



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

DECEMBER 2017

Merry Christmas
& Happy Holidays!



December Events

No Monthly Meeting in
December

No Growers Clinic in
December

December 8 (Friday)
VAOS Holiday Dinner Party
Boca Royale Country Club
Englewood
5:30pm

First Show of the Season!
Sarasota Orchid Society
Annual Show & Sale
January 6-7, 2018
Sarasota Municipal
Auditorium

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A Message from Your President



The holidays are here and we are busy cooking, cleaning, shopping and spending quality time with our families, friends and grandbabies. Our weather, while dry, has been perfect. Now is the time to segregate those plants requiring a winter rest to outside of our main collection to ensure they are not fertilized and receive minimal water (just what nature provides) until spring. Deciduous dendrobiums and catasetums are losing their leaves ready for their winter rest. We can decrease fertilizing and watering of all of our plants with our shorter days and cooler temperatures.

Show season is just around the corner with the Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) show first up on January 6-7. We should be staking and grooming our plants in sheath now to ensure the best display when they bloom. Look for the article in this newsletter that provides the SOS show schedule and instructions for registering and transporting your plants for the show. Jay Loeffler depends on our members to enter their blooming plants in order to create his display.

A month after the SOS show comes our own annual show on February 3-4. Your show team is in high gear right now working all the details as our show date approaches. Critical to our show's success is the participation of our members. See the Volunteer List in this newsletter – we still have several 2 1/2 hour volunteer slots to fill before the show. We will continue sign up at our holiday party on December 8 and our January 3 meeting. Do not forget to sign up to bring in a food dish for the show – we are famous for our food!

We plan to bring some added fun to our show this year with our theme “Orchids & Oldies”. Judy has ordered black t-shirts for our volunteers and we hope to see many of them in oldie style jeans and perhaps even some poodle skirts. We will be playing oldies music throughout the show weekend and will have some 70's muscle cars on display in front of the community center.

Our January 3 meeting speaker is Dr. Antonio Toscano de Bristo presenting “Newly Discovered Orchids of Belize”. At our January 11 Growers Clinic Rick Belisle will share his culture tips for growing dendrobiums. We will also end our seedlings competition with awards and prizes for the best-grown plants.

We wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday and best wishes for the New Year!

Carol Wood, President



Sign Up Now for our 2018 Show

Friday February 2nd 11am -8pm Set Up

Saturday February 3rd 10am - 5pm

Sunday February 4th 10am - 4pm

Show Committee	When	Job	# Time Slots Volunteers Needed
Set Up Coord: Jerry Daenzer 284-5001	Friday 2/2/18 11:30am - 2pm	Set up the hall for exhibits. Lay plastic, assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs needed.	All set!
Take Down Coord: Carol Wood 497-4995	Sunday 2/4/18 3:45pm - 6pm	Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh/rested volunteers needed.	2 more
Clerks Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 2/3/18 7:30am - 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!	16 more
Front Door Admissions Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 2/3/18 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/4/18 9:45am - 4pm	Sell admission tickets. Cashier skills required. A sit down job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.	12 more
Show Hosts Coord: Sharon Kahnoski 616-581-9131	Friday 2/2/18 11:30 - 7pm Saturday 2/3/18 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/4/18 9:45am - 4pm	Monitor entrances and exits. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. Serve as Show Host for AOS judges, other societies and vendors. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Some sit down jobs.	56 more 10 – Friday 19 – Saturday 27 - Sunday
Hospitality/Food Coord: Linda & Bruce Hahn 408-7646	Friday , Saturday and Sunday	Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Bring to kitchen by 11am each day. Sign up your dish and what day. Help with clean up Saturday or Sunday	All

Updated 11/20/17

Sign-up at our monthly meetings, growers clinics and holiday party or email

ShowChair@vaos.org

Orchid Society Business

Minutes from November 1, 2017

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming back our friends from the north and thanking them for bringing us some cool weather.

Announcements:

- The next Grower's Clinic is November 9 and will feature Donn Smart speaking on how he grows his Paphiopedalums.
- During the month of December there will be no regular general meeting or Grower's Clinic. The annual holiday dinner will be Friday December 8th at 5:30 at the Boca Royale Country Club in Englewood. (Details elsewhere in the newsletter)
- November 10-11th Plantio la Orquidea will have their open house. On November 17-19 Palmer Orchids will have their open house.
- November 11th will be the Englewood Area Orchid Society annual plant sale. All are invited to both shop and participate. If anyone wants a table to sell plants, please see Mary Ann Digrazia.

