



# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

May 2018

## May General Meeting

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

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

Speaker: Courtney Hackney

Topic: Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas



Dr. Hackney is Emeritus Professor of Biology and the former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Previously he was Professor of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Courtney began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery and has

continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then. He grows many different genera, but his favorite is the Cattleya Alliance.

He has about 500 mature cattleyas and even more seedlings, but his favorites are classic clones, some of which appeared in orchid collections over 100

## May Events

**May 2nd**

**(1st Wednesday)**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Venice Community Center**

**Speaker: Courtney Hackney**

**Topic: "Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas"**

**May 5th**

**Spring Orchid Garden Tour  
for Newbies**

**May 10th**

**(2nd Thursday)**

**Growers Clinic**

**Venice Community Center**

**Room F, 7pm.**

**Topic: Orchid Basics Part 1**

**May 18th**

**Redlands Bus Trip**

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## Courtney Hackney Bio continued...

years ago. He makes 8-10 hybrids and species sib crosses per year in various genera.

He wrote a Growing Tips column for 20 years, which ended in December 2013. Growing Tips appeared in newsletters around the country. He has also published in the *Orchid Digest*. In 2004, he published "*American Cattleyas*", the culmination of a decade of study and interviews, which summarizes in old photographs and print how all of the modern cattleyas came to be. The book also describes what we know about cattleyas and cattleya hybrids, how to grow them, and what to expect from modern hybrids. During the past decade he has been researching the coerulea (blue) color form of cattleya species and hybrids. His article on how to predict success of coerulea Cattleya hybrids is nearing completion.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville, Florida adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose retired as a professional artist in 2017, but continues painting for fun. *Epi magnoliae* (*conopseum*) grows in trees of the swamp in his backyard. His orchids reside in a brand new 24'x25' Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp.

Courtney will have orchids for sale.

### Lost a Plant Label? Need Culture Info or Parentage?

If you've lost the label from your orchid, we may be able to help you identify it. Email a photo of the bloom and the plant to [Pres@VAOS.org](mailto:Pres@VAOS.org). I'll share it with the Growers Clinic team and we'll try to ID it for you. Wondering what your plant's parentage is or looking for culture advice for a special orchid? Send an email to me with your plant name and question and our group of experts will help.





# A Message from Your President

As President, I am required by our VAOS Bylaws to submit an annual budget to your Board of Directors for approval. Our income and expenses have steadily increased from year to year – I use last years' financial results and make adjustments to reflect projections for the next year. We are fortunate to have a healthy budget, thanks in large part to the success of our annual show. We have been able to subsidize our annual picnic, Redland bus trip and holiday party for our members. We have purchased orchids and gift certificates from our local orchid vendors to supplement our raffle table. We have been able to book exceptional speakers for our monthly meetings. We make annual donations to the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Florida North Central Judging Center – our local AOS judging center in Tampa. We support the Online Orchid Encyclopedia that provides free information on orchid species and the Univ. of Florida Endangered Ghost Orchid Project. This year we plan to fund three scholarships for Venice - area high school students pursuing biology-related degrees in college. All of our society's gifting and donations must support our mission statement and be approved by your Board of Directors. I am so pleased that we are able to continue to support these worthy organizations and causes.

As many orchid societies struggle to maintain their membership in light of the wealth of online resources available to orchid growers, our society has remained strong and continues to grow. I attribute this to our culture – we are inclusive and committed to sharing information, experiences and ideas with each other. Our Board of Directors, our Growers Clinic Team, our Mentors, our Show Committee Chairs and, I believe, our members are all committed to this ideal.

VAOS Bylaws limit our officers and directors to 2-4 year terms. This means we have a constant inflow of new people and new ideas to our leadership team. We recently welcomed four new board members: Janet Keown, VP Social, Natasha Romero, VP Programs, Kathy Beck, Membership Chair and Stephanie Luburger, Director, Communications. We are already seeing the benefit of new people and new ideas – ideas to improve or enhance our programs for new members and our social events. I encourage all of our members to get involved in our society; I promise you it will be most rewarding!

