

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

February 2021

## February General Meeting on Zoom

**Wednesday  
February 3rd  
6:45pm**

**Speaker: Jeff Bradley**

**Topic: Historic Cattleyas—Their Provenance and History**

Jeff Bradley has been an avid orchid grower since the age of eight. He was introduced to the world of orchids as a young boy by his godparents, Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Proebstle, who amassed one of the finest collections in the world. Jeff traveled to orchids shows with the Proebstle's throughout the U.S. and abroad, meeting many of the famous collectors during the glory days of orchid growing.

His private collection is housed in three greenhouses that contain over 2800 plants, a mix of hybrids and species. He has one of the finest and most extensive collections of classic cattleyas in the world, many of which date back to the late 19th century to the early 20th century. He prefers to call himself an "orchid preservationist."



## February 2021 Events

**All public meetings  
have been canceled  
through April 2021.**

**Please join us on  
Zoom for our  
next meeting on  
February 3rd**

### 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, hope everyone has been enjoying the lovely weather we have been having. My orchids believe that it is spring and they are starting to wake up a little. With the decreased humidity and lack of rain, I am checking them a little more often than usual to make sure they don't get too parched during their "winter rest".

I hope everyone is well, we are still waiting for Covid to calm down a little more before restarting any in-person activities. For now everything is in a holding pattern. I hope you are all enjoying your home grown orchid shows. If you are having any trouble getting your orchids to re-bloom, tune in to one of our Zoom growers clinics and ask any questions. We would love to see you!

Enjoy the newsletter and post your blooming orchids on the Facebook group page!  
See you (hopefully) soon!

Joanna

## 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:**



**Cycd. Bob Lewis**

**Vicki Fisher**

**2nd and 3rd:**



**Rhyn. Gigantea**

**Cynthia Vance**

# Venice Area Orchid Society

## Meeting Minutes

### Zoom Meeting

**Date: January 6, 2021**

Joanna Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She and other members spent time before the meeting began talking about orchids and catching up on their lives and adventures.

### Announcements

Krull Smith is having a Winter Orchid Festival on January 16 and 17 from 9-5pm. They are also giving tours of the greenhouse.

The VAOS has just received the new Florida Orchid Growers books by Motes. We are selling them at cost to our members for \$20.00. Contact Judy Loeffler or Carol Wood to arrange for payment and pick up. You won't want to miss this wonderful book.

A reminder that all 2021 membership dues have been suspended for the year due to Covid-19.

There will be a Zoom Grower's Clinic on January 14 at 7:00pm. This Clinic will be open-ended and relaxed. We will allow for member's questions and strive to keep it more social in nature. Please take pictures of your plants if you have questions, concerns or just want to show off a nice plant. Also included will be a discussion about member's favorite orchid websites.

Jay introduced Peter Lin, our speaker for this evening. After giving a short biography of Peter's experience and work with orchids Peter presented his talk on Mini-Catts: Delightful Cattleyas in Miniature. Please visit Peter online at Diamond Orchids.

*Submitted by Kathryn Jeske, Recording Secretary*

## FEBRUARY GROWERS CLINIC ON ZOOM

**Thursday, February 11th, 7pm**

Please join us on Zoom for our February Growers Clinic, Thursday, February 11th, at 7pm. Jay will open the zoom meeting early at 6:30pm for those who would like to chat and catch up with other members.

The topic is Orchid Basic's, presenting an overview of The 5 components of environmental needs to orchid growers. In addition we will have ample time to discuss your questions. Growers Clinic Team members will be available, 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*

# Sophronitis coccinea and its Culture

*Peter T. Lin*

*Cattleya coccinea* is a charming miniature species known for its brilliant orange red flowers. It is native to tropical mountain rainforests in Brazil, growing as epiphytes on trees at an elevation of 2,800-5,500 feet (855 to 1,675 m). The climate is cool and bright, with temperatures sometimes reaching the 80's (27C), with a dip in winter into the high 30's (3C). Humidity is high throughout the day with fog often at night.

The plants are very small with pseudobulbs and leaves at 3-4" (7.5-10cm). The leaves usually have a dark maroon stripe along the midrib. Plants can break multiple leads from the newest bulbs, and can form fairly large clumps. New roots tend to form just once a year, usually in the fall. Most have a single bloom per inflorescence but some may have 2 flowers. Flowers range from orange red to dark red, and have a natural spread of 2" (5cm). Through line breeding and the introduction of tetraploid forms, there are now flowers reaching over 3-3.5" (7.5-8.8cm) across! Flowers last 6-8 weeks in bloom, and have a wonderful crystalline texture that sparkles in sunlight. Unlike other members of the *Cattleya* family, they are not fragrant.



