



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

June 2018

June General Meeting

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 6th at 7pm

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

Speaker: Mark Reinke, Marble Branch Farms

Topic: Decoding Dendrobiums: The Surprising Orchids You Thought You Knew!



Why would anyone familiar with orchids be surprised by the genus Dendrobium? Perhaps because the Dendrobium plants most commonly seen for sale are not necessarily what does well under cultivation in our temperate latitudes, but what is easy and inexpensive to

mass produce in outdoor orchid ranges at low elevation in Thailand and Indonesia. Yet, these showy plants that often prove difficult to rebloom in our collections represent only a tiny sampling of this widespread and diverse genus that comes from many different climate types, and from sea level to more than ten thousand feet above.

Mark's program offers a comprehensive introduction to the genus, clarifying some of the native climates and

June Events

June 2-3

Central Florida Orchid Society Show
Orlando FL

Info: teriscottfla57@aol.com

June 6th

(1st Wednesday)

Monthly Meeting

Venice Community Center

Speaker: Mark Reinke

Topic: "Decoding Dendrobiums:
The Surprising Orchids You
Thought You Knew!"

June 14th

(2nd Thursday)

Growers Clinic

Venice Community Center

Room F, 7pm.

Topic: Orchid Basics Part 2

Newsletter Quick Link

[VAOS 2018 - 2019 Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

Mark Reinke Bio continued...

cultural needs of the sections you may already have basic familiarity with, and introducing you to some that are only now becoming more available commercially. Hopefully you will be pleasantly surprised by how many of these new introductions would do well alongside your Phalaenopsis or Cattleya orchids, offering long lasting, colorful blooms without the need for high heat, high light, or annual starving or chilling.

Mark Reinke, and his partner Gary Collier, left Atlanta city life behind more than a decade ago and now own and operate a small commercial orchid nursery in a remote part of the extreme western tip of South Carolina called Marble Branch Farms, where they are propagating their own new and unusual hybrids in the Cattleya alliance and other genera as well. Mark began growing orchids at the age of 12 when his family lived in the St. Petersburg, FL area. He has been a life-long horticulturalist and orchid grower and is active in both the Atlanta Orchid Society and the Western North Carolina Orchid Society. He has served in many capacities for the Atlanta society over the years including being president twice, and continues to write plant descriptions and cultural information for their newsletter.

Mark will have plants for sale at the meeting, including some of the more recently available Dendrobium species and hybrids Mark will be talking about in his program.

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. 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

How about all this rain? The dry mud ponds in our neighborhood have filled up to the brim in a very short period of time. My orchids look better than ever – this clearly means I need to water more often. This is why we recommend growing in open, fast draining media in SW Florida. Watch for signs of rot and treat those plants quickly with fungicide. Also a good time to peel off those sheaths on our cattleyas – they come off easily after the rain.

Thank you Naoki Kawamura and Judy and Jay Loeffler for joining me in opening your orchid growing areas to our members on May 5. Naoki grows primarily vandas in his pool cage; Judy and Jay grow in a greenhouse and shade houses in their backyard; and I grow primarily cattleyas in my pool cage. This offered our members three distinctive settings of how we grow our orchids. I was pleased to see so many of our new members come by. I hope that they gained some knowledge and ideas for their orchid growing areas and culture techniques. I love seeing the excitement and eagerness of new growers – reminds me of when I started growing 18 years ago!

Thank you Janet Keown, Sharon Kahnoski and Joanna Shaw for organizing and hosting our annual Redland bus trip May 18. All went smoothly and our members brought home some beautiful plants. Fortunately the rain held off for most of the day.

Now we come into summer with fewer events, company and obligations and more time to devote to dividing and repotting our orchids and just putting around our favorite plants. Enjoy the summer!

American Orchid Society

Florida North Central Judging Center

Summer Seminar & Silent Orchid Auction

Saturday, June 23, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research

Morning Session

David Moore - Over the Top Dendrobium
Breeding Using Down Under Species

Adeljean Ho - Dendrobiums

Bill Thoms - *Cultural Awards*

Break

Afternoon Session

Armando Betancourt - *Catasetinae*

Joe Bryson - *Exhibits*

Plus AOS Monthly Judging

Join us for an orchid judging session. Come see what the judges see.

