

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

March 2021

## March General Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday  
March 3rd  
6:45pm

**Speaker: Fred Clarke**

**Topic: Catasetums, Cynoches and Mormodes**

Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



## March 2021 Events

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

**Please join us on  
Zoom for our  
next meeting on  
March 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)

**Fred Clarke continued.....**

## **Sunset Valley Orchids ZOOM Meeting Discount**

**Sunset Valley Orchids offers a 20% discount on all plant orders from your club members. The special voucher code is ZOOM. When you check out, type ZOOM into the voucher code box on the shopping cart page and click 'RECALCULATE' to apply the discount. This special discount is additive to the existing discount schedule, making for an excellent opportunity.**

## **MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**



Hi Everyone! The news with Covid is getting better and better. New cases are down, hospitalizations are down, and deaths are down. There is certainly still risk but things are looking good enough that the board has been talking about a reopening plan. Because its too soon to open right now, and summer will soon be here, we are hoping for fall to resume our in-person meetings at the community center. We are still tentatively planning our holiday event as well, knowing that we can cancel if needed. It's all a work in progress and we will keep you posted.

More good news-We are also planning another outdoor member plant sale and get together-yay! We will include a demo on dividing and repotting. Because Bruce

Weaver has been working so hard creating an orchid garden at Blalock Park in Venice, we will have the event there so we can all see what he has been working on as part of The Venice Orchid Project. See the flyer later in the newsletter for details. All are welcome to bring a lunch or a snack and come and hang out. Give away or sell some extra plants and get some in-person growing advice. If you have a problem plant, bring that too, and maybe we can all figure out a solution. I'm really looking for to seeing some real live smiling faces-even if they have masks over them (please!)

Probably in late May or early June, we will plan a get-together at Snook Haven restaurant. They have many picnic tables out in the open air in the shade. That time of year, the wild *Encyclia tampensis* orchids will be blooming in the trees overhead so it will be a nice opportunity to view native orchids blooming in their habitat. We will pin down the date depending on when it looks like they are going to bloom. I have pictures from last year and it was around June 5th.

That's all for now. Keep your fingers crossed and your masks on and maybe this pandemic will finally go away!

See you soon!

Joanna



## **Richard Amos**

It is with heavy hearts that we honor and say goodbye to our long time VAOS member Richard Amos. Richard passed away peacefully at home surrounded by Mary and his children on 1/17/21.

Richard Amos and his wife Mary have been active members of VAOS since 1995, serving in many different capacities. You will remember Richard as the handsome gentle giant, always with a friendly greeting and a smile for everyone. He was generous in sharing his excellent advice on growing orchids, always in an easy to understand manner and with encouragement to the grower. In the past decade Richard was instrumental in setting up our show displays, serving on our board and as an active member of our Growers Clinic team. We will miss him dearly.



## **Billy Morrison**

Billy Morrison, age 78, beloved husband of Nancy Morrison, passed away from metastatic prostate cancer on January 29, 2021. Billy served his country all over the world, retiring from the military as a Lt. Colonel. He and Nancy moved to this area three years ago. Billy loved their Sarasota home that provided acres of land teeming with plants, wildlife and nature. He is sadly missed by Nancy, their family and all who knew him.



## 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: JoAnn Glazewski  
NOID**



**Tied for 2nd:  
Vicki Fisher, Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet'**



**Ian Kennedy, Rth. Eye Candy 'Mellow Yellow'**

## Venice Area Orchid Society

### Meeting Minutes

#### Zoom Meeting

**Date: February 3, 2021**

Joanna Shaw called the meeting to order at 7pm.

#### Announcements

At this time all public meetings have been cancelled through April 2021 due to the Pandemic.

Join us on February 11th at 7pm for our Zoom Grower's Clinic. The Zoom link will open at 6:30 so feel free to get on early to catch up with fellow orchid enthusiasts.

The VAOS has 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.

The Apopka International Valentine's Day Orchid Festival is coming up on February 12-14. See our newsletter for details.

Jay introduced Jeff Bradley as our speaker of the evening. Jeff is an avid orchid grower since the age of 8. He is a great storyteller, weaving his vast experience with the beauty of the classic cattleyas. He prefers to call himself an orchid preservationist and has over 2800 orchid hybrids and species in his greenhouses.

*Submitted by Kathryn Jeske, Recording Secretary*

## MARCH GROWERS CLINIC ON ZOOM

### Thursday, March 11th, 7pm

Please join us on Zoom for our March 11th meeting early at 6:30pm for those who would like to chat and catch up with other members.

