

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

November 2014

**Next Meeting: Wednesday  
November 5th at 7:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Prem Subrahmanyam  
Topic: Florida Native Orchids**

Prem is a true Florida native, having been born and raised in the Tallahassee, Florida area, before moving to Orlando with his family in 2005. He's been studying Florida's native orchids for more than 30 years and is renowned for his presentations at native plant and orchid societies across the state.

He makes his living as a software engineer and is also a graphic designer and 3d computer animator. His free time is spent photographing native orchids, growing his own collection of (legally purchased) orchids, developing his orchid-related websites, and collecting fossils or geocaching.

Prem is an award-winning photographer and his works have appeared in various magazine publications, textbooks, educational displays, orchid society newsletters, and brochures. In October 2009, his article on *Epidendrum magnoliae* was published in *Orchids - the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society*. His photos were also used in the *Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*, Jay Pfahl's *Orchidspecies.com* website as well as in PBS website content for their Nova series.

Prem will dazzle and inspire us with his beautiful photographs and hopefully share a few of his discoveries, although the exact locations usually remain a deep secret. Some of his earliest finds were located less than 15 minutes from his home. If we're fortunate, Prem will bring some of his photographs and other orchid-related items for sale.



*Encyclia tampensis*

## A Message from your President:

What makes you buy the plants that you buy, other than Karma or everyday addiction issues?

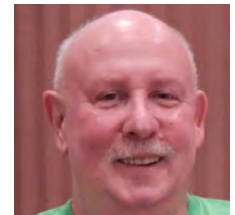
At first I was drawn to plants with an abundance of buds. If there were no buds, I didn't even look at it. I was new to orchids then and had no idea what the flower would look like and didn't care. I was captivated by the promise that the buds whispered. They would make me an official orchid grower! Many years later, I still prefer budding plants to those in full bloom. The buds will become my flowers, not those of the grower who spent years and energy nursing this plant to the stage that draws in the buyer. The buds tease you and you give in. I know I still get woozy when a plant has buds all over it.

Now that I am mounting more plants, I tend to search for those with a root mass that has overgrown its container or hangs off a mount. Any root outside the pot is healthier than those in the pot and will generally do very well mounted on something. If you look carefully, you can find what they call overgrown plants in 4 inch pots with roots pushing the plant out of the pot. These drive me crazy and I'll buy them regardless of what it is. This is why I troll greenhouses as often as I can. I don't even look at the flowers, just the sides of the pots. Sales at the vendors' greenhouses offer the best shots at finding the root monsters.

Color is another factor I hear about and even hear about certain persons who only buy red flowering plants. That can't be true, can it?

The most important factor in buying plants should be your ability to match the plant to your growing conditions. A pool cage cries for plants that crave light. Porches and covered areas tend to favor the shadier orchids. If you have a greenhouse, you don't need me to tell you any of this because you can create all the zones you need.

But we all know that the real reason we are going to buy the plant is that it delivers the **WOW** factor. The first time I saw the Hawaiian Prominence at the 2008 World Orchid Conference in Miami, I ran across the room to



John Masters

**V.A.O.S. On FaceBook**



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

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

*Continued on page 2*

**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**

Sharon Kahnoski, [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

### **Vice President - Show Displays**

Richard Amos, [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

### **Treasurer**

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

### **Recording Secretary**

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**

Ted Kellogg, Webmaster

Matthew Rinder, Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer/Gary Becker, Technology

Kathy Beck, Librarian

Pauline Adam, Mentor Program

### **Newsletter Production**

Barry Zack

### **VAOS Printer**

Creative Technology of Sarasota

## Minutes of the October 1st, 2014 VAOS Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting saying this is the beginning of our "season" and there are many events coming up. This weekend we are participating in the Venice Chamber of Commerce Expo at the Venice Community Center. Jimmy Thomas and volunteers will be selling orchids to the public and promoting our Orchid Society. More volunteers are needed to help with this event. Tropiflora in Sarasota is having their annual Fall Festival with 35-40 vendors selling orchids and many other exotic plants. The West Coast Orchid Society will be having their annual Show and Sale in St. Petersburg, Oct. 4th & 5th. On Thurs., Oct. 9th, VAOS will host our first Tailgate Party of the season, prior to the Growers Clinic. Saturday, Oct. 18th will be our Fall Home Tour, with Judy Russell, Joanna Shaw, and Carol Nissen hosting. At the end of Oct., Rich Amos, Jay Loeffler and the display team will assemble a table top display for the Fall American Orchid Society Members Meeting held in Orlando. These displays will be open to the public

*Continued on page 7*

### **President's message (continued from page 1)**

grab this plant. No buds, and no roots were showing; just the flower that drove me, and almost everyone else, crazy. Never underestimate the WOW factor.

