

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

November/December 2020

November General Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday November 4th at 6:45pm

Speaker: Alan Koch

**Topic: Angraecums and Their
Relatives for the Home Grower**

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California.

He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids.

He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker.

He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center.

Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.

This Program looks at the many miniature and compact African species and their hybrids that do well in the home. Lots of great cultural tips on them also. This will be a modified program for Florida growing.



November/ December 2020 Events

**All public meetings
have been canceled
at this time.
Please join us on
Zoom for our
November 4th
meeting**

Newsletter Quick Links

[VAOS 2020 - 2021 Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

**Share photos of your
blooming orchids on our
Face Book Group**

[https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/VAOS.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VAOS.org)

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hi everyone!

This year has us charting new territory as a “Virtual Orchid Society” as we continue to work around Covid-19. This is a good time to give a big Thank You to Jay Loeffler, our Vice President of Programs, who has scrambled to convert our programs from live/in person meetings at the Community Center, to virtual meetings on Zoom. This was a new thing for all of us and Jay took it on and totally revamped our speaker schedule to make it work. Thanks to Jay, we are getting some world class speakers to hear from the comfort of our armchairs! I hope you all feel like you can attend a Zoom meeting, it's very simple and can be done from computer, tablet, or phone.

Another shout out goes to Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, our Show Chairs. They have examined the logistics of show planning and volunteer recruitment during a pandemic from every angle. They went over and over everything, and worked with other orchid societies to try to find a way to do our show safely. It's a heart breaking decision to cancel this year, but our show is big and crowded and we wouldn't want it any other way!

Meanwhile, our show vendors are continuing to suffer loss of revenue. Many of them are running their own open houses with guest vendors. These outdoor events are much safer than indoor events and so far, both vendors and customers are being consistent with mask wearing. The open houses are also a nice opportunity for us to see each other in an outside environment. I encourage you all the make the trip and go say hi!

In the meantime, we wait for this to pass. Take a moment to count your blessings, smell your blooms, and look forward to a better time. I miss seeing your smiling faces and I hope to see you soon.

Joanna Shaw

President.

February 2021 Annual Show Canceled December Holiday Party Canceled

We are sorry to announce that we have canceled our February 2021 annual show, as well as our December 13, 2020 holiday brunch party due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

If things improve by next fall, we may schedule a vendor sale at the Venice Community Center in advance of our February 2022 annual show.

VAOS will continue to hold our monthly meetings and monthly Growers Clinics via Zoom - we encourage you to join us. We also encourage you to stay in touch via our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VAOS.org>

Wishing everyone good health and to please take continued precautions as we work to get through this pandemic.

Regards,

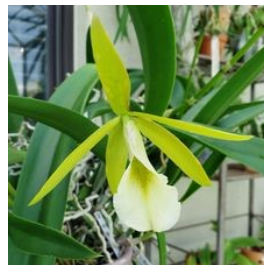
Carol Wood and Judy Loeffler, Show Co-Chairs
Joanna Shaw, President
Stephanie Luburger, VP, Social

VAOS Virtual Plant Table

We had a great collection of beautiful plants in our Virtual Plant Table Contest! After each monthly meeting a post will be placed in the VAOS Facebook group where members can post a photo of their currently blooming plants. Winners will receive a gift certificate to one of our show vendors. Come join the fun!



Winner: Stephanie Luburger with Den. Diane Shimazu x Den. Haleahi Blush 'Lakeview'





IN MEMORIAM

Long time member **Bill Timm**, 81, passed away on October 10, 2020. Bill was a former President of VAOS and was active in our society until recent years. You may remember him – a tall guy, always in a Hawaiian shirt. An excellent orchid grower and always willing to share his knowledge. He also grew fabulous bromeliads and collected reptiles. Rest in peace Bill, we will miss you.

Our long time member and dear friend Sybil Levien-Busnell lost her husband **Jay Busnell** on September 8, 2020. He was 87. Sybil has served in many capacities for VAOS over the years and was in fact the first person who welcomed me to our society when I joined in 2003. Her husband Jay often joined her at our monthly meetings. Our hearts go out to Sybil and her family for their loss.

