

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

April 2021

April General Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday
April 7th
6:45pm

Speaker: Jim
Roberts



Topic: A Few Encyclias to Enjoy

Jim has been growing orchids for over 25 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida.

In 2001, he moved to Florida with a small collection of plants and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. He grows his beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000 square feet of growing space. As always, he strives to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.

His presentation, **A Few Encyclias to Enjoy**, provides a good introduction to the encyclia species that are easily grown in Florida as well as some of their notable hybrids. Probably the best program for species identification and includes many good hybrids with those species that do well for us here.

April 2021 Events

All public meetings
have been
canceled through
July 2021.

Please join us on
Zoom for our
next meeting on
April 7th

Newsletter Quick Links

[VAOS 2021 - 2023 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 you are enjoying your spring and getting all your repotting done! My plants are full of flowers-for me this is the best time of year for blooms, You can tell I've done most of my plant buying at our local shows over the years because everything I own blooms during show season!

We had hoped to be able to have a get together/member plant sale in Blalock park. We were pretty confident that the City of Venice would allow our get-together but unfortunately, they did not approve our permit and we canceled the event. We are working on an alternative, however, it will have to be an event on someone's private property - we have not identified another property yet. Its all a work in progress but we are trying hard to get a live event for us!

In the mean time, let me take a moment to thank Jay Loeffler again for putting together such excellent Zoom content for both our monthly meetings and our growers clinics. In addition, I am happy to welcome some new members! In January and February of this year we were able to add 6 new members: John Hollowell, Suzanne Hooper, Carol Regan, and Yoshida Roberson from Venice, Sara Gill from Nokomis, and Elizabeth and Larry Magill from Sarasota. Welcome everyone and I hope to meet you in person soon!

Happy growing everyone and may you all be surrounded by flowers!

Joanna Shaw
President



Thanks to All the VAOS Members Who Helped Us Move Our Storage Unit

This was a cost saving move in a year that we could use the savings.

All items stored for our Annual show, Show displays and Growers Clinics were moved in less than one hour. Team Work makes the Dream Work!

VAOS ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The VAOS Board of Directors is composed of nine officers who serve two to four year terms, expiring on alternating years. Other board members are appointed by the President and serve with no term limits. They include Show Chair Directors and Directors At Large. Elections are held annually at our March meeting.

Our March 2021 meeting and annual election did not take place due to Covid, however, there were no open positions on the board this year. Three officers, Bruce Weaver, Kathryn Jeske and Sue Grimmer have completed their two year terms and have agreed to continue in their positions to complete four year terms.

The current list of VAOS Board of Directors is available on our website and by link from this newsletter.

We thank all of our officers, directors and volunteers for their time, talent and service to VAOS. When we resume monthly meetings at the Venice Community Center, hopefully this fall, we will be looking for volunteers to support our meeting tech team and refreshment team. Our Newsletter Team is also looking for volunteers. Please contact any board member if you are interested in volunteering.

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:



Cym. Mad Irishman

Natasha Romero-Contreres

2nd Place:

Paph. Lowii

Peggy Fahrenback



3rd Place:

NOID

Natasha Romero-Contreres



Venice Area Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Date: March 3, 2021

Joanna Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Joanna let the members know that the board is in discussions about opening back up this fall to in-person meetings at the Community Center. We are keeping an eye on the pandemic and the vaccines will help.

Announcements

- We are planning a member plant sale/swap with demos on repotting, plant dividing and mounting in trees at Blaylock Park on March 27th. However due to not being able to get a permit from the City of Venice this event has been postponed.
- We are in discussions about having a get together outside at Snook Haven in June. The live oak trees there have many native encyclias that bloom that time of year.
- We are hoping to have a Holiday get together in December. Plans are being made now.
- Please check our newsletter for upcoming events.

Jay introduced our speaker for the evening Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids located in San Diego, CA. After a short biography of Fred's many achievements members enjoyed the talk on Catasetums, Cycnoches and Mormodes.