## Tetraploids

Most plants of *C. coccinea* grown in cultivation are tetraploids (4n) and triploids (3n). These polyploid forms usually have larger leaves and flowers, some with outstanding full form. Tetraploids have been used extensively in breeding miniature and compact cattleya hybrids. Some of the best strains of *coccineas* are coming out of Japan, where they have been line bred for years. I have found that tetraploid strains are sturdier, more vigorous growing plants. They are often more tolerant of warmer temperatures than the diploid forms.





Diploid (2n) - *S. coccinea* 'XG'



Tetraploid (4n) - *S. coccinea* 'Sunset Valley Orchids III'

## Aurea Forms

The yellow form is still quite rare in cultivation and extremely desirable. Plants seem to be even more finicky than the type form. The leaves are a light green and do not have the maroon stripe along the midrib. Flower shape is a bit open, about 2" (5cm) across, and color is the most brilliant yellow. Due to the rarity of this form, they have not been line bred and have not reached the superior size and shape of the type form. As far as I know, there are currently no tetraploid yellow forms.



*S. coccinea* 'Yellow Diamonds' AM/AOS



*S. coccinea* 'Diamond Orchids' AM/AOS

## New Miniature Forms

This form is even smaller than the type form. Plants are about 3" (7.5cm) tall, and the flowers are under 2" (5cm) wide. The flowers are very full with round overlapping petals. I find this form especially appealing. Plants break new leads readily and can be quite showy in bloom. I found this form a few years ago at the Japan Grand Prix. I currently have a sibling cross of my two best varieties and hope to introduce these plants in a few years.



## Cultivation

*C. coccinea* has long had the reputation of being difficult to grow. In some aspects, after growing them for over 8 years, I have to agree. There are a few particular factors that need to be taken into account. The most important factor in growing a healthy plant is to have healthy roots. Starting with a vigorous, well rooted plant is a definite plus. A plant that has lost its roots can be very challenging to bring back to health. Often the plant will sulk for many months before finally dropping its leaves and dying. Be prepared to give them fairly constant attention. These are not plants that you can leave on vacation for weeks and expect to return with happy healthy plants. Although this plant requires some care, there is something about mastering the cultivation of a difficult species, and the gratifying reward in flowering the plant!

## Growing Methods

There are several ways to grow *C. coccinea*. The best method may depend on your growing conditions.

For areas that are on the warm and dry side, it is best to grow in pots. I recommend small clay pots and New Zealand sphagnum moss. It is critical to the health of the roots not to over pot as the center of the moss may stay too wet. Before potting, make sure to enlarge the drainage hole by using a pair of pliers and to gently tap at the hole. Start off gently as too much force will crack the pot! Packing the moss around the roots and into the pot takes a little bit of practice. I can best describe it as a “firm” packing, not too tight and not too loose. If the moss is too tight, it will be difficult to rewet if the moss becomes dry; if too loose then the moss tends to hold too much water. A good test of the correct packing of moss is to pick up the plant by the bulbs; the pot and moss ball should not fall off. Leave some space at the top of the pot so that water can pool slightly, as the moss may be difficult to wet when dry. Also leave some air space at the bottom of the pot so that there is plenty of air circulation. It is extremely important that the moss be replaced annually in the fall. Plant roots will not tolerate stale medium.



*This is what you want to see on a healthy plant—lots of live roots!*

Other ways to grow *C. coccinea* are either mounted or in a small wood slat basket. In both cases it is best to use little or no sphagnum moss around the roots. I find after a few months the moss either dries out or stays too wet for the roots. The challenge is to get the plants to root to the mount or basket. To insure success, start with a well rooted plant. Once the roots establish on the mount, the plants seem to grow readily. The best time to mount your plants is in the fall when you see new roots forming. Providing constant high relative humidity of 60-70% is important for mounted plants.



Example of a seedling ready to be mounted. Note the active roots! Remove some moss before mounting.



My best growing plants are hanging in the greenhouse. They seemed to appreciate the gentle air movement by being off the bench. They also receive more light. They do seem to dry out faster than the ones on the bench, so check them often.



