

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

June 2021

June General Meeting on Zoom

**Wednesday
June 2nd 6:45pm**

**Speaker: Dr. Lawrence
Zettler**

Topic: Orchid Recovery Program

Dr. Lawrence (Larry) W. Zettler earned his B.S. degree from the University of Florida (1987) and Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from Clemson University (1994). He is currently Hitchcock Professor of Biology at Illinois College. In 1996, he established the Illinois College's Orchid Recovery Program that enlists the help of undergraduate college students to conserve rare species throughout the world. He has worked with 100+ undergraduate students studying rare orchids in the Midwest, Florida, Hawaii, Cuba, and Ecuador. During 2012-2017, he collaborated with researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to conserve rare orchids of Madagascar. He is currently studying rare orchids in the Western Pacific (Republic of Palau) with researchers at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. He has authored/co-authored 50+ peer-reviewed scientific publications, three book chapters, and illustrated two books in color including Dragonflies of North America (Scientific Publishers, 2000).

His research with students has been publicized on media outlets including National Public Radio, Huffington Post, Radio Havana Cuba, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, CBS Miami, and National Geographic. daughter, Audrey, enjoy quiet home life in Jacksonville, Illinois with their menagerie of pets and plants.



June 2021 Events

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

**Please join us on
Zoom for our
next meeting on
June 2nd**

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!

I'm happy to hear that all the news coming out of the CDC is good and I really hope that we will be able to resume normal meetings at the Community Center in September. Cross your fingers! From there we will be off and running to prepare for our February show!

In the meantime, I hope to see many of you in person at our upcoming outing at Snook Haven on June 6th (see info elsewhere in newsletter). We will continue to keep our Zoom content going through the summer-we have had some really fun meetings! Last month Jeff Bradley gave such an interesting talk on the history of the classic cattleya growers, we kept him up til nearly 10 o'clock asking questions! It was a really great talk!

I'm also thrilled to announce that Ian Kennedy has offered to help us with the newsletter! He has some good ideas for how to continue to keep the newsletter content fresh and interesting. Stay tuned! As always, we are a fortunate society to have so many volunteers bringing in new energy! Thanks, Ian, and thanks for everyone working so hard to keep our society going. See you soon!

Joanna Shaw

President

VAOS Virtual Plant Table

Post up to 3 pictures of your currently blooming plants to our Facebook Page Virtual Plant Table Contest. The plant that gets the most “likes” wins a \$50 gift from one of our show vendors! Limited to VAOS members only, one win per member per year. To enter:

1. Find the post captioned (month) VIRTUAL PLANT TABLE.
2. Click Comment
3. Add your plant photo as your comment by clicking the icon that looks like a little camera.

Here are this month's winners:



1st Place:

Vanda Frank Smith

Naoki Kawamura

Tied for 2nd:



Vanda Naeem Ramtally
Naoki Kawamura



Den. Blue Twinkle
Cynthia Vance



NOID Phalenopsis
Gary Roby

Join us at Snook Haven



Located at 5000 East Venice Ave on the banks of the scenic Myakka River, Snook Haven is home to a large population of *Encyclia tampensis*, the Florida Butterfly orchid. They are fairly high up in the trees so bring binoculars for the best view. The flowers should be visible from mid May to late June.

Snook Haven restaurant is a casual, old Florida setting with many self-service picnic tables under the live oaks. It opens at 11:30, if we get there early we should beat the crowds and have ample seating. The menu is smoke-house barbecue. There will be live music 1-4.

This will be a nice opportunity to view native orchids and to finally be able to socialize a bit after so much time in pandemic lock down!



Ian's Corner

My wife Karen and I moved to Venice in July 2017. I have been a gardener all my adult life but always in Massachusetts and Connecticut. There I had lots of space and no restrictions on how to use it. I grew mostly perennials, conifers (a member of The American Conifer Society) and Viburnums and had many garden beds. Here, we built in an HOA community on a small lot. There is not much space and there are many rules on what is and isn't allowed. A younger brother, also an avid gardener, has been growing orchids for years but since he lives in a colder climate (Toronto area), they are always indoors. I thought orchids would be just too fussy for me, but I picked up a few Phals to give them a shot. I read. I Googled. I joined the American Orchid Society. I joined Selby Gardens. I watched You Tubes. I began to play with mountings, tree fern, cork, cypress. I started collecting planting media, pots and containers and I slowly began to add to my collection, a Dendrobium from the Selby sales table, a bag baby Vanda from Home Depot, an Oncidium at MRT. Hey, they weren't dying. Maybe I can do this.