# **Common Orchid Growing Mistakes**

**October 2006**

by Dr. Courtney Hackney, [Hackneau@comcast.net](mailto:Hackneau@comcast.net)

“Do no harm” is a basic tenant of the medical profession that many orchid hobbyists would be wise to adopt. A large number of orchids I see in my travels suffered premature deaths or injury, largely because of a misinformed attempt to help the orchid grow. The following is a list assembled from my experience with other growers and from my own mistakes.

“My orchids get the best water money can buy.” My first question of the novice holding a shriveled, dead orchid is about their water. One person even admitted that she had a water softener installed for her orchid because she knew her water was “hard”. Hard or mineral laden water may not be ideal, but softened water introduces salts that are toxic to orchids and typically lethal within a few weeks.

Another common mistake is to over-fertilize based on the conclusion that a poorly growing orchid needs more fertilizer. If over-watering is the number one killer of orchid plants, over fertilizing is number two. Fertilizers are nutrient salts that plants require along with water and light to grow. Recently purchased orchid that have a good root system do not require much in the way of fertilizer. Often, these plants have been grown quickly in commercial nurseries by maximizing light, water, and fertilizer. In the home environment, light is typically limiting and the medium contains all the nutrients the orchid needs in the short term. More often, the orchid pot needs to be flushed thoroughly with water occasionally to remove nutrients and to keep roots healthy.

Some pesticide and fungicide warning labels seem to state the obvious, e.g. “do not drink this product”. Who would do such a thing? After fielding questions about pests, pesticides and orchids, I realize that no warning is too simple. Read the warning label carefully for both your own safety and the health of your orchids. The most common orchid-related pest problem seems to be overdosing and under dosing with pesticides. If the label calls for one teaspoon per gallon, use exactly that amount. Just because a scale infestation was “really bad” does not mean the concentration should be higher unless the label tells you to use a higher dosage. Some of the hormonal pesticides do prescribe lower concentrations after an initial treatment.

Another sometimes fatal error orchid hobbyists make is to change growing media because they see well grown orchids in some new medium. This often happens to relatively new hobbyists after purchasing plants from a commercial nursery or a visiting speaker. The mistake is to immediately repot every orchid into this “new medium”. In most cases, the results are disastrous. There is much to learn by examining the growing medium of a commercial grower or very successful amateur. But remember that their success is specific to a set of growing conditions that may be very different from yours. In some cases, plants growing poorly at commercial nurseries are discarded, leaving the impression that all orchids grow well in this new medium. Some groups of orchids grow well in one medium, but not in another.



## **Common Orchid Growing Mistakes continued...**

There is nothing wrong with experimenting with a medium and evaluating how well your plants grow in that medium, but avoid a wholesale conversion to a new medium.

The most surprised individual is the novice grower that brings their plant in and asks what they should do to their orchid. Typically, their “problem” orchid has outgrown the pot, has roots going everywhere, and shows signs of having bloomed repeatedly. There is also usually an admission by the grower that they have neglected this “poor” orchid, but are determined to take better care of it next year. In other words, they have “done no harm” and the orchid has thrived.



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- ♦ Discounts on orchids and supplies if they are inspired to start growing orchids
- ♦ Join thousands of members in supporting orchid education and conservation worldwide today by joining the AOS.
- ♦

[www.AOS.org](http://www.AOS.org)

## Venice Area Orchid Society Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2018

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7 pm by welcoming new members and guests. She reviewed the meeting format for the new members.