Come to the November meeting. Bring a friend, bring a plant, and bring a snack!

### **Treasurer's Report**

October 2014

#### **Checking Account**

Starting Balance	
9/1/2014 .....	\$ 11,074.91
+ Income .....	170.00
transf from show .....	2,930.66
- Payments .....	2,748.76
Closing Balance	
9/30/2014 .....	\$ 8,496.15

#### **Cash Account**

Starting Balance	
9/1/2014 .....	\$ 40.00
Closing Balance	
9/30/2014 .....	\$ 40.00

#### **Money Market Savings**

Starting Balance	
9/1/2014 .....	\$ 25,039.58
+ Income .....	0.82
Closing Balance	
9/30/2014 .....	\$ 25,040.40

#### **Total Assets**

9/30/2014 .....	\$ 33,576.55
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*Submitted by Mary Amos*

## **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 Envy

## **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 October 1, 2014

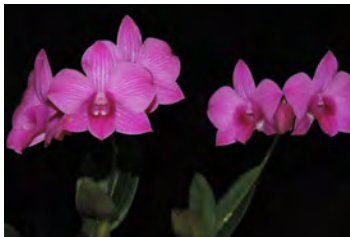
Joanna Shaw won the **First Place** ribbon with Oncidesa Sweet Sugar ‘Emperor’. Another name change – the genus used to be called Oncidium, but recent revisions renamed some of the species known to many of us as Oncidium to the genus Gomesa. Hybrids of Oncidium by Gomesa are known as Oncidesa.



Oncidesa Sweet Sugar ‘Emperor’

The well grown exhibited plant had two inflorescences of bright yellow flowers. Plants of this group often prefer cool temperatures and can be hard to grow well in the region. Keeping the plant wet during our summers usually helps produce stronger growth.

Pat Milone shared a beautiful, small growing Dendrobium bigibbum and received the **Second Place** ribbon. This species grows from northern Australia to southern New



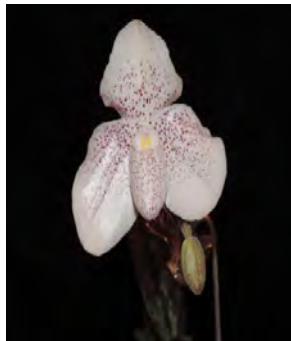
Dendrobium bigibbum

Guinea and is variable in both size and color. The smaller forms are sometimes referred to as variety compactum and come from a small area on the west coast of north Queensland,

Australia. Almost all the native plants have been

stripped out by collectors; the small Den. bigibbum plants we see today are seed grown nursery plants. These plants like a very dry rest period in the winter.

Renee Bynum brought Paphiopedilum Snowflake (Paph. Niveum x Paph. Conco-bellatum) for the **Third Place** ribbon. This cross was first registered almost 100 years ago. It is typical of the breeding in the brachypetalum section – white or cream background and maroon spots on small plants. Because the flowers face downward in the wild, the bloom spike should be staked to provide the best view of the flower. Its small size makes it a great for growing in restricted space.



Paphiopedilum Snowflake

Richard Amos presented us with a well-bloomed plant of Brassavola cordata that won **Species** of the Month.

Today, the approved name for this species is Brassavola subulifolia while its common name is Heart-lipped Brassavola. It grows naturally in Jamaica and the Windward Islands. The plant likes our warm summers and lots of water.



Brassavola cordata

Our speaker, Thanh Nguyen, chose Carol Nissen’s Dendrobium bracteosum for the **Speakers choice** award. The well-flowered Dendrobium species comes from New Guinea at low elevations. It likes it warm and wet, without a dry spell. The flowers are long lasting and can be in bloom most of the year. Carol’s plant was a very well grown specimen, with over 30 clusters of flowers.



Dendrobium bracteosum

Both the **New Member** ribbon and the **Members Choice** ribbon were won by Kathy and Jerry Beck, with a lovely Vanda hybrid. The plant did not have a tag – but the flowers showed it had Vanda sanderiana in its background. Current Vanda hybrids are the result of many generations of breeding. The complexity of color in the background breeding produced a flower that seems to change color as the light changes. At times it looked to have a rose background, but at others times it could be sand, pink, or orange – the light source made a big difference in its appearance.