Submitted by Carol Wood

Venice Area Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Date: October 2, 2020

Jay Loeffler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He and other orchid society members spent 6:30 – 7:00 talking and catching up with each other.

Announcements

Florida SunCoast Orchids is having a Sale this weekend. Join Jim Roberts for this sale. Also there this weekend selling their wonderful products will be Joanna's Orchid Pottery and Just One More Orchid. Look in the newsletter and on Facebook for details.

Jay introduced Tim Culbertson, our speaker for this evening. After giving a short biography of Tim's experience and work with orchids Tim presented his talk on Laelia Purpurata – The Queen of the Cattleyas.

Submitted by Kathryn Jeske, Recording Secretary

December in Your Orchid Collection

December marks the beginning of the dry season in South Florida. While this additional dryness provides relief from the autumnal rains that can bring so many fungal problems, December is also the month of shortest day lengths. This contracted period of light, on the contrary, reduces severely the drying potential for our plants. Nature thus both gives and takes away from us in December. We must make sure, therefore, that we do not aid the dark side of the force by improper watering. In December, above all, one must stick strictly to the two cardinal principles of orchid watering: water early in the day so your plants have as many hours as possible to dry, and water heavily when you water, allowing longer intervals between watering to dry plants thoroughly. This practice maximizes the benefit of the dryer air of December and minimizes the adverse effect of the shorter day lengths.

When nature has delivered a light overnight or early morning rain as she so often does in December at the leading edge of a cold front, add to her efforts by watering thoroughly that same morning and skip out watering for an extra several days afterward. With this method you can use the general dryness of December to give yourself much of the advantage of a greenhouse in terms of controlling watering. As in all aspects of orchid culture, keen observation is the key to success. In cooler weather your plants need much less water and cool air even at the same relative humidity, strips less water from your plants because cool air has less water holding capability. Always be sure that your plants really need water before you roll out the hose in December. Remember to use at least one of the standard tests for dryness: the finger dug slightly into the media test or the newly sharpened pencil coming dry like a knife from a well cooked custard, or test by hefting a pot that you know the weight of, both wet and dry and be sure that it has attained sufficient lightness. When you are sure they are dry, water them until you are sure they are very wet, then let the drying air of December do its magic to ward off leaf spotting diseases.

Himalayan dendrobiums of the nobile and callista (*D. aggregatum*, *chrysotoxum*, etc.) Sections require no additional water (beyond rain) in December. Remember, those of you who water (or, even worse, fertilize) these dendrobiums in December, will be punished by having your flowers taken away in the Spring. Some growers who have the space isolate these dendrobiums along with other types that want hard drying such as *Catasetum*, *Cynoches*, *Mormodes*, and *Calanthe*. Another strategy is to hang these plants high or at the edges of the collection reminding oneself to neglect them and also to avoid watering them by mistake. Some growers achieve the same result effect by turning the pots of these genera on their side in November or December, to avoid catching water from whatever source. Plants of some of these genera that have finished flowering can even be removed from their pots and stripped to bare roots in anticipation of re-potting them in new media when they break growth in the spring.

December in Your Orchid Collection, continued

Most sympodial orchids are resting in December and require less fertilizer. Biweekly or even monthly applications of a balanced fertilizer are still desirable. Nitrate nitrogen is the most readily absorbed in cooler weather; therefore at least one more application of the potassium nitrate/magnesium sulphate (at 1tbs. each per gal.) recommended in November is still a good idea. Vandas, Phalaenopsis and other monopodial orchids should be fertilized right through the winter although both the amount of fertilizer and the frequency of application can be reduced. Remember reddening of the foliage is not natural, nor is it a response to the cold per se but rather a symptom of nutritional deficiency.

December can be cold. Frost has occurred in the first week of the month and unforgettably, the coldest temperatures ever recorded in South Florida were registered on December 25, 1989. If you haven't taken some of the precautions outlined in the November Newsletter, get busy! Keep a close eye on the forecasts during this volatile month. Remember that hard cane dendrobiums of the sections Spatulata and Phalaenanthus are the most sensitive of commonly cultivated orchids. They resent temperature much below 60 degrees F. Phalaenopsis are next most sensitive, then vandas. Protect all these genera.

