

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

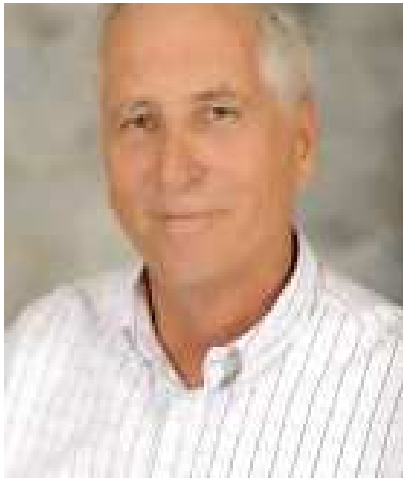
October 2021

## October General Meeting

**Wednesday  
October 6th 6:45pm  
Venice Community Center**

**Speaker: Courtney Hackney**

**Topic: Unappreciated  
Cattleya Species in Modern Hybrids**



Our October meeting will feature Courtney Hackney, Ph.D. from Jacksonville, Florida. Courtney is going to talk about different cattleya species, including some of the unappreciated ones, that are in the background of modern hybrids. He will give us insights into how the characteristics of different cattleyas are expressed in their offspring. Should be a great help to us when we look at the plant tags of seedlings we'd like to bring home, letting us conjure up an image of how the blooms might look!

Dr. Hackney is Emeritus Professor of Biology at North Florida University, and is a prolific author. Recently, he has been researching coerulea Cattleyas, culminating in an excellent article in the November 2018 issue of ORCHIDS. Other useful columns on breeding and culture can be found on his website.

Courtney grows a variety of hybrids and species in Jacksonville, Florida, but his favorites are the great Cattleya hybrids. He has about 500 mature Cattleyas in his shade house, including some classic clones which appeared in collections over 100 years ago.

He makes 10 to 15 hybrids as well as sibling species crosses per year. He will have plants for sale at our meeting.

## October Events

**Welcome back!  
October 6th meeting  
will be held at the  
Venice Community  
Center**

### 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)

## Fred Clarke—November 3rd Guest Speaker

We are pleased to announce that our November 3rd meeting guest speaker will be Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, CA.

Fred is an internationally known grower, speaker, hybridizer and author. His topic will be: “**Cycnoches, Mormodes, Catasetums - Recent Trends**”

Fred specializes in hybridizing Catasetinae, Cattleya Alliance, Australian Dendrobiums and Paphiopedilums. He is a top breeder in the Catasetinae group.



Fred will have plants for sale at our meeting and is also offering a discount and free shipping for pre-orders from his website. Follow the instructions below.

### Sunset Valley Orchids Pre-Order Program

All pre-orders receive a 10% discount and free shipping.

Pre-ordering can be done on the Website. Or you can e-mail a list that includes the cross numbers and prices of the plants you are interested in.

#### **Sunsetvalleyorchids.com**

For website pre-orders:

Once the Shopping cart is populated with your selections, click **Go to Payments**

In the Billing address: **fill out the fields indicated with an asterisk\***

In the Shipping Address: **indicate the Orchid Society's name**, and for Company: **the meeting date**, then click **Continue**

On the checkout page indicate: **Cash on Delivery** if you would like to pay at the meeting, or **Credit Card** if paying prior to. I will manually make the 10% deduction and zero out the shipping costs prior to billing the card.

# MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hi Everyone!

Here is the news we've all been waiting for! We are having our first in-person meeting at the Community Center on Oct 6th at 7pm. The details are as follows:

- We are **not** going to put out name tags so there will **not** be a backup of people at the door
- **Masks will be required.** We will have extras for whoever needs them. Keep in mind, we have an older population of members and we are masking out of kind consideration for each other, no political agenda intended. After working in the hospital shoulder to shoulder with my coworkers throughout this whole pandemic, I know it is possible to sit

right next to someone with covid and not catch it if you are both wearing your mask **properly**.

