



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

July / August 2017

July Joint EAOS and VAOS Meeting in Englewood

Next Meeting: Monday, July 10th, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Englewood Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave. (Rt. 776) (doors open at 6:30pm)

Speaker: Louis Del Favero

Topic: Orchid Species



Louis Del Favero received a V. Rothchildiana from a family friend for his 12th birthday. In 1968 he began working for Jungle Orchids after school, weekends and summers. They imported tree fern and orchids from Guatemala. A year later he established Louis Del Favero Orchids in Miami. It was also during this time that he took a collecting trip

with Fred Fuchs to British Honduras (now Belize) and Honduras. After that trip, Louis was consumed by a desire to view orchids in their native habitat. This started 20 years of traveling to Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean. In 1981 Louis moved to his current location in rural Tampa where he used his extensive contacts to continue importing specie orchids from their native countries. He and his wife Bonnie have more than 13,000 s.f. of greenhouses open to the public of which approximately 50% are warm tolerant species, and the other half is comprised largely of Encyclias, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, and compact to large flowered Cattleyas with an emphasis on fragrant orchids.

The church is located on your left approximately 5 miles past the Rt. 41 and Rt. 776 split. Bring your plants for the display table and divisions for the raffle table.

July Events

July 5th

No VAOS Meeting
Venice Community Center

July 10th (Monday)
Joint EAOS and VAOS
Meeting in Englewood

July 13th (Thursday)
VAOS Growers Clinic
Venice Community Center

August Events

August 2nd (Wednesday)
Joint VAOS and EAOS
meeting in Venice
Venice Community Center

August 10th (Thursday)
VAOS Growers Clinic
Venice Community Center

Newsletter

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A Message from Your President



After almost a solid month of rain, our ponds are filled and our orchids are happy with the pure rainwater and are in active growth. If there ever was a compelling reason to grow our orchids in fast draining open media, these past few weeks have demonstrated why it is so important.

On June 6th the Venice Community Center suffered damage from a lightning strike that damaged their emergency lighting and security systems. All events were cancelled pending repair. We cancelled our June 7th meeting and rescheduled the Growers Clinic to June 22nd. Therefore, there are no monthly meeting minutes or plant table awards in this combined July/August issue of the newsletter. We regret we missed out on Mark Reinke's presentation on Dendrobiums – we hope to have him back next year.

Thanks to all the members who volunteered for the annual Venice Brew Bash over Memorial Day weekend. Proceeds the VAOS will receive from this event will go toward orchid conservation and education projects.

The VAOS is supporting the University of Florida Ghost Orchid Restoration Project as well as a scholarship to Jameson Coopman, a UF graduate student involved in this project. A supplement to this newsletter provides an excellent article describing their efforts to save this endangered plant.

We had a great turnout at our June 22nd Growers Clinic, more than we normally expect during the summer months, for our presentation on Orchid Basics Part 2. We had positive feedback from many of the attendees particularly from our newer members.

Our VP Programs, Bruce Weaver, works hard to schedule popular speakers for our regular monthly meetings – covering topics of interest for the beginning grower to the experienced grower. At our monthly Growers Clinics we focus exclusively on basic orchid culture with many hands-on sessions. As we work to set our Growers Clinic schedule for 2018, we welcome your suggestions for topics to cover next year.

In September your show committee will start focusing on all of the details involved in planning our annual show. We will announce our show theme that month. For those of you who plan to volunteer to work our annual show please mark the dates: Friday February 2nd set up and Saturday – Sunday February 3-4, 2018 show and sale.

My involvement in the VAOS continues to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my life here in Venice. It is crucial to have a hobby when you retire and this is it for me. I love the excitement and passion for orchids I hear from our members and I appreciate your active involvement in our society as well as the positive feedback I hear from so many of you.

Carol Wood, President



August 2nd Joint VAOS and EAOS meeting in Venice

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Venice Community Center (doors open at 6:30pm)

Speaker: Jeff Higel

Topic: Growing Better Orchids



Jeff has been fascinated with orchids for over 30 years, growing them commercially for nearly 20. He has served as President and Show Chair for the Venice Area Orchid Society. Jeff has a penchant for learning things the hard way, and would like to share some, or even most of, his hard-learned knowledge with you.

This program will discuss what he does, and why, to successfully cultivate these fascinating and sometimes frustrating plants. He will try to make it profitable for the novice as well as the most experienced grower. Jeff will have a nice variety of plants for sale. These plants are grown locally under conditions that are easily duplicated.

Jeff's greenhouse is located at Honey Bee Nursery, 2383 Englewood Rd. (Rt. 776) in Englewood (941-474-6866)



Venice Brew Bash a Big Success!

The 6th annual Venice Brew Bash was held on Saturday May 27th Memorial Day Weekend in Downtown Venice. This event, attended by more than 3000 people, is one of the City's signature events and offers samplings of over 60 plus craft beers, live music, beer for sale on tap, local merchant vendors and local food vendors. It is a major community event held during the off-season to promote traffic to downtown businesses.