I was hesitant about joining the VAOS. I'm not really much of a joiner. But I read about the Mentor Program and thought that might be helpful to me. I joined the VAOS and at one of my 1st meetings asked Rick Belisle if I could be in the Mentor Program. He said, well 1st you have to attend 2 workshops...I did and then I was assigned a mentor, Donn Smart. Lucky me. Listening to him, seeing his orchids and greenhouses and having him visit my humble startup collection gave me confidence and knowledge....not enough light for these Dendrobiums, Ian. Too much moss on this mounting. The roots will stay too wet and the plant will die. Then, as my plants began to flower, I brought them into the plant table at the monthly meetings. I wanted feedback. What can I improve? I brought plants to the workshops. Is this mounting OK? How can I do better? I started posting pictures on the Facebook site. I was surprised at the beginning and am still somewhat surprised by how few people post pictures on VAOS or get involved in the Virtual Plant Table. It's fun to have people show appreciation for what you've done by giving you a vote or two. You can even win a \$50 gift certificate. How cool is that. There are some 420 members in the VAOS. Imagine having 50 or 100 members posting pictures, regularly. That would be something. I will never have a collection like Donn's or Jay's and Judy's, Stephanie's or Vicki's and others, but I get great satisfaction and challenge with what I have and am happy to share them with others. I hope you will share yours with the rest of us.

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, VAOS Newsletter Team

Venice Area Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Date: May 5, 2021

Joanna Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Announcements

Sunday June 6th members are invited to join us at Snook Haven for lunch and view encyclia tampensis in trees. Arrive at 11:30 am as the restaurant opens to grab some picnic tables for lunch.

Covid trends looking more positive for starting back to in person monthly meetings at the Venice Community Center this fall.

Zoom Growers Clinic on May 13th will feature Joanna Shaw's presentation on Cattleya name changes.

Jeff Bradley presented a fascinating presentation on Historic Cattleyas and Their Provenance.

Kathryn Jeske, Recording Secretary

JUNE GROWERS CLINIC ON ZOOM

June Zoom Growers Clinic

Thursday June 10th, 7pm

Presentation: Pests and Diseases, Carol Wood

In our next Grower's Clinic we will present our annual Pests and Diseases program. It will cover the identification, control, treatment and prevention of common pests and diseases that affect our orchids in south Florida.

Have your problem plants ready to show and discuss for advice from our Growers Clinic Team. Guests are welcome.

Jay Loeffler, Growers Clinic Coordinator

Show Vendor Spotlight



From the Just One More Orchid website:

Everything you will see on our website is dedicated or inspired by the beautiful, mysterious and fabulous Orchid. This is how my journey started. Becoming an orchid hobbyist was just the beginning.

My search of a better, more creative ways of presenting and growing my plants led me to starting my new venture.

My name is Natalia Romero and I'm the creator of "Just One More Orchid".

Living in Southwest Florida gave me a great opportunity of growing orchids outside in their most natural habitat. Then all my creations are made and tested in the tropical outdoors.

All of my pottery is hand build using locally made clay in the USA.

I'm in constant search of new designs and ideas.

So please join me in this exciting and simply fabulous adventure.

Please make sure you visit and subscribe to my YouTube channel-Just One More Orchid!

www.Justonemoreorchid.biz

Focus on Mechanical Stability

A question that comes up every now and then is why some plants seem to need to be "pot bound" or "root bound" to grow and bloom best, when their roots wander all over the surface of host trees in nature, with no restriction whatsoever. Lots of explanations are proffered about water and nutrient gathering or air exposure, but an area that is often overlooked is that of mechanical stability.

Blooming is the plant's purpose in life - to attract a suitable pollinator, develop a capsule and scatter the seed, spreading its genes to future generations. Living precariously on the branch of a tree, a gust of wind or sudden downpour could knock it to the forest floor to die, preventing that from being fulfilled. Being certain of a firm footing is a must.

That "firm footing" comes from the extension of many long roots into the nooks and crannies of the host tree. In a pot, epiphytes "reach out" to make contact with the pot wall, rather than relying on the potting medium for stability. As an aside - you'll note that a terrestrial plant fills the entire pot with roots before extending them around the root mass along the pot wall; orchids do just the opposite, and it is common to unpot a plant and find the center of the root system completely devoid of roots.

Keeping a plant stable is important when repotting or mounting it, as well. Even the tiniest movement can damage growing root tips, stopping their progress until they can form branches or be replaced by other roots. Having the medium packed firmly in the pot and/or staking the plant to prevent motion, allows those roots to steadily advance to the wall of the container and giving the plant the "sure footing" it needs to bloom freely.