The topic is Orchid Basic's Part 2, presenting an overview of Pots, Media and Tools needed for 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*

# *VAOS Member Plant Sale*

**Saturday, March 27, 2021**

**10am – 2pm**

**West Blalock Park on Venice Island  
401 Pensacola Rd.  
Venice, FL 34285  
(Behind the Venice Community Center)**

Following the success of our VAOS member plant sale at Honey Bee's in September, we are planning another event in March.

VAOS will host a member plant sale/swap on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Blalock Park, by the pavilion from 10am to 2pm.

Bring your plants or divisions you want to sell or swap. Bring a table if needed.

Bring a chair, snacks and drinks and stay for the live demonstrations:

**How to divide an orchid plant**

**Repotting Demo**

**Mounting Demo**

Although we will be outside please be mindful of social distancing and wear masks.

Blalock Park is home to many of the orchids established there by our Venice Orchid Project. We are in the process of installing signage for the orchids. Bruce Weaver, who leads this project, is always looking for plant donations – encyclias, cattleyas and dendrobiums are perfect. Please donate your divisions if you can.

**Information: Stephanie Luburger, VP Social, Email: [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org)**

## **Member Grow Area Virtual Tours**

Due to COVID 19 this years member grow area tours will not be happening. Instead we would like to do a virtual tour of member grow areas. We are requesting you send photos or videos of your grow areas and they will be put into a slideshow to be presented at an upcoming VAOS Growers Clinic.

During the presentation you can talk about your grow area and answer any questions or if unable to attend let us know and we will contact you for information to share with the group.

**Please email all submissions to  
[GrowArea@vaos.org](mailto:GrowArea@vaos.org)**

The deadline for submission is 3/31/21





American Orchid Society  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*

**Join the American Orchid Society and receive:**

- ♦ Instant access to hundreds of back issues of the award-winning Orchids magazine dating back to 1934
- ♦ A full year of additional magazine issues plus a much anticipated and valuable annual supplement
- ♦ Over 60 ready to watch webinar recordings on numerous orchid subjects
- ♦ Free and discounted access to hundreds of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in the U.S. and Canada
- ♦ Discounts on orchids and supplies if they are inspired to start growing orchids
- ♦ Join thousands of members in supporting orchid education and conservation worldwide today by joining the AOS.

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



# Show Vendor Spotlight



## Miranda Orchids

Miranda Orchids started in 1999 and is a nursery specializing in growing mainly selected Cattleya alliance species. In a sense, it is a continuation of Boa Vista Orchids, a nursery we ran in Brazil from 1986 until we moved to the U.S.A. Many of the plants available are produced in our lab and nursery in Central Florida from our extensive collection of stud plants. The rest we bring from Brazil to increase variety and novelty. Being native Brazilians, and having had a nursery for many years, we know that there is a lot of development in Cattleya species being done there. This is mostly because a lot of those species are native from Brazil (including all the bifoliate cattleyas) and because these plants are favorites of growers there. Of course having lived and grown orchids for a long time there we know most of the growers and what is being produced and we go there several times a year to make sure we are kept up-to-date. Miranda Orchids also grows other Brazilian species so if you are looking for something in particular do not hesitate in contact us. Our goal is to be your number one source for selected Brazilian Orchids.

Miranda Orchids is located between Orlando and Tampa, on the I-4 Central Florida corridor. Access is done by I-27 south from I-4 or from I-4 exit 48 south. We are about 4 miles in straight line south of I-4.

Miranda Orchids is own by Maria Cristina and Francisco Miranda, both born in Brazil and living in the U.S.A. since 1999.

## Francisco Miranda

A taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower, Francisco travels extensively in the U.S. and internationally speaking at orchid-related events and meetings. He has been doing this since 1988, while still living in Brazil. The subjects of these presentations (as shown in their own page here) reflect Francisco's extensive travels to study orchids in their natural environments.

## Maria Cristina Miranda

Also a biologist, Cristina takes care of the lab production and day-to-day nursery operation.