Kathryn Jeski, Recording Secretary

April Zoom Growers Clinic Thursday April 8th at 7pm Presentation: Members' Orchid Growing Areas

Do you have a small collection or a large one? Do you grow your orchids in a pool cage, lanai or in trees? Are you thinking about adding a shade house or green house? We will present some photos and ideas our members use to grow orchids in S.W. Florida.

We will have ample time to discuss your questions. Growers Clinic Team members will be available - have you questions ready and your problem plants ready to show the group for advice.

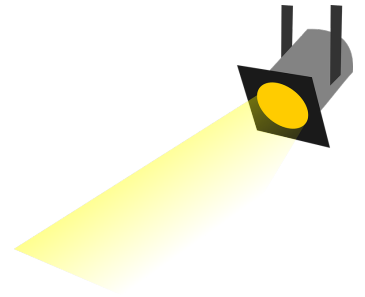
Watch for Zoom log on instructions for this meeting on our Facebook Group:

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

Or in an email that will be sent prior to the meeting.

Submitted by Jay Loeffler, Growers Clinic Coordinator

Show Vendor Spotlight



Providing quality orchids, exotic plants, locally made goods including pottery, wall art, jewelry. We are also home to the Florida Everglades Collection Python Leather. Unique python accessories hand caught out of the Everglades.

Owner Natalee McKinney

339 W. Venice Ave

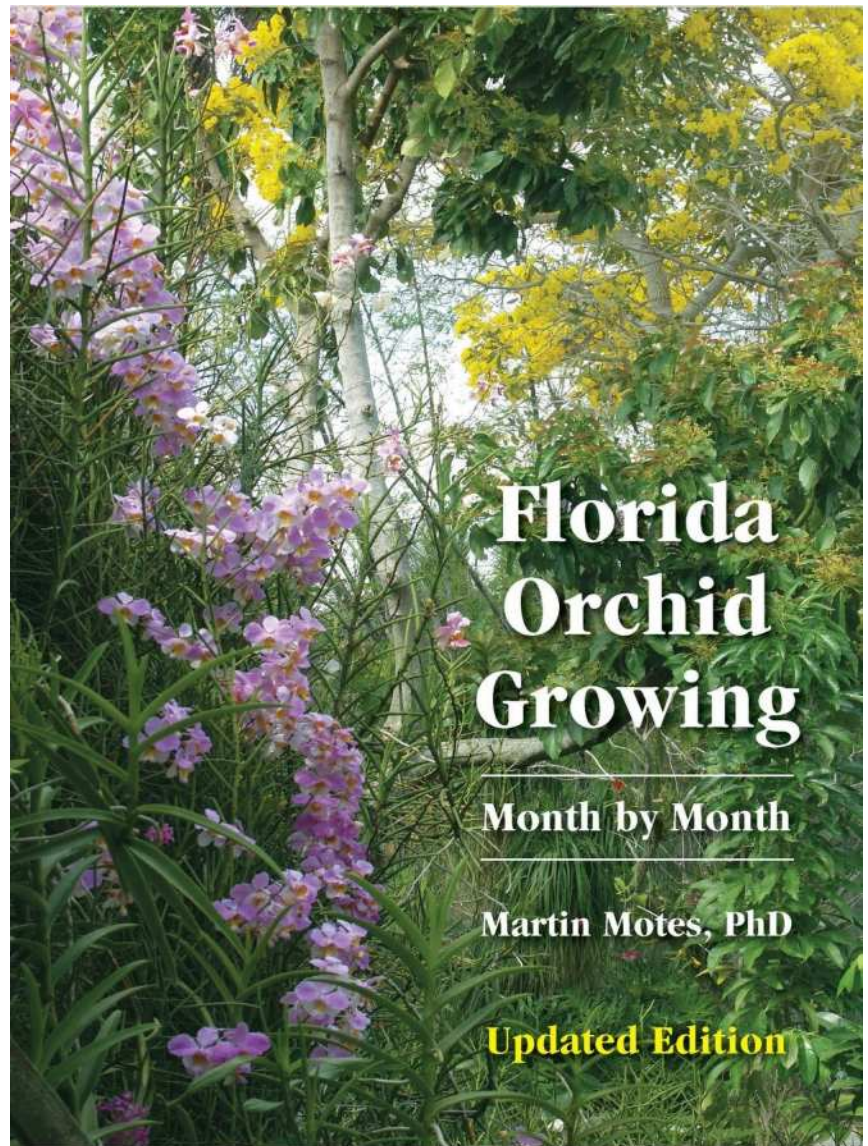
Venice, FL 34285

(941) 485-1122

<http://orchidenvy.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
833 Guild Dr. Venice, FL 34285