PUBLIC INVITED!

Registration Required

Deadline June 09

\$35

Includes **LUNCH**

Please RSVP to Eileen Hector
via e-mail

fnc.webconnect@verizon.net

Cash or check payment
accepted at the door

For Complete Agenda

<https://fncjc.shutterfly.com/calendar>

Christ the King Campus, Mary Martha Center, Room 201/2, 717 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33609

Courtney Hackney Culture Tips

Did you enjoy Courtney Hackney's presentation on cattleya culture at our May 2nd meeting? Find more of his timeless culture tips on his website:

<http://rose4art.com/orchid-growing-tips-index-to-articles.htm>

My Moms Love of Orchids Got Me Started

By Courtney Miles

I began attending VAOS meetings to spend time with my mom while she enjoyed a hobby she loved. I never thought that it would go any further. If there were people who are green thumbs and those who are black thumbs then I would have been considered no thumbs. Now with the additional difficulties of vision loss I thought it an impossibility. I have adapted to growing orchids by relying on touch; not sight.

After several months of attending meetings and grower clinics, I caught the bug and decided to buy my first orchids. Without much thought, I bought five cat seedlings. (It wasn't pretty) After the slaying of those poor babies, I thought about what orchid would be best for me. Phal's seemed best. With their culture, they are kept inside, which gave me easy access and control over their watering, and light that I did not have when the plants were outside. My mom had never grown Phal's before but bought a couple so she could help me to learn how to grow them. I realized that I was able to grow Phal's after about 2 months when I had not killed any. I am still not sure I grow them well but I sure am trying. Mom had never grown Phal's before but began to help me and we learned together.

I am limited to where I am able to grow my Phal's. In the first couple of months I grew them in my bathroom windows with southern exposure. I soon outgrew that space and took over the breakfast nook with aquarium glass and southern exposure. After losing the tree that had been shading the bathroom windows the afternoon sun became too much. I realized this one day while putting them up and felt the intense heat on my face.

That is when we learned about air roots and crown rot. In the beginning, I used a watering can but no matter how hard I tried I was getting water in the crown. I then tried to use paper towels and Q-tips to dry the area without any luck. In the meantime my air roots that were close to the crown were not getting watered and dying. I tried hanging the plant upside down while spraying with a spray bottle then tried soaking a paper towel and pressing to the air roots. It wasn't until standing in the kitchen gadget aisle at Wal-Mart that it came to me. A TURKEY BASTER!! I'm able to control the amount and direction of the water.

I can now water my plant without getting any water in the crown and keep my air roots watered. Besides my wonderful turkey baster the most important thing for growing orchids to me is touch. I have learned through texture and thickness of the leaf if it needs more water or if the plant is sick and is about to lose the leaf. I try to feel for signs of damage or change in texture to the leaf to detect insects. I learned

My Mom's Love of Orchids Got Me Started continued...

to feel the flower spikes for the buds to avoid when staking. I am not too proud to admit that in the beginning I may have watered flower spikes for weeks thinking they were roots. My mom does wellness checks occasionally to check for things that I am unable to detect. I couldn't do this without her. She not only helps me with things that I am unable to do but she's never said that I couldn't.

You may have seen our two Phal's at the Englewood show. The one with the blue ribbon and trophy and the other one with a blue ribbon. No competition here.

Jay asked me "When did You first realize that you could grow orchids and grow them well?" I knew I had a fighting chance 2 months after I got my first Phal and it was still living. I don't know if I am growing them well but I am trying.

When I began my adventure with orchids I decided that five would be my limit. 37 orchids later I have taken over any available surface with southern exposure. In the end I am just an orchid grower whose mother hides the razor blades and blow torch. I learn by trial and error and love doing it.

