



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

July/August 2018

July General Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, July 9th at 6:30pm
Joint VAOS/EAOS Meeting at EAOS

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana
Ave. (Rt. 776), Englewood

Speaker: Bill Thoms

Topic: Growing and Showing Specimen
Plants



Bill Thoms has been growing and showing orchids for more than 45 years in the central Florida area. He has more awards for culture in just Bulbophyllums than anyone else in the world (47 so far) The American Orchid Society has added a new Annual Award for the Bulbophyllums, the Bill Thoms Award.

Bill gives talks on a wide range of topics ranging from his specialty, "Bulbophyllums", to General Orchid Culture. They all are presented in a funny style that helps growers understand how the plants work and the culture of orchids. He helps the beginner grower with advice about fixing problems and has a wealth of accumulated information for the more advanced grower. Bill will give you tips to make your orchids grow and bloom better. Some say he is the best speaker they have ever heard. Come and see for yourself.

July Events

July 9th

Monthly Meeting

Joint meeting with EAOS

Speaker: Bill Thoms

**Topic: "Growing and
Showing Specimen Plants"**

July 12th

(2nd Thursday)

Growers Clinic

Venice Community Center

Room F, 7pm.

**Topic: Hands on
Orchid Repotting**

Newsletter Quick Link

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August General Meeting

Wednesday August 1st at 7pm

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

Speaker: Jim Roberts, Florida SunCoast Orchids

Topic: What's A Good Orchid To Grow



Jim has been growing orchids for over 25 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida. In 2001, he and wife Mary moved to Florida with a small

collection of plants and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. They currently grow their beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000 square feet of growing space. As always, he strives to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.

Jim will have orchids for sale at the meeting.

August Events

August 1st

(1st Wednesday)

Monthly Meeting

Venice Community Center

Speaker: Jim Roberts

Topic: "What's A Good Orchid To Grow"

August 9th

(2nd Thursday)

Growers Clinic

Venice Community Center

Room F, 7pm.

**Topic: Pests and Diseases:
Part 1 "Pests"**

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.



8TH ANNUAL

CATTLEYA SYMPOSIUM

August 2nd, 3rd and 4th 2018

Thursday through Saturday

**Featuring two days of presentations from
world-famous Cattleya experts**

• Pre-Registration Required •

**Thursday Night
Pizza Get-Together**

**Friday Night
Cattleya Auction**



Lc. Louise Odom
'Odom's Orchids'

Hosted by Odom's Orchids, Inc.

more details at www.odoms.com • 772-267-9459

**Indian River Research and Education Center
2199 South Rock Road • Fort Pierce, Florida 34945**

Cultural Note: Watering for Success!

The torrential rain we got last weekend led me to worry a bit about my plants, until my wife commented "What? Are we living in a rain forest?", and I realized that it's just the sort of rainfall they'd see routinely in the wild. That, of course, got me thinking about how the way our plants are watered can effect their growth.

First, let's consider exactly what a heavy rainfall in a tropical rain forest does to an orchid. Falling clearly in the Jeopardy category of "Stupid Answers", it provides water. Maybe just as obviously, it provides the majority of the nutrition to the plant, consisting of host-tree exudates and any other airborne deposits that may have accumulated on the foliage. If we delve more into the physics and chemistry aspects though, we'll see that it does much more than that!

All of that water, pouring through the plant's roots and the accumulated detritus, flushes it very thoroughly, both chemically, ridding it of plant wastes and unwanted deposits, as well as mechanically, pushing the finer contaminants, molds and their spores, and decomposition products out of the root zone, aiding in keeping it airy. That rain also oxygenates the rhizosphere, not only from the oxygen dissolved in the rain droplets themselves, but by drawing air into the root mass as it pours through. Happening on a daily basis - often more than once a day - all of that "rain activity" keeps the root zone clean, moist and airy - prefect for the plant.

So how does that compare to the common ways we water our plants?

If we hand water with a hose using a water breaker held well above the plants, thoroughly flooding the plants each time we water, we come closest to simulating the rainfall their relatives experience in nature. Add a tiny amount of fertilizer to that "rain" and you just can't do any better. Being more gentle, filling the pot and letting it drain, comes in second in this regard, as it still has some of the benefits, but only on a limited basis. Dunking a plant in a tub is probably the worst way to water plants, as while it may provide water, it does very little oxygenation, dilutes-, but does not remove fertilizer salts and plant wastes, and does nothing to mechanically flush decomposed potting medium or dead roots from the container, ultimately leading to root suffocation and death. Lastly, you absolutely should not dunk multiple plants in the same tub of liquid, together or sequentially, as that is one of the best ways to share pathogens!

Until next time... Good Growing!