## Water

Since the roots are very sensitive it is important to use water that is low in dissolved salts. I recommend rain, distilled, or reverse osmosis treated water. For mounted plants, mist the plants daily or every other day in very humid conditions. Since plants in nature are subjected to nightly fog, it is fine to water in the afternoon or early evening. For potted plants, knowing when to water is more challenging. Plants in moss should be just barely moist before watering again. If you have algae or green moss growing on top of your moss, you are probably keeping it too wet. In the heat of summer it is best to keep plants on the dry side. The best sign of proper watering is to see plenty of new active roots in the moss.

## Fertilizer

Fertilize very lightly when plants are in active growth. Use a fertilizer formulated for pure water. If fertilizing plants in moss, it is important to flush the pot heavily with water once a month. If you regularly fertilize plants potted in moss, you may need to change the moss more than once a year.

## Light

Plants need bright filtered sunlight. If your growing area is in full sun, 70% shade cloth would provide the right amount of light. A range of 2500 -3000 footcandles would be about right. If temperatures reach 90 (32C) plus degrees, it is best to provide more shade. Leaves should be a medium green color.

## Temperature

Ideal daytime temperature is 70-80 (21-27C) degrees. Plants can tolerate temperatures over 90 (32C) degrees for short periods, however for extended periods of heat, they will experience some stress. Plants appreciate a dip into the 60's (16C) or below at night. I have found plants will be fine with winter night temperatures into the mid 30's (2C). In order to bloom plants well, it is important to have a day/night differential.

## Humidity

Provide 60-70% relative humidity all year if plants are mounted or when roots are exposed. If potted, plants can tolerate lower humidity levels. With high humidity, gentle air movement around plants is recommended.

## Pests and Disease

Fortunately healthy plants do not seem to be prone to insects or disease. Occasionally you might find scale or mealybugs on your plants. Since the plants are small and the bulbs grow close together, it is important to check your plants often for signs of pests and disease. Occasionally new growths will rot and turn black. This is not usually a problem as dormant eyes will soon sprout. Keep a watch out for snails and slugs, which find the new root tips and buds tasty! This includes the hard to control tiny bush snails.

## Repotting and Dividing

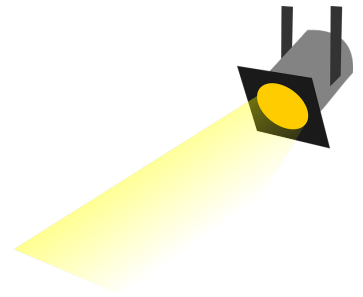
Potted plants should be repotted once a year in the fall. I usually only change the moss and the plant can go back into the same clay pot. If you wish to divide your plants, keep the divisions with at least 5 bulbs or more. Each division should have at least a few healthy roots. Again it is important not to over pot; keep them in as small a pot as possible. If you have divisions, this is usually a good time to experiment with mounting plants.

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*Sophronitis coccinea, now C. coccinea, is the perfect red orchid to feature for St. Valentine's Day! They are easy to grow in our climate, tolerating mid 30's low and 90 degrees high. Peter Lin was our speaker last month at our January 6<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting, presenting Mini-Catts. Peter is known as "Mr. Sophronitis" for his passion and expertise in growing and collecting this orchid. Visit Peter's website at [www.DiamondOrchids.com](http://www.DiamondOrchids.com).*

# Show Vendor Spotlight

## Odom's Orchids



1611 S. Jenkins Rd.  
Ft. Pierce, FL. 34947  
772-267-9459

John Odom has been growing orchids for over 50 years and Odom's Orchids has been at our present location for over 40 years. He graduated from the University of Florida with his B.A. in agriculture. Louise, Originally from Maryland, was the youngest female rose judge on the east coast. When she moved to Florida she found that growing roses are not easy down south. She started as volunteer at Odom's Orchids' greenhouses and became a business partner for 10 years before being married.

With over 90,000 square feet of greenhouses, Odom's Orchids is one of the largest retail growers and shippers of orchids in the United States. We specialize in Cattleya orchids, but also grow quite a few other varieties, including Vandas, Phalaenopsis, Lady Slippers, Oncidiums, and many species from different genera. Unlike many other orchid growers, most of our orchids are mature, blooming size plants, so you won't have to wait years for them to bloom.