### Announcements:

- The next Grower's Clinic will be on April 12, featuring Steve Vogelhaupt presenting Potting Without Pots, How to Mount Orchids.
- Next month the speaker will be Courtney Hackney from St. Augustine talking about Cattleyas.
- The May Grower's Clinic will be Orchids 101, the Basics of Orchid Growing.
- Thanks to Janet Keown and Sharon Kahnoski for putting together a wonderful spring picnic, 55 people attended.
- The annual bus trip to the Redland International Orchid festival will be Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be \$30 and there is a signup sheet.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> will be a spring orchid garden tour focusing on new members, details will be forthcoming.
- Janet Keown thanked people for bringing goodies to the hospitality table. She encouraged everyone to bring something at least once and she asked if anyone would volunteer to help with set-up and take-down.

Natasha Romero thanked Bruce Weaver for helping her make the transition to her new role as Vice President of Programs. She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Monroe Kokin. Monroe is a local hobby orchid grower with over 800 orchids! He gave a presentation of Growing Orchids in Southwest Florida. Orchid Envy had a nice selection of plants and supplies for sale.

Joanna Shaw and Bill Rich presented the plant table. John and Sharon Kahnoski did the raffle table.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10.

Submitted by Joanna Shaw, recording secretary.

## April 12<sup>th</sup> Growers Clinic Recap

Steve Vogelhaupt led a lively group of 40 members in our annual “Potting Without Pots/Mounting Orchids” hands-on clinic on April 12<sup>th</sup>. He gave us a great overview of the types of orchids that can be mounted, most common types of wood mounts, techniques and materials. Once again we made a mess but our members went home with some gorgeous mounted orchids.



Please join us for next month's Growers Clinic on May 10th when we will present “Orchid Basics Part 1 – Air, Light, Water, Fertilizer and Supplements”. Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm. Enter left side of building. Bring your problem plants for expert help. Guests are always welcome!

## 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 March 2018

<b>Operating Fund</b> Starting Balance 3/1/18.....	\$ 33,432.57
+ Income .....	786.77
- Payments.....	5853.71
Closing Balance 3/31/18 .....	\$ 28,365.63
<b>Petty Cash</b> .....	\$ 40.00
<b>Total Operating Fund 3/1/18</b> .....	\$ 28,405.63
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	
Starting Balance 3/1/18 .....	\$ 25,069.12
+ Deposit .....	10.00
+Interest Income – 3/31/18.....	1.88
Closing Balance 3/31/18 .....	\$ 25,081.00

*Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer*



## **VAOS 2018 Show Sponsors**

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

### **Platinum Sponsors**

Gulfside Mortgage Services  
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Venice Regional Bayfront  
Doctors Hospital of Sarasota  
Indigo Swimming Pools & Outdoor Living  
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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

## April 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards



**First Place and Blue Ribbon** was captured by Sharon Miles for her striking Cattleya (C.) Lawrenceana x Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Trick or Treat. Her plant had more than 15 blooms around the edge of a wooden basket, so a close-up photo of a few captures their high beauty. Sharon grows it in Orchidata bark, rocks and some cocoanut husk. Hybrids with Lc. Trick or Treat provide so much satisfaction for all of us – producing many orange blooms all at once in a compact space. Beautiful specimen Sharon!

**Second Place and Red Ribbon** was awarded to Kate Burda for her stand-out Cattleya (C.) Motte Spot 'Paradise' AM/AOS with its waxy spotted sepals and lovely deep fuschia lip. AM stands for Award of Merit, awarded to an orchid plant scoring 80-89 points on a 100-point scale. Instead of traditional re-potting Kate 'potted up' by placing the pot inside a larger ceramic pot, also with openings for drainage. This method is a life-saver for those of us behind in our greenhouse tasks. Great job Kate!



**Third Place and Yellow Ribbon** was granted to Bill Rich for his Yama-dara Redland Sunset (Encyclia cordigera alba x Blc. Orange Nuggett). Bill's plant had 6 blooms with dreamy mango-orange petals and sepals and a deep pink lip. Orchid devotees love this beautiful compact plant which emanates a lovely aroma. Check out Lowes -- sometimes these beauties are found in the 'bag babies' section. Nice growing Bill!

