

Venice Area Orchid Society News

December 2014

Sarasota Orchid Society Show January 3-4, 2015

Our first show of the 2015 season comes right after New Year's Day! The annual Sarasota Orchid Society Show and Sale will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on January 3-4. Set up is Friday, January 2nd from 8am to 2pm. The show theme is "Symphony of Orchids".

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. Bring your plants to one of two locations by Thursday, January 1st (New Year's Day), 8pm:

- South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia), tel: 497-4995
- North Venice: Jim Thomas, 453 S. Shore Dr., Osprey, FL, tel: 966-2479 or bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Friday January 2nd by 9am.

All plants must be registered in advance via email by Thursday January 1st.

Email your plant name with size and color description of the flowers to Renee Bynum at PlantReg@VAOS.org. 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, please contact

Rich Amos at disp@vaos.org or 552-6723.

Submitted by Carol Wood

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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

A Message from your President:

The official unveiling of our 2015 orchid show poster at the last meeting marked the start of our all-out effort to produce Florida's West Coast premiere orchid show once again.

Our show is considered one of the best by many of the hobbyists who go to shows all over the state. This does not happen by accident. It is

not good luck. It is the result of a lot of planning and hard work by a dedicated show committee led so perfectly by Carol and Judy. But they cannot do this alone. This is where we all have to pull together to create this magical orchid weekend. It only works when everyone pitches in. This show is the lifeblood of our society! Without the profits, nothing happens the rest of the year.

I'm asking that you sign up for a few jobs during the show but consider not limiting yourselves to just those positions. Even before I became president, I would stay at the show from the setup to the takedown. I know most of you are not that obsessed, but it's not all work. Just consider some of the benefits. On setup day, you shop first. Bring cash and the vendors are happy. Last year there were discounts for Venice workers. You also get to witness the transformation from an empty county meeting room into a beautiful orchid jungle in a matter of hours. By staying around and filling in where needed, you will notice vendors pulling new plants from under the tables to fill empty spots. Again, you have first shot at the goodies. Stay for the take down and you'll see that it's not hard when many people do this together. It has a unifying effect that carries all year when you realize you were a part of an amazing event. I know I always feel proud when I wear the shirt I earned by working the show.

Even if you think you don't plan to buy a lot of orchids, the educational aspect of this event can't be bought, only experienced. We didn't get to be a major society in this game because we stayed home. Come to the show, work the show, and enjoy the show. Trust me and you will be happy for a long time. Please read Carol's



John Masters

Continued on page 2

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2014 – 2015

President

John Masters, pres@vaos.org

Vice President - Programs

Bruce Weaver, programs@vaos.org

Vice President - Social Affairs

Sharon Kahnoski, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Richard Amos, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Mary Amos, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Peg Fahrenback, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chairs

Jay & Judy Loeffler, memb@vaos.org

Immediate Past President

Cynthia Vance, CVance@vaos.org

Annual Show Chairs

Carol Wood

Judy Loeffler

showchair@vaos.org

Director, Education & Outreach

Jim Thomas, 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

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

- Published monthly.
- Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month.
- Please direct comments to:
Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org
- Written submissions are appreciated.

Minutes of the November 5th, 2014 VAOS Meeting

President John Masters opened the meeting by giving a hearty thank you to those who hosted the recent Fall Home Tour on Oct. 18th. Judy Russell, Joanne Shaw, and Carol Nissen welcomed VAOS members into their homes and greenhouses to view their orchid collections. He asked for three other members who are willing to host a similar Spring Home Tour. John also thanked Rich Amos, VP Show Displays, assistant Jay Loeffler and the Design Team for travelling to Orlando to create a display at the American Orchid Society Fall Meeting. Their VAOS table top display won third place. Many VAOS orchids won ribbons and two AOS trophies were awarded. Members applauded this achievement. John also cited the work that Bruce Weaver does for VAOS. Bruce and his wife, Torrey, have welcomed our speakers to their beautiful water front home, treating them to fishing and other Venice area experiences.

Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, Show Chairs, presented a new, large, colorful Show poster. Judy's design featured a stunning red heart-

Continued on page 7

President's message (continued from page 1)

show article on P. 5 and sign up for some of the volunteer opportunities.

We won't have a December meeting due to our fabulous Holiday Party on December 12th. The deadline for reservations is December 1, so don't be left out! Come to the January meeting. Bring a friend, bring a plant, and bring snacks.

Treasurer's Report

November, 2014

Checking Account

| | | |
|------------------|---------|----------|
| Starting Balance | | |
| 10/1/2014 |\$ | 8,496.15 |
| + Income |\$ | 1,050.00 |
| Payments |\$ | 2,306.03 |
| Closing Balance | | |
| 10/31/2014 |\$ | 7,240.12 |

Cash Account

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| Starting Balance | | |
| 10/1/2014 |\$ | 40.00 |
| Closing Balance | | |
| 10/31/2014 |\$ | 40.00 |

Money Market Savings

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
| Starting Balance | | |
| 10/1/2014 |\$ | 25,040.40 |
| + Income | | 0.85 |
| Closing Balance | | |
| 10/31/2014 |\$ | 25,041.25 |

Total Assets

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| 10/31/2014 |\$ | 32,321.37 |
|------------|---------|-----------|

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 Envoy

Plant Table Awards November 5th, 2014

Judy Loeffler won the **First Place** ribbon with *Dendrobium* Blue Twinkle 'Carmela.' Judy had used this plant last week in a display at the AOS fall meeting in Orlando where it won the *Dendrobium* trophy. Blue Twinkle is a cross of *Den. Betty Goto* by *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, and was registered in 1991. The 'Carmela' clone received an AOS



Den. Blue Twinkle

cultural award in 1998. Its intense color, antelope shape and well-held inflorescences attracted the judges.

Pauline Adam won the **Second Place** ribbon with *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*

Jackie Weber, a plant bred by our own Bill Fender. He crossed *Rlc. Orglade's Charm* by *C. Royal Emperor* looking for intense art shade flowers with good form. This clone is a perfect example of his success.



Rlc. Jackie Weber

Rlc. Jackie Weber has 17 different species in its background and at least 10 generations of *Cattleya* type breeding.

Charlie Rogg won the **Third Place** ribbon with *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS. This often awarded clone received its first AOS award in 1986 in New York.

Bill Timm, while living in Texas, received the first cultural award to this clone, a CCM of 88 points and the initial FCC granted to the plant. It continued to receive awards, having an FCC of 94 points in 2006 and a CCE cultural award of 99 points in 1994. The most recent AOS award was a cultural award in 2012. It is a primary hybrid of *Bulb. longissimum* x *Bulb. rothschildianum*.



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann

Almost all of the awards have gone to the clone 'Buckleberry.'

Tony Nacinovich's *Brassavola nodosa* was selected as **Species of the Month**. Tony's plant was beautifully exhibited on a slab of tree fern mounted on a log. This species grows in Mexico, Central America, Columbia and Venezuela. It prefers dappled to bright indirect light and tolerates the reduced rain of the dry season well. It

is highly awarded with many clones receiving AOS quality or cultural awards.

Charlie Rogg also received the **New Member** ribbon with a plant she thought might be *Oncostele* Wildcat. This is a variable hybrid of *Oncostele Rustic Bridge* by *Oncidium Crowborough* with clones that can have white, yellow or red lips that are marked or nearly a solid color. But identifying this hybrid as distinct from other similar plants is not easy. The exhibited plant was well grown with four inflorescences in perfect condition.



