

Venice Area Orchid Society News

April 2012



President's Message: Our upcoming April meeting is a special time for our society! We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary as a Society. In this newsletter is a transcript of the first meeting minutes of VAOS in January 1962. I thought you'd enjoy reading it.

At our Anniversary we will have special refreshments and tributes, along with an Archive table so you may see some of the documents and photos of our beginnings. It will be a short celebration for we DO have a master speaker and grower, Paul Storm to address us and we want to allow him maximum time.

Welcome new members! We are proud that 35 households joined our Society at our Annual Orchid Show, "Enchantment".

To serve you better, we have created a Mentor program whereby a seasoned master grower will be matched up with a new hobbyist or a member that would like expert advice on how to make their plants thrive and bloom again. If you would like to serve in either role, please contact Peggy Fahrenback. She will match you up geographically for easier access to each other. We have 6 mentor/coaches and 12 mentees. Right now we need more mentors if more mentees contact us. Please volunteer – you don't need to be a total expert at this!

In addition Jimmy Thomas will continue to host our Growers Clinic, "Orchid Growing Made Easy", on the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00 at the VCC." Carol Wood will assist him. At our last clinic we had 28 present to learn potting techniques; Jimmy demonstrated how to re-pot cattleyas and Carol, phalaenopsis. These techniques will be repeated from time to time. So bring in your sick and worrisome orchids to receive advice from our "orchid doctors".

Speakers: Paul and Mary Storm, "SCHOMBO-LOVE 101" April 4th Monthly Meeting

They are nationally known experts in growing Schomburkias. Don't miss it!! **Paul and Mary Storm are hobbyists who have a passion for anything "SCHOMBO" and their nursery in Sarasota, Florida holds what is believed to be the largest collection of Schombo-Laelia and Myrmecophila species and hybrids anywhere.**

Paul was a featured presenter at the Mid-America Winter Orchid Conference in Ohio a few years ago, as well as at the Symposium on Orchid Species sponsored by the Coalition on Species at Fairchild Gardens in Miami last year. This year Paul and Mary have presented at the Merrit Huntington Symposium in Virginia, and the Orchid Extravaganza in Aruba/Curacao.

Paul is the botanical author of two RHS accepted nothogenera as well as several pending future nothogenera, and the RHS Registrar has recently created Stormara and Paulstormara as new orchid genera. In addition, a few orchid nurseries and hybridizers have registered schombo-hybrids after Paul in honor of Meke Aloha's "Schombo-Mission". Meke Aloha's "SCHOMBO-LOVE 101" program, as well as the follow-up programs 102/103/and 104 in addition to their Species Only Program, have been enjoyed in many states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia as well as in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Aruba. Often comments on their programs include phrases like "fantastic program", "best program our OS has ever hosted", and a "hit and a hoot" - whatever that means!!

Paul and Mary look forward to sharing 'SCHOMBO-LOVE 101' with the VENICE ORCHID SOCIETY as well as spreading schombo-love and schombo-fever though-out Florida. Although Paul and Mary will be selling orchids at their programs some pre-orders may be arranged by viewing their web-site at: mekealohaorchids.com <http://mekealohaorchids.com>

Our History Begins: January 5, 1962 Minutes of 1st Meeting of the Venice Area Orchid Society

(As we approach our 50th anniversary, I thought members would be interested in the transcript of the first meeting of our Society, formed and chaired by Mr. Thomas Fels, when some of our traditions were set. The society applied to be a chapter of AOS in April 1962. Due to what the AOS called a "slight delay in getting this to you" our VAOS became an official chapter in August. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary in April when VAOS decided to be a full-fledged chapter. Cynthia Vance)

In the absence of Mr. Thomas Fels the January 5, 1962 meeting of the Venice orchid Society was called to order by the acting chairman Mr. Cecil Duff-Stevens. There being no secretary's or treasurer's report or any old business, the chairman proceeded at once to new business.

Mr. Normand Patton proposed and Mrs. James Seattle seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Fred Hohlman to the office of Treasurer. The motion carried. Mr. Patton proposed and Mrs. Attwood seconded a motion to charge nominal dues of one dollar a year a family. The motion carried. Dues were immediately collected by the treasurer from all those present. *(At the next meeting it was reported that \$12.00 was in the Treasury!)*

Mrs. Beattie proposed and Mr. Patton seconded a motion to hold the society's meetings in the evening. The motion carried.

Mrs. Patton proposed and Mr. Clark seconded a motion that the name of the society shall be "The Venice Area Orchid Society." The motion carried.

