

Venice Area Orchid Society News

October 2014

**Next Meeting: Wednesday
October 1st at 7:00 p.m.
Doors Open at 6:30pm
Speaker: Thanh Nguyen
Topic: Paphiopedilums**

Thanh Nguyen is the owner-operator of Springwater Orchids (Melbourne, FL). He is an engineer by trade, but also has been collecting and growing orchids for over 30 years. His orchid business began in 2001, mainly selling on the internet but gradually moved to orchid shows in recent years.



Thanh loves orchid species. And although he grows and sells all orchids genera, his forte has always been the genus of Paphiopedilum. He collects fine plants; grows, sells, breeds, and enjoys sharing his experiences with his customers and colleagues. His passion in paphs is reflected in award winning plants and an ongoing paphs breeding program using local lab work, and local growing environment. His goals are to bring the excellence of a paphs breeding program back to America and augment the enthusiasm of paphs growing by way of sharing his growing experience and educational programs via shows and society speeches.

You will see this through his breeding program with a well thought out process to target various audiences; from easy growing/flowering plants to state of the art breeding catered to the most difficult collectors' interest, in parallel with the conservation of breeding species, improving color and shape, broadening their growing conditions to make growing paphs a joy, not an aggravation. Thanh will have orchids for sale.

A Message from your President:

This month I am going to talk about our upcoming member's plant sale in Centennial Park by the gazebo on Saturday, November 15th from 9a.m. until 1p.m. Our tireless Social VP, Sharon Kahnowski, has secured the permits and done all of the groundwork. The rest is up to all of us.



John Masters

I love this plant sale. It is not limited to orchids and there are basically no rules. We are using the honor system asking sellers to donate 20 percent of their sales to the society. This, obviously, is not a big money maker but that is not the point of this day. The point is to have fun and put our society out in front of the public in a positive light. And there will be plenty of public. The gazebo is right at the end of the crowd drawing farmer's market and Saturday in Venice draws people in. There is also some event in Venice involving chalk and people drawing on the ground and things. I will not refer to it as a chalk eating contest ever again.

We haven't had this event in a while and I missed it. Think about this – we have some seriously talented growers in our group and you can now buy their plants. I always buy as much as I sell. The key is pricing the plants correctly. You will not get rich at this but you will enjoy yourself. Be prepared for some haggling. Since there is no central pay station, you can adjust your prices with no problem. It is not a problem if the plant isn't blooming. Orchid people just want a clean looking

healthy plant - we know we can make them bloom. A color picture will certainly make your life easier and a label with the real name won't hurt. If you don't know the color you can use my famous line, "What color did you want it to be?"

The park will get crowded quickly so try

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Upcoming Events

- 10/1 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker topic: Paphiopedilums
- 10/3-4 - Chamber of Commerce EXPO at VCC - VAOS Exhibit and Plant Sale
- 10/9 - Tailgate party and Growers Clinic: Getting Ready for Colder Weather
- 10/18 - Fall Tour of Member Growing Areas
- 10/29 - 11/2 - AOS Meeting in Orlando - VAOS Exhibit
- 11/15 - Member Plant Sale Downtown Venice

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

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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 September 3rd, 2014 VAOS Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting by recognizing all new VAOS members and guests, asking them to stand. He discussed Plant Table requirements that will help this process run smoothly. **It is important that all Plant Table orchids are in place by 6:45pm.** Those plants not set out by that time will be presented, but will not be judged. In addition, the **Plant Table orchids will now be grouped by several categories and volunteers will be available to assist with plant placement.** This will help the judges when awarding ribbons.

John Masters recognized Peggy Fahrenback for her contributions with the VAOS Mentor Program and presented the gift of a lovely crystal paper weight. Peggy originated the Mentor Program and coordinated it for two years. John presented Pauline Adams, our new Mentor Program Coordinator. Pauline recognized Carol Wood for being her Mentor and helping her extensively. Pauline announced the need for more Mentors and encouraged experienced growers to volunteer by contacting her.