Our annual orchid show is coming up fast on Feb 3rd and 4th. The show poster and theme was unveiled: Orchids and Oldies. Judy updated the volunteer signup needs. She described several of the positions we need to fill including show host, judge clerking, front door admissions, setup and take down. She also encouraged Arts and Crafts entries. Please signup as able.

Bruce introduced the speaker for the evening, Mike Polen of Art Stone Orchids. Mike has been creating award winning orchid displays for many years. He has been a mentor to our own Jay Loeffler who has now also created many award winning displays. Mike spoke about how to prep, clean and stake our individual plants for their best presentation. He had some nice examples to show us and also a variety of plants for sale.

Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the plant table. Jerry and Kathy Beck did the raffle table.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00.

Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary.



Treasurer's Report October 2017

Operating Fund Starting Balance 10/01/17	\$ 19,695.89
+ Income	\$ 230.00
- Payments	\$ 3,146.36
Closing Balance 10/31/17	\$ 16,779.53

Petty Cash	\$ 40.00
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Total Operating Fund 10/31/17	\$ 18,819.53
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Reserve Fund

Starting Balance 10/01/17	\$ 25,065.36
+Interest Income - 10/31/17	\$ 0.66
Closing Balance 10/31/17	\$ 25,067.90

Submitted by Mary Amos, Treasurer



EAOS Fall Garden Open House Invitation

Mary Anne DiGrazia invites VAOS members to tour her
riverfront home garden and orchid growing area:

Garden Open House / December 9, 2017 – 9 am to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Tom and Mary Anne DiGrazia
3058 Mauck Terrace Port Charlotte, Fl. 33981

We look forward to having you come and enjoy the garden and see where we have
our orchids. Please call 941-697-9237 if you need additional information

November 2017 Plant Table Awards

Attention New Members: Please bring in your blooming plants. We'd love to see them! If you have been a VAOS member for less than 2 years you just might be awarded The New Member's Ribbon!



First Place and Blue Ribbon was captured by **Joanna Shaw** for her beautiful Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) SunCoast Stargazer with 7 flowers all in bloom at once! Jim Roberts of Florida SunCoast Orchids, Sarasota, created this hybrid by crossing Lc. Corinne 'Spotted SunCoast' and Brassavola subulifolia. He asked for suggestions for its name and Joanna won with 'Suncoast Stargazer' so Jim gave her this plant. Now she has bloomed it wonderfully. Congratulations, Joanna!

Second Place and Red Ribbon was granted to **Steve Keller** for his Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Hawaii Stars 'Pink Lace' which was creatively mounted on a round Buddha face showing off its crisscrossed roots. As a hybrid of B. Little Stars x Lc. Memoria Robert Strait, it's an orchid collector's favorite and can be found at many nurseries. This particular plant has a lighter dreamy pastel pink on its lip making it an especially lovely specimen! Great growing, Steve!



Third Place and Yellow Ribbon was won by **Judy Chisolm** for her stately Dendrobium (Den.) Deang. Our members were drawn to the luscious deep purple of its blooms. Judy staked it perfectly, as our speaker encouraged us, forcing its upright stalks to stand tall with its flowers. Judy purchased it at our 2017 VAOS show so our covetous members might find it at our 2018 show. Beautiful job, Judy!



New Member Grower's Ribbon was presented to **Naoki Kawamura** for his delicate multiflorous Neofinetia (Vanda) Falcata 'Shutenou'. It hails from China, Korea and Japan and grows as an epiphyte on deciduous trees. Naoki said it wouldn't bloom while he was residing in Portland, OR, but since moving to Venice, it flowers happily on its mount. The day after our meeting Naoki also became a U.S. citizen! We're so pleased you joined VAOS, Naoki. Many congratulations!



Members Choice Ribbon was given to **Cynthia Vance** for her stunning and fragrant Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Taida Eagle Eye 'White Angel' with 4 large blooms. Typically, 5 days later all 8 flowers (7.3 inch-wide each) were blossoming. This huge white stunner, a cross of Blc. Meditation x C. Madeleine Knowlton, recently received its well-deserved FCC/AOS on the big island of Hawaii! They are available at Normans Orchids, CA, if you must have this aromatic beauty in your collection.

Amazing specimen, Cynthia!

Best Species and Speaker's Choice Ribbons were awarded to **Jeff Higel** for his magnificent Cattleya (C.) perrinii with 12 outstanding flowers. This is one of 9 endangered species endemic to Brazil that the CORES Project is dedicated to save. Our speaker Michael Polen said it was the best C. perrinii that he had ever seen with such deep contrasting colors. Jeff sells his quality orchids at Honey Bee Nursery, just south of Venice on Englewood Rd. Fine growing, always, to Jeff!



Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance



VAOS Holiday Dinner Party

Friday December 8th, 2017

Boca Royale Country Club 1601 Englewood Rd. (Rt 776)

5:30pm Happy Hour with Cash Bar— Dinner 6:30pm
Followed with an Orchid Auction and dancing to the music of George DeJong

\$25 Per Person

Dinner options: Prime Rib, Chicken Piccata, Grouper
Vegetarian/Vegan: Vegetable Stir Fry

RSVP: As soon as possible to: social@vaos.org *[attach your menu choices]*

Make check out to VAOS

mail to: PO BOX 443 Venice, FL. 34284-0443



Membership Dues Are Now Due

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 our January 3rd, 2018 meeting

or mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

VAOS

P.O. Box 443

Venice, FL 34284-0443

Please do not delay so that you can be included in the 2018 Membership Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information - address, phone and email address.

Please check our 2017 Membership Directory to see if your entry needs editing.

If your contact information has changed, please notify Judy Loeffler, Membership Chair
at: memb@VAOS.org

Submitted by Judy Loeffler

Paphs and Phrags Culture Advice from Donn Smart



At our November 9th Growers Clinic Donn Smart presented his tips on growing successful paphiopedilums and phragmipediums. We were delighted to have 35 members in attendance! These orchids can be challenging and not everyone grows them. Paphs and Phrags are not fond of our hot weather so the key to success according to Donn is to provide more air circulation and water. He waters these plants every other day and provides maximum ventilation with fans. He also suggests increased light, close to cattleya level, to ensure blooms. Donn recommends phrags and thick-leaved paphs as the easiest types to grow in our climate. A key to success with these plants is maintaining the moisture level in the media. Paph roots are covered with tiny hairs. If the roots dry out, they will die, so it is critical to maintain the moisture level that these plants require. Donn grows his slipper orchids in a medium Orchidata bark mixed with large perlite and charcoal in plastic pots.

Our Next Growers Clinic

Thursday, January 11, 2018 when Rick Belisle will present Dendrobium Culture Tips.

We will also hold our Seedlings Competition awards ceremony at this time so those of you who took on the challenge on 2/3/17, bring in your plants for awards and prizes. VAOS Growers Clinics are held the 2nd Thursday of the month in Room F, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Use the left side entrance of the building.

Bring your problem plants for expert help. All members and guests are welcome.



Orchid Show & Sale

Venice Area Orchid Society Presents

Orchids & Oldies

February 3rd & 4th, 2018

Saturday 10am - 5pm

(displays open at 11am)

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Venice Community Center

326 S. Nokomis Ave.
Venice, Florida

Admission \$5

(under 10 free)

www.vaos.org

Thousands of Blooming Orchids, Orchid Classes, Orchid Art & Supplies

VAOS 2018 ORCHID SHOW & SALE

FEBRUARY 3-4, 2018

VAOS will present our 52nd annual show and sale at the Venice Community Center on February 3-4, 2018. Our show theme this year is “**Orchids & Oldies**”. Seventeen vendors will exhibit and sell 1000's of blooming orchid plants as well as orchid floral arrangements, artwork, jewelry, accessories and supplies. The show is widely regarded as the premier orchid show on Florida's west coast.

This major community event draws over 4000 attendees each year. Nationally recognized growers will exhibit and sell orchids. They include:

- ♦ **Art Stone Orchids**
- ♦ **Carmela Orchids**
- ♦ **Florida SunCoast Orchids**
- ♦ **Krull-Smith**
- ♦ **Odom's Orchids**
- ♦ **Palmer Orchids**
- ♦ **Phelps Farm**
- ♦ **Mac's Orchids**
- ♦ **Plantio La Orquidea**
- ♦ **Smiley's Orchids**

Artists and Supply Vendors include:

- ♦ **OFE International Orchid Supplies**
- ♦ **Carol Marcus Water Color Artist**
- ♦ **Joanna Shaw Clay Pots**
- ♦ **The VAOS Orchid Boutique**
- ♦ **The VAOS Member's Arts & Crafts Display**
- ♦ **Orchid Envy**
- ♦ **Wearable Orchid**
- ♦ **Edgewood Nursery**

American Orchid Society (AOS) accredited judges travel from around the country to judge this event. Cash awards and trophies are awarded to the best exhibits and plants in each class.

The Venice Area Orchid Society is one of the largest and most active orchid societies in the U.S. with more than 300 members. Our shows are well known for the large number of member volunteers who participate each year to make our show a success.