**<https://Odoms.com>**

**[Odom's Orchids Inc | Facebook](#)**





American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

**SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**THE AOS IS EXCITED ABOUT HOLDING OUR FIRST ON LINE ORCHID SPEAKER'S DAY  
ALL ABOUT ORCHID CULTURE**

**Join us online Saturday, February 06, 11:00 A.M. EST**

Let's Rid Ourselves of the Winter Doldrums. Spend the Day Learning More about Growing Orchids

- ♦ **GROWING MINIATURES** 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. **Kristen Uthus** from NEW WORLD ORCHIDS
- ♦ **BRAZILIAN HABITATS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON CULTURE** 12:00—12:45 p.m. **Francisco Miranda** from MIRANDA ORCHIDS
- ♦ **THOSE PESKY BUGS** 1:00—1:45 p.m. **Ron McHatton**, AOS CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER
- ♦ **GROWING HEALTHY PAPHS** 2:00-2:45 p.m. **Dave Sorokowsky** from PAPH PARADISE
- ♦ **SECRETS OF GROWING DENDROBIUMS** 3:00-3:45 p.m. **Alan Koch** from GOLD COUNTRY ORCHIDS

**REGISTER NOW: \$30 ON LINE** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/194905340406754830>

All registrants entered to win RAFFLES on the ORCHID WHEEL OF CHANCE!





**JOIN US IN APOPKA • FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021**

**The Apopka International**

# *Valentine's Day Orchid Festival*

**3 Days!!!**

## **Featuring These Top-Quality Vendors:**

- **Miranda Orchids** (Florida)
- **Krull-Smith** (Florida)
- **Popow-Orchids** (Germany)
- **Bredren Orchids** (Florida)
- **KOKO Ranch Hoyas** (Florida)
- **OFE-International** (Florida)
- **Mainshow Orchids** (Taiwan)
- **Springwater Orchids** (Florida)
- **The OrchidFix Nursery** (Hawaii)
- **Ric & Swiffer's Hoyas** (Florida)

Sponsored and Hosted by



**FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021 • 9:00am - 5:00pm**

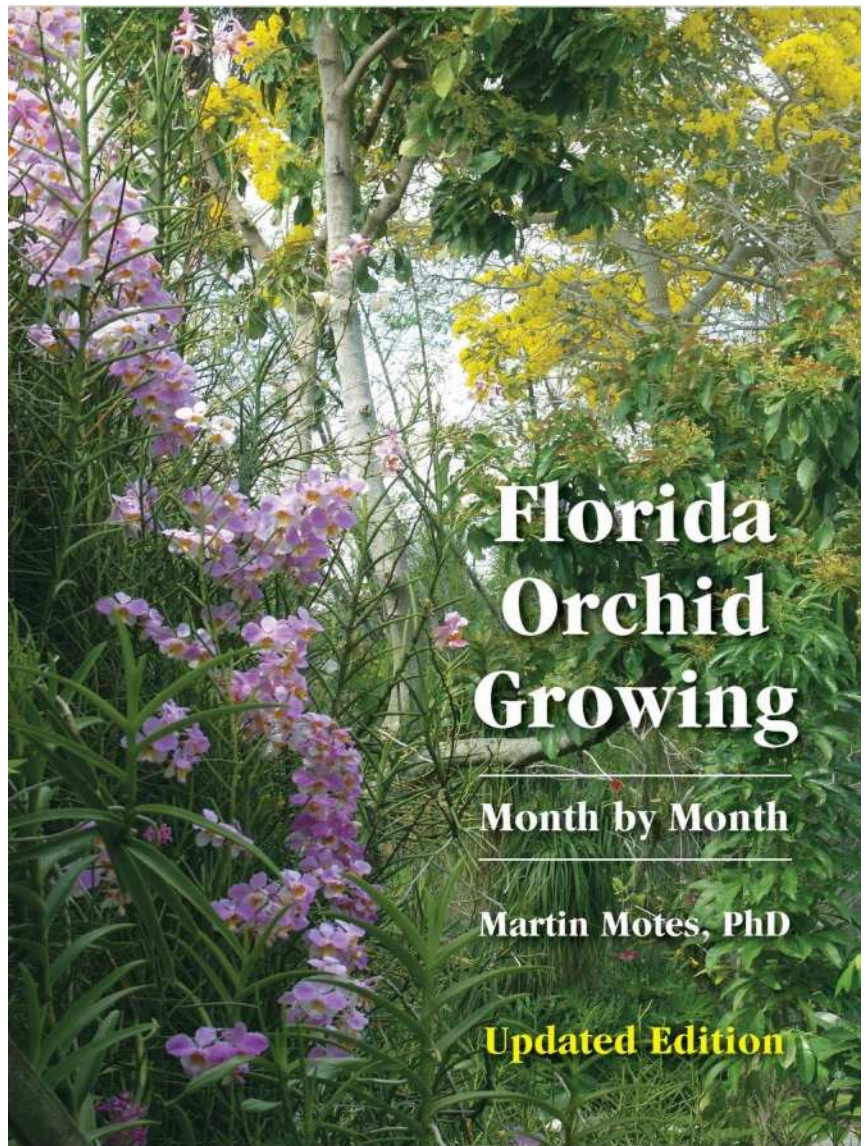
**Location: Krull-Smith Nursery**

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

407.886.4134 • [orchids@krullsmith.com](mailto:orchids@krullsmith.com) • [www.krullsmith.com](http://www.krullsmith.com)