Mr. Patton told us he had made inquiries and the Venice Area branch of the Sarasota Federal Savings and Loan Association can let us have a room for our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M., an arrangement acceptable to all those present. *(Our first orchid show was also on the counter of the bank!)*

The Chairman appointed Mr. Patton and Mrs. Beattie to present a framework of some simple by-laws at the next meeting. Mr. John Hall spoke out strongly for continuity of meetings with no summer hiatus.

Mr. Hall discussed the plants on the display tables, then gave an interesting talk on diseases of orchids and showed slides which demonstrated the enormous variety and differences to be found in the members of this interesting plant family.

Upon motion the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Olivia C. Beattie, Acting Secretary

Special note: We are sorry to report that our first president, January 1962, Dr. Jack Severson passed away in late February of this year. We are looking forward to meeting his wife, Nancy, however, and will create the Dr. Jack Severson Award as a tradition at our next annual orchid shows.

Support the Sponsors of 2012 VAOS Show

Edgewood Nursery

Center for Sight

Herald-Tribune Media Group

Drs. Davis & Beyer, DDS

Raleigh & Associates

Stanley Dean State Farm

AAA South

Pineapples Island Grill

Silverstein Institute

Jacaranda Trace Retirement Community

Wonderful Spring Garden Tour

Sid and Lucey Finkelstein, friends of Sybil and Jay Levien-Bushell, hosted 30 members of our Society at their beautiful tropical home gardens. We were amazed at both the orchids in the mature oak trees and in the ground.

In the front yard they had bletillas, spathoglottis, and epidendrums. In the trees they had cattleyas, dendrobiums, cymbidiums, phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums. Sidney set up a watering system with thin pipes snaking through the magnificent oak trees using water from a branch of the Phillippi Creek.

Throughout the gardens were delightful art forms created by Lucey – animals, frogs, and a beautiful fountain and tiled wall. Refreshments were served and we all had a lovely time. Thank you, Sybil, for organizing this tour for all of us.



EAOS Show Exhibit



VAOS exhibit at EAOS show March 16th. Took 2nd place exhibit.

Congratulations to VAOS members for the beautiful orchid display exhibited at the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Show on March 16th - 17th. Bob Wallace, VP Show Displays, created an artistic and gorgeous display with 50 plants contributed by 10 members. Our display took 2nd place. Two special awards and 33 ribbons awarded to VAOS members are summarized below. Bob's support team included: Ken Dolan, Carol Liddy, Bill Timm, Peg Fahrenback, Carol Wood and Linda Schaller. Charlie and Margaret Cullin, Bill Fahrenback, Tony and Ellen Nacinovich and Cynthia Vance joined the team to help dismantle the exhibit on Saturday.

Special congratulations to Bill Timm for receiving BEST IN SHOW for his *Dendrobium bullenianum* and to Peg Fahrenback for MOST OUTSTANDING LARGE CATTLEYA award for her *C. Mildred Rives*.

Bill Timm - 3 blue, 1 yellow. Best in Show (*Den. bullenianum*)

Peg Fahrenback - 1 blue. Most Outstanding Large Cattleya (*C. Mildred Rives*)

Judy Russell - 1 red

Ted Kellogg - 5 blue, 3 red, 1 yellow

Carol Wood - 4 blue, 3 red, 2 yellow

Tony Nacinovich - 1 blue

Bob Wallace - 2 blue, 1 red

Janet & Dale Hoy - 1 red

Carol Liddy - 1 blue

Barb & Bob Wagner - 1 blue, 2 red

VAOS Excursion: Palmer and Orchid Mania Nurseries

When: Saturday April 21st

Time: 10am - 3pm

Bring: Brown bag lunch, water, and sunscreen

Join us on a road trip as we visit two large orchid nurseries in the Myakka area on Saturday, April 21st. Both nurseries are large commercial greenhouses and will have a variety of orchids in bloom for sale. We'll meet at Palmer Orchids from 10am to 12 and have lunch there. Bring your lunch; cold drinks will be provided by Palmer Orchids. After lunch, around 1pm, we'll head over to Orchid Mania.

Directions to Palmer Orchids:

I-75 Exit 217A - SR70 East toward Arcadia.

From County Rd 70 go north on county RD 675 sign also says Fiorelli Winery.

Left on 79th Ave. E (Approximately 10 mi. from exit)

Left on Waterbury Rd.

Left on Taylor Dr. to: Palmer Orchids, 22700 Taylor Dr., Bradenton, FL (941-322-1644)

Directions to Orchid Mania from Palmer Orchids:

Return to, turn left on Waterbury Rd.

Right on SR64 East

Right on Verna Bethany Rd.