If you are getting a jump on Spring potting chores by repotting sympodial orchids that have finished blooming, it is particularly important that you take extra care in securing them in their containers. These plants may not be sending out new roots for several months, enough time for them to be shaken loose from insufficient staking. Passing cold fronts can bring brisk winds in December. When new roots start to form on insufficiently secured plants, wind moves the plant and chafes the new root tips off. Improperly secured plants are never able to root properly and slowly pine away. If you love them you must tie them up, tie them down. This is also especially true of mass produced orchids sold in Home Depot, K Mart etc. The soft, peat based media used to grow these commercially produced plants in the controlled environment of a greenhouse often does not provide sufficient purchase to secure the plants in the rough and tumble of a South Florida orchid collection buffeted by harsh winter winds. You probably should have already repotted these into more durable medium but until you do, tie 'em up!

Keep those vandas, phalaenopsis and hard cane dendrobiums as warm as you can. Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza!

Excerpted from [*Florida Orchid Growing: Month by Month*](#) by Martin Motes. *All rights reserved*



JOIN THE VAOS FACEBOOK GROUP TODAY!

Join our VAOS Facebook Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VAOS.org/>

- ♦ Provides an interactive environment for members
 - ♦ Ask questions, solve plant problems
 - ♦ Share your ideas and techniques
 - ♦ Show us how you grow
- ♦ Sell, swap or give away plants and divisions

Post your orchid plant photo to our Virtual Plant Table – once a month the member photo that receives the most “likes” receives a \$50 gift certificate to one of our local vendors



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

We have a board position open for Director, Communications, responsible for compiling and producing our monthly VAOS newsletter. Board members and other members contribute their newsletter input, saved to our Dropbox files. Our newsletter is produced in Microsoft Publisher and distributed to members using Mail Chimp. It takes about three hours a month,

Please contact Carol Wood at csec@vaos.org if you can help.

NEW TO Zoom?

Like many organizations, the VAOS is moving to Zoom meetings until we can all safely meet together again. We hosted our first monthly meeting on Zoom on August 5th with Fred Clarke presenting from California. We had 85 participants. We are working to produce monthly Growers Clinics on Zoom as well.

If you are new to Zoom, here are some instructions to set up to view our monthly meetings and growers clinics.

- ♦ Download Zoom and become familiar with it. Simply go to www.Zoom.com and follow the instructions to download to your computer. Once downloaded, you will see the icon on your desktop.
- ♦ VAOS will send you a link to our meeting by email. It will also be available through our Facebook Group page or our website.
- ♦ Log on early for our September 2nd meeting so that you can learn your way around. Click to test Audio and Video prior to the meeting start. Our host, Jay Loeffler, will mute all participants during the presentation. You may submit questions for the speaker at the end. During the meeting, if you need to step away, you can click Mute at the left bottom corner of your screen.
- ♦ Download Zoom and get familiar with it. It is a great tool and will allow us to continue our meetings and stay in contact until we can get together again.
- ♦ Here is a tip from Jay Loeffler if you experience connection problems during our Zoom meetings:
 - Rebooting your Router/modem can help with internet connections
 - First, unplug your router and broadband modem from power. (If combo just unplug the one)
 - Then wait about 30 seconds, and plug them back in: first the modem, then the router.
 - Wait a few minutes for them to completely power back on. If your equipment had encountered an error, the restart should fix it and your internet should be back up.

CULTURE TIP – THRIPS

Thrips continued to be a problem as our heat extended into October. Thrips are small, black piercing/sucking insects that attack orchid buds in dry/hot weather year-round. They are probably the most difficult insect to control as we often don't see the damage until it is too late.... when our plant blooms. There are few early warning signs – indented rings or girdling around new root tips. By the time you observe damaged or distorted buds it is too late, the damage is done.

Thrips will ruin your new flowers showing virus-like color break and premature browning. If thrips are suspected, spray buds daily with ½ alcohol and ½ water mixture or use a contact pesticide such as insecticidal soap or Sevin. If widespread in your collection you may consider using a systemic pesticide such as Orthene.

