

Venice Area Orchid Society News

Aug/Sep 2015

**Next Meeting: Wednesday Sept. 2, 7 p.m.
Venice Community Center
(doors open at 6:30)**

Speaker: Jim Roberts of Florida Suncoast Orchids

Topic: “Flasking” – Orchids grown from seed

One of our most popular presenters, Jim Roberts, will be returning for his third presentation this September. He will be discussing and demonstrating techniques for the art of growing orchids from seed, a method known as “Flasking” that takes time and patience!

Jim will be bringing some flasks of high quality Cattleya and Encyclia hybrids that contain about 20 – 25 young plants per flask. Some of the flasks that will be for sale are from awarded orchids and start at \$100. The general hybrid flasks will start at \$35. Perfect for splitting with an orchid ‘growing pal’!



Image courtesy of: <http://www.philloflowers.com/>

Jim is the owner of Florida Suncoast Orchids, located near Myakka City where he grows Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium, Vanda and his specialties: Cattleya and Encyclia hybrids.

He has three joined greenhouses covering 10,000 square feet. The greenhouses are open by appointment only. Jim exhibits at numerous shows, gives club presentations and you can also find his plants at local markets or order them online.

Jim will bring a great selection of orchids grown in this area to sell at the meeting. You can check out his website, www.floridasuncoastorchids.com, for information, beautiful photos and growing tips. The website is currently under construction, so ordering online isn't available.

We hope to see you there, supporting one of our few remaining local growers!

A Message From Your President

Summer is really here, with warm nights and hot days. We've had a lot of rain and the forecast expects more even into the Winter! That's good news for the orchids outside but don't end up like your vacationing President and leave some in the “drainage swale” at the edge of the house. I lost a few because they were way too wet! At least they didn't wash away like some cars in Texas.



Weather is a topic for comment all year long in Florida but we have a cure for Summer heat and humidity: Venice Area Orchid Society meetings! The last one featured fantastic old growth Bald Cypress planters from Nature's Relics. Our September meeting speaker is one of the Suncoast's favorites - Jim Roberts. He'll educate us on flasking and how to grow orchids from seeds. He'll have some beautiful plants for sale, many of which are perfect to hang on those lovely cypress pieces you may have bought from Nature's Relics.

If you get out into the parks this Summer, look up and see if you can find any of the orchids we've planted in trees around the Island. If you're out at the Sleeping Turtles Preserve on Border Rd. see if you can find the spectacular array of Encyclia tampensis along the main trail. The flowers are gone, but there is a bonanza of seed pods. Native orchids are tiny, and maybe a little insignificant, but finding them in their natural habitat is a real thrill! A new species, Eulophia graminea, is becoming more common in mulched areas around town. Look for the 12" high spikes of tiny flowers that are blooming now.

Though we've had to cancel this month's Growers Clinic, it will resume next month at the Community Center. You can learn all about orchids from our resident “Orchid Doctor”, Jim Thomas. If you need a longer relationship, sign up for a mentor from the VAOS mentor program coordinator, Pauline Adams. Either way, you will learn enough to feel comfortable growing any kind of orchid, and with more than 30,000 species to choose from, that might be the hardest choice! Happy Orchiding,

-Bruce Weaver

VAOS interim President and Program Coordinator

WWW.VAOS.ORG

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

Officers 2015 – 2016

Interim President &

Vice President - Programs

Bruce Weaver, programs@vaos.org

Vice President - Social Affairs

Sharon Kahnoski, social@vaos.org

Vice President - Show Displays

Jay Loeffler, disp@vaos.org

Treasurer

Mary Amos, tres@vaos.org

Recording Secretary

Joanna Shaw, rsec@vaos.org

Communications Director & Newsletter Editor

Steve Vogelhaupt, csec@vaos.org

Membership Chair

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

tmkellogg@gmail.com

John Kahnoski, Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw &

Cynthia Vance, Plant Table

Sue Grimmer, Gary Becker & Jerry

Manegold, Technology

Pauline Adam, Mentor Coordinator

Kathy Beck, Librarian

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 August 5, 2015 Meeting

Bruce Weaver welcomed members of the Englewood Area Orchid Society to our joint meeting at the VCC.

