



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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September 2019

September General Meeting



**Wednesday, September 4th at
7 pm (doors open at 6:30p)**

**Location: Venice Community
Center**

Speaker: *Phillip Hamilton*

**Topic: *Phalenopsis Species/
Hybrids***

Phillip was born and raised in Jamaica where he inherited his dad's passion for orchids and grew up working in his parents' orchid nursery, Hamlyn Orchids. Although his dad's true orchid passion is with the Jamaican native Broughtonia's and their hybrids, Phillip's passion leaned heavily toward Phalaenopsis, which he has been growing and hybridizing since the age of eight.

He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and is an American Orchid Society (AOS) Accredited Judge.

Professionally, Phillip has worked for two major orchid production nurseries in Central Florida as a grower and grower/manager. In 2013, he formed his own business (part-time), Bredren Orchids, to facilitate the small-scale sale of some of the more unique Phalaenopsis and Broughtonia species and hybrids he grows and breeds. He now manages Bredren Orchids full-time since 2017, with the generous help of his wife, Liz. They are currently working on developing this business into more than just the mail-order only entity it now is.

Phillip will be bringing a variety of plants for sale, including novelty Phalaenopsis species/hybrids and Broughtonia/Cattleya related species and hybrids.

September 2019 Events

**Wednesday
September 4th**
Monthly meeting 6:30pm
Speaker: *Phillip Hamilton*
Topic: *Phalenopsis Species/
Hybrids*

**Thursday
September 12th**
Growers Clinic 7pm
Venice Community Center
Room F
Topic: *Orchid Pests and
Diseases*

Newsletter Quick Links

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Our Own Rock Star

Is it just me or do we have our own "Rock Star"? I find one of the best parts of our monthly meeting comes near the end of the night with the plant table. I have had the honor of displaying your wonderful orchids over the past few years with the show displays. But if you have been watching the plant table presentation at the end of the meeting you know that Joanna Shaw is our new rock star. Joanna took over the plant table a while back and has done a wonderful job awarding your plants along with different members that volunteer to help her each month. If you have helped Joanna, you know how well she does this job. If not, you need to volunteer and help her judge these plants and share in the fun. The knowledge you gain from this experience is amazing.



I have had the pleasure of seeing Joanna's growing area and can tell you this girl does it right. Just look at her Facebook photos of all her orchids and you will see how good she really is. Joanna has taken the lead presenting the plant table for us at the end of the evening and she does a wonderful job explaining the different orchids in what I call one of the better presentations for our members. She has a way of explaining that even I can understand. I for one think she is amazing and I am very thankful to know Joanna.

The next time you see Joanna, please thank her for a job well done.

Submitted with great Respect by Jay Loeffler

Support the American Orchid Society Through Your Amazon Purchases!

The American Orchid Society (AOS) delivers the most up-to-date, accurate, educational information about orchid culture and sponsors research and conservation initiatives to improve the outlook for orchids around the globe. Amazon has been supporting more than a thousand charities as well as environmental/humanitarian organizations for a number of years through *smile.amazon.com* and has donated in excess of \$135,000,000 to date.

You can participate and support the AOS by logging on to *smile.amazon.com* with your regular Amazon username and password and selecting the American Orchid Society as the organization you want to support. If you are new to Amazon, log on to *smile.amazon.com* and follow the prompts for registration. You do not need to make a purchase at registration. For future Amazon purchases, simply log on to *smile.amazon.com*.

The *smile.amazon.com* website is identical to the Amazon website and automatically donates .5% of the purchase price, less taxes and shipping, **from Amazon**, to your designated organization. There is absolutely no cost to you and you will be able to see an updated account of the donations made by Amazon. While .5% seems to be a pretty paltry sum, it certainly would add up if all our members would sign up. You don't need to be a member of AOS, or even of VAOS, to participate.

Submitted by Steve Vogelhaupt



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September Culture Tip and Growers Clinic



Many of us use time – release fertilizer (Dynamite available at Home Depot) in March/April and September/October each year to supplement our fertilizing regime. Instructions are to sprinkle it around the perimeter of the pot at the rate of 1 tsp. per 6” pot and tap down 1” into the media. The question is how to apply time – release fertilizer to a mounted plant?

