



# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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June 2023

## June 2023 General Meeting

Wednesday June 7th

Doors Open: 6:45pm

Venice Community  
Center

Speaker: Bret Ullrey

Topic: Schomburgkias

Born in Kansas City, MO in 1961, Bret's love of orchids began in February 2006 when he gave his wife Ruth her first orchid, a lime green hard cane dendrobium. After that they joined the Florida West Coast Orchid Society, a month later they attended their first orchid auction, and 26 plants later the passion had begun.

With more than 8,000 orchids now, they own Accent Orchids. He and Ruth, started their business in 2012 with their nursery in the backyard. Bret built all their shade houses that hold their orchids.

Bret has been the president of the Tampa Bay Orchid Society and is currently the president of the Florida West Coast Orchid Society. His love to educate people is his motivation. He currently gives presentations on Dendrobiums, Schomburgkias, Grammatophyllums and watering systems. You can follow Accent Orchids on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/AccentOrchids>, If you have any questions, call him at 813-299-8834 or email [bretullery@gmail.com](mailto:bretullery@gmail.com).



## June Events

June 7  
(Wednesday)  
General Meeting

June 15  
Growers Clinic

### Quick Links:

[VAOS 2021 - 2023](#)

[Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

Share photos of  
your blooming  
orchids on our Face  
Book Group

[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
groupsVAOS.org](https://www.facebook.com/groupsVAOS.org)



## Venice Area Orchid Society Meeting Minutes



**Date: May 3, 2023**

President Joanna Shaw opened the meeting at 7:00pm, welcoming everyone in attendance. Joanna exclaimed the Spring VAOS Member Plant Sale at Blalock Park was a great success and will become an annual event. Orchids sold quickly with most of them gone by 9am. Plants and orchid supplies continued to sell. Rick Belisle performed repotting demonstrations and John Masters gave orchid mounting demos. She thanked Denise Langman for organizing and overseeing the event. Joanna admired the many beautiful orchids on the Plant Table. All members are encouraged to vote for their favorite orchid and to bring in their own blooming orchids at meetings. Joanna then directed attention to the Raffle Table; suggesting the purchase of tickets to win the many prizes.

### **Announcements:**

Joanna Shaw reported the next Growers Clinic will be May 11 at 7:00pm in the Venice Community Center. A different room will be used. Stephanie Luburger will present how to control pests in your orchid garden. "Orchid ER" will also be held. Bring in your orchids to have our experts help solve orchid problems.

### **Program**

Vicki Fisher introduced our speaker, Elfi Espino. Elfi worked 25 years at Palmer Orchids until 2019. At that time, she became owner/operator of All Around Orchids which offers a wide variety of orchids and tropical plants. Elfi also sells blooming orchids at the Sarasota Farmers Market and at her store in downtown Sarasota. Elfi demonstrated potting techniques and discussed care for both hard cane and Nobile, or soft cane Dendrobiums. She offered advice for using pots verses mounting specific types of orchids. Orchids were recommended for potting and Red Cedar for mounting. Many aspects of orchid care were discussed. She welcomed questions from members during and after her presentation. Elfi was rewarded with enthusiastic applause from members.

Vicki Fisher brought the meeting to order after intermission. She presented each blooming orchid on the Plant Table and cited the winning orchids. Volunteers Cynthia Vance and Sue Grimmer took pictures of the winners.

Natasha Romero presented the Raffle Table calling out the numerous winning numbers for each orchid or orchid related items

*Submitted by Peggy Fahrenback,  
Recording Secretary*

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## JOINT MEETING WITH EAOS IN JULY

Every summer, when things slow down, we join our sister orchid society, the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS), in joint meetings. In July EAOS will host the VAOS at their July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. In August, VAOS will host EAOS at our August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

VAOS will not have a meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Instead, we will join EAOS at their **July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

**Location: St. Davids Episcopal Church**

401 S. Broadway

Englewood, FL

(Behind Stephanos Restaurant and Bealls Outlet)

**Doors open at 6:30pm.** Meeting starts at 7pm

**Speaker: Katie Caldwell**

**Topic: Hurricane Preparation for Your Orchids:** Hurricane Charlie and Ian Experience

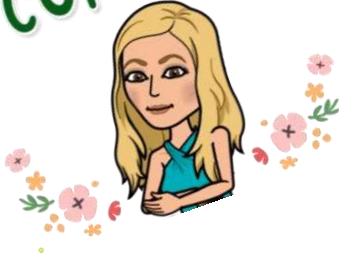
Bring your donations for the raffle table and bring your blooming plants for the plant table awards.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> VAOS will host EAOS members at our monthly meeting with an Ice Cream Social.