Topics:

Pauline Adam, Mentor Coordinator reported we have 22 'mentees', the program is doing great and many generous members have volunteered to be mentors.

Jim Roberts of Florida Suncoast Orchids will be the guest speaker at the September monthly meeting.

The Venice Orchid Project has had about a 50% success rate largely attributed to difficult weather conditions. Donations of Brassavolas and Encyclias are doing the best and more are needed.

Renee Bynum will present the pros and cons of various growing media at the September 10th Grower's Clinic

The August 5th presentation was by Dee and Jesse Vance, owners of Nature's Relics. They spoke about the history of the ancient bald cypress forests, how they rescue the old logs and limbs from private land, and how they turn them into beautiful accent pieces and orchid mounts. Dee also demonstrated the best ways of mounting orchids on the mounts.

-Submitted by Joanna Shaw, recording secretary.

It's Tailgate Party Time in Venice

We'll be starting the Tailgate Party season with the next Growers Clinic on September 10th and continuing at most Growers Clinics. It's a perfect opportunity to meet new members, renew old acquaintances, and trade orchid tips.

There is no program and no script; only good times, camaraderie and orchid tales. Bring a chair, snacks for yourself and to share, soft drinks and meet in the southside parking lot of the VCC at 5:30 p.m. before the Growers Clinic. Check the Upcoming Events for additions or cancellations.

Treasurer's Report

Aug-Sept 2015

Checking Account

Starting Balance		
7/1/15	\$	19,297.68
+ Income	\$	20.00
Payments	\$	3,890.91
Closing Balance		
7/31/15	\$	15,426.77

Cash Account

Starting Balance		
7/1/15	\$	40.00
Closing Balance		
7/31/15	\$	40.00

Money Market Savings

Starting Balance		
7/1/15	\$	25,047.88
+ Income		0.85
Closing Balance		
7/31/15		25,048.73

Total Assets

7/31/15	\$	40,515.50
---------------	----	-----------

Submitted by Mary Amos

Newsletter Culture Supplement

For those members who receive their monthly newsletter by email, be sure to check out the Culture Supplement.

Included are culture articles and handouts from our monthly Growers Clinics.

This supplemental information will only be available in our full color email edition of the newsletter.

Plant Table Awards, August 5, 2015

First Place Ribbon: *Dendrobium Emma White* grown by Debi Wolfe. It is one of the best known trade names in orchids. Debi's plant was huge -- at least 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Congrats Debi!!



Den. Emma White

Second Place Red Ribbon: *Blc. Hemlock Pass* x *Lc. Ann Follis* grown by Rick Belisle. A similar named plant was awarded in 2011 that was grown by Carol Wood. She believes this winner was likely a division she gave to our Plant Raffle -- a great reason to buy raffle tickets! Rick's plant had large elegant green flowers with a striking lip. Good growing, Rick!



Blc. Hemlock Pass x Lc. Ann Follis

Third Place Yellow Ribbon: *Lc. Adelaide Waltman* x *C. Landate* grown by Kristin Shaw. It had moderate sized spotted flowers with a nice green background color, a sensuous pink lip and was very fragrant. Kudos, Kristen!



Lc. Adelaide Waltman x C. Landate

Best Species Ribbon: *Broughtonia sanguinea* 'Star Splash 2' x 'Big Splash' grown by Joanna Shaw. Some wondered if this was a true species since it is a hybrid of 2 named cultivars. Ted Kellogg said that species can be 'line bred' and that this one is available in many different color forms. It's been blooming for 2 ½ months with 5 inflorescences with 5 flowers each. So fine, that John Roche purchased it on the spot. Beautiful growing, Joanna!



Bro. sanguinea

Continued on next page

Plant Table Awards, August, 2015 (continued from previous page)

New Member Ribbon: Ett. Volcano grown by Charlie Rogg. This plant was stunning! It had great orange color, with streaks of red and long lasting blooms. Congratulations to Charlie!



Ett. Volcano

Members Choice Ribbon: *Cleisostoma discolor* grown by Ted Kellogg. It was a lovely delicate miniature, a species he purchased at the Int'l Redland Orchid Festival several years back. He is not 100% sure the label is correct but he loves the plant and we did too. Fine growing, Ted.