Vanda hybrid

*Photos and narrative submitted by Ted Kellogg*



## October 2014 AOS Corner

*From the desk of Laura Newton, Chair, AOS Membership and Affiliated Societies Committee*

Our Fall Members' Meeting is just around the corner. We hope that you will make the trip to Florida the end of the month and join us for a jam-packed schedule of speakers and our fantastic "Orchid Spooktacular" show and sale. Check it all out and register on the home page at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)!

This month's webinar is on October 22nd at 8:30 EDT with Fred Clarke presenting "Growing Catasetums". Fred is the owner of Sunset Valley Orchids, a "boutique" style nursery, dedicated to providing excellent customer service and breeding superior orchid hybrids for the orchid enthusiast. This is a member's only webinar. Join now so that you can participate in this webinar and also view all of the previous ones that are available online.

Are you on Facebook? If so, please check out the "American Orchid Society" page. We are always happy to see new faces. We have some of the most knowledgeable members available anywhere answering all of your Orchids related questions. Post your photos- we love seeing everyone's beautiful blooming flowers!

AOS Orchids Magazine has announced that the annual supplement for this year will be on Stanhopea by Rudolph Jenny. This is one of my favorite genera. The flowers are quite unique and have a very elaborate lip that is designed

to accommodate a very specific bee for pollination. If you are not already a member, now is the time to join, so that you will receive your free supplement with the December issue. It is just one of the many perks of membership in the American Orchid Society.

There are so many great articles in this month's Orchids Magazine that it is hard to pick just one to recommend. Sue Bottom's article on "Repotting Bifoliate Cattleyas" is a must read if you grow them. I have never tried this particular method before, but it looks like it is just what these sometimes hard-to-grow plants require.

I also enjoyed learning about "Building an Orchid Tower" from Daniel Heyer; his step-by-step guide looks like something that is easy enough for everyone to do, and who doesn't need another place to store orchids?

Lastly, Peter B. Adams' article on the "Australian Miniature Species of Dendrobium Section Lichenastrum" gives you a thorough look into these tiny succulent terete-leaved species. There is always enough room for one more orchid in your collection...Especially if they are miniatures!

Let's grow together,

*Laura Newton*

## Need a Mentor?

If you are a new grower who wonders about the orchid basics – sun, water, fertilizer, and pests - sign up now to be paired with an experience grower. You'll get short term private tutoring to start your growing with confidence. It doesn't matter if you have just a couple of orchids or an entire patio full; the mentor program is for you.

One of the most important parts of this experience is the visit your mentor will make to your home. Each growing area has different requirements, as do the different orchid varieties. For example, my mentor came over and, among other things, pointed out that my cattleyas weren't getting enough sun. Wow, what a difference moving them made.

A couple of years ago, VAOS, under the careful guid-



ance of Peg Fahrenback, developed this special mentorship program to help newcomers learn about orchids and feel more involved in our group. Since its inception, over 40 people have benefitted from expert guidance and a dozen seasoned growers have helped out.

This unique program, along with our monthly growing clinics, keeps our organization strong. I urge you to join in on the fun.

You can get the mentor request form from the membership table at our monthly meetings or directly from me, the mentorship coordinator, Pauline Adam.

Happy Orchid Growing Everyone!

*Submitted by Pauline Adam*

## Orchid Boutique Requests Jewelry Donations

The Orchid Boutique has long been a popular component of our annual show, selling orchid floral arrangements, jewelry and accessories. Jane Camarota, Karen Mann and their team have been working since last February to acquire plant containers and other items at thrift shops, garage sales and church bazaars to sell at our 2015 show.

Members who have unused fashion (costume) jewelry they would like to donate for the Orchid Boutique table

may bring it to our November 5th meeting. The jewelry need not be orchid related, should not be broken or damaged, and will be cleaned and polished to sell at our show. All proceeds from the boutique, including its plant basket raffle, go to support the VAOS. Please contact Jane at 966-8433 if questions. Thank you!

*Submitted by Jane Camarota*

VAOS Holiday Party!! – Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Boca Royale Golf and Country Club

1601 Englewood Road (SR. 776)



5:30 Happy Hour with Cash Bar

6:30 Dinner (Choice of one entrée)

*Menu*

Prime Rib

Boursin & Spinach Stuffed Chicken w/ herb cream sauce

Crab Stuffed Flounder

Vegetarian or Gluten Free with prior notification

All dinners include starch and vegetable, rolls and butter, salad, coffee/soda and  
White Chocolate Mousse dessert

8:00 Après-Dinner Auction followed by dancing

\$29 per member, Cash Bar

Reservations by December 1<sup>st</sup> to:

VAOS Treasurer, Mary Amos

413 East Lake Drive, Sarasota, FL 34232

Please clearly indicate your dinner choice on your check



## The Ridge Orchid Show In Lakeland

Thank you to our members who contributed plants for our display and thanks to our ace display team for their work to create a beautiful display!