Carol Wood—South Venice. 941-497-4995 Email: 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.

Rick Belisle Presents

I had been asked by the Venice Gardens Garden Club, a year ago, if I would address their club for an hour and talk on "Orchids 101". I used the same presentation I've done at our VAOS Show & Sale.

There were about 50 members in attendance. It was held at Maxine Barrett Park on 3/4/2021. I also donated three potted keikis to them for their raffle. Lots of good questions, fun, and learning went on. I anticipate that we will get some new members, too, as there was only one VAOS member in the group,



April Culture Tip



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 cocoanut 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.

DONATE TO THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

Many of us have been shopping on Amazon during this past year with Covid. I know I have! Did you know that you can donate to the American Orchid Society or another charity of your choice by using AmazonSmile? Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and they will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your charitable organization – no fees, no extra cost. AmazonSmile is the same as Amazon.com. Last year the AOS received over \$2000 in donations through this program. Put your shopping dollars to work and support the AOS!



Repotting Your Orchid

Now is a good time to catch up on your repotting. Here are some general guidelines from our Growers Clinic Team.

A frequent question at the Growers Clinic is **“When Should I Repot?”** Our standard reply is when the media breaks down or when the plant is overgrowing the pot. Here are some other recommendations from the Growers Clinic Team:

- Orchids will become more quickly established if repotted when the new roots are about 1” long on the newest growth.
- Paphiopedilums can be repotted at any time and should be repotted each year.
- Phalaenopsis can be repotted at any time (even when in bloom) and should be repotted about every two years if potted in sphagnum moss.
- Most cattleya alliance plants can be repotted after blooming but must be well secured in the new pot as new roots may not break out until spring.
- Bi-foliate cattleyas (two leaves) should only be repotted when the roots are at least 1” long; otherwise, it can set them back for years.

Eleven Steps to Repotting Your Cattleya

- Soak the plant in a bucket of water for several hours or overnight. Remove the plant from the pot using a knife to run around the edge of the pot to loosen the roots and media. If the roots are terribly overgrown, you may need to break the pot (careful!) in order to free the plant.
- Remove the old media gently from the roots. - "tickle" it out. Remove dry sheaths. Remove “deadheads” - those older leafless pseudo-bulbs and older yellow leaves.
- Trim all dead and spongy roots with sterile shears.
- Spray the whole plants and roots with fungicide and set out to dry overnight. Be sure to keep the tag with the plant.
- Select the new pot that allows no more room than 2 years growth (2-3 fingers wide).
- Place a small amount of media in bottom of pot such as lava rock or clay pellets that will facilitate drainage
- Place the plant in the pot with the oldest growth side of plant against the side of pot, about 1 1/2" below the pot rim. Secure the plant with one or two pot clips to ensure the plant and roots are secure.
- Fill in and tap down the media. Do not cover the rhizome
- Insert the plant tag. Stake the plant or use a plant ring if needed to hold the plant upright.

Repotting Your Orchid, continued.....

- Water in and spray with fungicide
- Keep in dry, low light area for 2 weeks then resume normal watering.

Here are some other tips for repotting.

Inverted net pots - When repotting in a 10" or larger pot, place a small 2" net pot over the center pothole and add media to hold in place. This will increase air circulation and reduce the chance of root rot.

Sphagnum over those new roots - Add a thin layer of sphagnum moss over the tips of delicate new roots to encourage new root growth and to protect them from snails.