One approach is the ‘Bird Nest’ method. Dampen a small amount of coconut husk fiber and shape it into a bird nest. Fill it with 1 tsp. Dynamite. Push it down into your mounted plant between the roots and the mount. This will provide up to six months fertilizer supplement to your plant.

Next Growers Clinic – September 12th

The September Growers Clinic will highlight a slide presentation on “Orchid Pests and Diseases” with a handout. Learn to identify common pests and diseases and how to treat them.

Growers Clinics are held the second Thursday of the month, 7pm, Room F, Venice Community Center. Enter at the left side of the building. Bring problem plants for expert help. Guests are welcome.



September in Your Orchid Collection

September looms as the only truly dismal month in South Florida. Even without the prospect of the unspeakable 'H' word, September disheartens since it is easily the dampest, dulllest month in the year. Although more inches of rain fall in June, more hours of rain occur in the often slow, seemingly endless drizzles of September. Frequently a day or two can pass without so much as a solid hour of truly bright sunshine to lift our spirits and dry out our plants. Days are growing much shorter also, with long nights when our plants are wet from the frequent rains. Coming at the end of the rainy season when disease pressure has been building, September presents the maximum opportunity for fungal and bacterial diseases to take hold of our orchids. Hopefully careful watering practices and the judicious use of fungicides will have diminished the potential for disease in our collections. But even in the best managed collection, September calls for extra vigilance. Keep a close eye out for problems and remove immediately any plant that shows the first sign of fungus to a dry location to prevent the disease being spread by splashing rain drops. Good hygiene is particularly important this month. Clean up growing areas and remove any dead leaves, twigs or other organic debris from the plants and the ground. In September numerous diseases that linger in decaying plant material find the ideal conditions that allow them to jump to the living tissue of our prize orchids. Such problems can develop more quickly in September than in any other month. September is a month to stay home and be there for your orchids. Look at every plant, every day.

September, above all, is the month that the old Florida growers' adage that "One needs a cat to grow good orchids," holds true. By leaving enough space between plants on a shade house bench for a cat to walk around without knocking them down, one provides the good air circulation which is absolutely essential in periods of protracted wet weather. Well spaced plants are much less likely to encounter disease problems this month. Remember that your plants will have grown considerably over the summer and that the space they occupied comfortably in the Spring has now been filled by their own growth as well as their neighbors. Space them out. Now is perhaps the time to decide to hang some of the larger ones where they will dry much more quickly. The small cute ones left behind on the bench will be very appreciative of the extra air and light.

Another excellent way to increase air circulation and enhance rapid drying is by trimming excess (particularly vertical) branches from all trees which support orchids or are near to orchid growing areas. By increasing the light and air flow one will also garner the benefit of reducing the possibility that such trees will be knocked down in a severe storm. Trees trimmed to permit proper air circulation and light for orchids were frequently the only ones which survived upright after Andrew. As there is rarely time to do such pruning when storm warnings are actually posted and creating extra debris is not then wise, now is the time to protect both your orchids and your trees. Days are shortening quickly now and more hours of rain and overcast skies mean that your orchids will benefit from all the additional light that they can get. Beginning the process of "hardening off" our plants by allowing more light to reach them will give them a leg up on the coming cool weather as well.

As orchids grown outside are so frequently wet in September, it is often difficult to apply fertilizer or fungicides to the plants because they are already damp. Catch 22! — the plants need extra protection because they are wet and because they are wet one can't apply chemicals to protect them. In these circumstances, many growers find Quaternary ammonium compounds

September in Your Orchid Collection, continued

useful. Sold as Physan, Consan, Greenshield or Triathalon these disinfectants dissolve totally in water and can be applied to wet plants. Strengths vary so follow the label. Although Federal regulations say they should not, many growers substitute the cheap and readily available pool algicide which contain the same active ingredient. Home Depot sells a brand called "Pool Time" which could be purchased legally to disinfect walks and pathways at the rate of 1 to 2 tps. per gallon and would certainly do no harm at that rate, if it came into contact with the orchids no more frequently than every 7-10 days.