Speakers Commendation Ribbon: Vanda Roll on Red grown by Debi Wolfe. It used to be called Ascocenda, but since it is a hybrid of Vanda, Ascocenda and Rhynchostylis, it is now correctly called Vandachostylis abbreviated as Van (another new name!) or commonly called Vanda. Debi's plant had a full head of uniform red flowers - gorgeous. Congrats to Debi!!



Cleisostoma discolor



Van. Roll on Red

-Photos by Steve Vogelhaupt Ted Kellogg and John Roche
-Narrative by Cynthia Vance with Joanna Shaw

Ridge Orchid Show September 19-20 Lakeland FL

The Ridge Orchid Society's annual show at the Lake Mirror Center in Lakeland FL will be held Sept 19-20. Set up is Friday Sept 18th at 10am. Jay and his display team will travel to Lakeland on Friday Sept 18th to put in the VAOS display, returning on Sunday Sept 20th for take down.

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

1. Bring your plants to one of two locations by Thursday Sept 17th, 8pm:

- South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia) 497-4995
- Venice Island: Jay & Judy Loeffler, 833 Guild Dr,

Venice 485-9569

2. **All plants must be registered in advance via email** by Wednesday, Sept 16th.

• Email your plant name with flower size and color description to Carol Wood, ShowChair@vaos.org

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

If you would like to participate in setting up our display, help with take down on Sunday, help transport plants and materials to the show, or need further information, contact Jay Loeffler, VP Displays, at 485-9569.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

The August 5th meeting featured a presentation by Jesse and Dee Vance of Nature's Relics. It reminded me of my recent visit to Corkscrew Swamp, this unique treasure, is home to both N. America's largest remaining stand of old growth Bald Cypress trees and the "Super" Ghost Orchid.

The Sanctuary is located northeast of Naples, at the gateway to the Western Everglades. It's easily accessible from I-75 (approximately 2 1/2 hours south of Venice). The 13,000 acre property is owned and managed by the Audubon Society.

The Corkscrew Sanctuary began as a way to protect the remaining old growth Bald Cypress from logging. The Audubon Society's mission now includes conserving and restoring the natural ecosystems and biological diversity for the populations of birds and other wildlife that make Corkscrew Swamp their home.

The most accessible portion of the tract is the 780+ acre swamp and boardwalk where one can find nature at its finest. The Visitors Center has a number of exhibits, an excellent Nature Store where one can rent or purchase binoculars, a small snack shop, and restrooms.

The 2.25 mile boardwalk is wheel chair accessible and meanders through mainly old growth Bald Cypress trees, many standing 130 feet with a 25 foot girth, surrounded by either standing water or swamp, depending on the season. Signs point to the largest and oldest trees and several loops take one to particularly beautiful views and shelters in case of sudden downpours.

During my visit a large red-shouldered hawk guard-

ed the entrance. The trees are festooned with various mosses and an incredible variety of bromeliads, and of course, Florida native orchids that can be difficult to spot and identify. Audubon volunteers are available to answer questions about the many birds that flit through the canopy as well as the native alligators, frogs and snakes that call Corkscrew home.

For me, the highpoint of my visit was the "Super" Ghost Orchid, so-called because of its size and the multiple blooms throughout the year. It is native to Cuba and SW Florida, mainly in the Corkscrew, Fakahatchee and Big Cypress areas. This "Super" Ghost Orchid, *Dendrophylax lindenii*, is estimated to be between 40-60 years

old, and was discovered in July, 2007 by a visitor scanning the trees for owls.

A large sign is at the best viewing point, as well as a spotting scope during good weather that provides a close-up view of the "Super" Ghost that's about 100 feet from the boardwalk and 50 feet up on the trunk of an "ancient" Bald Cypress tree. The sight and overall

The Red-Tailed Hawk experience of seeing the beautiful flowers of this

very old "Super" Ghost Orchid certainly made my day!