Many exciting VAOS events are planned for the upcoming months. John announced the following: Barbara Wagner is hosting a sale of orchid plants and supplies on Sept. 6th. SunCoast Orchids is also having

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Treasurer's Report

September - 2014

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
8/1/14	\$	11,768.53
+ Income	\$	175.00
- Payments	\$	868.62
Closing Balance		
8/31/14	\$	11,074.91

Show Checking Account

Starting Balance		
8/1/14	\$	2,930.66
+Income		0.00
-Payments*	\$	2,930.66
Closing Balance		
8/31/14	\$	0.00

Cash Account

Closing Balance		
8/31/14	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
8/1/14	\$	25,038.73
+ Income		0.85
Closing Balance		
8/31/14	\$	25,039.58

Total Assets

8/31/14	\$	36,154.49
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Submitted by Mary Amos

*Transfer to checking

VAOS Plant Table Guidelines

Our favorite part of our monthly meetings is presentation of the plant table. Please bring in your blooming plants to share! Here are some guidelines:

Arrive by 6:45pm

Place your plant on one of 4 tables with signs: Orchid Species, New Member Plants, Display - Not for Judging (those plants that arrive after 6:45pm) and Display - To be Judged.

Take any number tag and an index card and write your plant name (with parentage if you know it) on the front and your name on the back of the card. Place these by your plant.

Don't forget to vote for your favorite plant (Members Choice Ribbon) before the end of the break.

If you win a ribbon (congratulations!) give us a few minutes at the end of the meeting to photograph your plant for our newsletter.

Please see "Tips for an Exceptional Plant Table" in this newsletter's supplement.

Submitted by Cynthia Vance

Plant Table Awards September 3rd, 2014

Debi Wolfe took the **First Place** and the **Speakers Choice** ribbons for her large and spectacular plant *Dendrobium Emma White*. This hybrid, known as a prolific bloomer which often grows to over two feet, is a cross of *Den. Singapore White* and *Den. Joan Kushima*. It is an easy grower but needs lots of space. It has large white flowers with a touch of green in the center of the newest blooms that fade to pure white with age. It is what we call a “Phal-type *Den.*” which means the petals are more rounded and flat with overlapping petals and sepals. Good growing Debi!



Den. Emma White

The **Second Place** Ribbon went to Roy Klinger for his plant *Bc. Binosa ‘Kirk’ AM/AOS*. Roy’s plant had apple green petals with a purple spotted lip. It is a cross of *B. nodosa* and *C. bicolor* and carries the characteristic shape of *nodosa*. Beautiful! Thank you Roy for bringing it in to share with us!



Bc. Binosa ‘Kirk’ AM/AOS

Renee Bynum took **Third Place** for her plant *Clowesetum Dragon’s Treasure ‘Cardrona’*. *Clowesetum* is an artificial genus produced by breeding *Catasetum* with *Clowesia*. This plant is a cross of *Cl. warczewitzii* and *Clo. Pink Lemonade* with pretty pale pink blooms on a pendent inflorescence. *Clowesetums* are heavy feeders during active growth but need a dry winter rest after flowering and once the plant starts to drop its leaves. Nice growing Renee!



Clowesetum Dragon’s Treasure ‘Cardrona’

Charlie Rogg took both the **Best Species** and **New Member** ribbons for her plant *Brassavola cucullata*. This species is native to Mexico, Central and South America and its nickname is *Daddy Long Legs* due to its drooping flowers. Typically concolor white or yellow/white the blooms have a frilly and long tapered lip. The leaves are terete (pencil-like) and the plant has a sweet fragrance at night like its cousin *B. nodosa*. Congratulations Charlie!



B. cucullata

Carol Wood took the **Members Choice** ribbon for her plant *C. Caudebec ‘Carmela’ HCC/AOS*. A cross of *C. Sophia Martin* and *C. Penny Kuroda*, it has cream colored petals and sepals with intense magenta spots and a solid magenta lip. Carol loves the spotted cattleyas, both hybrids and Brazilian species, as they bloom in summer and fall while other cattleyas are just in sheath. They grow tall and Carol grows hers in baskets with large chunks of lava rock and charcoal.



C. Caudebec ‘Carmela’ HCC/AOS

–Photos by Cynthia Vance, narrative by Carol Wood

From My Kitchen Studio...

In photography, it's not just what you shoot that counts – the way that you shoot it is crucial, too. Poor photocomposition can make a fantastic subject dull, but a well-set scene can create a wonderful image from the most ordinary of situations. These are some of the best photography tips I found from the Internet.... so it has to be true.

You do not have to remember every one of these rules and apply them to each photo you take. Take a little time learning each one in turn. You will learn to apply the different rules for the best effect.