Ray Barkalow, First Rays www.firstrays.com

Treasurer's Report May 2018

Operating Fund Starting May 1, 2018	\$ 25,814.91
+ Income	\$ 750.00
- Payments	\$ 6,105.18
Closing Balanced May 31, 2018	\$ 20,459.73

Petty Cash \$ 75.00

Total Operating Fund May 31, 2018 \$ 20,534.73

Reserve Fund

Starting Balance May 31, 2018	\$ 25,081.64
+ Deposit	\$ -
+Interest Income May 31, 2018	\$ 0.64
Closing Balance May 31, 2018	\$ 25,082.28

Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer



American Orchid Society

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- ◆ 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.

www.AOS.org

VAOS Growers Clinic

About 30 members joined us for the June 14th Growers Clinic where Jim Thomas presented Orchid Basics Part 2 – pots, media, repotting and tools. Jim also demonstrated plant division in preparation for our next Growers Clinic – Hands on repotting – on July 12th.



Hands-on Orchid Repotting Clinic Thursday, July 12th, 2018 Venice Community Center Room F, 7pm

Jim Thomas and the Growers Clinic team will present a Hands-on Orchid Repotting clinic at the Venice Community Center at 7:00 p.m. They will explain the supplies, tools and planting media, demonstrate basic procedures and share their tips of the trade. Participants will then repot their own orchid with the assistance of several experienced growers and helpers. We will work in teams of 4 or 5 around a table with each person bringing an orchid that needs repotting as well as a suitable pot to replant the orchid and a sterile pair of shears. With only two hours available and a large turnout expected, it's critical that everyone adhere to the instructions below:

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

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

Bring your problem plants for expert help. Guests are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

VAOS Hospitality Table

The definition of HOSPITALITY is the generous and cordial reception of guests. That is what the Venice Area Orchid Society tries to achieve when we prepare our hospitality table with tasty treats and beverages. As the VP Social, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who assist me in setting up and breaking down the table. In addition, those members who faithfully donate every month to ensure we have enough to satisfy the membership that attends. VAOS does have a budget to supply beverages and snacks but relies on donations of tasty treats to fill the table to make it truly welcoming. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share feel free to share it with us. Thank you in advance!

Submitted by Janet Keown, VP Social



Venice Orchid Project and City Hall Atrium Project Updates

While attending a meeting at the **Venice City Hall**, I noticed the atrium in the lobby had been refurbished and looked very nice. The Venice Garden Club had planted these areas but there was a large trellis against the north wall that was unused and might be a good spot to hang orchids on a temporary basis while they were in peak bloom. After contacting Alice Highman, the special projects chair for the Garden Club, we thought orchids would be a good fit and she OK'd the use of the trellis. She later suggested some other spots along the glass walls and she also gathered support for the project from fellow Garden Club members.

The first orchids came from Orchid Envy as well as myself, Donn Smart and Natasha Romero. Rick Belisle joined the team and has brought in some of his own plants. So far we have kept a nice display going in spite of the rising temperatures and increased direct sunlight. I check them Monday, Rick checks them Fridays. The plants on the trellis were getting too much sun so we decided not to use it for the rest of the summer. Since the remaining plants are on the ground, they remain in the shade and do very well for several weeks.

Plants with the best displays so far are tall Oncidiums, Phalenopsis, and tall Dendrobiums. One Epidendrum is out in the sun and is still blooming after 6 weeks and a little toolumnia has never quit yet! We'll keep trying to have a nice, but somewhat smaller display through the Summer and probably get more Cattleyas and Encyclias, etc. to hang on the trellis when the sun sinks lower in the sky in October. Judy Loffler had two nice signs made that say "Orchids provided by VAOS". So far reaction has been very positive by city personnel as well as visitors to the building and the Garden Club is "delighted" with the display.



Venice Orchid Project (VOP)

In 2014 the VAOS began a project to plant and mount orchids in city parks and trees. To date, more than 200 orchids have been established in Blalock Park, Centennial Park and the City Hall Park. Plants are donated by VAOS members and local orchid nurseries.



I currently have about 25 nice nodosa, dendrobium and encyclia plants ready to hang in trees. We'll probably aim for Blalock Park for most, but a few in Heritage Park might be nice. Centennial park would be a great spot to display, but hot and dry so we have had little success there.



The terrestrial garden at Blalock Park needs help. What is there is doing OK, but we need more color. I would like to find some Spathoglottis, Phaius, and epidendrums so we can get more blooms in that space. If you have some of these species to donate to the project, please contact me. I will pick them up!

Submitted by Bruce Weaver, Immediate Past President and VOP Coordinator

Venice Area Orchid Society Meeting Minutes from June 6, 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 June 14, and will be Orchid Basics Part 2, Pots, Media and Tools,,presented by Jim Thomas. There will also be a brief demo on how to divide a plant prior to potting.
- Next month we will have our annual joint meeting with Englewood, on Monday July 9th. It will be at the Christ Lutheran Church on Rt 776 in Englewood.
- The July 12 Grower's Clinic will be our hands on potting clinic.
- Carol asked for a show of hands for people who would prefer a fall Octoberfest here at the Community Center over the spring picnic. There was a positive response. This event would be in addition to our regular meeting.
- Janet Keown reported that the Redland bus trip was a success.
- Bruce Weaver gave an update on the Venice Orchid Project and the City Hall atrium display. He thanked Donn Smart and Rick Belisle for their help. He encouraged anyone with blooming plants to let him borrow them for the locked display in city hall.