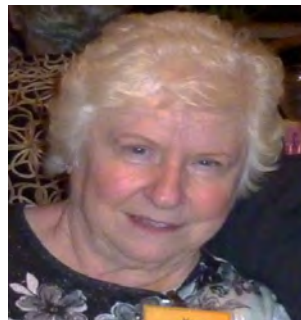
There is another, smaller Ghost Orchid a bit further along the boardwalk, discovered in 2012 about 40 feet from the boardwalk, and again at a height of about 50 feet. Ghost orchids have the most blooms from May through August. This year this "Super" Ghost has bloomed almost every month of the year. The Corkscrew Swamp website provides daily updates on the blooms their "Super" Ghost Orchid.

-Narrative and photo by Steve Vogelhaupt



In Memoriam

We are sad to announce the recent deaths of three VAOS members. Margaret Bustamante (left) died after a tragic accident on 6/18/15. Karen O'Brien (center) died following a brief illness on 7/7/15. Ken Fedder passed away after a long battle with cancer, and they will all be missed.



We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the families.

Culture Tip Update and Kudos

VAOS Bragging Rights!

Our own Dr. Jimmy has been invited to give a presentation on growing orchids at Hazeltine's Fall Festival this September 22, 23 and 24th at 10a.m. all three days. Judy Loeffler, our Membership Director and Co-Chair for the VAOS annual orchid show, will also be at Hazeltine's to host the VAOS membership table during the event. Hazeltine's will have a wide variety of orchids for sale – please stop by to cheer Dr. Jimmy on!

Dr. Jimmy reminds all our members that the hand-outs that were used during the Growers Clinics dealing with Plant Pests and Diseases are available on the St. Augustine Orchid Society website. St. Augustine has a wealth of valuable information on their website, tailored for newcomers as well as experts, and is a valuable resource that shouldn't be overlooked. Don't forget our own AOS website, which is free to all, members and non-members.

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

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 programs@vaos.org
Ted Kellogg tmkellogg@gmail.com

-Submitted by Carol Wood

Dr. Jimmy's Culture Tip for September 2015

With all of the rain we have been having, you need to be sure to spray your plants with a fungicide. Remember not to use a fungicide containing copper on Dendrobiums.

If there are any large spots of fungus, cut them out or cut them off, dispose of diseased tissue and sterilize any tools that came into contact with the plant. Clean the area of any infected material, if using a drench, you may want to change the potting media too. Cover the 'wound' with cinnamon.

Move the plants to a dry area and let the plant dry out. Only use a fine mist on the roots not the whole plant. Observe the plant to see if it needs additional treatment.

If the plant displays no further problems then put the plant back with the others.

Both the AOS and St. Augustine Orchid Society websites have excellent photos that will help with identification.

Come to the Monthly Growers Clinic held at VCC every second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Our Tailgate Party begins in September at 5:30 p.m. in the south parking lot."

-Narrative by Jimmy Thomas

Repot Your Plants

Like my earlier “Water Your Orchids” article, published in the January 2014 AOS Orchids magazine, this topic may seem to be awfully basic and pretty obvious, but I believe that if we understand some of the “why” behind the “what” or “how to” information we learn, it puts us way ahead in our efforts to become reliable caregivers to our orchids. The question of “when” to repot is another that arises frequently, and we’ll address that, too. First, a little bit about our favorite plants.

Many of you may have heard that “healthy roots means a healthy orchid” – again pretty obvious - but do you know why that is? Terrestrial plants, with their roots buried in the soil, do the vast majority of their gas exchange processes through openings (stomata) in their leaves. Orchids, on the other hand, as an apparent evolutionary strategy to minimize water loss, have adapted to having far fewer leaf stomata, those that remain are concentrated on the bottom of the leaves, and in some cases, the plants have developed a thick, waxy “cuticle” layer, all of which shifts much of the gas exchange burden to the root system. If we stifle that, we cause stress and even death to the root cells.