**Best Species and Purple Ribbon** was presented to Carol Wood for Leptotes (Lpt.) pohlitinocoi with its darling 1.8-inch pink flowers. Carol grows it in the spagham-filled cup on one of Joanna's lovely clay mounts. This species is endemic to Brazil in the Bahia montane rainforests at elevations of 1500-2500 feet. Though we live almost at sea level, this warm growing epiphyte is one of our first orchid species to bloom in the early spring. Charming specimen and presentation Carol!



## April 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards Continued....



**New Member Grower and Pink Ribbon** was given to Ken and Stephanie Luburger for their *Renanthera* (Ren.) *monachica* -- a species from Asia with its dainty orange speckled flowers. The genus *Renanthera* was described in 1790 by missionary/botanist Joao Loureiro. Its name combines the Latin "renis" meaning kidney, and the Greek "anthera" or anther, referring to the kidney shape of the pollen grains. Thank you, Ken and Stephanie for growing this special beauty!

**Members' Choice and Green Ribbon** was awarded to Steve Vogelhaupt for his *Sophrulaeliocattleya* (Slc.) *Circle Spirit* 'SVO' x *Cattleya* (C.) *Jose Diaz Castro* 'Magnifica' -- with 7 luscious 4-inch dark pink blooms with velvet purple lips. Steve says his plant has bloomed 4 times in the last 14 months -- surely an impetus for our insatiable members-growers. Also, it surely has lived up to Sun Coast Valley Orchids' (SVO) forecast, "There should be award winners here!" Magnificent growing Steve!



**Speaker's Choice and White Ribbon** was awarded to Jo Davis for her *Dendrobium* (Den.) *capituliflorum* 'Jo' CCE/AOS, an unusual species. Jo entered this plant -- having at that time 80 'pompoms' with 20 flowers each -- in the 2017 Englewood Orchid Show and received the Certificate of Cultural Excellence from accumulating 93 points out of 100 points scale. Hence, she's allowed to name her plant and she chose 'Jo' for its clonal name. Tonight, it had 90+ 'pompoms' totaling 1800+ flowers! Thanks for growing and bringing in such a unique orchid Jo!

*Narrative and Photos by Cynthia Vance*

Thank you to all the members who brought in their beautiful plants!

# VAOS Spring Orchid Garden Tour

**Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9am – 1pm**

VAOS members (especially our new members!) are invited to join us on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, to tour three experienced growers orchid growing areas in south Venice and on Venice Island. Each growing area is unique and will provide the opportunity to share culture tips and see how others grow their orchids.

## **Stop 1 - Judy Loeffler - Venice Island**

Judy grows her orchids in a greenhouse and in a custom-designed shade house in her back yard. Her 300+ collection includes a wide variety of orchids including cattleyas, dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, vandas and some specialty plants.

Judy Loeffler  
833 Guild Dr.  
Venice Island  
485-9569

Directions: From Rt. 41 bypass, take the Circus (south) Bridge to the island. Turn right on Pine Grove and then right on Guild Dr. #833 is on your left near the end of the street. Park in the driveway, on the street and on the grass in front of their house. Walk around the right side of the house to the growing area.

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## **Stop 2 – Naoki Kawamura - Venetia**

Naoki recently relocated from Portland OR to Venice. He grows about 200 vandaceous orchids and some brassovola and cattleya orchids in his pool cage.

Naoki Kawamura  
4447 Via Del Villetti  
Venetia (south Venice behind Walmart)  
503-539-1760

Directions: Rt. 41, turn south on Jacaranda Blvd. Enter through the Jacaranda visitors gate and dial the code for Kawamura, Naoki for access. Proceed straight on Corso Venetia Blvd. Turn right on Natale Dr. and then right on Via Del Villetti to the 11<sup>th</sup> house on the right. Park on street – do not block driveways or mailboxes. Enter through front door – please do not ring doorbell.