There are all sorts of theories about the 'Rule of Thirds' but if you pay too much attention to strict formulas, your photos will lose any kind of spontaneity. Working with subjects and scenes requires a more open-minded approach. What works for one photo does not necessarily work for another.

The decisions you make about composition can affect the way a shot looks and how people perceive your photos. There are some key things to look out for:

Photo Composition Tip 1: Simplify the scene

When you look at a scene with your eye, you quickly pick out subjects of interest. But the camera doesn't – it captures everything in front of it, which can lead to a cluttered, messy picture with no clear point. What you need to do when choosing your subject, select a focal length or camera viewpoint that makes it the centre of attention in the frame. You can't always keep other objects out of the picture, so try to keep them in the background or make them part of the story.

1. Move in close to cut out other parts of the photo.
2. Silhouettes and shapes make for strong subjects



Photo Composition Tip 2: Fill the frame

When you're shooting a large photo it can be hard to know how big your subject should be in the frame, and how much you should zoom in. Leaving too much empty space in a scene is the most widespread compositional mistake. It makes your subject smaller and leaves viewers confused about what they're supposed to be looking at.

To avoid these problems you should zoom in to fill the frame, or get closer to the subject in question. The first approach flattens the perspective of the shot and makes it easier to control or exclude what's shown in the back-

ground, but physically moving closer can give you a more interesting take on things. Try Both.

1. Filling the frame makes the object larger.
2. High off-center placement makes a more interesting scene.



Photo Composition Tip 3: Aspect ratio

The aspect ratio of an image describes the proportional relationship between its width and its height. It's easy to take every picture with the camera held horizontally. Try turning it to get a vertical shot instead, adjusting your position or the zoom setting as you experiment with the new style. You can often improve on both horizontal and vertical shots by cropping the photo later.

1. You can crop the shot later if the object is too tall to shoot horizontally
2. Turn the camera and try an upright shot to see different and maybe improved results.

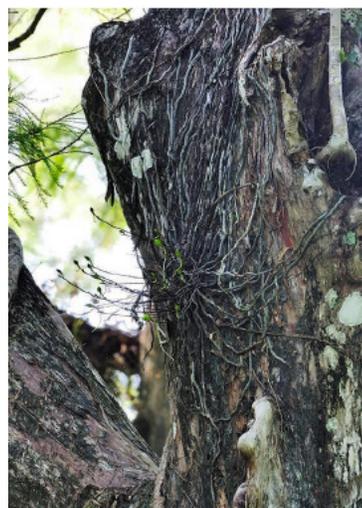


Photo Composition Tip 4: Avoid the middle

It's tempting to put whatever you're shooting right in the middle of the frame. However, this produces rather boring pictures. One of the ways to counteract this is to use the Rule of Thirds, where you split the image up into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and try to place your subject on one of these imaginary lines or intersec-

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From My Kitchen Studio...(continued from pge 4

tions.

Move your subject away from the centre and get a feel for how it can be balanced with everything else in the scene, including any areas of contrasting color or light. There are no hard and fast rules about achieving this kind of visual balance. You'll learn to rely on your instincts and you'll know when something is just right.

1. Don't be locked into the 'Rule of Thirds'. Just get the object off-centered
2. Look for any 'Balancing' elements in a photo, Eyes go to brightness, use it to balance objects



Photo Composition Tip 5: Leading lines

A poorly composed photograph will leave your viewers unsure about where to look, and their attention might drift aimlessly around the scene without finding a clear focal point. However, you can use lines to control the way people's eyes move around the picture.

Converging lines give a strong sense of perspective and three-dimensional depth, drawing you into an image. Curved lines can lead you on a journey around the frame, leading you towards the main subject. Lines are everywhere, in the form of walls, fences, roads, buildings and telephone wires. They can also be implied, perhaps by the direction in which an off-center subject is looking.

1. When photos contain strong lines your eyes will follow it.



Photo Composition Tip 6: Use diagonals

Horizontal lines lend a static, calm feel to a picture, while vertical ones often suggest stability. To create a feeling of drama, movement or uncertainty, look for diagonal lines instead. You can need nothing more than a shift in position or focal length to get them – wider

angles of view tend to introduce diagonal lines because of the increased perspective; with wide-angle lenses you're more likely to tilt the camera up or down to get more of a scene in.