- We are only going to provide **bottled water**, no other refreshments. You can bring anything else you want, but we are trying to discourage people from taking their masks off to eat.
- The Community Center will allow us more space and we will have less chairs out for **better social distancing**. Feel free to pull chairs close to whoever you want to sit with, but respect people who want to be further apart.
- We **will** have a raffle table - it will probably be huge because everyone has plants to get rid of! Everything about it will be the same as it always has been. Buy the tickets, put them in the container in front of the plant or plants you want, and then a ticket will be selected from each container as the winner.

We **will** have a plant table with a few changes: we will **no longer recruit judges** (pheeew!). First, Second, and Third place ribbons will be given based on **member voting**. Vote for **1 plant** only, we will figure out the rest. We will also still have the ribbon for speakers choice. We will still present the plant table at the end, right before the raffle table.

If you have any questions, please ask. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone!

Yippee!

Joanna Shaw, President

## When is the Best Time to Repot My Orchid?



Orchids are best repotted when they are in active growth. Orchids are usually in active growth shortly after blooming when they send out new shoots and/or leaves and new roots begin to form. Be careful not to break the tips of the growing roots or the new growth of the plant.

Phalaenopsis are very forgiving and can be repotted just about any time they are not in bloom. On the other extreme, Dendrobiums prefer to be repotted only as new growth appears.

There will always be instances when an orchid must be repotted immediately (for example if the pot breaks, or the media is severely decomposed) in which case be as gentle as you can.

### Treasurer's Report August 2021

**Operating Fund** Starting Aug. 1, 2021 \$ 3,537.88

+ Income \$ 240.00

- Payments \$ 514.99

Closing Balance August 31, 2021 \$ 3,262.89

+  
\$ 75.00

**Petty Cash**

**Total Operating Fund August 31, 2021** \$ 3,337.89

### **Reserve Fund**

Starting Balance Aug 1, 2021 \$35,176.75

+Interest Income Aug. 31, 2021 \$ 0.30

Closing Balance Aug. 31, 2021 \$35,177.05

Submitted by Judy Loeffler, Treasurer

## **2022 DUES**

We will start collecting 2022 annual dues in October, with **December 31<sup>st</sup>** the last date to maintain your membership.

Dues are \$20 per household. If you join or renew on or after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, you are paid through 2022. Mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

**VAOS**  
P.O. Box 443  
Venice, FL 34284-0443

You may also renew at our monthly meetings.

This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information - address, phone and email address. If your contact information has changed, please notify Sue Grimmer at:

[memb@VAOS.org](mailto:memb@VAOS.org)

*Submitted by Sue Grimmer, VAOS Membership Chair*

## Ian's Corner

*There's plenty of water in the universe without life,  
but nowhere is there life without water.* Sylvia Earle, Marine Biologist

Hello. My name is Ian Kennedy, and I am a waterer.

Orchids present lots of challenges for all of us and perhaps more for waterers like me. Imagine leaving a plant alone for 3 or 4 days in a row, maybe more....and not watering it. That's a huge challenge for a waterer.

I read that I should let many of my plants almost dry out or completely dry out before watering them again. *How am I supposed to know when they reach that "dry enough" stage?* Use your finger to see if the medium is wet. Really? My fingers can't get very far into bark, moss, and rocks. I have a hard time getting a thin bamboo support into that stuff. My finger? *You'll know it's time when the pot feels light.* Really? How light is light? *If you're not sure, wait another day.* Really? For someone from operations and accounting who always reads the directions, always has Google Maps or Waze on when he's driving home and always follows recipes, these dryness measuring suggestions just don't seem precise enough. In my just over 3 years of this new hobby, I've rotted lots of Phal. and Cat. roots with too much water. So here are some things I have been trying and with some success so far.