Show Set Up: Friday, February 2nd, 1pm – 8pm

Show Hours: Saturday, February 3rd 10am - 5pm
Sunday, February 4th 10am - 4pm

Your Blooming Plants Are Needed!



Sarasota Orchid Society Show January 6-7

Our first orchid show of the season, the annual Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) Show and Sale, will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, January, 6th-7th. Setup is Friday, January 5th, 2018, from 9am - 4pm. Show hours are Saturday 9am - 5pm and Sunday 10am - 5pm.

Your blooming plants are needed to create our 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 4th, 6pm:

South Venice: Carol Wood, 4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice (Venetia), 497-4995 (Leave on front porch)

Venice Island: Bruce Weaver, 328 West Bay Dr., Venice, 800-7804 (leave by front door)

Or bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Friday January 5th at 9am

All plants must be registered in advance via email by Wednesday, January 3rd, 8pm:

Email your plant name with a photo or bloom size and color description to Renee Bynum, 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. Please water your plants thoroughly and place in a box or container for transport to the show.

We need help transporting plants and with display set up on Friday and take down on Sunday. If you can help, please contact Jay Loeffler at 485-9569



Catasetinae Plant Culture



As we can all tell the weather is changing and your Catasetinae should now be in their final stages of growth. This was an excellent year for Catasetinae; many growers from around the country reported a fantastic flowering season. The first signs of dormancy should now be evident, with some areas of the country well in to dormancy. This is the time of year when you stop fertilizing and begin to decrease irrigation frequency, in effect lengthening the dry period in-between watering.

In nature the rainy season is nearing its end, the rains are less frequent, nights are cooler and day length is shortening. These are the environmental factors that start the dormancy process. With less rain fall fewer nutrients are moved to the root system (thus stop fertilizing) and the roots stay dryer longer (thus reduce irrigation frequency). This increasing dryness is an indicator to the plant to harden off their pseudobulbs in preparation for the 2-4 month winter dry period. Hardened off bulbs are better at storing water through dormancy. Humidity should be maintained at 40-60% however brief periods outside this range is not a problem. Maintain light levels and keep night temperatures at or above 55 degrees.

No re-potting at this time, the roots are well-developed and will resent being disturbed. If you were negligent (how could that be?) it is better to wait until next spring at this point. As soon the new growth begins in the spring, that's the time to re pot, as you can now see the best way to position your plant in its new pot. With Catasetinae the roots follow the new growth usually several weeks behind. In nature, the roots grow out and then the rains start. So, as I have said many times, "wait to water until the new growth has new roots 3-4" long." This gives the best results as large healthy root systems make for strong healthy bulbs and better yet, excellent flowering.

One of the great attributes of the Catasetinae is their deciduous nature, if you experienced leaf damage, don't worry, as those leaves are going to drop off and next spring/summer you will have a new set. How many orchids are that forgiving when the leaves are damaged?

When walking around the greenhouses these days it looks like almost everything is blooming! This is my favorite time of year as there are Catasetums in flower, it's the start of the Cynoches blooming, and the first of the Mormodes are in spike! But there is still more to look forward to as the blooming season for Clowesia rosea hybrids begin in December and January. These late season plants bloom on deciduous bulbs, with inflorescences cascading over the side of the pot with many fragrant flowers.

Good growing!

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez

[Sunset Valley Orchids Inc.](http://SunsetValleyOrchidsInc.com)



How My Extended Family Works



By Jay Loeffler

How surprised I was to receive so many comments about my article "An Extended Orchid Family." Most comments were about how other societies could benefit from the atmosphere I was exposed to. I look back now and understand a bit more of how all that happened. My wife Judy and I could have read all about orchids on the internet. The number of forums and groups has grown by leaps and bounds.

Before the internet, orchid societies were the main way for orchid lovers to get together and show off the orchids they grow. I just knew that they had all the secrets to grow orchids very well. Heck, they may have even had a secret handshake. Each month they would bring in a special speaker to explain about the orchids they crossed and grew. I could even buy some of those orchids at the same meeting. Not that I knew what to do with them.

All you have to do is a search of the internet. You will find a ton of information on orchids. You can find people on different forums or social groups that will share information and photos with you. I sat down and did a quick review (about 45 mins) of online forums and groups, finding over 40,000 members. Not all of these members are in my area but I am sure some are in yours. If you join one of these groups you can go through the member list of hundreds to thousands and find those in your area.