You can also introduce diagonal lines artificially, using the 'Dutch Tilt' technique. You simply tilt the camera as you take the shot. This can be very effective, though it doesn't suit every shot and is best used sparingly.

2. Wide-angle lens to create diagonal lines automatically.
3. Low viewpoints make you tilt the camera upwards, which will strengthen diagonals.



Photo Composition Tip 7: Backgrounds

Don't just concentrate on your subject – look at what's happening in the background. This will tie in with simplifying the scene and filling the frame. You can't usually exclude the background completely of course, but you can control it.

You'll often find that changing your position is enough to replace a cluttered background with one that complements your subject nicely. Or you can use a wide lens aperture and a longer focal length to throw the background out of focus. It all depends on whether the background is part of the story you're trying to tell with the photo. In the shot below, the background is something that needs to be suppressed.

1. Use longer focal points to throw backgrounds out of focus
2. Fill the frame - the less space taken up with background the better.



Photo Composition Tip 8: Creative with colors
Bright colors really attract the eye, especially when

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From My Kitchen Studio Continued from page 5

they're contrasted with a complementary hue. But there are other ways of creating color contrasts – by including a bright splash of color against a monochromatic background, for example. You don't need strong color contrasts to create striking pictures. The key is to be really selective about how you isolate and frame your subjects to exclude unwanted colors.



Photo Composition Tip 9: Breaking the rules

Photo composition is like a visual language – you can

use it to make your pictures pass on a specific message. Just as we use written words to create a jarring effect, we can do the same with photos by breaking with the composition rules. Doing it by accident doesn't count, though! It's when you understand the rules of composition and then break them on purpose that things start to get interesting. It's often best to break one rule at a time.

Just remember: for every rule suggested, somewhere out there is a great picture that proves you can disregard it and still produce a fantastic image!..... Not orchid related.



Submitted by Jay Loeffler

VAOS Fall Home Tour of Member Growing Areas Sat. Oct. 18, 2014 (9am – 1 pm)

The VAOS 2014 Fall Tour includes three member's growing areas in the South Venice and Englewood area, all within a five mile radius of each other. Please be careful when parking not to block driveways or mailboxes. Thank you to our hosts Joanna, Judy and Carol!

Joanna Shaw: she moved from Massachusetts to Florida 4 years ago with 35 orchids and has been gradually expanding her collection since. She currently has just over 100 plants growing either in a shade house of her own construction or in the pool cage. She has a mixed collection heavily biased to cattleyas. Recently she has been experimenting with making her own clay baskets and orchid mounts and will have a few of those to display. If enough come back from the kiln in time, she may have a few for sale. She may also have a small selection of orchids and other plants for sale although not in large numbers.

731 Lehigh Rd, S. Venice, Fl. 34293 (South Venice)

Take Rt. 41 south and turn right onto SR 776 toward Englewood. Upon seeing the Dome Flea Market and MRT's, turn Right on Dartmouth, Left on Miami, Right on Marquette, Left on Grinnell then Right on Lehigh.

Judy Russell: 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.

5855 Garfield Rd., S. Venice, Fl. 34293 (Gulf View Estates)

Take SR 776 towards Englewood. Go past the Dome Flea Market and MRT's to Gulf View Estates. Turn left into Gulf View Estates and turn Right at first street, go about 9 streets down to Garfield Rd. and turn Left.

Carol Nissen: Carol grows a variety of orchid hybrids and species in her pool cage in Englewood Isles. Her collection currently includes more than 400 orchid plants! Come pick up some culture tips from Carol - her healthy blooming plants frequent the Plant Tables at VAOS and EAOS meetings each month.

241 Woodland Dr., Englewood, FL 34223 (Englewood Isles)

Take SR 776 toward Englewood and turn right on Englewood Isles Parkway at the traffic light. Turn left on Gladestone Blvd and then right onto Woodland Dr. Her house #241 is on the left.

Submitted by: VP Social Sharon Kahnoski

'Getting Ready for Cold Weather'

VAOS Growers Clinic

Thursday, October 9th, 7pm at Venice Community Center

Are you Ready? It's coming! "Getting Ready for Cold Weather". We will discuss what we need to do to be ready for the

change. Be ready for questions and answers. Bring your problem plants for expert advice. Guests are welcome.