B. nodosa



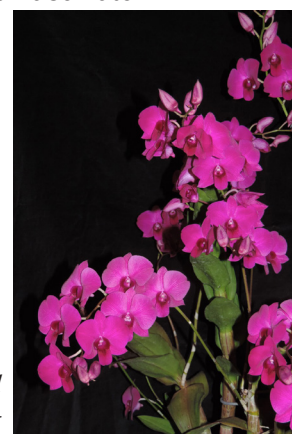
Onc. Wildcat

Renee Bynum's *Bulbophyllum fascinator* was selected by our speaker, Prem Subrahmanyam, for the **Speaker's Choice** ribbon. This small growing species is widespread throughout Asia and has one flower per inflorescence, with the flower being longer than the plant is high.



Bulb. fascinator

Debi Wolfe grew the Members Choice, an unidentified *Dendrobium* hybrid. It was, by far, the largest plant on the table and supported several inflorescences of bright magenta flowers. The plant was representative of the *Dendrobium bigibbum* hybrids bred to be highly productive for the cut flower market.



Den. hybrid

Photos and narrative submitted
by Ted Kellogg

2014 Members Plant Sale

VAOS held its Annual Member Plant Sale on Saturday, November 15 at the Gazebo in downtown Venice. After a cool start, the temperatures warmed and brought us shoppers from the adjacent Farmers Market as well as the Chalk Festival.

We had eight or nine members set up on and around the gazebo as well as along the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot. A wide variety of colorful plants and merchandise was on display, mostly orchids, bromeliads and other plants, as well as driftwood, orchid art and unique clay pots and baskets. All our sellers reported good results at the end and many donated unsold orchids to the next Raffle Table, so be on the lookout for top quality plants. The TV crew from SSN Channel 6 filmed the event and gave us great coverage of the sale as well as our show in February.

If you missed this year's sale, be sure to join us next November, either as sellers or buyers, probably as both. Remember, 20% of the proceeds went to our Society and this is a great opportunity to acquire unique plants and meet great people.



*-Narrative by Sharon Kahnoski
photos by Steve Vogelhaupt*

Membership Dues are due by January 1, 2015

Now is the time to renew your Venice Area Orchid Society Membership. Dues are only \$20.00 per household each calendar year.

Please pay Treasurer Mary Amos at the next meeting or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

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

Dues must be received by January 1st so that you can be included in the 2015 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information- address, phone and email address. Please check your current Directory to see if your entry needs editing. Should your contact information have changed, please notify Jay and Judy Loeffler, Membership Chairs, at nvrbdun@verizon.net.

Submitted by Jay and Judy Loeffler

VAOS Meeting Volunteers Doing A Great Job!

Several VAOS board members met with our monthly meeting volunteers on 11/13/14 to discuss procedures, issues and suggestions for improvement. Committee coordinators for the raffle table, plant table, refreshments and mentor program joined us. With a relatively new group of volunteers we wanted to ensure they have the support and resources they need to succeed.

Raffle Table Coordinator Matthew Rinder reported that he receives a steady stream of plants, divisions and supplies for the raffle table, netting an average \$150 each month for the society. To encourage more donations of blooming plants, which will increase raffle ticket sales, the VAOS will give 5 free raffle tickets for each blooming

plant brought into the raffle table. Thank you, Matthew and Kathy Toth and to our members who contribute to the raffle table, helping our new members to grow their collections and also to support our society.

New Plant Table Coordinator Joanna Shaw requested help with recruiting judges while she manages plant table entries and set up at the beginning of the meeting. Rich Amos, Carol Wood and Jimmy Thomas agreed to rotate as senior members and to recruit and work with two other members on the judging team. Plant table judging takes place between 6:45pm and 7pm. This new approach will provide a learning experience for our newer mem-

Continued on page 6

Show Volunteers Needed

VAOS Annual Show & Sale

February 7-8, 2015

The VAOS is proud to host the most popular orchid show on the west coast of Florida. Our show draws nationally known growers, AOS judges from across the country and close to 4000 attendees from the tri-county area. We are also known for our great food and active participation from our membership. This is our major fundraiser for the year. All members who are physically able to help are encouraged to volunteer for 2-3 hours. Here are the areas where we need your help:

