



# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

NEWSLETTER

Visit us on the web at [www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

February 2018

## February General Meeting

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm**

**Location: Venice Community Center**

**(doors open at 6:30 pm)**

**Speaker: Vern Bloch**

**Topic: Brassovolas, New Hybrids**



I'm a retired navy pilot who got into orchids after leaving the service in 1987. Two years later Helen & I became owners of the Palm Bay Orchid Range.

We participated in many orchid shows around the state. We sold the nursery in 2004, but continue to do business on a small scale.

For the past 20 years I have regularly conducted programs for orchid societies ranging from the Florida Keys to North Carolina.

My main interest has always been the cattleya alliance.



## February Events

**February 2 - 4 – VAOS  
Annual Show & Sale  
Venice Community Center.  
Friday: Set up  
Show: Saturday and  
Sunday. See details this  
newsletter.**

**February 7 (1st Wednesday)  
Monthly Meeting  
Venice Community Center.  
Speaker: Vern Bloch  
Topic: Brassovolas, New  
Hybrids**

**February 8 (2nd Thursday)  
Growers Clinic  
Venice Community Center  
Room F, 7pm.  
Speaker: Renee Bynum,  
Topic: Brassovolas and  
Broughtonias Culture**

## Newsletter Quick Links

[VAOS 2018 Show Sponsors](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

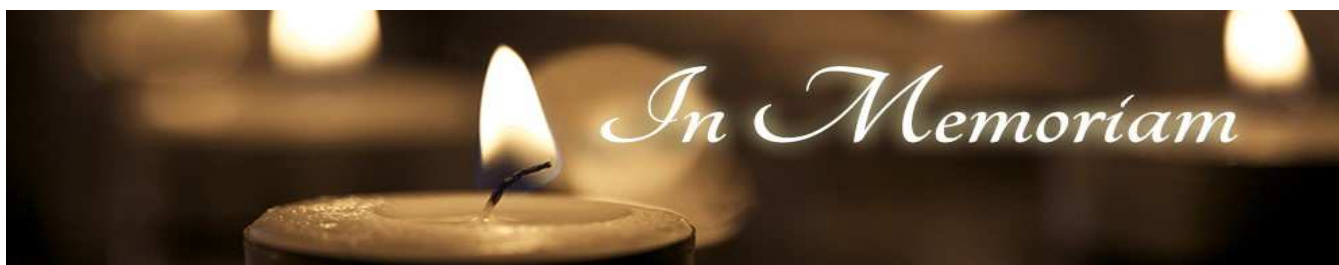
## A Message from Your President



As I write this, our annual show is just a few days away. I am filled with anticipation and excitement. I also feel a great sense of pride and appreciation for all the people who make our show a success.

Did you know that our annual show is considered the premier orchid show on the Florida West coast, and one the top three shows in the state of Florida? With more than 4000 attendees each year we are able to attract some of the best growers in the country. To our show committee who works throughout the year planning and implementing all the fine details – thank you. To all of our committee chairs who return each year to dedicate their weekend for our show, thank you. And to all the volunteers –the majority of our members – who sign up and work our show each year to ensure its'success – thank you. So proud!

*Carol Wood, President*



Glenn Hyde, past President of VAOS, passed away on December 8, 2017 at Tidewell Hospice. He is survived by his wife Jane, also a past President of VAOS. Glenn was an avid gardener and always had a big smile and bear hug for his old friends. Our condolences to Jane and his family. Glenn will be missed.

## VAOS DISPLAY TAKES FIRST PLACE AT SARASOTA ORCHID SHOW!



Congratulations to VAOS for taking First Place Society Display at the annual Sarasota Orchid Society (SOS) Show & Sale January 6 -7. Four displays were exhibited at the SOS show – SOS exhibit took 2nd place and the EAOS exhibit took 3rd place. There was one large commercial exhibit at the entrance consisting of all of the show vendors' best plants. Judges awarded the AOS Trophy to this commercial exhibit.