Courtney Miles and her Mom Sharon Miles joined VAOS in 2016



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

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- ◆ A full year of additional magazine issues plus a much anticipated and valuable annual supplement
- ◆ Over 60 ready to watch webinar recordings on numerous orchid subjects
- ◆ Free and discounted access to hundreds of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in the U.S. and Canada
- ◆ 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.



Spring Orchid Garden Tour and Redland Bus Trip Re-Cap

May is an active month for VAOS as the Spring Garden Tour and Redland bus trip take place. The homes of Carol Wood, Judy and Jay Loeffler, and Naoki Kawamura were graciously opened to our new members to closely observe how our senior members grow and display their orchid collection. The weather was beautiful allowing us to enjoy the day. Approximately 35-40 members toured the homes and questions were asked and answered.



The Redland bus trip began at daybreak on May 18th. There was excitement in the air as we loaded the bus to begin our three hour trek to south Florida. When we arrived the air was hot and steamy but did not dampen the enthusiasm or spirit of our orchid shoppers. With much gusto they unloaded their wagons from under the bus to hunt down their orchid treasures. After 3pm we began returning back to the bus, glad to sit in the air conditioning sipping ice water and exchanging stories of our orchid hunt. At 4pm we counted heads and headed back to Venice leaving

George our driver to navigate our bus safely through the rain. In the parking lot we said our good-byes and exchanged hugs leaving an aura of comradery and friendship as we went into the evening.



I appreciate all the help I received from Sharon Kahnoski and Joanna Shaw to make this adventure run smoothly. I feel a good time, filled with memories, was had by all.

Submitted by Janet Keown, VP Social

Scientists preserve the endangered orchids, including the Ghost Orchid *By: Jay Loeffler*

Florida's ghost orchid is well known among plant lovers, but it's just one of the state's many native orchid species.

The Orchid lab at the University of Florida was a place I had to visit. A few weeks ago, myself along with Judy Loeffler, Donn Smart and Bruce Weaver drove up to Gainesville to present a donation and tour the labs they have for reintroducing the ghost orchid and some 18 other endangered orchids.



Florida is home to about 50 native species. Many of them are endangered by urban development and orchid hunters. Some of these orchids are very difficult to find. They have been poached almost to extinction. The University of Florida project is an effort to bring endangered orchids back.



We were welcomed to the lab with a mounted Ghost orchid with two buds ready to open in the next week or two. This ghost orchid was about five years old, rather young to produce flowers.

The lab has also seen some unusual success with botanists managing to coax ghost orchids to bloom in the space of three years. In the wild, they can take 16 years or more, if they ever flower at all.

The University of Florida's diverse program integrates laboratory, greenhouse and field based research. They utilize the most advanced applications of in vitro plant culture and genetic analysis for the ecotypic selection, production and reintroduction of a range of orchids and other plants.

As we walked through the lab we saw thousands of ghost orchid flasks in various stages of growth. Some had roots about one inch long and others were about four inches long. In another part of the lab they had hundreds of flasks of some of our other endangered orchids. The number of endangered native orchids cultivated at U.F. is about eighteen including the ghost orchid.

Scientists preserve the endangered orchids, including the Ghost Orchid continued.....

Orchids primarily grow on trees, but because their seedlings are so delicate, they start their life in the lab. Tiny seeds, no bigger than a grain of dust, grow in sterile bottles with appropriate nutrients. The next phase is the nursery. It may take two to five years before the plants are strong enough to be placed in the greenhouse and another two to five years to be attached to trees.



Dr. Michael Kane of U.F. said it is important to transplant mature orchids so they can continue to grow without help from his students. They hope that once they are reintroduced, the orchids will attract insects and micro-organisms not seen in South Florida for decades.

"We've successfully developed procedures to culture plants from seeds in the lab and then successfully acclimatize them into our greenhouse," said Kane, "We've also obtained a high survival and vigorous re-growth rate when they're planted back into the wild."