President's message continued from page 1

to get to the parking lot a little earlier so you don't kill yourself lugging your table and plants to the gazebo. A cooler with a beverage and a snack is a good idea. Stay hydrated.(water) and don't let your blood sugar drop.

I would love to see a lot of our members taking part in this event. Even if you only have a few things to sell, bring them. We can always find room on a table for you to play. The results do not count as much as the spirit a day like this generates. If you are not selling, come anyway and support our society. I know I have been called a cheerleader but that is probably one of the nicest things I have been called. You must know by now I really believe in this society. I go to far too many orchid related events and I hear nothing but compliments about the Venice Area Orchid Society. This is because our members are proud to be part of a society that is "ON FIRE."

AOS Fall Meeting - Orlando 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, and special meetings and events for the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, the Pleurothallid Alliance and the Slipper Orchid Alliance. 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. Please mark your calendars:

- Monday 10/27 6pm Plant Registration Deadline
- Tuesday 10/28 6pm Plant Drop Off Deadline
- Wednesday 10/29 Display set up in Orlando 7am - 7pm
- Thursday 10/30/14 thru Sunday 11/2/14 AOS meetings and orchid show/sale
- Sunday 11/2/14 Display Take Down 5:30pm - 10pm.

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 Tuesday 10/28/14 6pm:
 - Venice Island: Judy & Jay Loeffler, 833 Guild Dr., Venice, FL. 485-9569
 - 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 Monday 10/27/14 6pm:

Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

a greenhouse sale Sept. 5-7. The Ridge Show in Lakeland will be Sept. 19-21. VAOS will participate in the Venice Chamber of Commerce Expo at the Community Center Oct. 3-4, coordinated by Jimmy Thomas. Our society will sell blooming orchids to the public at the Expo and promote VAOS. Volunteers are needed for both days and may sign up by contacting Jimmy. We will have a fall Home Tour on Saturday, Oct. 18th. Hosts Carol Wood, Joanna Shaw and Judy Russell will welcome VAOS members to their greenhouses and growing areas. All details will be in the next Newsletter. On Saturday, Nov. 15th VAOS is hosting a plant sale in Centennial Park, at the Gazebo in Venice. Any type of plant may be sold. Sellers should bring their own table; they may sign up by contacting Sharon Kahnoski.

Bruce Weaver introduced our speaker, Alan Koch, owner of Gold Country Orchids in California. His excellent power point presentation focused upon Cattleya type orchids that grow well in our southern Florida climate. He detailed culture conditions that effect growth and blooming, including light, potting/mounting, salt sensitivity, fertilizing, watering and temperature. Orchids from his greenhouses in southern California were offered for sale.

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

Respectfully submitted by Peg Fahrenback

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for October 2014

Do you have a couple of plants looking bad and the others around it looking great? When was the media changed? When it starts to break down it takes the plant with it. The roots die, fungus starts and leaves wilt.

Unless you are growing in rocks of some sort, the media has a limited life cycle. Even rocks need a through drenching to flush the salts. If not, the excess salts will damage the plant. You should have a record of when the media has been changed and be sure that you replot on a regular basis for the health of the plants.

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas

- Email your plant name with size and color description of the flowers to Jim Thomas, Education@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 throughout the 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.

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 1st, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center (Doors Open
at 6:30pm)

- **Speaker:** Thanh Nguyen
- **Topic:** "Paphiopedilums"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring Plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

Chamber of Commerce Expo 2014 VAOS Exhibit -Venice Community Center Friday & Saturday, October 3-4, 9am - 3pm

We still need a few more members to help staff our exhibit at the Chamber Expo event. Thousands of people attend this annual popular event. We will be answering questions about the Society, growing orchids and selling plants to benefit the VAOS. Let me know if you can help and what time you are available Friday and Saturday (Jim Thomas 941-966-2479)

Upcoming Events

October 1 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting, Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7pm, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Thanh Nguyen, Springwater Orchids

October 3-4: Chamber of Commerce EXPO, Venice Community Center, 9am - 3pm Friday and Saturday. VAOS Exhibit and Plant Sale

October 9 (2nd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Thomas, Topic: Getting Ready for Cold Weather. **Tailgate Party 5:30pm in parking lot.**

October 18: VAOS Fall Home Orchid Growing Area Tour 9am - 1pm.