The annual Ridge Orchid Show was held in Lakeland, FL on September 20-21. This fall show is always a challenge given the time of year (not prime blooming season for orchids) and the distance for the display team to travel to set up and then take down our display. Twelve members submitted 44 plants and took home a total of 31 ribbons and three trophies!

Congratulations to our ribbon and trophy winners:

Richard Amos - 2 blue, 2 red ribbons and the International Phalaenopsis Alliance Trophy for Best Phalaenopsis in Show for his plant Phal. Bellina Montclair AM/AOS.

Jay Loeffler - 1 blue and 1 red ribbon for his framed original photographs of his orchids

Judy Loeffler - 3 blue and 1 red ribbon

Tony Nacinovich - 1 yellow ribbon

Carol Nissen - 3 blue and 1 red ribbon and Trophy for Best Other Dendrobium Type Orchid for her plant Den.



bracteosum

Corey Plasek - 1 red and 1 yellow ribbon

John Roche - 1 blue, 2 red and 1 yellow ribbon and Trophy for Best First Bloom Vanda Less Than 3" for his plant V. Green Light

Joanna Shaw - 2 blue, 2 red and 1 yellow ribbon. Note that Joanna entered 5 plants and won 5 ribbons!

James Thomas - 1 red ribbon

Cynthia Vance - 1 blue and 1 yellow ribbon

Debi Wolfe - 1 yellow ribbon

Carol Wood - 1 red ribbon

The show theme this year was 'Orchid Jungle' and the VAOS display took the third

place trophy for society displays. Thanks to all who participated and special thanks to our display team: Rich and Mary Amos, Jay and Judy Loeffler, Renee Bynum, Matthew Rinder, Jim Thomas, Carol Wood and Jerry Manegold.

*Narrative by Carol Wood, photo by Judy Loeffler*

## VAOS Shines at Chamber of Commerce Expo

VAOS had a magnificent display booth at "EXPO 2014", the premier event of the Venice Area of Commerce, on Friday and Saturday, October 3rd and 4th. Jim and Gerry Thomas, Jay and Judy Loeffler, Mary and Richard Amos, Pauline Adam, John Roche, Sybil Leven-Bushell, John Masters and Cynthia Vance hosted our colorful orchid display booth.

More than 300 attendees visited our booth and we sold more than 40 orchids by popular demand and netted a \$200+ profit. But more than that, we taught visitors how to grow these orchids which garnered much interest in VAOS. We promoted our Society's meetings and events and handed out membership brochures. We expect quite a few to attend our next meetings. We talked to a number of potential business sponsors for our upcoming orchid show. "Love of Orchids", and many are excited about the benefit of becoming Platinum sponsors.

Jim Thomas was approached by a staff member from the Jacaranda Library about the possibility of offering future classes/seminars at the library as well as a local nursing home interested in establishing an orchid growing area in their facility for the enrichment and enjoyment of their residents.

We also met one of the staff of Good News Pest Solutions and his cute and perky young daughter, Abby. She kept coming by our booth and listened to our advice



about orchid growing. Soon she started answering questions from visitors, parroting the answers she had heard us give. Abby received two orchids and she and her father came to our next Growers Clinic to explain a service that would control pests in our collections in an environmentally friendly way. Abby demonstrated her new found knowledge of orchid growing and passed out flyers in spite of the temptation from the miniature cupcakes on the table. She received another orchid and the company will be one of our new show sponsors.

*Narrative by Cynthia Vance, Jim Thomas and the Loefflers; photo by the Loefflers*

## Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

from Oct. 30 through Nov. 2nd. Colorful promotional cards were distributed offering information about the Fall Orchid Sale to be held Oct. 31 and Nov. 1st by Plantio La Orquidea at 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota.

The VAOS Plant Sale will be held in Centennial Park in Venice on Nov. 15th (details are in the October Newsletter). Sharon Kahnoski displayed a new, large and colorful banner with pictures of orchids that will be used to promote the sale. Planning ahead, the VAOS Holiday Party at the Boca Royale Country Club will be held Dec. 12th. John further reported that our VAOS Show and Sale on Feb. 7 & 8th will have several new vendors, including one selling natural hardwood for mounting orchids.

Mary Anne DiGrazia, a member of VAOS and President of the Englewood Area Orchid Society, announced the upcoming Englewood Annual Plant Sale. It will be Nov. 1st at Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood, from

9am to 2pm. Mary Anne also handed out fliers citing additional details.