Fifty-six (56) plants were exhibited by 15 VAOS members and their plants were awarded 28 ribbons and three trophies. Ribbon and trophy winners were:

**Richard Amos** – One blue, one red, one yellow and trophy: Best Cattleya Alliance

**Kathy Beck** – Two blue and one red ribbon

**Steve Keller** – One red and one yellow ribbon

**Judy Loeffler** – One yellow ribbon

**Natasha Romero** – Two yellow ribbons

**Charlie Rogg** – One blue and one red ribbon

**Joanna Shaw** – One blue and one yellow ribbon

**Donn Smart** - Five blue, two red, two yellow and two trophies: Best Oncidium and Best Vanda  
(congrats Donn!)

**Jim Thomas** – Two red ribbons

**Carol Wood** – One blue and one red ribbon

VAOS created a 10' x 10' floor display with a "For the Love of Orchids" theme, flowing from above and on top of a faux mine shaft opening, located in the corner of the exhibit. Colors flowed with white Phalaenopsis and Cattleya plants, blending a good variety of quality orchids into yellows and reds on the right. Pinks and purples to the left along with a well-placed leafless tree. The exhibit was able to display wonderful color flow with the combination of members' orchids. The sign in the lower left corner stated - Warning! "For the Love of Orchids" Mining Company. Danger's Await Inside - Unprotected addiction's in this area - Deep dark obsession found inside. "Peggy's Mine Shaft"

Several VAOS members supported this team in putting in our exhibit– their work involved building the display props, cleaning and prepping the ferns and greenery used in the display, plant registration, plant labels, transporting display materials and plants to the show, building and designing the display and take down on Sunday.

Entering your plants in orchid shows is a great way to support our society and those who work so hard to create a winning display. Thanks to all who participated! *Submitted by Jay Loeffler*

**Thank you to the following volunteers:**

Judy Loeffler  
Renee Bynum  
Bruce Weaver  
Natasha Romero  
Linda Schaller  
Pete Lippa  
Peg & Bill Fahrenback  
Donn Smart  
Rich & Mary Amos  
Steve Keller  
Jim Thomas  
Carol Wood



# Orchid Society Business

Minutes from January 3, 2018

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by thanking everyone for coming out on such a cold night. We have 3 shows upcoming, the first one this weekend in Sarasota. Carol encouraged all members to contribute their blooming plants for our display. She welcomed new members and guests and reviewed the meeting format. She thanked Sharon Kahnoski for planning the successful holiday party last month.

## Announcements:

- The next Grower's Clinic is January 11 and will feature member Rick Belisle speaking on how he grows his Dendrobiums. We will also see the results of the seedling competition we started last year when everyone got a Dendrobium Microchip seedling.
- If anyone is having problems receiving the newsletter, please see Judy Loeffler
- Annual dues are due tonight.
- The next regular meeting will be Wednesday Feb 8th featuring Verne Bloch speaking on cattleya species.
- Our own annual show will be Feb 3 and 4th and this is the last meeting before the show. We still have a few volunteer spots to fill, please sign up at the membership desk. Judy Loeffler reviewed and described some of our volunteer needs including food donations to feed the vendors and volunteers over the weekend.

Bruce introduced the speakers for the evening, Toscano de Brito and Wade Collier from Selby Gardens. Toscano and Wade frequently travel together to Brazil to identify, describe and photograph new orchid species and they gave an informative talk about their experiences and findings.

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.