Natasha Romero Contreras introduced the speaker for the evening, Mark Rienke from Marble Branch Farms in South Carolina. Mark said this was his 50th anniversary year of growing orchids, he started when he was 12 years old. He gave a great presentation entitled 'Decoding Dedrobiums", a very diverse species with 1200 species in 40 sections. He had a great selection of plants for sale.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm

Submitted by Joanna Shaw, Recording Secretary

June 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards



First Place and Blue Ribbon was captured by Carol Wood for her beautiful fuschia Cattleya (C.) gaudii var coerulea C. loddigesii var coerulea 'Blue Sky' x C. leopoldii var coerulea 'Kathleen'. Her plant had more than 13 blooms climbing out of a small 4-inch plastic pot, set in a 6-inch clay pot which was 'potted up' again into an 8-inch plastic basket! That's makes 're-potting' easy and Carol's

plant seems to enjoying having so many roots escaping into our humid Florida air! (See this plant's 'potting up' photo!) Beautiful specimen, Carol!



Second Place and Red Ribbon was awarded to Steve Vogelhaupt for his majestic 3- foot tall Encyclia (E.) Paula Gross. The plant, registered by R.H. Gross in January 1976, is a favorite among hobbyists. Each of the 4 inflorescences had more than 40 flowers making it a spectacular display. Steve enhanced his plant's presentation by the careful staking of each inflorescence with my favorite stakes -- the unobtrusive thin green 30-inch wires available at Broward Orchid Supply and easily cut for shorter plants. Great growing, Steve!

Third Place and Yellow Ribbon was granted to Natasha Romero for her darling pink Phalaenopsis (Phal.) Tying Shin Angel. It was a lovely presentation of this mini-phal with both sides staked beautifully for a delightful display. This hybrid was registered in April 2004 by Kuo-Liang Hung who was noted as a 'new talent in phalaenopsis hybridizing' having received the most awards among Taiwanese growers acc. to the AOS May 2010 magazine article. Keep an eye out for hearty 'Tying Shin' beauties and thank you Natasha for bringing it in!



June 2018 Meeting Plant Table Awards Continued....



Best Species plus Speakers Choice Ribbons were presented to Jeff Higel for his Encyclia (E.) tampensis semi alba 'Siesta Key'. Although we had several E. tampensis plants that night, Jeff's plant stood out for its bright green blooms, different from the typical rust-tinted Tampensis which can be found in oak trees in our nearby nature reserves. As someone said, "Encyclias grow like crazy in Florida" and Jeff has many available at Honey Bee Nursery, Englewood. Congratulations Jeff!

Both New Member Grower and Member's Choice ribbons were awarded to Carol Havaz for her precious species, Rhynchostylis (Rhy.) Retusa. The two flowing pink and white racemes made for an entrancing balanced presentation. Related to the Vanda alliance, most rhynchostylis hail from the Far East and though lacking in pseudobulbs, they have drought-resistant leathery leaves. They're easy to grow in baskets in our warm, humid climate with a gentle air movement and their fragrant blooms will bring much pleasure during our cooler winter months. Beautiful growing, Carol!



Narrative and Photos by Cynthia Vance

Thank you to all the members who brought in their beautiful plants!
Everyone is encouraged to bring in their plants for judging!

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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James Griffith Salon
Popi's on the Isle
Sarasota Orthopedic Associates
Family Dermatology
Regions Bank
Daiquiri Deck

UPCOMING EVENTS

No VAOS Monthly Meeting July 4th

July 9 (Monday) – Joint EAOS/VAOS Meeting in Englewood. Speaker: Bill Thoms. Topic: Growing and Showing Specimen Plants

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

July 20 - 22 – RF Orchids Annual Summer Sale. Homestead, FL. Info: www.rforchids.com

August 1 (Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Joint VAOS/EAOS Meeting in Venice. Venice Community Center. 6:30pm. Speaker: Jim Roberts. Topic: What's A Good Orchid to Grow.

August 2-4 – 8th Annual Cattleya Symposium, Ft. Pierce, FL info: www.odoms.com

August 9 (Thursday) – Growers Clinic – Presentation: Pests & Diseases – Part 1 Pests. Venice Community Center Room F. 7pm

PLANNING AHEAD

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

October 31 – November 3 – 2018 AOS Fall Members Meeting held in conjunction with the International Slipper Orchid Symposium, Apopka, FL. Details to come.

November 16 – 18 - 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 July 9th

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