Remove Dry Sheaths - Remove dry sheaths when repotting to expose pseudo-bulbs to the sun. It will double your photosynthesis! As you soak your pot to loosen roots, shoot a hard stream of water down the sides of pseudo-bulbs and easily peel off the dry sheaths.

Do not Bury Aerial Roots - Do not bury the aerial roots when repotting - they will die. You can pot them but do not cover with media. When you see new branching developing on the roots start to add media slowly - the roots will survive.

Repotting rootless plants - Add sphagnum moss and then slowly add other media after the new roots develop.

Do not repot - Pot Up! Sometimes a plant is so content in its pot you might decide to "pot-up" - place it in a larger pot and fill in media around it. This approach eliminates damaging the roots and subsequent plant set back as many orchids just hate to have their roots disturbed. This approach is perfect for those Brazilian species that grow so tall. Set the small pot they grew in as a seedling into a basket and let it take off!

Potting-Up is also a good approach for plants you wish to grow into specimen size plants. Dendrobiums prefer tight small pots and resent repotting so they are also perfect candidates for Pot-Up. This approach works best if you use primarily non-organic media such as clay pellets, lava rock, charcoal, sponge rock, etc. It will not deteriorate, as bark will do after a few years.

Happy Growing!



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 gift certificate to one of our local vendors

JOIN US IN APOPKA • APRIL 9-11, 2021

The Apopka International

**Featuring
AOS JUDGING!**

Spring Orchid Festival

Featuring These Top-Quality Vendors:

Bredren Orchids (Florida)
Cal-Orchid Inc. (California)
Florida SunCoast Orchids LLC (Florida)
Gold Country Orchids (California)
Just One More Orchid (Florida)
Koko Ranch Hoyas (Florida)
Mainshow Orchids (Taiwan)
Miranda Orchids (Florida)
OFE Orchids & Supplies (Florida)
The OrchidFix Nursery (Hawaii)
Paph Paradise (California)
Popow Orchids (Germany)
Ric and Swiffer's Hoyas (Florida)
Springwater Orchids (Florida)
Sunset Valley Orchids (California)

APRIL 9-11, 2021 • 9:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Krull-Smith Nursery

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

407.886.4134 • orchids@krullsmith.com • www.krullsmith.com

Sponsored and Hosted by



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 Monthly or G.C. meetings 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.

NOTICE

American Orchid Society

Monthly Flower Judging

Tampa, Florida Location

Open to the Public - Guests Are Always Welcome

NEW SCHEDULE

The Florida North Central Judging Center Meets Here:

Christ the King Campus

717 S. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Tampa, FL 33609

Fourth Week of each month

(Check our Website Calendar Page for Day & Date)

Orchids are reviewed for flower quality and culture awards.

Flowers must arrive thirty minutes prior to judging for registration.

Wednesday Judging begins 7 p.m.

Saturday Judging begins at 10:30 a.m.

Entry Forms are available on our Home page and on site. Membership in the AOS is not required to enter your orchids for review.

<https://fncjc.shutterfly.com/>



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 February 2021

Operating Fund Starting Jan. 30, 2021	\$ 3,104.27
+ Income	\$ -
- Payments	\$ 885.10
Closing Balance February 26, 2021	\$ 2,219.17
	+
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00

Total Operating Fund Feb. 26, 2021 \$ 2,294.17

Reserve Fund

Starting Balance January 30, 2021	\$46,174.76
+Interest Income Feb. 26, 2021	\$ 0.35
Closing Balance Feb.26, 2021	
	\$46,175.11

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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. Presentation: Members' Growing Areas.

April 9—11 - Spring Orchid Festival hosted by Krull-Smith. Apoka FL. See flyer in this newsletter

May 5th (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker: Jeff Bradley Topic: Famous Growers and Their Orchids

May 13th (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. 7pm.

ONGOING

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

AOS Orchid Judging—Florida North Central Judging Center. Takes place at Christ the King Campus, 717 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33609. Fourth week of each month. Check Website for Schedule: Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

Next Meeting
April 7th
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

Visit us on the web at

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Visit our Facebook Group at

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