Let me add a bit more about those root cells. As roots grow, they “tailor” themselves to the environment into which they are growing, so that they can function optimally to support the plant, and once those cells have grown, they cannot change. We can see the implications of that with the following scenario:

A plant is potted up in nice, fresh medium, and gets great care, so it grows big and strong, sending its roots deep into the moist, airy medium. Those roots have “tailored” themselves on a cellular level to function optimally in that environment. Time marches on, and that potting medium starts to decompose, breaking down into smaller particles and becoming more and more compact, holding lots of water and starting to restrict air flow to the roots. Plus, minerals from your water and fertilizers, and plant waste products have been accumulating in the medium as well. The environment has definitely changed, but the roots have not and cannot.

That is why, when considering repotting a plant, it is best to do so just as new roots are emerging from the base of the plant, and not when the plant is dormant, or root growth is resuming only on existing roots. Those new, emergent roots will grow optimized for the environment and support the plant, while the old ones are expected to eventually fade away.

Keep in mind that the greater the difference between the “old” and “new” root zone conditions, the less optimal the old roots will be, so the more critical is the timing. One can avoid such setbacks by using good quality potting media components and repotting frequently, before the medium can significantly decompose and become compressed.

-Reprinted with permission from www.firststrays.com

VAOS Member Plant Sale Saturday November 14th 9am - 1pm Venice Centennial Park Gazebo

Do you have some plants you want to sell to make room for more orchids? Join us for the VAOS Member Plant Sale in downtown Venice on November 14th at the Chalk Festival. Reserve your space now to sell plants and supplies (not restricted to orchids).

We’ll set up around the gazebo near Tampa Ave. You will need to bring your own table, chairs and cold drinks. To benefit the VAOS, at the end of the sale a donation of 20% of your sales proceeds is given to the VAOS Treasurer.

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 Famers Market on Tampa Ave.

Even if you don’t have plants to sell, come join us! Contact Sharon Kahnoski at social@vaos.org to reserve your space.

Support Our 2015 Show Sponsors

Please support our show sponsors whose financial contributions are especially appreciated.

- Herald Tribune
- Cruise One
- Raleigh & Assoc.
- Venice Regional Bayfront Health
 - ArtisTree Landscape Maintenance & Design
 - Center for Sight
- Classics Steakhouse & Nightclubs
 - Daiquiri Deck
 - Davis & Beyer, DDS
 - Edgewood Nursery
 - Family Dermatology
 - Happy Puppy Pet Spa
 - Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community
- Kennedy White Orthopedic Center
- Keye Wong, MD
- Penta-Clean
 - RAVE
 - Senior Helpers
 - Silverstein Institute
 - Stanley Dean State Farm
- Bay Village
- Cramer Toyota
- Englewood Bank
- Orchid Envy

Venice Area Orchid Society News

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 7:00pm
at Venice Community Center
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

- **Speaker:** Jim Roberts of Florida Suncoast Orchids
- Show table entries welcome
- Bring plants for the Raffle Table
- Bring treats to share.

Upcoming Events

September 2 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Jim Roberts – Florida Suncoast Orchids - Topic: All about 'Flasking Orchids' with 'hands-on' demonstration.

September 10 (2nd Thursday): Growers Clinic 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Renee Bynum - Topic: Selecting best media for your orchids & growing conditions. **Tailgate Party 5:30pm in parking lot**

September 18 – 20: The Ridge Orchid Society's Annual Show at the Lake Mirror Center in Lakeland, FL. Set-up is Friday, Sept 18th at 10a.

October 2 – 3: Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Expo, Venice Community Center 9a - 3p, both days

October 2 – 4: Tropiflora's 16th Annual Fall Festival & Sale, 8am - 5 pm Friday & Saturday, 10am - 3pm Sunday. There'll be thousands of plants including orchids and our August presenter, Nature's Relics. 3530 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota 34243

October 7 (1st Wednesday): VAOS monthly meeting. Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: Ron Midgett, Green Cattleyas

October 15 (3rd Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, 7pm, Venice Community Center, Speaker: **Tailgate Party 5:30pm in parking lot.**

October 31 – November 1: Planitio La Orquidea's Fall Orchid Sale, 9 am - 4 pm both days. 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota 34243

Planning Ahead

December 8 (Friday): VAOS Holiday Party & Auction at Boca Royale Country Club.

January 2 - 3, 2016: Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show. Orchid Sale only

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Pauline Adam, Mentor@vaos.org

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

V.A.O.S. On FaceBook



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