Clerks - Saturday 7:30am to 10:30am. Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience as the judges share their knowledge of what makes a quality plant and flower! Seven (7) more clerks needed. Chair: Mary Anne Digrazia

Front Door Admissions - Sell admission tickets and hand out programs Saturday and Sunday. A sit down cashier job. Four (4) more people needed Saturday afternoon. Eight (8) more people needed Sunday afternoon. Chair: Elaine Ortt

Security - Monitor exit doors to prevent theft or unauthorized entry. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. A sit down job. 22 people needed. Sign up for a 2.5 hour shift Saturday or Sunday morning, mid-day or afternoon. Chair: Sharon and John Kahnoski

Membership Table - Sign up new members, sell books, distribute culture sheets and answer questions. Two (2) more people needed Saturday afternoon. Six (6) needed Sunday: 2- morning, 2 - mid-day and 2- afternoon. Chair: Jay and Judy Loeffler

Hospitality/Kitchen and Food - Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. We are famous for our food! Note what dish you will bring and on what day on the sign-up sheet for food or email to Carol Wood. We also need 4 volunteers to assist with reheating food and clean up - two on Saturday and two on Sunday. Chair: Linda and Bruce Hahn

Orchid Boutique - No additional volunteers are needed, however donations of costume jewelry are requested. Please bring to the January meeting. Chair: Jane Camarota

Classification/Registration - One volunteer is needed on Friday 2/6/15 from 12pm - 5pm to handle paperwork and respond to questions during plant registration. Chair: Ted Kellogg

Show Take Down - Eight (8) more volunteers are needed on Sunday afternoon. Arrive Sunday by 3:45pm for take down and hall clean up. Some strong backs and fresh/rested volunteers are needed. Chair: John Masters

Arts & Crafts - For our artistic members - get your entries ready for the arts & crafts table. Pre-register with Noreen so that we can prepare display signs. Bring them in Friday 2/6/15, between 2pm and 4pm. Chair: Noreen Chervinski email: pgifolks@yahoo.com

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

Sponsors - Cynthia Vance is coordinating our corporate sponsor campaign again this year with a goal to raise \$5000. If you do business with a local professional, organization or business who you think may be interested in becoming a sponsor for our show, please contact Cynthia at 483-9165.

You may email Carol Wood at ShowChair@VAOS.org to sign up. Please note your t-shirt size in your email.

Sign-up Sheets will be distributed again at our holiday party 12/12/14 and finalized at our January meeting 1/7/15. Please note your t-shirt size when you verify the sign-up sheets at our January meeting. VAOS t-shirts will be distributed to all working volunteers by the committee chairs at the show. Members who volunteer their time, bring food or make a patron donation will not be charged admission at the door.

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

-Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, Show Co-Chairs

Have A Question???

Have a question about your orchid? Has my hybrid cross been named? Has my plant been awarded? What's its parentage? Several VAOS members subscribe to OrchidWiz and will be happy to look it up for you. Email your orchid

name and question to one of the following:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Carol Wood | showchair@vaos.org |
| Jim Thomas | education@vaos.org |
| Ted Kellogg | tmkellogg@gmail.com |

Submitted by Carol Wood

2014 Fall Home Tour

Our tour featured the growing areas of three of our members, this time all located in the South Venice area. My first stop was the home of Carol Nissen, and the lovely pool area where she grows her orchids, many in bloom and all happy in the ideal environment. Carol is very knowledgeable and was glad to share her experience with the many visitors.

The next growing area was that of Joanna Shaw, one of our newer members, who is fast becoming an accomplished grower. Her name is often called out during the Plant Table presentations and she also makes unique clay fired orchid pots and baskets. She had a large selection available at the Plant Sale on the 15th and they were snapped up by the buyers.