**New edition  
released and  
now  
available!**

**Dr. Martin  
Motes -  
Florida Orchid  
Growing  
Month by  
Month**



VAOS has just received our shipment of the new edition. They are available to members for \$20 and may be ordered and picked up from:

Judy Loeffler—On Venice Island. 941-485-9569 Email: [judyvaos@gmail.com](mailto:judyvaos@gmail.com)  
833 Guild Dr. Venice, FL 34285

Carol Wood—South Venice. 941-497-4995 Email: [cwood12@msn.com](mailto:cwood12@msn.com)  
4941 Bella Terra Dr., Venice, FL 34293

Call or email Judy or Carol to order and pick up your copy at one of their homes.

We regret we cannot mail the books at this time.

See a summary of the new edition on the following page.



# Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month 2nd Edition

## Martin Motes, PhD

The BEST and Best Selling Book on growing orchids in Florida!

Martin Motes, a native Floridian, has been growing orchids south of Miami for over fifty years, man and boy. His guidance and advice come from a deep knowledge and practical experience of the local, subtropical world. Monthly guides lead the aspiring orchidist through the intricacies of the changing climate and growing conditions of the Florida year: its benefits and its dangers. Practical solutions to problems and to control and prevention of pests and diseases are offered. Growing materials and tools are suggested and their local sources are provided.

Written in a humorous and easily accessible style, *Florida Orchid Growing* will make everyone an expert. This Florida-specific guide will prove invaluable to subtropical and tropical growers everywhere.

In addition to updates on the latest in disease and pest control, the new edition contains an extensive chapter on control of *Thrips* giving growers the tools needed to control this ubiquitous pest. Over sixty years' experience has shown that controlling *Thrips* consistently yields control of scale, mealy bugs and all other insect pests, including the wily cucaracha. A new chapter on "Advice for Snowbirds" helps our winter visitors leave their beloved orchids behind with more confidence that they will be fine upon their return. Finally, in the 12 years that have passed since the first edition of *Florida Orchid Growing* was published, molecular research has led to numerous name changes in genera. The new and proper nomenclature for many plants is incorporated in the new book.



## 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## 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](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

<b>Treasurer's Report December 31, 2020</b>			
<b>Operating Fund</b> Starting Dec. 01, 2020	\$ 5,147.79		
+ Income	\$ 1,495.00		
- Payments	\$ 1,865.23		
Closing Balance December 31, 2020	\$ 4,777.56		
	+		
<b>Petty Cash</b>	\$ 75.00		
<b>Total Operating Fund Dec. 31, 2020</b>	\$ 4,852.56		
<b>Reserve Fund</b>			
Starting Balance December 1, 2020	\$46,174.01		
+Interest Income Dec. 31, 2020	\$ 0.39		
Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2020			
	\$46,174.40		
Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer			

# 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.biz](http://www.justonemoreorchid.biz)

**Joanna's Orchid Pottery**  
[www.orchidpottery.com](http://www.orchidpottery.com)  
[orchidpottery@gmail.com](mailto:orchidpottery@gmail.com)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 3rd** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Jeff Bradley. Topic: Historic Cattleyas—Their Provenance and History

**February 6th**—AOS Online Speaker's Day, All About Orchid Culture. See flyer in this newsletter

**February 11** (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. 7pm. Orchid Basics

**February 12-14** Apopka International Valentine's Day Orchid Festival. See flyer in this newsletter.

**March 3rd** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker and topic TBD

**March 11** (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. 7pm.

### **ONGOING**

**Mentor Program**: help for beginning growers, contact Rick Belisle [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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**  
**February 3rd**  
**via Zoom**

## **Contact Us**

**Venice Area Orchid Society**

**PO BOX 443**

**Venice, FL 34284-0443**

### **President**

**Joanna Shaw** [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

### **Membership**

**Sue Grimmer** [memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

**Visit us on the web at**

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

**Visit our Facebook Group at**

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