http://www.odoms.com/>) explored Cattleya collecting, breeding and AOS judging. The symposium also included an auction of rare and historical plants. The symposium was attended by almost 100 participants, including many from the Facebook Florida Orchid Growing group.

The symposium included in-depth presentations on several of the Cattleya species. Jeff Bradley's presentation covered the history and breeding of the Cattleya *warcsewiczii*, also known as *gigas*. Jeff presented an historical account of the early and very rare cultivars of this species as well as presented many early photographs as far back as the early 1900s. Armando Mantellini from Venezuela, shared his 50 years of experience breeding and hybridizing Cattleya *lueddemanniana*. His presentation included the various varieties of these orchids and where they grow in Venezuela.

The symposium was well attended by professors from the University of Florida, IFAS program extension in Homestead Florida. Dr. Catherine Mannion, Ph.D was a return speaker this year and gave a wonderful presentation on Orchid Pests and Insects. Her talk had many slides that included identification of the most common orchid pests and insects plus a discussion on the many different treatments possibilities for each. Dr. Wagner Vendrame, Ph.D reviewed his research program that involved production and conservation of ornamental plants using tissue culture, molecular biology and cryopreservation

techniques. A recent project evaluated the growth of plant cells under microgravity on board the space shuttles Atlantis, Endeavour and Discovery. All experiments were performed at the International Space Station including one on an orchid species.



Allen Black (<http://www.ablackorchid.com/>) a hobbyist orchid grower and breeder from Richmond, VA., has been growing and breeding *Brassavola nodosa* orchids for over 20 years. He has registered over 70 of his orchid hybrids. He shared his recent breeding efforts with the *Brassavola* and *Cattleya* alliance to create some wonderful novelty hybrids. Check out many of his hybrids by clicking on the link above. Dave Off was born into a family orchid business, Waldor Orchids of Linwood, N.J.

(<http://www.waldor.com/>) Dave is a third generation orchid grower and breeder and is currently the assistant greenhouse manager. The Off family has been growing orchids since 1925. In addition to Dave's personal collection, Dave oversees the care and maintenance of Waldor's renowned classic *Cattleya* collection. Dave presented a review of the many exceptional and rare *Cattleya* orchids in their collection. He ended his presentation with a twenty question multiple choice and/or True and False quiz on *Cattleyas* that stumped many in the audience. Ken Roberts, a who's who when it comes to orchid species and longtime AOS judge from Central Florida, reviewed his knowledge of growing and breeding *Cattleya* species. It was also announced that Ken is the chairperson for the new AOS library program at the Fairchild Botanical Gardens.



Makoto Hanajima, a statesman and leader in the orchid world reviewed the current state of Cattleya breeding and hybridizing in Japan. Mr. Hanajima is the owner of Blument Insel's Orchids of Japan and the president of Thai Hanajima's Orchids Co., Ltd in Thailand. He presented many classic Cattleya's, many from the Jones and Scully collection that he owns as a result of a two year internship at J&S while he was attending Tokyo University plus reviewed many new Cattleyas that he has hybridized. He brought many of these current plants that he sold to the symposium participants and he donated several to the rare and historical plant auction that was held Thursday night.

Speaking of the rare and historical plant auction, fun was had by all. Every year this auction is held to help defray the costs of speaker expenses. The auction included both mericlones for classic Cattleyas like C. Mount Hood 'Orchidglade' AM/AOS (awarded 1966) and Rth. Orglade's Tradition 'Sunset' AM/AOS. There were many original divisions including B. digbyana 'Green Giant' AM/AOS (awarded 1970) and Rlc. Maggie McKenzie 'Halcyon' AM/AOS (awarded in 1977). Mr. Hanijima donated a Blc. Ranger Six 'A OK' AM/AOS (awarded in 1984) Allen Black donated a couple of his current hybrids included a Bc. North Miami (B. *nodosa* x C. *loddigesii*) mounted in a guitar body. One of his other hobbies includes building guitars. Dave Off donated a several classic Cattleyas and even a compot of seedlings and a couple of seed pods donated by Dave Off.



Frank Smith, owner of Krull/Smith Orchids (<http://www.krullsmith.com/>) in Apopka, FL and current AOS president, ended the symposium with a review of all the changes going on within the AOS. This information is brand new, and not many people know about it yet. They will be using the AOS endowment fund to build a state of the art library at the Fairchild Botanical Gardens will be accessible to all AOS members, under supervision and strict on-site rules (i.e. gloves while handling the oldest and most valuable material.) There are no major orchid-related publications, including many of the original awards-related paintings, that the AOS does not own. The entire collection is worth more than \$2 million US. It will be the "premier orchid library in the world." The AOS will retain ownership of all the materials, despite being housed on Fairchild property.

Membership to AOS has dropped precipitously in recent years, and revenues are not sufficient right now to support the organization as it used to be. Fairchild is essentially giving the AOS free room and board (other than paying for the library, of course; and for the few AOS "back office staff" that work on sight) for the next 20 years, because they aspire to be the greatest botanical gardens in the world. This, in part, explains why they cannot give AOS members free admission to Fairchild Gardens, which many have complained about. They are paying for the AOS office space, electricity, property taxes, liability insurance, etc. etc. In light of this information, it is only fair, for them to collect gate fees from AOS members to enter.

From what I learned, all of the orchids that used to reside in the old AOS greenhouses and grounds are still in their possession at the Fairchild location. Fairchild is trying to raise money to build a dedicated orchid display area.

Also of great interest to me, they already possess a file of ALL of the Bulletins and Orchids magazines from day one in a scanned file. They will have to pay an additional \$30K or so to make these files searchable and formatted for online use. After project completion, all of this data will be available for members. Imagine sitting at your computer and browsing old orchid publications from eras gone by.

Frank encouraged every one of us to become ambassadors for the AOS. For those that didn't know, the AOS has added a less expensive membership type. They are now offering an Electronic edition or ORCHIDS magazine, available to members from any computer. Also the AOS is offering on-line webinars on various orchid topics and all the webinars are recorded for later viewing.

All in all it was a wonderful, information rich symposium that I plan to attend next year again, my third time.