The VAOS was selected this year to participate as the non-profit organization for its beatification efforts through the Venice Orchid Project, and will share a portion of the proceeds from the event. These funds will be used to further our mission of orchid conservation and education by making some substantial donations in these areas.

The VAOS hosted a booth at the event to promote membership and society benefits. Many VAOS volunteers signed up to help sell tickets, pour beer and assist with clean up. We thank all of our volunteers and especially Renee Bynum, volunteer coordinator for the event, for their help.

Our next newsletter will summarize the donations made from the event proceeds.

August Growers Clinic

Hands-on Orchid Division and Repotting Clinic

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm



Jim Thomas and the Growers Clinic team will present a Hands-on Orchid Division and Repotting session at the Venice Community Center at 7:00 p.m. They will explain the supplies, tools and planting media, demonstrate basic procedures and share their tips of the trade. Participants will then divide/repot their own orchid with the assistance of several experienced growers and helpers. We will work in teams of 4 or 5 around a table with each person bringing an orchid that needs division/repotting or simply repotting, as well as a suitable pot to replant the orchid and a sterile pair of

shears. With only two hours available and a large turnout expected, it's critical that everyone adhere to the instructions below:

- Only one plant per person
- Bring your pot and shears
- All plants must be removed from their pot and all old planting media and dead roots must be removed prior to the clinic
- Please make sure your plant is free from pests or diseases.

Media and supplies for Phalaenopsis, Cattleya alliance, and Dendrobiums will be provided.

Note: Attendees are requested not to wear perfume as this is a small room and many of our members have allergies. Thank you.

June Growers Clinic Recap

Our June 22nd Growers Clinic was well attended by about 40 members. Jim Thomas and Jay Loeffler presented "Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting, Tools".

A copy of their handout can be found on our VAOS.org website under Resources or at [THIS LINK](#).



My Experience as a New VAOS Member

by Jo Ann Britton



My name is Jo Ann Britton. A year ago, I attended the Venice Area Orchid Society's exquisite annual show. I was anxious to find out about this plant that offered such a diversity of intriguing flowers.

Upon entering the show, I was amazed at the burst of flamboyant colors all around the room – like fireworks. My immediate reaction was “Can I really grow these exotic plants?” Encouragement came from a lovely lady behind the orchid society table. She explained how the organization was founded with the intentions of helping people like myself become knowledgeable

about growing orchids. I was hooked, paid my money and became a member on the spot! Since that day, I cannot begin to tell you how much enjoyment this club has given me. I have fun displaying our orchids, sharing our failures and successes and just enjoying each other's company. Also a healing process after the passing of my beloved husband.

I have always loved plants, but after joining the orchid society, I have fallen in love with orchids. Each month I look forward to the lectures by professional growers and then the hands- on growers clinic workshops. I must admit I now have an obsession called the Orchid Bug. When I see a display of orchids I think of the Lays potato chip ad –Bet you can't buy just one. The pure joy of being a member of this wonderful society was winning a blue ribbon in our very own Venice Orchid Show! A huge round of applause to all of you for your patience, dedication and encouragement. Do not be afraid to enter the wonderful world of orchids.

Repotting Tips

This time of year heat stress can take a toll on even our healthy, mature plants. Because many of us continue to repot throughout the summer months, some precautions will help to ensure our freshly potted plants get off to a good start. Soak your media before repotting. Use pot clips to ensure the plant is firmly secured in its new pot. Placing a thin layer of damp sphagnum moss on top of the media will encourage new roots and will protect them from snails. Drench the plant with fungicide and place it in a well- ventilated area out of direct sunlight. Reduce watering for the first two weeks. Please join us at the next Growers Clinic, Thursday, July 13th, for our popular hands-on repotting clinic. See the article in this issue for instructions. Bring your problem plants for expert advice. All members and guests are welcome.



Handy Pesticide Guide

When selecting a pesticide, the very first thing you must do is ***properly identify the pest*** you are interested in eradicating. For example, insecticides are ineffective on mites, and disinfectants and fungicides do nothing for either! Likewise, a topical spray will have little-to-no effect on hard scale, thanks to their protective shells, and usually requires a systemic insecticide. Then, having identified the pest, you should also consider the environment in which you'll be treating your plants, including the potential presence of children and pets, or whether foul odors (often added to tell you the pesticide is present) will be a problem.

Once you have chosen the specific product to use, you should consider the following general pesticide use guidelines:

READ THE LABEL, and read it completely, including not only the application instructions, but be especially careful to read –and heed –the safety warnings and recommended protective gear.

Preventive treatment with pesticides is a mistake. As there is no way to totally kill all critters with a single treatment, that's how resistant strains are developed. Use pesticides as a curative measure only. Insect Growth Regulators (IGR's, such as Enstar II) are less of an issue in this regard, as they kill all maturity stages of insects and prevent them from reproducing, which precludes the possibility of passing on the resistant genes.