October 29 - November 2: AOS Meeting in Orlando Florida. VAOS will participate with table top display.

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

November 15 (Saturday): 9am - 1pm. VAOS member plant sale in downtown Venice. Contact Sharon Kahnoski, VP Social, to reserve your space now. Email: Social@VAOS.org

Planning Ahead

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 Caspersen Beach 12-4pm

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@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/>

Growers Clinic Tailgate Parties Resume in October

Growers Clinic tailgate socials resume on October 9th. Join us in the Venice Community Center parking lot at 5:30pm for an opportunity to mingle and get to know our members before the Growers Clinic starts at 7pm. Bring a dish to share, sodas and chairs.

Coordinator: Judy Loeffler

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



"Join Us" and
Share your Orchid Bliss
Search for us as
"VeniceArea OrchidSociety"

Tips for an Exceptional Plant Table!

My favorite part of our monthly Wednesday meeting is the presentation of the members' plants from the Plant Table at the front of the room. Here are a few tips to make the Plant Table experience an exceptional event for everyone.

1. As a member – it's your responsibility to vote for your favorite plant. We'd like to give the 'Member's Choice' award to a plant that receives an incredible number of votes, not just a few! Come to the plant table and take those blank paper slips from the box and write down the number of your favorite plant and place it in the "ballot box".
2. If you have a beautiful bloom we would love to see you plant! When you arrive place your orchid plant on one of the 4 tables with signs at the front of the room: Orchid Species, New Member Orchids, "Display - Not for Judging" (those plants that arrive after 6:45pm) and "Display – To be Judged"
3. Take any "number tag" and an "index card" from the boxes at the last table. On the index card write the name of the plant (and it's parentage if you know it), and on the back – your name. Place both items in front of your plant.
4. We'll ask 3 members to judge the plants between 6:45 and 7pm. Kindly agree to volunteer when asked for it only takes 5 minutes and it's educational and fun. We'll make sure that there is an old-hand on the team to help guide you. The following 7 ribbons are awarded and will be on the resource table: Best Species, Best New Member plant (for those who have joined in the last 2 years), Member's Choice, Speaker's Choice, First place, Second place and Third place. As a "judge" your task is to choose the most beautiful overall plant in each category, except for Speaker's Choice - our monthly speaker does that.
5. If you win a ribbon, be prepared for lots of applause and an opportunity to say something about the plant (where and how you grow it, etc.)
6. Now, take that ribbon home for it's yours to keep for life. On the tag on the reverse side write the orchid name and date so you will know years from now which orchid won that ribbon! Some of us are sorry we often forgot to do that.
7. Also we want to take an exceptional photo of winning orchids to highlight in our newsletter. Please give us ten minutes to do this at the end of the meeting. This will also give you time to build your collection by capturing a win at the Raffle Table or by re-visiting the vendor to purchase that "must-have orchid" you've been thinking about all night!!

Submitted by Cynthia Vance

The Orchid Specialist

RETIREMENT SALE

Thousands of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, orchid species and tropicals available up to 50% off. Additional discounts for large orders. Visit www.orchidspecialist.com for list of inventory, pricing information, and business location.

6,000 sq. ft. greenhouse on 1/2 acre lot near Orlando, FL also available.

Open House Nov. 8-9, 10 a.m. -6 p.m., or afternoons by appointment. Sale starts Oct. 1. (407) 889-3138

October in your Orchid Collection

October is a month of change in South Florida. If the Romans had lived here where we do, they would have named this month for their two faced god Janus. Usually around the middle of the month, and certainly by the end of the month, the first strong cold front pushes into South Florida bringing to a close the monolithic heat and damp of summer and ushering in weather as most of the continent knows it, alternating periods of warmer and cooler. Although warm temperatures will persist for another month or so until the technical end of the hurricane season, the tropics are in retreat and the temperate zone in the ascendancy. Each successive cold front foreshadowed by ever lessening rain storms will progressively cool our temperatures and dry our air. But days are shortening too, providing less hours of sunlight to heat the air and slowing the drying process. Nights are longer and cooler which produces the same effect, slower drying. Now we must start to move into the consciousness of winter and take greater care to insure that our plants are thoroughly dry before we water them again. The shorter days of October dictate that we rise even earlier to water if necessary. Each extra hour of daylight is to be cherished by us as well as our plants.