The final stop was at Judy Russell's home. Although her collection may not be as large as some, the unique displays were very interesting and the quality of her plants was quite evident. Judy has been a member for quite a while and was usually seen at the Plant Table, which she coordinated for a number of years. Her orchids have won many ribbons at our Plant Table, local shows, as well as AOS judging.

If you would like to show off your collection and



growing area next spring, please let me know. The whole experience is fun, allows you to meet many more of our members and exchange tips and growing secrets.

*Narrative by Sharon Kahnoski and photo by Carol Wood
submitted by Carol Wood*

The AOS Show In Orlando

The VAOS was honored to be invited to participate in the American Orchid Society fall meeting in Orlando October 29th - November 2nd. We joined 4 other Florida orchid societies in putting in displays and took the 3rd place display trophy. We thank our display team and our members who submitted plants for our display, winning a total of 26 ribbons and one trophy! Congratulations to the following:

Jackie Barrett - 1 yellow ribbon
Kathy Beck - 1 blue and 1 red ribbon
Rick Belisle - 1 blue, 1 red and 1 yellow ribbon
Renee Bynum - 1 red and 1 yellow ribbon
Jay Loeffler - 1 blue and 1 red ribbon for his original orchid photos

Judy Loeffler - 2 blue ribbons and trophy for Best Dendrobium, Den. Blue Twinkle
John Masters - 1 yellow
Tony Nacinovich - 2 blue and 1 yellow ribbons
John Roche - 2 blue and 1 yellow ribbon
Joanna Shaw - 2 blue and 1 red ribbon
Steve Vogelhaupt - 1 yellow ribbon
Carol Wood - 3 yellow ribbons

Special thanks to our display team who traveled to Orlando twice to create and then take down our display - Rich and Mary Amos, Judy and Jay Loeffler, Jim Thomas and Matthew Rinder.

Submitted by Carol Wood

VAOS Meeting Volunteers (continued from page 4)

bers on judging quality plants for awards. If asked to help judge, please say YES!

New Mentor Program Coordinator Pauline Adam reported she has signed 12 new mentees and now has a total of 19 mentors participating. This innovative and successful program has continued to grow under Pauline's leadership. **Tech Coordinators Sue Grimmer and Gary Becker** are doing a good job assisting our speakers with set up and solving any tech problems during presentations. **Library Coordinator Kathy Beck** requests book donations and is in the process of inventorying our library.

Refreshment Coordinators Sharon and John Kahnoski and Dodi Sullivan are doing an excellent job and are

often the last to leave as they complete clean up duties in the kitchen after each meeting. Food and snack donations are uneven. The group discussed ideas to ensure we have enough treats for our members and guests and agreed to the following suggestion: Each month, members whose names begin with a set of letters of the alphabet will be asked to provide the treats. For our January meeting members whose last names start with A or B are requested to bring the treats.

Distribution and review of VAOS Bylaws and financial procedures completed the meeting. Thank you to our volunteers who enthusiastically donate their time and talents to make our society shine!

Submitted by Carol Wood

Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

shaped orchid graphic that complements the Show theme "Love of Orchids." Beautiful posters, fliers and postcard sized promotional cards with this red and white graphic will be used to advertise the Show. Carol complimented members on their participation in past Shows by volunteering extensively. She distributed a printed sheet that outlined the many areas where volunteers are needed. This includes display set up and tear down, food donations, front door admissions, security, clerking, and Membership Table. Volunteers will all receive a red T-shirt to wear. Signup sheets were passed around to members. Cynthia Vance will coordinate Show Sponsorships; members may contact her.

John Masters announced that our VAOS Facebook page now has 100 "friends" and receives many contacts. Facebook will be used to promote the Show and other VAOS events this year. John also announced the upcoming VAOS Plant Sale which will be held at the Gazebo in Centennial Park in Venice on Nov. 15th. He encouraged members to sign up for the VAOS Holiday Party at the Boca Royale Country Club to be held Dec. 12th. He asked members to vote at the Plant Table and purchase

raffle tickets during intermission. John reported that Pat Watters has donated orchids to VAOS in memory of her late husband.