Rotate your pesticides. Different classes of chemicals have different modes of action on the pests. At one end of the spectrum are those that suffocate the insect (oils) or simply remove protective coatings (soaps) and make them vulnerable to the environment around them, while at the other end are those that disrupt biological processes in one or more of several different ways. Varying the mode of action between bouts of infestation is the best way to ensure maximum effectiveness and prevent the development of resistance. It is not necessary to use several pesticides for a single outbreak, but if you get another outbreak in the future, it is better to switch to a new one then.

Follow the label directions explicitly in terms of the concentration to use, the frequency of application, and the period between those applications. One of the most common issues that folks have with pesticide use is that of improper treatment: Too weak of a concentration seems obvious, in that it simply won't kill the pests, but too strong of a mix concentration can also be bad, as not only might it be damaging to the plants, in some cases it will negatively affect the solubility of the active ingredient, rendering it less effective.

Most pesticides do not kill insects in all stages of their maturity—egg, larva, pupa, adult—so while a single treatment might kill, for example, all of the adults present, there are more critters waiting to mature and take their places devouring our plants. Insecticide labels recommend repeating the treatment—usually two or three times—so be sure to do just that. The time period between treatments is dependent on both the pesticide and the life cycle of the pest. If the chemical has extended residual action, the time period between treatments may be longer. If it doesn't, such as is the case with home remedies concocted from soaps and alcohols, more frequent treatments will be necessary. Likewise, pests with short life cycles will need more frequent treatments to avoid missing the maturation and reproduction of an entire generation. Failure to comply with any of these guidelines can fail to control the pests and may lead to the development of resistant strains that are even harder to eradicate. On the adjoining page you will find the general guidelines we use when treating our plants, but we must stress that you should **ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND ADHERE TO ITS INSTRUCTIONS**

Acephate 97UP

- 0.5 -1.0 teaspoon/gallon
- Apply 3 times at 2-week intervals

AzaMax Botanical Insect Control

- 2 tablespoons/gallon
- Apply 3 times at 7-10 day intervals

BioSafe Disease Control (RTS or RTU)

- Apply directly at first signs of disease
- Apply repeatedly (every day or two) until symptoms abate

BotaniGard ES

- 1-2 tablespoons/gallon
- Apply 3 times at 1- week intervals

Cinnamon Leaf Oil

- 0.5 teaspoon per quart
- Apply as needed

**Copper Sulfate Pentahydrate
(generic Phyton 27)**

- Mix at 1-3 teaspoons per gallon
- Apply twice at one-week interval
- Not for use on dendrobiums, or thin-leaved, sensitive plants

Deadline M - Ps Molluscicide

- Scatter pellets in-, and around pots affected by slugs or snails; test sensitive plants before scattering on leaves
- 6 pellets per square foot
- Pellets remain effective after watering, so one treatment should suffice

Don't Bug Me Spray

- Apply directly at signs of insect presence
- Repeat as long a live insects are seen

Monterrey BT

- Mix 2 teaspoons/gallon
- Used mixed solution within 24 hours
- Apply as a foliar spray, wetting all leaf surfaces
- Repeat weekly as long a live insects are seen

Monterrey Houseplant Insect Spray

- Apply directly at signs of insect presence
- Repeat as long a live insects are seen

Monterrey Garden Insect Spray

- Mix at 2 ounces per gallon
- Repeat a second time in one week

Monterrey Once-A-Year Insect Spray

- Mix at 1 ounce per gallon
- Apply three times at one week intervals

Oleotrol-M Bio-Fungicide

- Mix at 1 tablespoon per gallon
- Repeat a second time in one week

Organocide 3-in-1 Garden Spray

- Apply at first signs of insects, mites, or fungi
- Repeat at two week intervals

Physan 20 Disinfectant

- Mix at 2 teaspoons per gallon
- Apply monthly

Thiomyl

- Mix at 3 teaspoons per gallon
- Apply 3 times at one week intervals



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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5 (Wednesday): No VAOS meeting in Venice

July 10 (Monday): Joint VAOS/EAOS meeting in Englewood. 6:30pm Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave. (Rt. 776), Englewood. Speaker: Louis del Favero. Topic: Orchid Species

July 13 (Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Hands on Repotting Clinic. See details in this newsletter

July 14-15: The 23rd International Phalaenopsis Symposium, Philadelphia, PA. Info: www.Phal.Org

August 2 (Wednesday): Joint VAOS/EAOS meeting, Venice Community Center, doors open at 6:30pm. Speaker: Jeff Higel
Topic: Growing Better Orchids

August 4-5: The 7th Annual Cattleya Symposium, Fort Pierce, FL. Info: www.Odoms.com

August 10 (Thursday): VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm. Presentation: Orchid Pests and Diseases, Part 1, Pests.



Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Kathy Toth, Mentor@vaos.org.

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

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