Commercial nurseries use moss as their growing medium for young plants. It is generally free of weeds and pathogens and its high porosity permits easy penetration for the fine roots. It's also inexpensive. But it holds a large amount of water and for us hobbyists, especially beginners, we don't realize how much water moss can retain, especially in solid, plastic or ceramic containers. We think waiting 2, 3, 4 days is enough but even then, the moss inside, around the roots may be soaking wet. We aren't good at judging dryness and the result often is too wet for too long. I now get my new plants out of their moss filled containers as soon as they have acclimated to their new surroundings and into my containers with my own blends of bark, sponge rock, lava rock, clay pellets and charcoal. None of these retains much water. (I now use moss only when I need a little extra moisture retention for some plants or a little cushioning for some of my mountings.)

Instead of solid plastic, I use net pots, ensuring faster evaporation and clear plastic, slotted pots so I can see what my moisture conditions are. I use ceramic containers and clay pots but only if they have lots of holes. Here are some reliable sources for me for pots and media: Kelley's Korner ([korchid.com](http://korchid.com)), Repotme.com, Joanna's Orchid Pottery, Orchid Envy (Venice).

My mentor, Donn Smart, now mounts most of his orchids bare rooted on pieces of cypress, oak, fernwood, and cork bark, something I am doing more of. Bare root mounting is perfect for waterers like me because I can literally water every day and not worry. It is almost impossible to over water.

So waterers, there is hope.

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> article for the VAOS Newsletter. Thank you to those who have sent notes of encouragement. I happily respond to emails ([ianbkennedy47@gmail.com](mailto:ianbkennedy47@gmail.com))

Cheers, Ian

VAOS Newsletter Team

## 2022 VAOS ORCHID SHOW & SALE

### FEBRUARY 5-6, 2022

The Venice Area Orchid Society (VAOS) will present our 55th annual show and sale at the Venice Community Center in beautiful downtown Venice, FL on February 5-6, 2022. Our show theme this year is *"Happy Days Are Here Again"*. Fifteen vendors will exhibit and sell 1000's of blooming orchid plants as well as orchid floral arrangements, artwork, jewelry, accessories and supplies. The show is widely regarded as the most popular orchid show on Florida's west coast and comes just before Valentine's Day.

This major community event is expected to draw over 4000 attendees. Nationally recognized growers will exhibit and sell orchids. They include:

Accent Orchids  
Art Stone Orchids  
Florida SunCoast Orchids  
Krull-Smith  
Mac's Orchids  
Miranda Orchids  
Odom's Orchids  
Palmer Orchids  
Plantio La Orquidea

Artists and Supply Vendors include:

OFE International Orchid Supplies  
Carol Marcus Water Color Artist  
Joanna Shaw Clay Pots  
Just One More Orchid  
The VAOS Orchid Boutique  
The VAOS Member's Arts & Crafts Display

American Orchid Society (AOS) accredited judges travel from around the country to judge this event. Cash awards and trophies are awarded to the best exhibits and plants in each class.

The Venice Area Orchid Society is one of the largest and most active orchid societies in the U.S. with more than 400 members. Our mission is to foster orchid growing, to provide a forum for orchid exhibition, to promote orchid conservation, and to share the knowledge and experience of growers and hobbyists. We are an affiliate of the American Orchid Society. Our annual show is our major fund raising event and is always held the first full weekend in February at the Venice Community Center in downtown Venice.

**Please volunteer to support our show!** We count on our army of member volunteers to produce a successful show! See the following volunteer list for where we need help. Sign up at our monthly meetings or email [ShowChair@VAOS.org](mailto:ShowChair@VAOS.org). Call Judy Loeffler, Show Co-chair at 941-485-9569 for more information.