Mark your calendars!



## VAOS SOCIAL CORNER



Planning the events that you would love to see takes a team effort. Let the VAOS social team know what type of events or ideas you may have for our society to grow. You can contact me at [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org) with your ideas.

Future events::

**\*Society members growing area tours**

**\*Pre growers clinic tailgating**

- **Orchid Symposium @ Krull Smith in Apopka, FL**  
**Save the Date for this Bus Trip in the fall, Bus scheduled for Nov 4, 2023 leaving from VCC at 7:00am sharp and returning 7:00pm. More details to follow in July.**

**Looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting you at our monthly events.**

*Denise Langman*

*VAOS VP Social*

## Treasurer's Report

April 28, 2023

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<b>OPERATING FUND</b> March 31, 2023	<b>\$10,752.94</b>
+ Income	440.00
- Expenses and Payments	(12,086.29)
- Transfer from Reserve Fund	7,000.00
+ Petty cash on hand	75.00
<b>OPERATING FUND</b> April 28, 2023	<b>\$6,181.65</b>

**Reserve Account** April 28, 2023 - \$42,933.00



## VAOS 2023 GIFTS & DONATIONS

Every year the VAOS makes financial donations to organizations that support orchid education and conservation. We support the American Orchid Society (AOS), the Florida North Central Judging Center and provide scholarships or donations to educational or research organizations that support orchid research and conservation.

This year, VAOS donations were made to the following:

American Orchid Society - \$1500

Florida North Central Judging Center - \$2000

Florida Panther Refuge Orchid Research Project - \$1500

Adam Herdman scholarship - \$1000

Some background for our newer members – The VAOS was formed 58 years ago as a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. Our Bylaws state our mission: “to encourage, organize and support educational activities among its members in order to develop and extend knowledge concerning the cultivation and hybridization of orchids and to promote the conservation and protection of native species”.

VAOS revenue comes from proceeds from our annual orchid show and from membership dues. These funds cover our administrative and operating expenses, provide subsidies for member social events and excursions, fund our reserve fund and fund gifts and donations as delineated above. Our Bylaws and Financial Procedures require us to retain one to three years’ reserve to cover operating expenses. The Treasurer Report is published monthly in our newsletter. Copies of our Bylaws and Financial Procedures are available to members upon request.

The American Orchid Society supports world-wide orchid conservation. As an affiliate of the AOS, we support their mission each year with a financial donation. Our contribution was acknowledged in their May 2023 magazine.

The Florida North Central Judging Center located in Tampa hosts monthly judging events where members may enter their plants for AOS awards. The judges who travel to Venice each year to judge our show are affiliated with this center and they travel at their own expense. Our donation, that supports FNCJC operations, was acknowledged in a letter published in last month’s newsletter.

Researchers from Illinois College and the University of Florida will survey and study ghost orchids in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge this July. Researchers include Dr. Lawrence Zettler, Hitchcock Professor of Biology at Illinois College, Dr. Kane, Professor Emeritus at University of Florida, Dr. Ernesto Mujica, Cuba’s Ministry of Science ECOVIDA Research Center, and Adam Herman, PhD candidate. Our donation will support travel and expenses for this research.

Adam Herdman is an Illinois College student accepted into the PhD program at the University of Florida. He will be a member of the team of researchers collecting data in the Florida Panther Refuge.

We are pleased to support these organizations and research efforts and encourage our members to recommend future candidates for our financial support.