This month when those brief periods of dry weather permit growers to think of applying other pesticides, they are tempted to think of giving their starving charges fertilizer as well. This is generally not a good idea with any fertilizer containing phosphorous (the second in the numerical series of three numbers). Phosphorus changes the PH of water and tends to interact with many other chemicals reducing their effectiveness. In September we need as much fire power from our chemical arsenal as we can get. A much better strategy in general to add some nutrients employs potassium nitrate (KNO₃) 13-0-43 at a rate of 1 tbs per gallon of water. One should ask for the type usually referred to as "spray grade". In general sympodial orchids are reaching the end of their growth cycle as September progresses so a reduction in nitrogen from the potassium nitrate substitution or a missed fertilizer application usually does little harm to orchids grown outside in South Florida. Soft cane dendrobiums of the "Nobile" types will actually benefit from the reduction in feeding. It's time to wean these deciduous types before cutting them off entirely from the grub next month. Vandas and Phalaenopsis on the other hand can be fertilized as often as weather permits and will bloom all the stronger for this extra attention in the coming months.

Snails can also be a problem again in September. Even if you earlier used the "lightly, frequently" baiting suggested in July, snails can travel long distances on wet ground in the dull, dark weather of September. Chances are your neighbors have not been as good as you on snail control. So, once more with feeling: snail bait "lightly, frequently" to give a warm welcome to any recently arrived mollusks. With an eye to the heavens (or at least to the TV screen), removing any old boards, empty pots or other debris that might fly about in a storm will also render the humble snails homeless. An opportunity to re-double your virtue and save some precious moments in the face of the storm that we hope never comes!

Excerpted from Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month by Martin Motes. All rights reserved.



VAOS Oktoberfest Party

**Thursday, October 10th
5-9pm**

Venice Community Center

Catered by Geier's

**Menu: German appetizer, bratwurst, sauerkraut
german potato salad, and dessert,
beer, wine and soft drinks**

**Polka music! Wear your dancing shoes! Wear your lederhosen!
Blooming orchid plant raffle**

\$5 pp includes dinner, two drink tickets and one raffle ticket.

**Party Theme: Dankeschon! Thanks to all our members and volunteers for
making VAOS great**

**Sign up at our September and October meetings and September Growers
Clinic If you are out of town and would like to make your reservations,
please Contact Janet Keown, or any questions: 941-493-7334
email: Social@vaos.org**

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that VAOS member Barry Reese passed away recently following a long term of medical issues. Barry was a long time avid orchid grower and at one point was a member of twelve orchid societies when he operated a cut flower business in Hawaii and later grew orchids in South Florida. Barry will be missed for his engaging personality, his love of life, his broad interests and especially his love of orchids. A picnic will be held at the War Veterans Memorial Park in St. Petersburg on September 14th at 12PM to remember Barry Reese.



August 2019 Meeting Plant Table Awards

Narrative and photos by Cynthia Vance



First Place Blue Ribbon was presented to Sherry Beck for her gorgeous deep red-purple beauty Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Theresa Hill 'Krull-Smith' AM/AOS which had multiple blooms. This hybrid originated by Krull-Smith in 2008 – a cross of Rlc. Goldenzelle x Rlc. Carolina Splendor. Krull-Smith started a small orchid nursery in Apopka, 40 years ago and is known as the leading orchid hybridizer in the world for award-quality show plants, having received over 700 awards from the American Orchid Society. If this is a 'must-have' for your collection, both Florida growers *Krull-Smith and Odom's Orchids*, VAOS Show vendors, currently sell this magnificent clone. Congratulations Sherry!