Right on L&J Rd.

First left onto 261 St. E. to: Orchid Mania, 5050 261st St. E., Myakka City (941-322-1678)

Directions to Orchid Mania from I-75:

I-75

Exit 217A SR70 East

Left on Verna Bethany Rd.

Left on L&J Rd.

Left on 261st St. E.

Coordinator: Barbara Wagner 923-7706

Plant table awards, March 2012

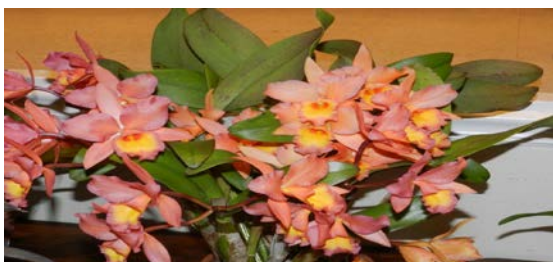
First Place: *Cattlianthe* Fire Dance 'Patricia' AM/AOS



Grower: Bill and Bobbi Morris.

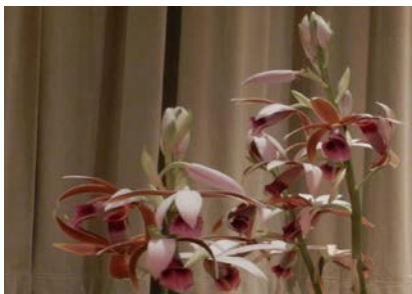
This was the first time that Bill and Bobbi Morris brought a plant to the plant table. Congratulations on winning first place. The plant they chose is known to be a strong grower and owners of this clone have earned five AOS cultural awards. The last cultural award had over 500 flowers. It is a cross of *Guarianthe aurantiaca* and *Cattlianthe* Fire Island that was registered in 1984 by Beall Orchid Company, Seattle, WA.

Second Place: *Rhyncattleanthe* Zul '#13'



Grower: Tony Nacinovich

This orange flowered offspring of *Gurianthe skinneri* by *Rth.* Orange Nuggett has often earned a place on our show table and presents a showy mass of flowers. A year ago in March another plant of Zul also won the second place award.



Third Place: *Phaius* 'Wild Thing'

Grower: Janet and Dale Hoy.

A nice pot of with several spikes of a plant called by the above name. This appears to be a horticultural name applied to a form of *Phaius tankervilleae* which is shorter growing and holds the flowers well above the foliage. There are other *Phaius* in the trade sharing this name that have distinctly different colored lips.

Members Choice and Speakers Choice: *Cattleya* Mildred Rives 'Orchidglade'



Grower: Peg Fahrenback

Probably the best-known semi alba *Cattleya*, This clone won its first award, HCC/AOS, in 1983. It got better as it grew and earned an AM/AOS in 1984, a higher AM/AOS in 1997, and a FCC/AOS in 2005. Jones and Scully got the first award and cloned the plant. Other growers earned the succeeding awards.

Species of the Month: *Cattleya walkeriana* f. semi alba



Grower: Bob Wallace

This is a beautiful clone of a well-known species. You have to look closely at the lip to see a light pink coloring on an otherwise pristine white flower. *Cattleya walkeriana* is a small growing species from Brazil. It has been used to breed showy, flat, full, small *Cattleyas*. In addition, it has been line breed in many color forms. The color form of the clone shown by Bob Wallace is not commonly seen in our area.

The Venice Area Orchid Society meets on the first Wednesday of each Month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

Orchid Growers Clinics are informal question and answer sessions addressing questions from new orchid growers or growers with problem plants. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Venice Community Center.

Guests are welcome.

Visit the Venice Area Orchid Society on the web at: www.vaos.org

Patronize Your Local Growers

- **Honey Bee Nursery**

Jeff Higel
2383 Englewood Road (Rte. 776)
Englewood

- **Plantio La Orquidea** (941-504-7737)

Tina & Rafael Romero
3480 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

www.plantiolaorquidea.com

Upcoming Events

March 31-April 1 — Central Florida Orchid Society Show; Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL

Wed, April 4 — VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. **Our 50th Anniversary Celebration!!**
Special presentations and refreshments to honor our wonderful society. Venice Community Center 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL

April 9 Englewood Orchid Society Meeting (check eaos.org site for speaker)

April 11 — Growers Meeting “Orchid growing Made Easy” 7 p.m. VCC.