Most of our orchids are well aware of this sea change. The shortening days of late summer have told many genera to finish their growth and prepare to rest. We need to listen too. And look! The last smallest leaves of these highly seasonal plants will have unfolded at the tips of their new growths telling us that their growth cycle is finished for this year. Himalayan dendrobiums of the *nobile* type and of the section *Callista* (*D. aggregatum et al.*) now begin their five months of carefree existence in South Florida. They should be put in a bright spot and given no more water and above all, no more fertilizer until after they have bloomed in spring. Catasetums, Mormodes, *Cycnoches*, calanthes and other deciduous types should be treated the same way. Whatever moisture nature provides in the increasingly heavy dew and the passing rains that usher in most cold fronts will be adequate for these plants whose native environment is a seasonally monsoon one like ours. Benign neglect suits these genera just fine and what a relief to the conscience of the ever busy orchidist! The truly devoted will group these genera together, preferably at the edge of the growing area and high up where they will receive the maximum of light and air circulation. Grouped thus, the chance of an accidental watering of these, while taking care of the more thirsty genera, is minimized. Another strategy is to tip the pots of these dormant genera on their sides thus eliminating much natural rainfall and avoiding a misdirected hose spray. Some growers even remove plants that have finished both growing and flowering from their pots entirely. When new growth begins in the spring they will receive a fresh start in new medium.

Many cattleyas, laelias, oncidiums and Phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums will be finishing their growths and should be hardened off with reduced water and fertilizer but not the Spartan regime of the deciduous type. Lower nitrogen fertilizer applied at a lower rate and with less frequency will make these genera happy and prevent them from breaking into unwanted off-season growth that frequently hampers flowering as well. Many growers tend to use higher phosphorus, lower nitrogen fertilizers of the "Bloom Booster" type during the cooler weather. But less frequent applications of the recommended 15-5-15 is a better strategy. These

applications should be spaced further apart as well, at ten to twelve day intervals. Less frequent watering will also do for these genera. When the frontal rains pass through, check to see that the pots are thoroughly wet by giving them the "heft" test and if they are not heavy enough "top them up." Let them dry 'hard' before watering again. In cool weather especially, less is more.

Monopodial orchids like *Vanda* and *Phalaenopsis* which want to grow continuously, feel the change too. The broad swing of day to night temperature stimulates flower spike initiation in these genera. You can spur them on to greater excitement by giving them a shot of high Phosphorus 'Bloom Booster' fertilizer just before or just after the sudden drop in night temperatures precipitated by the passing of a cold front. For most of the year "Bloom Booster" fertilizer appears to be in fact "Bloom Blocker" but (perhaps from faith rather than science) high phosphorus seems to have the desired effect (perhaps from shock) when the first cold snaps are also halting vegetative growth. We like Miller's *Solugro* (12-48-8) because it contains none of the ugly blue flower, clothes and hand staining dye. Other brands (with or without dye) are equally effective. Look for a very high middle number and a relatively low first number or ask at your garden center for a 'starter solution' which is the moniker for these fertilizers when used in planting out vegetable or annual seedlings. Because the nitrogen level is lower, you can use a full tablespoon of these or more, per gallon.

Cooler weather calls our attention to our plants' needs for trace elements. Chief among these is magnesium, often described as the 'major' minor element. Magnesium deficiency shows up in orchids as a reddening of the foliage particularly when the plant is stressed. This color change is frequently attributed to cold as it occurs following spells of cooler weather. This observation is the fallacy of *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*; cold is merely the efficient cause: the material cause is lack of magnesium. Hopefully the new fertilizer regimen outlined in the July chapter will minimize or eliminate the reddening by keeping the magnesium level up in the plants. Epsom salts (MgS) is the best and most readily available source of magnesium. This can be applied with Potassium Nitrate (KNO₃) at the rate of one tablespoon each per gallon. Potassium Nitrate has the formula 13-0-46. The missing number in the middle is Phosphorus. In combination with our highly alkaline water phosphorus tends to react with magnesium and the other metals of the trace element group. Never apply magnesium and the other trace elements in combination with fertilizers containing phosphorus. A general purpose trace element mixture can be added to the mix of magnesium sulfate and potassium nitrate at the rate recommended on the label. (Concentrations vary). Goodbye red, Hello green!

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Dr. Martin Motes
Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month