Our speaker was Thanh Nguyen, owner-operator of Springwater Orchids in Melbourne FL. His topic focused upon Paphiopedilums, but he also had other orchid varieties for sale. His orchid breeding program has the goal of improving color and shape and broadening growing conditions to make growing paphs a joy. He described the natural growing conditions of the paphs that are most suitable for this area and provided valuable advice as to how we could best imitate them in our own growing areas. His excellent PowerPoint presentation used gorgeous photos of his own paphs which have received numerous national awards.

Thanh Nguyen and Ted Kellogg 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 November 2014

Cooler weather is coming along with shorter days. We need to water our plants earlier in the day so that they have time to dry out to prevent fungus and diseases and also water less often. The plant growth will slow down, requiring less moisture.

We also need to reduce, not eliminate, fertilizer during the winter. If you've been using 1 tsp/gal, cut back to ½ tsp/gal for November and then ¼ tsp/gal starting in December until new growth. Then you can go back to your normal fertilizer and watering schedule.

Our next Growers Clinic on Thursday, November 13th, will focus on rest periods for Nobile dendrobiums and other orchids requiring more severe measures during the winter. The clinic will be preceded by a Tailgate Party beginning at 5:30 pm in the VCC parking lot.

Join us for our Growers Clinics the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the VCC for discussions by experienced growers. Bring questions and problem plants for expert advice.

*Submitted by Jimmy Thomas*

### 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 the October newsletter supplement.

*Submitted by Cynthia Vance*

### VAOS Member Plant Sale Saturday November 15th 9am - 1pm Venice Centennial Park Gazebo

Have some plants you want to sell to make some money.... to buy more orchids?

Join us for the VAOS Member Plant Sale in downtown Venice on November 15th. Reserve your space now to sell plants and supplies (not restricted to orchids). We'll set up around the gazebo near Tampa Ave. Bring your own table, chairs and cold drinks. At the end of the sale give 20% of your sales proceeds to our Treasurer to benefit the VAOS.

A plant label is required and a color photo of the flower will be helpful to sell plants out of bloom. Come early as downtown Venice will be crowded with the chalk festival activities and the Saturday farmers market on Tampa Ave. Even if you don't have plants to sell, come join us!

Contact Sharon Kahnoski at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) to reserve your space.

# Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, November 5th, 7:00pm**  
**at Venice Community Center**  
**(Doors open at 6:30pm)**

- **Speaker:** Prem Subrahmanyam
- **Topic:** "Florida Native Orchids"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

## Upcoming Events

**October 29 – November 2:** AOS Fall Members Meeting, Orlando, FL. VAOS will participate with table top display. Info: [www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

**October 31 – November 1:** 9am – 4pm both days, Plantio La Orquidea Fall Orchid Sale, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243. See supplement for flyer and coupon for \$5 off any purchase over \$25.

**November 1 (Saturday):** 9am - 2pm EAOS member plant sale, Christ Lutheran Church, Englewood.

**November 5 (1st Wednesday):** VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Prem Subrahmanyam, Florida Native Orchids.

**November 13 (2nd Thursday):** VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Thomas, Topic: Winter Rest for Noble Dendrobiums and Other Orchids.  
**Tailgate Party 5:30pm in parking lot.**

**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](mailto: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:** VAOS Annual Orchid Show. Set up Friday, February 6th, 1pm-8pm.

### Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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/>

## 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



# Monthly Checklist for November and December

## Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

## Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from Masdevallias to Odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

## Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild

balanced formula regularly.

## **Paphiopedilum**

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheaths rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

.

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

## **Phalaenopsis**

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

## **Vandaceous Genera**

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. Temperatures should not be allowed to drop below 55 degrees, although 60 is appreciated. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

Based on Ned Nash and James Rose article, courtesy of AOS





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## The Role of Wind Chill in Winter Orchid Care


At the last Growers Clinic, Richard Amos talked about the effects of the coming winter weather on our orchid collections as well as measures we should take to lessen the impact on our prized plants. During the question period at the conclusion, one of our members asked if the wind chill index needed to be included in our preparations.

The wind chill index is a mathematical formula that measures heat loss from the human face to its surroundings. Only winds in excess of 3 miles per hour and temperatures of 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less are considered.

After a spirited discussion and several examples from the personal experiences of experienced growers, everyone agreed that orchids reacted quite similarly to humans when subjected to a combination of cold temperatures and strong winds. The National Weather Service chart below uses the most current methodology for measuring the index.



# NWS Windchill Chart



		Temperature (°F)																
		40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89
	60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91

*Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt*



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