# Volunteer for our 2022 Show

**Friday February 4th 11am -8pm Set Up**

**Saturday February 5th 10am - 5pm**

**Sunday February 6th 10am - 4pm**

<b>Show Committee</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b># Volunteer Slots</b>
<b>Set Up</b> Coord: Jerry Daenzer 284-5001	Friday 2/4/22 11am - 2pm	Set up the hall for exhibits. Lay plastic, assist vendors in bringing in plants and greenery. Some strong backs needed.	10
<b>Take Down</b> Coord: Ed Soentgen & Carol Wood 497-4995	Sunday 2/6/22 3:45pm - 6pm	Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh/rested volunteers needed.	10
<b>Clerks</b> Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 2/5/22 7:30am - 10:30am	Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience as the judges share their knowledge of what makes a quality plant and flower!	30
<b>Front Door Admissions</b> Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 2/5/22 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/6/22 9:45am - 4pm	Sell admission tickets. Cashier skills required. A sit down job. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.	30
<b>Show Hosts</b> Coord: Sharon & John Kahnoski 616-581-9131	Friday 2/4/22 1pm - 7pm Saturday 2/5/22 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 2/6/22 9:45am - 4pm	Monitor entrances and exits. Ensure visitors don't step into displays. Serve as Show Host for AOS judges, other societies and vendors. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Some sit down jobs.	70
<b>Hospitality/Food</b> Coord: Linda & Bruce Hahn 408-7646	Friday , Saturday and Sunday	Bring your favorite dish Friday, Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Bring to kitchen by 11am each day. Sign up your dish and what day. Help with clean up Saturday or Sunday	All

**Sign-up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings. Contact Judy Loeffler, Show Co-chair, 941-485-9569 for more information.**

# 2022 ORCHID SHOW SCHEDULE

Save the dates! Here is the 2022 Orchid Show Schedule

## Sarasota Orchid Society (January 2022)

Friday Set Up January 7<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 4pm

Saturday Show January 8<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 5pm

Sunday Show January 9<sup>th</sup> – 10am – 5pm

Sunday Take Down January 9<sup>th</sup> – 5pm

Location: Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Theme: **Orchids In Paradise**

Show Chair: Larry Desiano [larrydesiano@gmail.com](mailto:larrydesiano@gmail.com)

## Venice Area Orchid Society (February 2022)

Friday Set Up February 4<sup>th</sup> - 1pm – 8pm

Saturday Show Feb 5th - 10am - 5pm

Sunday Show Feb 6th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Feb 6<sup>th</sup><sup>d</sup> – 4pm

Location: Venice Community Center: 326 So. Nokomis Ave., Venice

Theme: **Happy Days Are Here Again**

Show Chairs: Carol Wood & Judy Loeffler [ShowChair@vaos.org](mailto:ShowChair@vaos.org)

## Englewood Area Orchid Society (March 2022)

Thursday Set Up March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10am – 5pm

Friday Show March 4th - 10am - 5pm

Saturday Show March 5th - 10am - 5pm

Saturday Take Down March 5<sup>th</sup> – 5pm

Location: Tringali Center, 3460 North Access Rd., Englewood, FL 34224

Theme: **Orchids to the Rescue**

Show Chair: Mary Anne DiGrazia [tommaryanne@centurylink.net](mailto:tommaryanne@centurylink.net)

# HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED MY ORCHIDS?

Culture article by Ray Barkalow, First Rays Orchids

FirstRays.com

In the plant world, orchids are slow growers, so are quite undemanding of fertilizer. Despite that fact, one question I hear a lot is “How much do I feed my orchids?”.

There are a lot of things that go into an answer, such as fertilizer formula, the frequency of feeding, and the concentration of the solution. Let's start by taking a glance at the science of plant growth.

The “building blocks” that make up about 90% of a plant are carbon (C), oxygen (O), hydrogen (H), and nitrogen (N). The first three come from water and air. For cultivated plants, the nitrogen comes from the fertilizer solutions we apply.

If we do the calculations for the chemical processes that result in “growth”, we find that for a plant to add a pound of living tissue, it must take up and process about 200 pounds (~91 kg) of water and only about 5 grams of nitrogen from fertilizer. So what does that mean in more practical terms?