April 12-14 & 19-21 FENDER'S FLORA CLOSING THEIR GREENHOUSE We're sad to announce that our favorite local grower, Fender's Flora, will be closing their greenhouses in April. After 38 years in the nursery business they are retiring. Bill is constructing a greenhouse in his backyard and we expect Bill and Susan to remain active with VAOS. We thank them for their years of support to the VAOS as well as the quality orchids they have made available to us over the years and wish them well as they retire.

The schedule for their closing sale:

April 12, 13, 14 9am - 3pm (50% off plants)

April 19, 20, 21 9am - 3pm (75% off plants)

They will also be selling related items including plastic pots and trays and growing benches. Visit their website www.FendersFlora.com for more information.

April 21 (Sat) -- Trip to Palmers Orchid Nursery and Orchid Mania Nursery. Here's a chance to purchase quality plants for your collection and to meet Bob Palmer. Individuals and car pools will meet at Palmers at 10am; lunch – then on to Orchid Mania.

May 2 - VAOS monthly meeting. 7 p.m. Jim Roberts speaking on "What's wrong with this Orchid"

May 19 (Sat) Redlands International Orchid Festival – Bus Trip \$38 pre-registration payment required. Mail check to VAOS, c/o Barbara Wagner, 6834 Anchor Way Sarasota, FL 34231 Information 941-923-7706

NOTE: Orchid Judging takes place at the Tampa Garden Center, 2629 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

VAOS Board of Directors



President: Cynthia Vance



VP Society Displays .Bob Wallace



VP Social Affairs: Carol Malott



Treasurer: Ali Hicks



Communications: Donn Smart



Recording Secretary: Peggy Fahrenback



Carol Wood: Show Co-Chair

Barbara Wagner.....Show Co-Chair



Debra Mattar: Promotion & Advertising



Past President: Ted Kellogg



Membership: Jim Thomas



Librarian: Sybil Levien-Bushell

Raffle Table: Charlie & Margaret Cullen

President's Assistants:

Jerry Manegold...Meeting Technology

Judy RussellPlant Table



Newsletter Editor:Michael O'Brien

GROWING TIPS by Courtney T. Hackney Email: Hackneau@comcast.net

Once again, it is time to repot many kinds of orchids. For new orchid hobbyists, repotting can be a scary task. Once it is done successfully a few times, this gets to be more of a chore than something to be dreaded. Most orchids with bulbs, e.g. cattleyas, dendrobiums, oncidiums, etc should be potted as soon as they start their new growth, which is now. Many species and hybrids have or are about finished flowering, another good time to repot. The biggest issue for many new hobbyists is "How do I know it is time to repot my orchid plant?" Orchids are not like other plants in that they prefer to be left alone and not repotted constantly if the medium they are in is in good shape and not turning into something that looks like garden soil. The following is some basic advice.

Carefully grab the plant (not the pot) and lift gently. If the plant starts to come out of the pot it has either lost its roots or was not well established. Either way, it needs repotting. If the medium has turned to "mush" or looks like potting soil, it is time to repot. If the plant has bulbs that are out of the pot and the medium looks like soil it is time to repot. Never repot because you want to divide the orchid. That may be a consequence of repotting, but never repot for that reason. The larger the plant, the better flowers you will see next year. The following is the process I follow for any orchid that has bulbs.

First, I remove the orchid from the old pot and cut the roots about 2-3 inches from the rhizome. Few roots survive repotting and cutting these off now avoids potential rots later. All roots that are black and clearly dead are removed entirely. Next, I use a fine jet of water to remove any particles of the old medium from the remaining roots. The same jet of water is used

to wash any brown tissue from the bulbs. If you have scale on an orchid, a fine jet of water removes scale and does not harm the plant or spread disease. Be sure to wash under the rhizome, too, because scale can hide there and reappear later on your newly repotted orchid. This is a very effective way to get rid of scale in a small collection. If the rhizome was cut or there are any cut surface, sprinkle the wound with cinnamon or other topical fungicide and let it dry. Set the orchid plant in its new pot without medium and sit it in a relatively dry shady place for a week or two. After your orchid has dried thoroughly, place it in its new pot and add medium. Most growers put some large material, e.g. lava rock, plastic peanuts, etc, on the bottom of the pot to enhance drainage and then add the medium.

The new pot should allow your orchid to grow for two years without growing out of the pot, so place the old growths at the pot edge and new growths in the center. It may seem like the pot is too small for dendrobiums if you follow the two year rule, but dendrobiums like to be pot bound and will grow best if new roots quickly contact the side of the pot. Small wires that attach to the side of the pot (pot clips) and hold the rhizome in place may be necessary if the orchid does not have many roots. My preference is to use a stake and tie one of the bulbs tightly to it and then fill the medium around the orchid and roots, pressing down on the medium to be sure there is tight contact of the orchid with the medium. This is a necessity if your orchid is to grow. If the rhizome wobbles, roots will be damaged each time the plant moves when watered.