Bruce Weaver introduced our speaker, Prem Subrahmanyam, who specializes in Florida native orchids. Prem may often be found hunting for orchids to photograph in the swamps and bogs of our state. He also discovers FL orchids along roadsides, in "prairie" areas and woodlands. His photos of orchids are published extensively. Prem gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation showing numerous native orchids in their natural environments. He discussed their culture and unique mechanisms for pollination. Prem stated the major threats to our native orchids in their natural environments are: the spread of growth and development, mowing and spraying along roadsides, and poaching. He urged efforts for orchid conservation.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Peg Fahrenback,
Recording Secretary*

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for December 2014

Before you bring your prized plants into your house or greenhouse for the winter, make sure to inspect the leaves, flowers and visible media for any signs of insects.

Prepare sufficient solution of water and a small amount of liquid detergent and immerse the pot and media, taking care to keep the media from floating away. Let the plants and pots thoroughly drip dry before bringing them into the house and you'll have avoided bringing unwanted guests to enjoy your hospitality.

Join us for Dr. Jimmy's VAOS Growers Clinic the second Thursday of each month, 7 pm, Venice Community Center.

Submitted by Jimmy Thomas

Newsletter Supplements

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, look for extra content which began in 2013. Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinic. This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.



In Memoriam - Elizabeth Ims



Our dear friend, Elizabeth Ims, died on October 2nd after a long battle with cancer. You will remember Liz at our meetings and growers clinic as the lady in the rhinestone cap, always cheerful and spirited and enthusiastic about her orchids. In addition to growing orchids, Liz had earned a Master Gardeners certificate and was also an avid quilter. Our condolences to her husband, Bob, and her family. We will miss her.

From My Kitchen Studio...Photographic Lighting

By Jay Loeffler

Photographic lighting is something every photographer should know about. Let's cover some basics in photographic lighting, including the tips, tricks and techniques for lighting photographic objects. This basic photographic lighting article is intended for our orchid growers that like to share the beauty of growing orchids.

We can break down photographic lighting into two elements, the "quantity" (amount) of light and the "quality" (type) of light.

There is a major difference between the type of light and the amount of light. Most photographers learning about lighting think that you just require the right amount of light and the subject is properly lit. It's all about the "photographic light "type", "photographic light direction", and the "amount" of the photographic light".

Intensity and Positioning of photographic lighting equipment

Brightness (Amount): How many times have you thought "I need more light"? If you're shooting with a tripod and you're shooting something that doesn't move, you really don't need more light. You may prefer that the light is coming from a different direction, but chances are that if you can see it, you can shoot it. If you want to become a good photographer, you must understand this concept. It's not the amount of light; it's how you use it. (Does this sound familiar?)

Main Light: The main light is the light that creates form (highlight and shadow). The sun is a great example of a main light. The main light in a picture could also be a spot light or umbrella light. The most important decision when creating a photograph should be where will the main light be? Should the sun be over my shoulder, or over the object? Should I put the object beside the window, or in front of the window? Should I keep the flash on? Where is the best place to put the main light? It depends. Every photo is different; there is no right or wrong way. If you like the final photographs, then you've made the right decision. The real key is to SEE the light. See what's being lit and what's not being lit. If you don't like the results, move the light! If you cannot move the light, move the object! Do you want the side of the object black (one side of object lit)? If not, move the light or object! See what the light is doing and then adjust. See what the light is lighting and what it's not lighting. It is very important! Where you put the main light will create smoothness (light near camera) or texture (light skimming across the subject). Light is the main tool of the photographer.

Number of Photographic lights:

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was

over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Just one light source? Not really. When he created the heavens and earth, it would "bounce" the sun's light back into the shadows. That is called "bounced back" light or "Fill" light. If there was no bounced back or fill light, anything not being lit directly by the sun, would be completely dark!