## Miranda Orchids

<https://www.mirandaorchids.com>

4763 Polk City Rd.,  
Haines City, FL 33844

863-875-8255



## **COME ON DOWN AND GIVE US A HAND!**

### **VAOS Members:**

**Judy and Carol need your help as we move our society storage items down 4 doors to a new garage space at Extra Space Storage. This is a cost savings measure and shouldn't take us more than an hour with some help.**

**Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**9am**

**Extra Space Storage 1510 S. Tamiami Trail Unit# 1**

**Green and White building on left just before the Circus Bridge**

**The unit contains display items for our shows and other items we store for our Grower Clinics and annual show. Hand trucks available.**

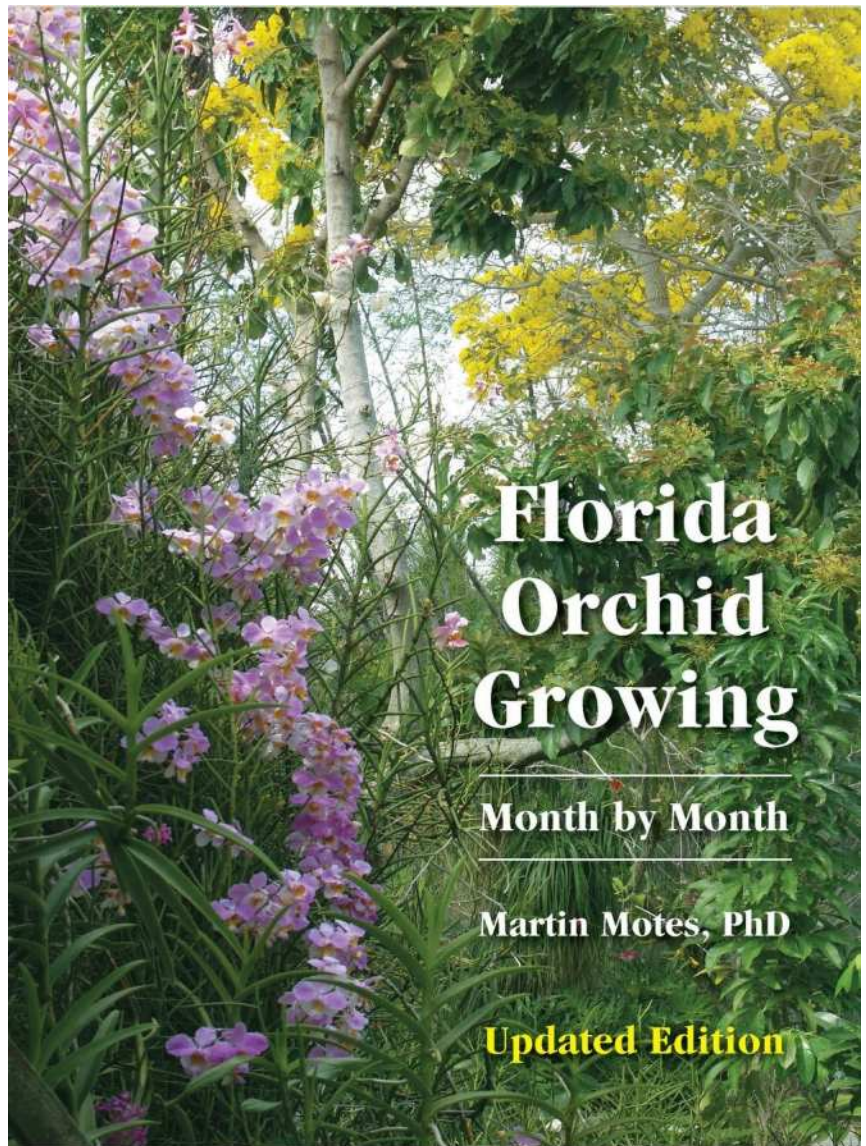
**We will be outside but do request volunteers wear masks.**

**If you can give us an hour of your time on March 6<sup>th</sup> please sign up with Judy Loeffler. 941-485-9569 or [JudyVAOS@gmail.com](mailto:JudyVAOS@gmail.com)**

**Thanks!!!!**

**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.

### 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](mailto: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.







## 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)

### Treasurer's Report January 2021

<b>Operating Fund</b> Starting Jan.1, 2021	\$ 4,777.56
+ Income	\$ -
- Payments	\$ 1,673.29
Closing Balance January 29, 2021	\$ 3,104.27
	+
<b>Petty Cash</b>	\$ 75.00

**Total Operating Fund Jan. 29, 2021**      \$ 3,179.27

### Reserve Fund

Starting Balance January 1, 2021	\$46,174.40
	\$ 0.36
Closing Balance Jan 31, 2021	
	\$46,174.76

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**

**March 3rd** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker: Fred Clarke. Topic: Catasetums, Cycnoches and Mormodes

**March 11th** (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. 7pm Topic: Orchid Basics Part 2: Pots, Media and Tools.

**March 12-14th** - Palmer Orchids Spring Open House Weekend. See flyer in this newsletter

**April 7th** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker: Jim Roberts Topic: A Few Encyclias to Enjoy

**April 8th** (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**  
**March 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**

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