---

## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL GROWERS

---

**Honey Bee Nursery 2383 Englewood Road (Rt. 776), Englewood, FL (941-474-6866)**

**Palmer Orchids 22700 Taylor Dr., Myakka City, FL 34251(941-322-1644)**

**Plantio La Orquidea 3480 Tallevast Rd, Sarasota (941-504-7737)**

**Orchid Envy 339 Venice Ave. West, Venice, FL (941) 266-6351**

**Florida SunCoast Orchids 8211 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL (941-322-8777)**

## Treasurer's Report December 2017

**Operating Fund** Starting Balance 12/01/17    \$ 24,404.20

+ Income	\$ 9,080.00
----------	-------------

- Payments	\$ 3,890.59
------------	-------------

Closing Balance 12/31/17	\$ 29,593.61
--------------------------	--------------

<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>
-------------------	-----------------

**Total Operating Fund 12/31/17** \$ 29,633.61

## Reserve Fund

Starting Balance 11201/17	\$ 25,068.52
---------------------------	--------------

+Interest Income - 12/31/17	\$ 0.60
-----------------------------	---------

Closing Balance 12/31/17	\$ \$ 25,069.12
--------------------------	-----------------

*Submitted by Mary Amos*

## Venice Area Orchid Society 2017 – 2018 Officers

**President Carol Wood - [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)**

**Vice President – Programs & Immediate Past President** Bruce Weaver -  
programs@vaos.org

**Vice President – Social Affairs** Sharon Kahnoski - [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org)

**Vice President – Show Displays** Jay Loeffler - [disp@vaos.org](mailto:disp@vaos.org)

**Treasurer – Mary Amos - tres@vaos.org**

**Recording Secretary** – Joanna Shaw - rsec@vaos.org

**Communications Director & Newsletter Editor – Robin Parsons - [csec@vaos.org](mailto:csec@vaos.org)**

**Membership Chair – Judy Loeffler - [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)**

**Annual Show Chairs** – Carol Wood, Judy Loeffler- [showchair@vaos.org](mailto:showchair@vaos.org)

## Volunteers

Jay Loeffler (Webmaster) - Website@vaos.org

Kathy and Jerry Beck, - Raffle Table

Joanna Shaw, Kristin Shaw & Cynthia Vance - Plant Table

Sue Grimmer & Dick Lawson - Technology

Kathy Toth, - Mentor Coordinator- mentor@vaos.org

**It's Show Time!**

**Your Blooming Plants are Needed!**

**VAOS Orchid Show February 3-4, 2018**

Our annual show is here and Jay Loeffler and his team need your blooming plants to create a winning display. Our show will be held at the Venice Community Center on February 3-4 with set up on Friday, February 2nd.

Please bring your blooming plants to the community center on Friday, February 2nd between 9am and 11am. Enter through the rear door. Plants will be staged in Room G, to your left.

Alternatively, you may drop off your plants at one of two locations by Thursday February 1st, 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)

**All plants must be registered in advance via email by Wednesday, January 31st, 8pm.**

Email your plant name with a photo or bloom size and color description to ReneeBynum, [PlantReg@VAOS.org](mailto:PlantReg@VAOS.org). Plants should be cleaned, staked, and free of pests and disease and labeled with both the plant name and the owner's name. Please water your plant thoroughly and write your last name on the pot.

Plan to pick up your plants at show take down on Sunday, February 4th, 4pm Any questions please contact Jay Loeffler at 485-9569



# January Growers Clinic Recap

Thank you Rick Belisle for sharing your dendrobium culture tips at our January 11th Growers Clinic. Rick grows his dens in clay pots with LECA (expanded clay pellets) that he special orders from Home Depot. His dens are gorgeous and well grown and we appreciate his tips!



Following Rick's presentation, we held our Seedlings Competition judging and awards. Fourteen members took home Den. Microchip seedlings from our February 2017 Growers Clinic and ten of them brought them in for judging.

Congratulations to Judy Chisholm for taking first place - her seedling was in bud!

Three winners took home Joanna Shaw clay pots as awards.



At our February 8th Growers Clinic Renee Bynum will present her tips on growing brassovolas and broughtonias. Brassovolas are easy to grow plants of the cattleya alliance and will bloom continuously once mature. Broughtonias bring us colorful blooms during the summer.

Please join us and bring in your problem plants for expert help from our Growers Clinic team.