Fill Light is what makes the "shadow side" of things visible. In photography, we define the fill light as one not creating any (or as few as possible) visible shadows. The best way to achieve this effect in photography is to place the fill light as close as possible to the camera's axis.

Camera Axis, what is it exactly?

Imagine a dotted line running through the lens, forward, toward the subject. Basically, placing a light on camera axis means to illuminate what you see through the viewfinder, from the same angle, for minimum shadows.

Lights will create shadows. By placing the fill light as close to the camera as possible, and above, the shadows that are created by that light will be cast behind the object and are less visible to the camera. Another way to create fill light is to use a "fill card". Photographers use large white cards. The idea is to place the fill device on the opposite side of the subject as the "main" light, so light is bounced onto the subject to lighten the shadows. By looking at your object, you can determine where to place the "fill" or "bounce back" light. You can adjust the amount of shadow you want or do not want.

Light Ratio: How much fill light should I use? In other words, what should the ratio of the main light to the fill light be? Should the fill be the same brightness as the main light (1:1) or should the main light be twice as bright as the fill (2:1) Again, it's very subjective, with no right or wrong answer. Some people refer to low light ratios as "soft" light because the shadows are light and refer to high light ratios as harsh light. The basic rule of thumb is... The higher the ratio (the less fill), the more "dramatic" the shot. If you want to create drama, use less fill light. If you can't decide what ratio you want to use on your next portrait, try looking through magazines for pictures you really like. Are the light ratios high or low? Was the light near the camera or far to one side? See what it is about other photos that you like. See what the light is doing, and adjust!

You can take great pictures if you just worry about the two lights mentioned above.

December 1st is the last opportunity to sign up for this fabulous Society holiday event. The evening combines a lovely venue, great food and drink, the opportunity to make and renew friendships, dancing, and a live orchid auction to benefit the society by our own John Masters!!

VAOS Holiday Party!! – Friday, December 12th

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 1st to:

VAOS Treasurer, Mary Amos

413 East Lake Drive, Sarasota, FL 34232

Please clearly indicate your dinner choice on your check

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

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

- **Speaker:** Roy Krueger
- **Topic:** "Grooming your entries for the show"
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share

Upcoming Events

December 3rd Wednesday): No
VAOS monthly meeting

December 11 (2nd Thursday):
VAOS Growers Clinic, 7 pm, Venice
Community Center, Speaker: Jim
Thomas, Topic: Open Q & A; bring
your problem plants and get expert
advice from our expert growers.

December 12 (Friday): VAOS
Holiday Party, 5:30 pm, Boca Royale
Golf and Country Club, SR 776.
Deadline for reservations: Monday,
December 1. See invitation in Cul-
ture Supplement.

January 3-4, 2015: Sarasota Or-
chid Society Annual Show, Munic-
ipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami
Trail, Sarasota. See newsletter for
details.

January 7 (1st Wednesday):
VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open
at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm,
Venice Community Center, Speak-
er: Roy Krueger, Sarasota Orchid
Society

January 15 (3rd Thursday):

VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice
Community Center, Speaker: Jim
Thomas/Rich Amos, Topic: Preparing
your orchids for the show. Bring your
problem plants for expert advice.

Planning Ahead

January 17-18: Tamiami Internation-
al Orchid Festival, Dade County Fair-
grounds Expo Center, Fuchs Pavilion,
10901 Coral Way, Miami.

January 23-25: Fort Lauderdale
Orchid Society Show, War Memorial
Auditorium, 800 NE 8th Street, Ft.
Lauderdale.

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

March 6-7: Englewood Area Orchid
Society Annual Show, Christ Luther-
an Church, Englewood

March 21: 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/>

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

Velamen

Courtesy of Ray Barkalow, First Rays LLC.