Both Second Place and New Grower Ribbons were won by Julie McGarr for her charming Guaritonia (Grt.) Why Not. This hybrid, originated by Stewart Inc. in 1979, is considered a "primary hybrid" because it is a cross between two species, Guarianthe aurantiaca x Broughtonia sanguinea. At our March '19 Growers Clinic, our members received a seedling of this plant for our annual VAOS Growing Competition. What does it take to win? Having a robust upright plant, staked if needed, with the most flowers and attractive leaves. For an enhanced presentation it's important to increase fertilization, to clean leaves with lemon juice (not oil which produces an unnatural shine), to cut off 'ugly' leaves and to place it in an attractive pot though this is less important. Julie has already proved to be a fine grower – and may the best plant win!



Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to Vickie Fisher for her eye-catching green Catasetum (Ctsm.) Aurora. Catasetum is a genus of showy epiphytic orchids with 166 species, from Central America, Argentina and Brazil -- many of which are highly prized. The name 'catasetum' comes from 'kata' (down) and Latin 'seta' (bristles) which are most apparent on the showy male flowers while the female flowers are usually bland-colored and helmet-shaped. Thankfully, Vickie's plant had the male flowers! What's special is that the male flower has a "trigger" that snaps the pollinia onto the bee pollinator as soon as it lands. Some species can eject their pollen up to 8 feet! But after that, sadly, the male flower turns

limp. We're so glad an insect has not discovered Vickie's marvelous plant! Wonderful growing, Vickie!

Best Species Purple Ribbon was bestowed to Kristin Shaw for her darling Phalaenopsis (Phal.) Bellina 'Ponkan' with its neon magenta and lush green colors which makes the contrast very striking – all resting on attractive large flowing leaves. It is a monopodial epiphyte orchid species (found growing on trees, but not parasitic) and native to Borneo and Malaysia. This is one of the most popular Phalaenopsis species, due to its exquisite appearance and soothing citrus-like aroma. It also makes for a lovely indoor display for small places. The best part is that unlike most phalaenopses, it is a consecutive bloomer nearly all year round – perfect for a covetous VAOS grower! Congratulations Kristin!



August 2019 Meeting Plant Table Awards, Continued...



Member's Choice Green Ribbon was granted to Carolyn Barry for her lush Phalaenopsis (Phal.) *Violacea* var. 'Green Valley' with pastel-colored yellow and pink flowers edged with green. Phal. *Violacea* is endemic to East Malaysia, northwestern Sumatra and its nearby islands. It grows as epiphyte in moist lowland tropical forests on trees and lianas and branches overhanging streams. Flowers of the East Malaysian form, referred to as Phal. *Violacea*, yet, those grown in Borneo are called Phal. *Bellina*! Carolyn's plant had an enticing vanilla aroma. Having 9 flowers and more blooms on the way it seemed to be extremely happy to be mounted on the

large piece of cork which mimicked its native habitat. With such care we anticipate robust growth next year. Exquisite work, Carolyn!

Speaker's Choice White Ribbon was awarded to Denise Rychlik for her charming Phal. (previously *Doritis*) *pulcherrima* var. *champorensis* x *Vanda* (previously *Ascocenda*) *Pralor* "Iviso". The flowers are a soft pink with a yellow orange – an enchanting combination. *Doritis* are native to S.E. Asia and their erect stems result from their adaptation to terrestrial habitat. The name 'Doritis' is derived either from the Greek 'dory' or spear – an allusion to the lip shape or from 'Doritis' -- a name given to the goddess Aphrodite. Those *Doritis* plants that are hybridized with vandas, such as Denise's plant (*Ascocenda* = *Ascocentrum* x *Vanda*) are starting to be called *Ascovandoritis*. So, we we'll see if its name changes! Nevertheless, Denise can anticipate multiple blooming spikes as her plant matures and we're looking forward to that! Beautiful specimen, Denise.



Thank you to everyone who brought in plants!
Congratulations to all our winners!

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.



VAOS 2019 Show Sponsors

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Today's Dentistry	Venice Olive Oil Company

Venice Area Orchid Society Minutes from August 7, 2019

Carol Wood called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. She welcomed everyone and remarked what a great turnout there was for the meeting. A special welcome went out to the Englewood Orchid Society that was joining us for our joint meeting tonight.

She encouraged everyone to shop the beautiful Vandas that were for sale by our speaker Donna Goodwin from Goodwin Orchids.