Social media interaction now dominates online conversations. With about 50 percent of internet users plugged into social media, you are probably more likely to speak to friends and family through electronic devices rather than face-to-face. We check, tweet, update, post, and 'like' things constantly. When our phone dings, we have to check it as soon as possible. They were designed to take as much of our time and attention as possible. It gives you a little happy moment every time, because someone liked a post or commented on a photo, now you're going to contribute even more to get more likes and comments.

So why an orchid society? Most have the same mission statement. To promote interest in orchids and their cultivation, to educate by exchanging information and experiences related to successful orchid culture, and to support the conservation of orchids in the wild. Why did my wife and I feel comfortable in our society? Our members are friendly and we have a great time when we get together. I am sure just like a lot of you do. Our meetings are filled with information to help you grow orchids, just like most other societies.

What caught our attention was the social aspect that began at the annual orchid show. Someone was going to be a mentor and give detailed information that we could use right away. I have seen this mentor program help many new members progress into very proficient orchid growers. The knowledge an experienced grower can give a new grower is immeasurable. Going over to your mentors growing area will give a new grower a vision of what they can also achieve. When the mentor visits your growing area, he can point out all the things you are doing right. He may also give you some ideas to make your experience even better.

Another aspect of the social involvement is the growers clinics. The growers clinics are two hours long and held the week after the main society meeting. Clinics cover topics like orchid basics, including information on the importance of airflow, amount of light for different types of orchids and how often to water and fertilize your orchids. Also covered are basic explanations about different types of pots and media for orchids. One of the best clinics is a hands on class covering dividing and repotting your orchid. Along that same idea, we have a class for "Potting without Pots" or how to mount your orchid.



Our growers clinics start with a show and tell "problem orchid" segment. This is when an experienced grower from the society will help solve and explain problems that a member may be having with an orchid. The nice part of this segment is that many times the orchid is doing really well, the member just was not sure of what to expect.

Many members will start with orchids that they received as a gift, one from a box store or supermarket. Many think once the flower is gone the plant is done. This is where the growers clinics on culture basics help a member continue growing and reblooming that orchid. The other helpful clinic would be the one on pests and diseases. This clinic helps them look for aphids, thrips, scale or mealybugs, this will also help them identify fungus, bacteria and virus. Along with culture basics we cover specific genera such as Cattas, Phals, Onc, Dens, Vandas and Paphs. This tends to open them up to try other orchids and add them to their collection.

Most of our new members join after our annual show and the growers clinic really helps with retention. When we start out with orchids we have a little knowledge and a lot of desire to learn. As time progresses this will shift the other way, as we have more knowledge we tend to have less desire or need for learning, now is when the monthly meeting really starts to make sense to the member and gives a new sense of desire.

There are other things we have done over the years to keep more of a social aspect in the society. Tailgate gatherings before the growers clinics (non-alcoholic). Members would bring some snacks and everyone sits around and talks about non-orchid things (who are they, what they do for work?). This gives your society a little insight of who your members are. You may just find your next board member at a social gathering. Trips to local growers is always a good day for members. It is rather fun to watch as they look at everything in awe. Summer picnics turn out to be a good place for members to trade or sell any orchid they may have. We generally finish the year with our Christmas Party. Good food always brings people together and have fun. We end the dinner with an auction of orchids that we get from a local grower.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December – No Monthly Meeting and No Growers Clinic this month

December 8 (Friday): VAOS Annual Holiday Dinner Party, Boca Royale Country Club, Englewood. Contact: Sharon Kahnoski social@vaos.org or 616-581-9131

December 9 (Saturday) – Fall Garden Open House, Mary Anne DiGrazia. 9am – 1pm. See details in this newsletter.

January 3 (1st Wednesday)– Monthly meeting. Venice Community Center. Speaker: Dr. Antonio Toscano de Brito Topic: Newly Discovered Orchids of Belize

January 6 - 7- Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. Set up Friday – Show: Saturday and Sunday. See details in this newsletter.

January 11 (Thursday)- VAOS Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm. Rick Belisle “Dendrobium Culture”. Also: Seedlings competition judging and awards.

January 12 - 14 - Tamiami International Orchid Festival, Dade County Expo Center, Miami. Info: www.orchidfestival.com

LOOKING AHEAD

February 3 - 4 - VAOS Annual Show & Sale, Venice Community Center. Set up Friday, Show: Saturday and Sunday. See details this newsletter.

March 2 - 3 - Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) Annual Show & Sale, Englewood United Methodist Church. Details to follow.

ONGOING

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 33609. at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid
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President
Carol Wood
pres@vaos.org

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Judy Loeffler
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www.vaos.org