*Submitted by Carol Wood, Past President*

## May Growers Clinic Follow Up

The May 11 Growers Clinic was well-attended and the 40-odd attendees walked away with a trove of useful information. Stephanie Luburger did her usual masterful job in discussing the ins and outs, with input from Naoki Yakamura and John Masters, of dealing with the pests that can adversely affect our favorite plants. Also included was an eye-opening reference that all insects found in and around our orchids are not bad! Lacewings and Lady Bugs are actually good, and augment our work by feeding on many of the very pests we're trying to eliminate! Her positions of "Use "Natural" products first, then, if needed, move onto the more lethal chemicals", and "Use only the 'Natural" products outside your greenhouses/pool cages so as to protect the pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.) and keep the more lethal products for use INSIDE your greenhouses/pool cages" were well-received. Of course, the ubiquitous cautionary statements of "Please Read and Follow Label Directions" was emphasized throughout the evening. Last, but not least, luckily, our Orchid ER had a rather slow night, with only a few "Patients", who were diagnosed and released for treatment and recuperation at home. Our thanks to all who attended and made this yet another fun



## June Growers Clinic June 15th Orchid Diseases

The June Growers Clinic will of course have with our Orchid ER, as usual. Members and guests can bring in their problem plants and the team will diagnose and make suggestions as to how you should proceed. Attendees always hear new and important information for their own knowledge! This month we will follow upon May's "Orchid Pests" by highlighting "Orchid Diseases". Learn to identify common diseases and how to treat them. The meeting starts at 7:00PM and is held in Room F of the Venice Community Center. Park on the left (south) side of the building and enter through the side door.

## VAOS MENTOR PROGRAM GRADUATE MIKE MAYERS

Unsolicited Note from VAOS member, and Mentoring Graduate, Mike Mayers regarding our Mentoring Program...

Rick, my mentor, Tony Nacinovich, suggested that I send you some pictures of the orchids in bloom outside, here, at my residence at Bay Village. I applied for the mentor program about a year ago and you assigned me Tony, and I can't imagine having anyone better. Tony is, of course, a wealth of knowledge and has moved my orchid knowledge and skills along at a more rapid pace. Most of all, he has provided me with unbelievable encouragement and advice. I can't thank him, and you (for assigning me Tony), enough. The Mentoring program, for me, has been a great experience!

The orchid garden at Bay Village is gaining great recognition. Bay Village Management has been very supportive of my efforts and bought us a greenhouse, that I assembled 2 years ago, which has been very beneficial. I had made many mistakes and that's why I needed to enter the VAOS mentoring program and the success I am having now means the program really works..

I display as many as 8 orchids inside the building for those that have restricted mobility and can't venture outside. In the past year, I have attached, or hung on trees, around 150 orchids on the Bay Village grounds. During Hurricane Ian I lost only one to the winds. I don't know how many are going to ultimately make it but I transported lots of gallons of water to those in need during the drought months. Many have blooms and good root structures that suggest they will make it. I try lots of different techniques, and have my failures too, but the thrill of success is all to inspiring. Tony has been there for me, quick to answer any questions and providing information and offering advice! I have so many different varieties to show the residents: Vandas, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Terrestrials, Slippers, Catasetums, Phalaenopsis, Brassavolas and others!

I am very humbled when residents and visitors are complementing me on the orchids on display and in trees. The residents call me the Orchid Man which is a little embarrassing. I don't deserve the title. I know my plants can be better and constantly fight the elements in the outdoor environment. The deeper I go into this hobby the more I realize how much I don't know. The VAOS , its members, and the mentoring program, have been so beneficial. Tony thought I should offer the Bay Village grounds for the annual Venice Orchid Garden Tour like we did pre-covid when Carol was President. Much has changed since then! I would need to clear it with our CEO as we are just finishing up 18 months of renovations in April. I would be happy to coordinate such an event!

*Submitted by Mike Mayers*

Join us at our monthly Growers Clinic and talk to Rick Belise about joining our Mentor Program



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 7** - General Meeting, Venice Community Center . Speaker: Bret Ullrey Topic: Schomburgkias

**June 15** - (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Orchid Diseases

**July 5 — NO VAOS MEETING.** Joint meeting at EAOS on July 17th

**July 13** - (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm.  
Topic: Mounting Orchids

**July 17**—Joint Meeting at EAOS in Englewood. See article this newsletter

### **ONGOING**

**Mentor Program**: help for new growers, contact Rick Belisle [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto:Mentor@vaos.org)

### **AOS JUDGING**

**AOS Orchid Judging—Florida North Central Judging Center.** Check Website for Schedule:  
Info: <http://www.fncjc.shutterfly.com/>

**Next meeting:**  
**June 7th**

## **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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