Guests are welcome.



# **Orchid Show & Sale**

**Venice Area Orchid Society Presents**

*Orchids & Oldies*

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.vaos.org)**

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



# VAOS 2018 Show Sponsors

Please support our generous show sponsors and thank them for their support!

## **Platinum Sponsors**

Gulfside Mortgage Services  
The Heart Institute  
Living Waters Ponds & Garden  
Venice Regional Bayfront  
Doctors Hospital of Sarasota  
Indigo Swimming Pools & Outdoor Living  
Venice Theatre

## **Gold Sponsors**

Stanley Dean Insurance  
Today's Dentistry  
Manasota Flooring of Venice  
Always an Occasion  
Hazeltine Nurseries  
Center for Sight  
Mahle Cool Air & Heating  
I Fix a Phone  
Home Depot  
Just One More Orchid  
Ark Animal Hospital  
Garden of Eden Florist  
Asaro's Ristorante  
Dr. Davis & Beyer  
Radiology Associates of Venice & Englewood  
James Griffith Salon  
Popi's on the Isle  
Sarasota Orthopedic Associates  
Family Dermatology  
Regions Bank  
Daiquiri Deck

# January 2018 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!

- Narrative and Photos by Cynthia Vance



**First Place and Blue Ribbon** was captured by Judy Chisolm for her striking Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Carolina Splendor X Rlc. Edisto X Carolina Splendor.

Rlc is a manmade tri-generic hybrid genus comprised of members from Cattleya, Laelia, and Rhyncholaelia genera.

Judy carefully staked her plant for its gorgeous deep red flowers were standing high up making it a fine specimen and most deserving of its award.

Congratulations, Judy!



**Second Place and Red Ribbon** was awarded to Donn Smart for his intoxicating Vanda (V.) Mimi Palmer.

With brown tessellated petals, a violet lip and a sweet jasmine scent this plant is most desirable to own!

It also had huge hanging roots because Donn waters it daily for 15 minutes. He acquired it from Jim Roberts at Florida SunCoast Orchids, Bradenton but Donn lost its tag.

Fortunately, a member of the Facebook group, Florida Orchid Growing, identified it and Jim confirmed it.

Beautiful job, Donn!



**Third Place and also Members' Choice Ribbons** were granted to Jerry Daenzer for his multiflorous Brassocatanthe (Bct.) Booth Lee 'Venice'. This grex was first registered in 2001 by Thomas Moore and is a hybrid of Brassanthe Maikai x C. Jalapa. It first received an HCC/AOS at the 2010 VAOS Show but the owner did not pay the nominal fee for the award so it is nullified; this also occurred at another show. Perhaps its luscious fuschia color, large spotted lip, and aroma of its blooms are enough for a grateful owner. Wonderful growing, Jerry!



**Best Species and Purple Ribbon** was presented to Donn Smart for his Catasetum (Ctsm.) Sanguineum. This plant is one of 166 catasetum species which are highly prized in horticulture. It is found growing in the thickets in Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica and Ecuador. This plant comes in a 'green form', also a 'darker form', and some are natural hybrids of both. A key feature is the projection from the lip resembling a bird's beak. This plant is a greedy feeder during the growing season and rests in winter which Donn carefully attends to, growing it beautifully!

Excellent specimen, Donn!



**Speaker's Choice and White Ribbon** was awarded to Donn Smart for his delightful Dendrobium (Den.) Precious Dawn which is the hybrid of Den. Wunderbar's Baby x Den. Dawn Maree. It was created and then registered in 1998 by H&R Nurseries, Hawaii. As you see the plant is a hearty multiflorous specimen which gladly satisfies its owners. Currently, it is still available in H&R's online catalog and many nurseries.

Again, a fine job, Donn!



# VAOS DISPLAY TEAM NEEDS YOUR BLOOMING PLANTS!

## EAOS PRESENTS “Orchids by Lemon Bay” March 2-3, 2018

Members make it possible for us to participate in orchid shows. We would not be able to build our wonderful displays if our members did not grow beautiful orchids and allow them to be shown. Your blooming plants are needed to create our display.

The Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) will hold their annual show and sale at Englewood United Methodist Church 700 East Dearborn St, Englewood, FL

The church is just 8 miles past the Rt. 41 and Rt. 776 intersection. Directions: Travel south on Rt. 776/Englewood Rd for 7 miles. Turn left on E. Dearborn St. then 1 mile to the church on the left.

### Show Schedule:

**Set up:** Thursday March 1st 10am to 6pm

**Show:** Friday March 2nd & Saturday March 3rd – 10am –5pm

**Take Down:** Saturday March 3rd –5pm

**Bring your plants to the EAOS Show site on Thursday morning at 10am.** If you are unable to bring your plants to Englewood, you may bring them to Carol Wood's home for transport:

4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice, no later than 5pm, Wednesday, February 28th.

**PLANTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN AVANCE BY EMAIL TO [PlantReg@VAOS.org](mailto:PlantReg@VAOS.org) by Wednesday, February 28th, 5pm deadline.** Email your plant name with a photo or flower color description and flower size (larger or smaller than 5"). **Place a piece of tape on your pot with your last name.**

Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease and in prime condition to last through the show. Please water your plants thoroughly before the show. Pick up your plants Saturday evening at the show at 5pm, following display take down.

Please contact  
Jay Loeffler, VP Displays,  
for further information.  
485-9569



## 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](mailto:showchair@vaos.org) Ted Kellogg [tmkellogg@gmail.com](mailto:tmkellogg@gmail.com)

## A Basic Guide to Watering and Feeding

The feeding and watering of plants can be a particularly complex subject, and there are more opinions on the subject than there are growers out there, but I believe that some scientific evaluation of plants' conditions in the wild can help simplify it. The following is my "take" on the subject, so has become general recommendations for feeding and watering orchids, but keep in mind that everything (and I do mean everything) is not "black and white", but a matter of degree.

Foliar versus Root Feeding:

- Because many orchids have evolved to be very conservative with their water, they have developed thick, waxy, cuticle layers on their leaves to retard water loss. It's particularly evident in phalaenopsis, for example. Those layers tend to be very water repellent, so would prevent the rapid absorption of the aqueous solutions.
- The areas of the leaf surface that DO absorb are closely associated with stomata (which don't absorb liquids), but again, as a water conservation adaptation, they tend to be on the undersides of leaves, which tend to see less solution exposure. □ Orchids vary all over the map, so some plants may absorb nutrients better through the foliar route better than others, while all absorb them well through their roots.

Don't Water First, Then Feed:

- In nature, epiphytes attached to trees and shrubs basically only get fed only when it rains, and the exudates and collected detritus gets washed down to them out of the canopy.
- That happen almost immediately upon the commencement of rain, then it's nothing but pure water after that.
- The velamen on the roots has been shown to be particularly good at trapping the nutrient ions immediately, and holding onto them, so they won't be washed away by the continuing down-pour - another evolutionary adaptation for their "niche" lives.
- If you water first, you saturate the velamen, and the plant can no longer absorb the nutrients from the later-applied solutions as well. If you feed with excessively-concentrated fertilizers, that is a good thing, but - again taking a cue from nature - it is better to feed frequently, using very dilute fertilizer solutions.

*Continued on page 14*

## Urea versus Non-Urea Nitrogen Sources:

There is a lot of discussion as to whether urea may be directly absorbed by orchid plants, and the "common knowledge" is that it must be decomposed into ammonium compounds for absorption, but that's not strictly true.

- Nitrates and ammonium compounds are poorly absorbed through the leaves, but are preferentially absorbed through the roots.
- Urea has just the opposite affinity, which is why many "Green Up" products sold for lawns are loaded with urea.