On the first trip when some of the orchids were brought back to their native habitat in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Collier County, about 70 out of 80 of these Ghost Orchids have survived and are vigorously growing. They are seeing similar results with Ghost Orchids planted later at the Naples Botanical Garden. The next year 160 plants were reintroduced with the same high survival and vigorous regrowth rate.

"For orchid conservation, this is big," Kane said. "We are very excited."

VAOS Board of Directors Officers 2018 – 2019

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Vice President – Programs Natasha Romero, programs@vaos.org

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Vice President – Show Displays Jay Loeffler, disp@vaos.org

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Treasurer's Report April 2018

Operating Fund Starting Balance 4/1/18	\$	28,365.63
+ Income		808.00
- Payments.....		3,358.72
Closing Balance 4/30/18	\$	25,814.91
Petty Cash		25.00
Total Operating Fund 4/30/18	\$	25,839.91
Reserve Fund		
Starting Balance 4/1/18	\$	25,081.00
+ Deposit		0.00
+Interest Income – 4/30/18.....		.64
Closing Balance 4/30/18	\$	25,081.64

Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer

Venice Area Orchid Society Meeting Minutes from May 2, 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 Thursday May 10 focused on Orchid Basics Part 1: Air, water, light, and fertilizer.
- ♦ Next month the speaker will be Mark Rienke speaking on Dendrobiums
- ♦ The June Grower's Clinic will be June 14th, Orchid basics part 2, Pots, media and tools.
- ♦ The July meeting will actually be on Monday July 9th—it is a joint meeting with the Englewood Area Orchid Society and will be held in Englewood. Rafael Romero of Plantio La Orquideas in Sarasota will be the speaker. We will then host the EAOS for a joint meeting here in August.
- ♦ May 5th will be a spring orchid garden tour from 9-1pm, there will be information in the newsletter.
- ♦ The annual bus trip to the Redland International Orchid festival will be Friday May 18th. It will be \$30 and there is a signup sheet. We will leave the Venice Community center at 7am, don't be late! We will leave the festival at 4pm.

Natasha Romero Contreras introduced the speaker for the evening, Courtney Hackney of Jacksonville. Dr. Hackney gave a great presentation on growing and flowering better Cattleyas here in South Florida.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25pm

Submitted by Joanna Shaw, recording secretary.

May and June Growers Clinics

On May 10 Bruce Weaver presented Orchid Basics Part 1, a lively, informative and often humorous talk covering the basics of air, light, water, fertilizer and supplements. A copy of Bruce's handout is available on our website – www.VAOS.org - under Resources – VAOS Publications.

Please join us for next month's Growers Clinic on June 14 (Thursday) when Jim Thomas and team will present Orchid Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting and Tools. Jim will also demonstrate how to divide an orchid in preparation for the following month's Growers Clinic "Hands On Repotting"(July 12).

Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm. Enter left side of building. Bring your problem plants for expert help. Guests welcome.

June Culture Tip

Following a heavy rain is an excellent time to peel back those dry sheaths on your cattleya alliance orchids – they will peel off easily. Don't be surprised to find scale hiding under the sheath – an opportunity to remove it and treat it before damage is done to your plant.

May 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards



First Place and Blue Ribbon was awarded to Barry Reese for his striking Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Rojo x Myrmecophila (Mcp.) Tibinicens with 4 stalks of 25+ flowers, sitting in a large clay pot with one side broken off. It took two hot species, *C. aurantiaca* and *L. milleri*, to produce such intense red from the primary Lc. hybrid. But the genus *Schomburgkia* is gone and is now *Myrmecophila* which refers to the symbiotic relationship with ant colonies that live in the large, hollowed-out pseudobulbs. With this hybrid, hopefully, ants find other homes. Thanks for bringing in such a delightful display Barry!

Second Place and Red Ribbon was won by Donn Smart for his gorgeous *Phragmipedium* (Phrag.) *Dagmar* 'Elisabeth'. Its delicate sequential blooms give such ongoing pleasure! Successful growing? Keep them in moist bark -- larger pieces in the pot's bottom and smaller ones on top. Never let them dry out, even in high humidity by placing the pot in a saucer with water, unless there's caudatum in the cross. One Canadian grower with many awarded phrags uses 3 parts bark, 1-part each of perlite, charcoal and peat, and a dash of bone meal. Beautiful job, Donn!