Velamen - that silvery-gray coating on the roots of epiphytic orchids - has been described as consisting primarily as dead cells that act as a "sponge" to absorb water and nutrients, so the plant can then absorb them at a reasonable pace. Some of my reading, however, suggests that the velamen - technically velamen radicum - plays a far more active role in nutrient uptake.

Originally proposed back in the 1940's, a recent article published jointly by a professor at Oldenburg University in Germany and a Smithsonian Institute researcher in Panama, has offered scientific proof that the velamen actively traps positively-, and negatively-charged species - the dissolved mineral ions washed down out of the forest canopies in rainstorms - and tightly "holds onto them", to prevent them from being washed away by the continued rainfall. The whole thing seems very much akin to the "cation exchange capacity" (CEC) of soils that holds nutrients in place. Further, the velamen actively transfers those nutrients into the root's vascular structures, despite the concentration gradient favoring extraction from them.

More than being just "Neat", or "That's interesting", this has implications to our watering and feeding practices.

Epiphytes have evolved in an environment in which the nutrient supply can easily be called "meager", and the efficiency of nature has likely outfitted the plants to "work with" what's available, and not expect more. That suggests that - just like the CEC of soils - orchids are likely equipped to only handle a limited loading of nutrients in their irrigation supply, but to capture it as completely as possible. If we apply solutions that are significantly more concentrated, the nutrient ions may "compete" for capture sites (think "musical chairs"), which may skew the ratio of the nutrients absorbed, to the plants' detriment. Similarly, if we follow the old practice of watering with plain water first, then doing so a second time with fertilizer, any ions that may be in your water supply may similarly occupy sites in the velamen, precluding the capture of other essential nutrients.

To me, the obvious conclusion is that the best way to feed and water our orchids is through frequent applications of very dilute fertilizers. Using the

"musical chairs" analogy again, ten people will have no issues finding a seat if there are 20 chairs, but if we invite 100 people, there's going to be a lot of unhappy participants.

An Update from First Rays May 2014

www.firstrays.com

Good Growing!

December in Your Orchid Collection

Courtesy: Martin Motes, Ph.D., Florida Orchid Growing, Month by Month

December Climate Data

Average high: 77.5

Average low: 62.2

Average mean: 69.9

Average rainfall: 2.18"

December marks the beginning of the serious dry season in South Florida. While this additional dryness provides relief from autumnal rains that can bring so many fungal problems, December is also the month of shortest day lengths. This contracted period of light, on the contrary, reduces severely the drying potential for our plants. Nature thus both gives and takes away from us in December. We must make sure, therefore, that we do not aid the dark side of the force by improper watering. In December, above all, one must stick strictly to the cardinal principles of orchid watering: water early in the day so that your plants have as many hours as possible to dry, and water heavily when you water, allowing longer intervals between watering to dry plants thoroughly. This practice maximizes the benefit of the dryer air in December and minimizes the adverse effect of shorter day lengths.

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

Himalayan dendrobiums of the *nobile* and *Callista* (*D. aggregatum*, *chrysotoxum*, etc.) Sections require no additional water (beyond rain) in December. Remember, those of you who water (or, even worse, fertilize) these dendrobiums in December, will be punished by having your flowers taken away in Spring. Some growers, who have the space, isolate these dendrobiums along with other types that want hard drying such as *Catasetum*, *Cynoches*, *Mormodes*, and *Calanthe*. Another strategy is to hang these plants high or at the edges of your collection reminding oneself to neglect them and also

avoid watering them by mistake. Some growers achieve the same result by turning the pots of these genera on their side in November or December, to avoid catching water from whatever source. Plants of some of these genera that have finished flowering can even be removed from their pots and stripped to bare roots in anticipation of repotting them in new media when they break growth in the spring.

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

December can be cold, Frost has occurred in the first week of the month and unforgettably, the coldest temperatures ever recorded in South Florida were registered on December 25, 1989. If you haven't taken some of the precautions outlined in the November Newsletter, get busy! Keep a close eye on the forecasts during this volatile month.

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

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

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