## VAOS Spring Orchid Garden Tour, continued...

### Stop 3 – Carol Wood - Venetia

Carol grows 300+ orchids in her pool cage and in trees. Her collection is primarily cattleya alliance plants but also includes phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, and a few other varieties.

Carol Wood  
4941 Bella Terra Dr.  
Venetia (south Venice, behind Walmart)  
497-4995

Directions: Rt. 41, turn south on Jacaranda Blvd. Enter through the Jacaranda visitors gate and dial the code for Wood, Douglas for access. Turn right at the first stop sign and then left at the next stop sign onto Bella Terra. Second house on left. Park in street – pls. do not block driveways or mailboxes. Enter at front door.

**If you plan to come, you must sign up.** Based on the number of people we have we may divide the group into different starting points. Parking is limited at each location.



**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE POPULAR**  
**REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL BUS TRIP**  
**FRIDAY MAY 18TH**  
**JUST A FEW SEATS LEFT!**

The annual **Redland International Orchid Festival** will be held in Homestead FL May 18 – 20, 2018. Sign up now to secure a seat on the bus for only \$30 pp. This includes bus trip and driver gratuity, the \$10 admission fee and a \$5 discount ticket for purchase of an orchid \$25 or more. Snacks and water will be provided on the bus.

Departure is 7am from the Venice Community Center South Parking Lot on Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early. This is the only pick up and drop off point for the event this year.

Estimated arrival time is 11am – 11:30am. For return, the bus will leave the festival at 4pm sharp. There is room under the bus to keep your orchid purchases. We suggest you bring boxes or bags to carry and store your plants. Please label them with your name. One rest room stop is planned for each leg of the trip. We also suggest you bring a hat, sunscreen, umbrella, a jacket or sweater (bus A/C) and as small cooler as we will not stop for dinner on the return trip.

More than 60 orchid vendors from around the world will sell orchids. There will also be lectures and international food available for purchase. .

Seating on the bus is limited to 41 people. No refunds. You may sell your seat but please notify Janet if you do so.

**Make your \$30 check payable to VAOS and mail to:**

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

Seating is limited so do not delay. Contact Janet Keown at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) for more information. For festival information visit [www.redlandorchidfest.org](http://www.redlandorchidfest.org).

*Submitted by Janet Keown, VP, Social Affairs*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 2 (Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Venice Community Center. Speaker: Courtney Hackney. Topic: “Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas”

May 5 (Saturday) - Spring Orchid Garden Tour for Newbies - Tour three members' orchid growing areas – specifically for our new members. See details in this newsletter

May 10 (Thursday) – Growers Clinic- Orchid Basics Part 1 – Air, Light, Water, Fertilizer and Supplements. Presentation and examples. Venice Community Center Room F.

May 12-13 Volusia County Orchid Society Show, Deland, FL Info: jenorchid@bellsouth.net

May 18 (Friday) – Redland International Orchid Festival May 18 – 20. VAOS Redland Bus Trip May 18 departing 7am. . See details this newsletter.

June 2-3 Central Florida Orchid Society Show Orlando FL. Info: teriscottfla57@aol.com

June 6 (Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Venice Community Center. Speaker: Mark Reinke. Topic: “Decoding Dendrobiums”

June 14 (Thursday) – Growers Clinic – Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting Tools. Venice Community Center Room F.

## **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/>

## **Next Meeting May 2nd**

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

## **Contact Us**

**Venice Area Orchid Society**

**PO BOX 443**

**Venice, FL 34284-0443**

## **President**

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

## **Membership**

**Kathy Beck** [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

**Visit us on the web at**

**[www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)**

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**VAOS 2019 Orchid Show & Sale**

**Feb. 2 & 3, 2019**

**Set up Friday Feb. 1s**