Third Place and Yellow Ribbon was granted to Barry Reese for his unusual and happy *Dendrobium* (Den.) *Gatton Sunray* with 2 long pendant flower spikes holding 7+ flowers each. Registered in 1919, it's a cross of *Den. pulchellum* and *Den. Illustre* which itself is a cross of *Den. pulchellum* and *Den. chrysotoxum*. It's a dependable bloomer, a very tough plant, and can bloom several times a year even from the old leafless canes if it receives plenty of light, even full sunlight. (mine does). It might even become a specimen plant as tall as its owner, so we're looking forward to this, Barry!

Best Species and Purple Ribbon was presented to Steve Weiner for his unusual and lovely *Maxillaria* (Max.) *Tenuifolia* with 20+ flowers, 1.5 inches wide. It's known as 'the coconut orchid' because it reminds some of us of our coconut tanning lotion. It's a member of the *Bulbophyllum* genera, one of the largest genera of orchids having more than 2000 species and found in the sub-tropics and tropics world-wide. They grow easily in the shady area of one's greenhouse if kept moist. Congratulations Steve for your 6-year old plant!



April 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards Continued....



New Member Grower and Pink Ribbon was awarded to Wendy Mineault for her Unknown (NOID, or No Identification) Phalaenopsis. (Phal) Oh, how I miss losing a plant tag for part of our orchid hobby is knowing an orchid's name, it's heritage, and perhaps why it was named so. But alas, most of us have lost at least one tag. Yet, this orchid plant was a charmer -- just the small compact beauty with 16 small blooms -- that belongs in the middle of our dining room table accompanied by a fine Merlot. For a 2-year old, Wendy's plant is a magnificent multiflorous specimen! Great growing, Wendy!



Both the **Members' Choice and Green Ribbon** and **Speaker's Choice and White Ribbon** was granted to Joanna Shaw for her awesome Cattleya (C.) Nobilior. She purchased it at the 2017 Englewood Orchid Show and this is its first bloom. The name of the plant, found in 1883, means "the more noble Cattleya", referring to the flowers which are larger than those of C. walkeriana, the other rhizanthoid Cattleya, of which it was originally considered a variety. But it is its own species.

Rhizanthoid? This means that the inflorescences arise directly from the rhizome, instead of from the apex of the pseudobulb. It is not difficult to grow but does need a rest period in the winter. Splendid specimen, Joanna!

Narrative and Photos by Cynthia Vance

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

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)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June 6 (Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Venice
Community Center. 6:30pm. Speaker: Mark
Reinke. Topic: “Decoding Dendrobiums”

June 14 (Thursday) – Growers Clinic – Orchid
Basics Part 2 – Pots, Media, Repotting Tools, and
plant dividing demo. Venice Community Center
7pm. Room F.

No VAOS Monthly Meeting July 4th

July 9 (Monday) – Joint VAOS/EAOS Meeting at
EAOS. Speaker: Bill Thoms. Topic: Growing and
Showing Specimen Plants. Christ Lutheran
Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave. (Rt. 776),
Englewood. 6:30pm

July 12 (Thursday) – Growers Clinic – Hands on
repotting clinic. 7pm. Venice Community Center
Room F.

PLANNING AHEAD

September – Dates TBD. Florida SunCoast
Orchids Fall Sales Event. Details to come.

November – Dates TBD. Palmer Orchids Fall
Sales Event. Details to come.

December 7 (Friday) – VAOS Annual Holiday
Dinner Party. Details to come.

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/>

Next Meeting June 6th

**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

Membership

Kathy Beck memb@vaos.org

Visit us on the web at

www.vaos.org

SAVE THE DATE!

VAOS 2019 Orchid Show & Sale

Feb. 2 & 3, 2019

Set up Friday Feb. 1st