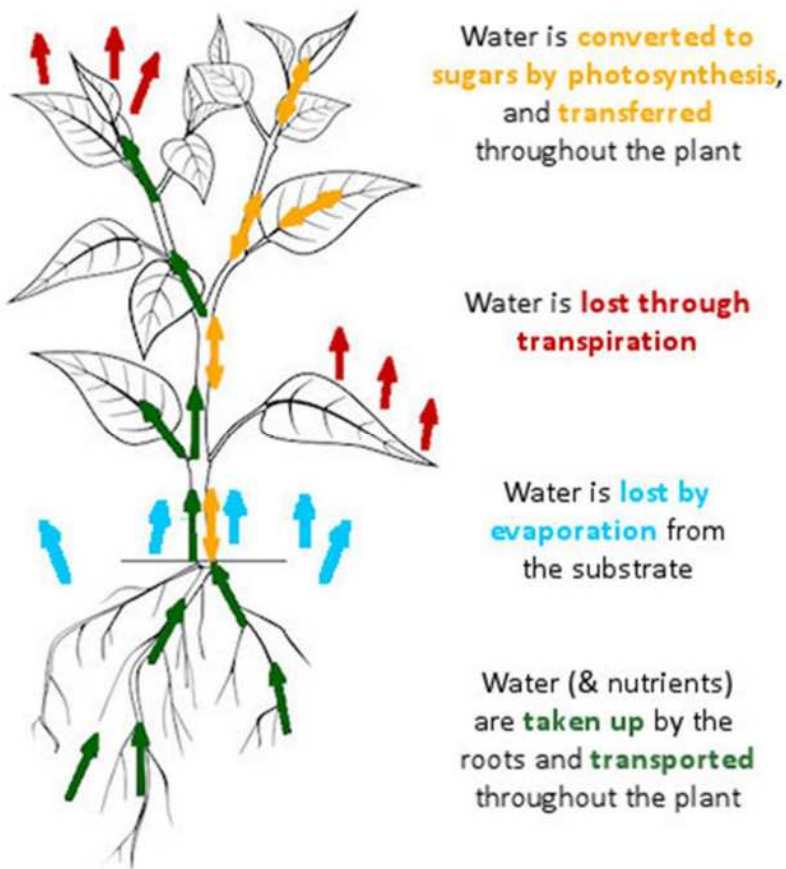
Let's say we expect a plant to add a pound of weight in a 10-year period – probably not a bad guess for a paphiopedilum that adds a new growth every nine to twelve months. That would mean the plant – on average – must absorb about  $5 \text{ g} \div 520 \text{ weeks} = 0.0096 \text{ g}$  (9.6 mg) of nitrogen and about 0.175 kg of water per week. If 100% of what we deliver is absorbed, that suggests the “ideal solution” for weekly feeding would be  $9.6 \text{ mg} \div 0.175 \text{ kg} = 55 \text{ mg/kg} = 55 \text{ ppm N}$ .

But wait! That does not mean that we should water with a 55 ppm N solution!

If the plant truly absorbed everything we apply to the pot and lost none of it through evaporation, that would be appropriate, but we really don't know 1) how much of that applied solution is retained by the potting medium, or 2) how much of it is absorbed by the plant!

Potting media retention varies all over the map, from “sponges” like sphagnum and rock wool, to “ducks' backs” like coarse Orchidata bark. Plus, as “retention” is the net of absorption and evaporation, there is even more variability, depending upon the local environment.

## How Much Should I Feed My Orchids? Continued



All in all, it is an extremely complex combination of events, so short of just giving up, what can we do? I think that the answer is to adjust your potting media and culture so that there is always a plentiful supply of water containing a tiny amount of fertilizer for the plant.

Using my preferred 25 ppm N solution as an example, that means that each gallon applied contains about 95 mg of nitrogen. If we pour a quart of that solution into a pot an average of twice a week, over our theoretical 10-year growth period, we will have delivered about 25 grams of nitrogen and 980 kg of water to the pot! That suggests that if the plant is able to take up roughly 20% of that, it's right on target.