Mist the plant lightly until new growth appears. If your timing is right, new roots will begin to appear soon, indicating that your orchid is ready to grow and that it is time to return to your regular regimen of fertilizing and watering. The rule of thumb is; if you are not sure of the proper size pot for your orchid, err on the side of the pot being too small.

Phalaenopsis, paphs and phragmepediums do not have pseudobulbs are treated differently. Repotting orchids without pseudobulbs will be discussed in the next column.

Minutes of the March 7, 2012 Meeting

President Cynthia Vance opened the meeting with numerous announcements. She encouraged members to vote for their favorite plant on the Plant Table and to view the beautiful orchids for sale by Bill and Susan Fender. She explained meeting procedures to new members regarding the Plant Table vote and the Raffle Table, encouraging them to join in. A green flyer was passed out of upcoming events of the Society.

Carol Wood and Barb Wagner proudly presented a check for \$11,000, the profit from our Annual Orchid Show, Enchantment. Cynthia explained that most of these profits are used to pay Venice Community Center rent, speaker fees and related costs incurred for activities of the Society. Barbara and Carol thanked all of the Show Chairs who worked hard to coordinate the Show activities. Cynthia presented gifts to Barbara and Carol in appreciation of their extensive work on the Show.

Barbara Wagner reported the Bus Trip to the Redland International Orchid Show, in Homestead, FL, will be May 19th. The cost is \$38 per person, which includes the \$10 entrance fee. She also reported that Richard Amos still has orchids for sale. A demonstration for repotting orchids will be given at the next Growers Clinic.

Cynthia announced a new Mentoring program to coach new members with raising orchids. She passed out sign-up sheets to provide mentoring; members could sign up to receive coaching or to be a mentor. A reception for new members and their mentors will be held at 6:30 pm, April 4th before the monthly meeting.

Cynthia recognized members who made important contributions to the Society, but are leaving those posts. Bryan Herd has served as Librarian; Sybil Levin Bushell will return to that position. Gerry and Jim Thomas have been co-chairs for Membership; Jim will be V.P. Programs and will continue to host the Growers Meeting. Jerry Manegold is leaving the V.P. Programs post, but will continue to be Technical Assistant to the President, overseeing meeting logistics. Tony and Ellen Nacinovich were presented gifts in recognition of their extensive contributions over a six year period. Tony has been Corresponding Secretary, in charge of promotion, advertising, and communications. He created beautiful art for publicity. Tony was also Newsletter Publisher. Tony and Ellen were Newsletter Editors, and produced colorful, comprehensive monthly news publications for our membership.

Other members continuing in key Society roles were recognized. Charlie and Margaret Cullen will oversee the Raffle Table. Judy Russell will be Assistant to the President, in charge of the Plant Table.

Cynthia announced the new Board of Director nominees; they were unanimously elected. Newly Directors include: Donn Smart, Communication Officer; Mike O'Brien, Newsletter Editor; Eric Kansman and Sharon Wendlandt, Membership Officers; Debra Mattar, Promotion and Advertising; and Jim Thomas, V.P. Programs. Current Board Members were recognized for their contributions. The following Board positions will remain the same: Cynthia Vance, President, Bob Wallace, V.P. Society Displays, Carol Malott, V.P. Social Affairs, Peg Fahrenback, Recording Secretary, Ali Hicks, Treasurer, Carol Wood and Barbara Wagner, Co-Chairs of Annual Show, and Ted Kellogg, Immediate Past President.

Cynthia announced the By-Laws are being revised to accommodate the newly created Board positions. She offered to hold another vote after the new By-Laws become effective if members so choose. She then introduced Bill Fender, a long standing member of VAOS. He is a native Floridian who has grown orchids for 43 years. His presentation, "Bloom, Baby, Bloom!" provided extensive tips on orchid culture, including fertilization, pest control, repotting and plant selection.

After the program, Cynthia made announcements about the upcoming Garden Tour and Grower's Clinic. Mary Anne DeGrazia reported details about the upcoming Englewood Show. Bob Wallace asked members to pre-register plants for the Show.

Cynthia announced there will be a celebration of VAOS' 50th Anniversary at our next meeting. A special presentation will include Society artifacts. Special refreshments will be provided, along with several tributes to our Society. We will also have a speaker, the Plant Table exhibit and Raffle as usual.

Bill Fender and Ted Kellogg presented orchids from the Plant Table and cited awards. The meeting was adjourned following the raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Fahrenback