## Formula & Concentration:

- Orchids are about 85% water, 14% carbon and nitrogen, and 1% everything else, combined.
- Analyses of the "throughfall" and "trunk flow" of water cascading from the leaf canopy and down branched to epiphytes has been shown to be <25 ppm total dissolved solids (TDS), with almost all of that being nitrogen.
- There is no such thing as a "bloom booster". A plant is genetically programmed to bloom to its maximum potential, and a well-grown plant will do so. The best we can try to attain is to not do something that detracts from that.
- Rotating fertilizer formulas - unless you have poor ones - is a waste of time. That plant in nature sees a nearly identical "diet" at every feeding for its entire life.

## Watering Frequency & Volume:

This is well above feeding in the plants' "Maslow's hierarchy" of needs:

- Growth of a plant is more about fixing carbon than anything else. That primarily comes from CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, but water availability affects that capture.
- There is an enzyme within plants that can react either with oxygen or carbon dioxide. If it binds with carbon dioxide, there is growth. If it binds with oxygen, the plant's energy is wasted.
- When the water supply is readily available at the root system, hormone signals are sent upward telling the leaf stomata to open, which allows the "inhaling" of more fresh air, and the "exhaling" of the excess O<sub>2</sub> freed during carbon fixing.
- If the water supply is lacking, as happens when we water infrequently, those hormone signals are not sent, the stomata stay closed, and the CO<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> ratio decreases, lessening the probability of that enzyme to fix nitrogen, hence slowing growth.
- If one does the calculations associated with carbon fixing, in order for a plant to gain pound of mass, it must process roughly 25 gallons of water, and only about a teaspoon of fertilizer elements.



So summing all of that up, I have adopted the following regimen:

- Use a high-nitrogen fertilizer formula. (I like K-Lite, 12-1-1-10 Ca-3 Mg)
- Make sure the formula is complete, with all of the trace elements.
- Apply it at a very low concentration (I use 25 ppm N) at every watering.
- Select a potting medium and container that allows frequent watering without suffocating the roots, and water it frequently - the more, the better.
- Flood the pot at each watering. Not only is it irrigation and feeding, but it aerates the medium and flushes away fertilizer residues and plant waste products.

I have been growing orchids for over 45 years, and my regimen has evolved throughout that period, ending up with this one about 7-8 years ago, and I have never seen my plants do better, displaying faster growth, the creation of more growths per plant, and more and bigger flowers.

Ray Barkalow [FirstRays.com](http://FirstRays.com)

a trusted resource of practical scientific information for orchid culture

Feb 2018



## Next Meeting February 7th

- ⇒ **Bring a friend**
- ⇒ **Bring a treat to share**
- ⇒ **Donate plants for the Raffle Table**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 2 - 4** – VAOS Annual Show & Sale  
Venice Community Center.  
Friday: Set up  
Show: Saturday and Sunday. See details this newsletter.

**February 7 (1st Wednesday)** – Monthly Meeting  
Venice Community Center.  
Speaker: Vern Bloch  
Topic: Brassovolas, New Hybrids

**February 8 (2nd Thursday)** – Growers Clinic  
Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm.  
Speaker: Renee Bynum, Topic: Bassovolas and Broughtonias Culture

**March 2- 3** – Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS)  
Annual Show & Sale  
Englewood United Methodist Church.  
Thursday March 1st : Set up—See details in this newsletter

**March 7 (1st Wednesday)** – Monthly Meeting  
Venice Community Center.  
Speaker: Allen Black, Topic: Spiders and Stars

**March 8 (2nd Thursday)** – Growers Clinic  
Venice Community Center  
Room F. 7pm. Hands on Repotting and Dividing Clinic

## ONGOING

**Mentor Program:** help for beginning growers  
contact Kathy Toth, [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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  
Society  
PO BOX 443  
Venice, FL 34284-0443

**President**  
Carol Wood  
[pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

**Membership**  
Judy Loeffler  
[memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

**Visit us on the web at**  
[www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)