That might be a reasonable uptake efficiency in culture that maintains constant moisture at the root system, but it is probably a gross overestimate for most growers. For all of us, I think the best bet is to use a very open mix and irrigate with such a dilute solution more often – sort of like what happens in nature. I know from my own experimentation with plants in semi-hydronic culture, that plants watered daily gained about 25% more weight than those watered every two- or three days.

**New edition released and  
now available!**

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

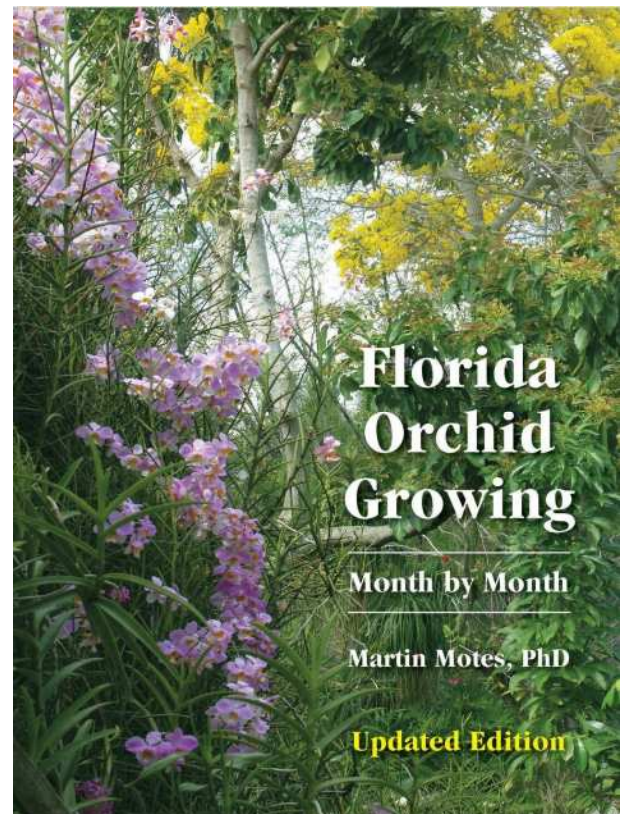
VAOS has received our shipment of the new edition. They are available to members for \$20 and may be ordered and picked up from:

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.

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.



The 2021  
**TAMIAMI  
INTERNATIONAL  
ORCHID FESTIVAL**  
at  
**THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK  
REDLAND, FL**

**3 DAYS  
OF PEACE  
& ORCHIDS**

**OCTOBER  
1, 2 & 3**

**ORCHIDFESTIVAL.COM  
THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK**





## 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
  - ♦ Share photos of your blooming plants
  - ♦ Ask questions, solve plant problems
  - ♦ Share your ideas and techniques
    - ♦ Show us how you grow
- ♦ Sell, swap or give away plants and divisions



**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 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)

# 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/>



# 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](http://www.orchidpottery.com)  
[orchidpottery@gmail.com](mailto:orchidpottery@gmail.com)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 1st -3rd** - Tamiami International Orchid Festival at Fruit & Spice Park, Redland, FL Info: orchidfestival.com

**October 6th** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting, Venice Community Center, 7pm, Speaker: Courtney Hackney

**October 14th**-Growers Clinic CANCELED

**October 23-24** - Ridge Orchid Society Show & Sale, Bartow, FL. Info: dkemig@gmail.com

**October 28-31**— East Everglades Orchid Society Show & Sale, R.F. Orchids, Homestead, FL. Info: tere@rforchids.com

**November 3rd** (1st Wednesday) - Monthly Meeting, Venice Community Center, 7pm, Speaker: Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids

**November 5th-7th** - Vanda & Slipper Orchid Symposium, Apopka FL. Info: [www.slippersymposium.com](http://www.slippersymposium.com)

### **ONGOING**

**Mentor Program**: help for beginning growers, contact Rick Belisle [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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: October 6th, Venice Community Center, 7pm**

## **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)

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