Announcements

- On Thursday, August 8th there will be a Hands on Mounting Orchids Clinic. Steve will be leading the clinic in Room F at 7:00 pm. The presentation will include slides, suggestions for success and the tools needed. Teams of 4-5 will work together to mount the orchids. Each member needs to bring an orchid free of medium and pests, a mount and shears.
- Our next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 4th. Speaker: Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids, topic: Phalaenopsis.
- Our September Growers Clinic will be a presentation on Orchid Pests and Diseases.
- Carol went over our Meeting Agenda.

Social Affairs/Upcoming Events

Janet Keown excitedly spoke about the upcoming Octoberfest on October 10th from 5:00-9:00pm. We are calling it a Dankeschon Party, meaning THANK YOU to all of our VAOS members and volunteers for the overwhelming success of the Venice Area Orchid Society. Our members time and talents are so appreciated. The event will be held at the Venice Community Center in this room and will be catered by Geier's Catering. Cost is \$5.00 cash per person. Included with this are 2 tickets for beer and wine, a raffle ticket for our Orchid Raffle, Music and a great meal. We will all have a great time. Volunteers for the event are welcome and needed. Please sign up at the back table during our August, September and October meetings.

Natasha Romero Contreras introduced Naoki Kawamura who introduced our speaker for the evening, Donna Goodwin of Goodwin Orchids. Naoki visited Goodwin Orchids when he moved to Florida. He was greatly impressed by their state of the art greenhouses and beautiful orchids. The knowledge that he gleaned from Donna and Goodwin Orchids sparked his love for Vandas. The members welcomed Donna to the front of the room with their loud applause.

The plant table was presented by Kristen Shaw and Donn Smart and included many wonderful orchids. John and Sharon Konowski presented the popular raffle table.

Submitted by Kathryn Jeske, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report July 2019

Operating Fund	Starting July 1, 2019	\$20,709.28
+ Income		\$ 100.00
- Payments		\$ 1,576.80
Closing Balance	July 31, 2019	\$19,232.48
Petty Cash		\$ 75.00
Total Operating Fund July 2019		\$19,307.48

Reserve Fund

Starting Balance	July 1, 2019	\$24,774.15
- transfer		
+Interest Income	July 31, 2019	\$ 4.48
Closing Balance	July 31, 2019	\$24,778.63

Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer



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Join the American Orchid Society for just \$65 and receive:

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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

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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)

Just One More Orchid/Few Of My Favorite Things

212 W. Virginia Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL (www.justonemoreorchid.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 (1st Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Venice Community Center. 6:30pm. Speaker: Phillip Bredren, Topic: Phalaenopsis - History, Culture and Hybridizing Trends.

September 12 (2nd Thursday) – Growers Clinic. Venice Community Center 7pm. Presentation: Orchid Pests and Diseases

September 21–22 – Ridge Orchid Society Show, Bartow, FL. Info: glengary54@yahoo.com

October 2 (1st Wednesday) – Monthly Meeting. Venice Community Center. 6:30pm. Speaker: To be announced

October 5-6 – 73rd Miami International Orchid Show, Coral Gables, FL info: www.sforchid.com

October 10 (Thursday) – **VAOS** Octoberfest! Venice Community Center, 5pm -9pm. Catered by Geier's. Traditional German food, beer & wine, music, dancing, door prizes and more. \$5. pp. See article in this newsletter for details.

October 12-13 – Gainesville Orchid Society Show, Gainesville, FL. Info: neilmacleod@bellsouth.net.

October 16–20 – AOS Fall Members Meeting and East Everglades Orchid Society Show & Sale. R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL Info: www.orchidseeos.com

November 2 – 20th International Slipper Orchid Symposium, Apopka, FL. Info: www.slippersymposium.com

Save the Date

December 15 (Sunday) – VAOS Annual Holiday Party. Boca Royale Country Club, Englewood. 11am. Fabulous holiday brunch, music, door prizes. More details to follow.

Ongoing

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Rick Belisle 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 September 4th

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

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at

www.vaos.org