**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

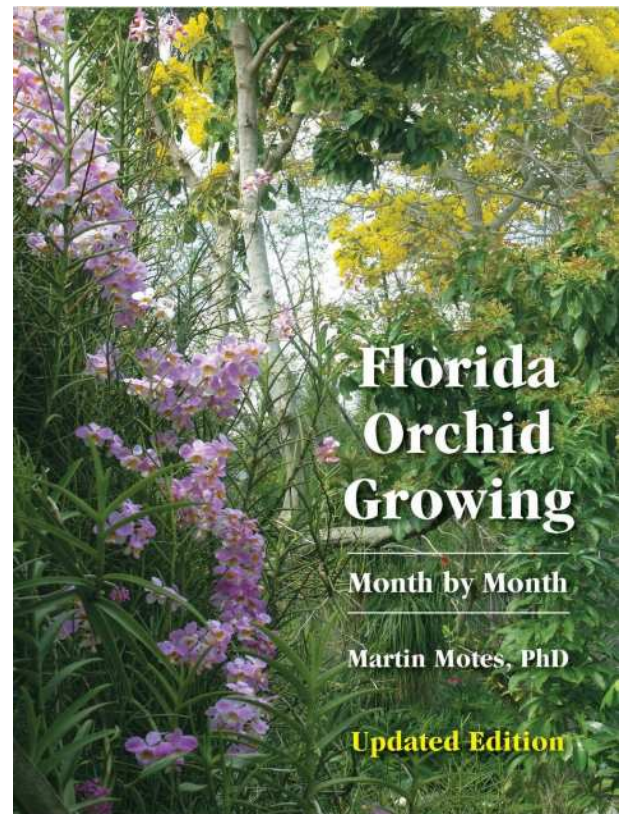
Call or email Judy or Carol to order and pick up your copy at
one of their homes.

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.



June Culture Tip—Those Dang Thrips!

Many of us are having to deal with thrips during this dry, hot weather. They will damage buds before we notice them and destroy our long awaited orchid blooms. By the time you notice the shriveled buds, it is too late. The other sign is indented rings around the new roots. Damaged flowers appear as ragged edges or color break. You may see the thrips, tiny black/brown insects that can jump to your other plants.

Two treatments are recommended. Spray new buds and roots with the alcohol contact spray (50% rubbing alcohol, 50% water, tsp of dishwashing liquid) every few days. For large infestations, spray with Orthene, a systemic pesticide, following label precautions. The coming summer rains should chase these trips away!



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



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

Lost a Plant Label? Need Culture Info or Parentage?

If you've lost the label from your orchid, we may be able to help you identify it. Email a photo of the bloom and the plant to Pres@VAOS.org. I'll share it with the Growers Clinic team and we'll try to ID it for you. Wondering what your plant's parentage is or looking for culture advice for a special orchid? Send an email to me with your plant name and question and our group of experts will help.



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.

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 April, 2021		
Operating Fund Starting Apr. 1, 2021	\$ 3,541.14	
+ Income	\$ -	
- Payments	\$ 6,859.29	
Transfers from Saving	\$ 7,000.00	
Closing Balance April 30, 2021	\$ 3,681.85	
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00	
Total Operating Fund April 30, 2021	\$ 3,756.85	
Reserve Fund		
Starting Balance April 1, 2021	\$44,175.51	
+Interest Income April 30, 2021	\$ 0.33	
Transfer to Checkings	\$ 7,000.00	
Closing Balance April 30, 2021	\$37,175.84	
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)

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

Just One More Orchid
www.justonemoreorchid.biz
justonemoreorchid@hotmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2nd (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker: Dr. Lawrence Zettler. Topic: Orchid Recovery Program

June 6th (Sunday) - Members Meet Up at Snook Haven Restaurant 11:30am. See flyer in this newsletter

June 10th (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. 7pm. Presentation: Orchid Pests and Diseases, Carol Wood

July 7th (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting via Zoom. 7pm. Speaker: Jeff Bradley Topic: Famous Lavender Cattleyas

July 10th (2nd Thursday) - Growers Clinic via Zoom. Topic: Top Tips from Experienced Growers

August 6-8 - International Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium 2021. Hosted by Krull Smith in Apopka. Info: www.phal.org

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
June 2nd
via Zoom

Contact Us

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Membership

Sue Grimmer memb@vaos.org

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