NOVEMBER GROWERS CLINIC ON ZOOM

Thursday, November 12th, 7pm

Please join us on Zoom for our November Growers Clinic, Thursday, November 12th, at 7pm. The topic is: Preparing Your Orchids for Colder Weather. Growers Clinic Team members will be available to answer your questions. Have your questions ready and your problem plants to show the group for advice.

Watch for Zoom log on instructions for this meeting on our Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VAOS.org> or in an email that will be sent prior to meeting.

Jay Loeffler, Growers Clinic Coordinator



GREAT, FREE RESOURCE FOR ORCHID SPECIES INFO

For 23 years Jay Pfahl of Key West, Florida has maintained the "Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia" at OrchidSpecies.com. It currently covers over 23,000 species in 872 genera.

It is an alphabetical/scroll down search that takes a little time but provides invaluable information including photos, description, habitat, and cultural info including light, temperature, bloom size and blooming season with references.

The VAOS provides financial support annually to support Jay in maintaining this free source for orchid species information.

Check it out!

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	November 05, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	November 10, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	December 02, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday	December 16, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday
Topic	A Columbian Orchid Adventure	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Orchid Conservation Projects in Florida and Cuba
Presenter	Ron Parsons Renowned photographer and author	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Lawrence Zettler Biology Professor, Illinois College

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org



With guest vendors:

Art Stone Orchids and Statuary

Just One More Orchid

Cotton Silk and Porcelain

Joanna's Orchid Pottery

& "The Taco Lady"

\$10 Tent

First ever orchids for the yard sale: Plants suitable for landscaping will be available!

VAOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENDED THROUGH 2021!

Sue reports that VAOS currently has 422 members.

The pandemic has disrupted our meetings and activities since March 2020, and it is still unknown when we will be able to get back to normal. Therefore, VAOS will extend membership to all active members through 2021. If your 2020 dues were paid on or after October 1, 2020, we will automatically renew your membership through next year.

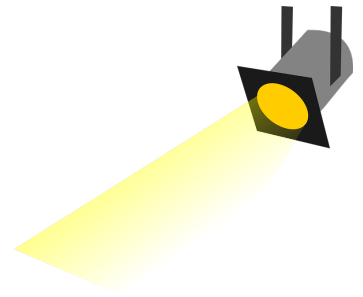
Please contact Sue Grimmer, Membership Director, if you have questions regarding your membership status. memb@vaos.org

Treasurer's Report September 01, 2020

Operating Fund Starting Sept. 01, 2020	\$ 3,322.91	
+ Income	\$ 1,359.00	
- Payments	\$ 634.37	
Closing Balance September 30, 2020	\$ 4,047.54	
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00	+
Total Operating Fund Sept. 30, 2020	\$ 4,122.54	
Reserve Fund		
Starting Balance Septembert 01, 2020	\$46,172.88	
+Interest Income Sept. 30, 2020	\$ 0.37	
Closing Balance Sept. 30, 2020		
	\$46,173.25	
Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer		

Show Vendor Spotlight

Accent Orchids



2835 38th Ave N
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33713
(727) 550-7993

A local orchid nursery owned by Bret and Ruth Ullery. If you are in the St. Pete area please stop by for a visit.

https://www.facebook.com/AccentOrchids/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.accentorchids.com/>

Support Our Local Growers and Vendors!

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)

Just One More Orchid/Few Of My Favorite Things
www.justonemoreorchid.com

Joanna's Orchid Pottery
www.orchidpottery.com
orchidpottery@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4 (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids. Topic: Angraecums and Their Relatives for the Home Grower

November 12 (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. Preparing Your Orchids for Colder Weather

November 21—23 — Palmer Orchids Fall Open House. See flyer in this newsletter

December—No Monthly Meeting or Growers Clinic

December 13 (Sunday) - Annual Holiday Brunch has been canceled due to pandemic

January 6th (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. Topic to be announced

January 14 (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom

ONGOING

Mentor Program: help for beginning growers, contact Rick Belisle Mentor@vaos.org

AOS Orchid Judging—Check Website for Schedule.

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 the month.

Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

Next Meeting
November 4th
via Zoom

Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid Society
PO BOX 443
Venice, FL 34284-0443

President

Joanna Shaw pres@vaos.org

Membership

Sue Grimmer memb@vaos.org

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