

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

July/August 2023

July 2023

VAOS will not have a meeting on July 5th

**Joint Meeting at EAOS
Monday July 17th**

Doors Open: 6:30pm

**St. Davids Episcopal Church
401 Broadway
Englewood, FL**

(Behind Stephanos Restaurant and Bealls Outlet)

Speaker: Katie Caldwell

Topic: Hurricane Preparation for Your Orchids

I have been growing orchids for 30 years and was past officer of West Coast Orchid Society and the Venice Area Orchid Society. I wrote an article for Orchids magazine on Tolumnia a few years back. Here in Boca Grande we are still recovering from Hurricane Ian and I lost a tremendous number of plants. My greenhouse roof blew off and I had no shade or water for 10 days, it was pretty traumatic. Things have survived.

I'll be speaking on what I learned from this Hurricane, as well as Hurricane Charlie in 2004, and what I could have done to prevent the amount of damage I had. I'll also address what orchids seemed to survive better.



July/August Events

**July 13th
Growers Clinic**

**July 17
(Monday)
Joint Meeting at
EAOS**

**August 2
(Wednesday)
Meeting Cancelled**

**August 10
Growers Clinic**

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

**Share photos of your
blooming orchids on
our Face Book Group**

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



JOINT MEETING WITH EAOS IN JULY

VAOS will not have a meeting on July 5th

Every summer 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 17th meeting. In October VAOS will host EAOS at monthly meeting.

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

VAOS will host EAOS members at our October monthly meeting with an Ice Cream Social.



VENICE AREA ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 7, 2023

President Joanna Shaw opened the meeting at 7:00pm. She announced the scheduled speaker, Bret Ullrey could not present the program tonight. Raphael Romera from Plantio La Orquidea in Sarasota has graciously agreed to be our speaker. Joanna said, to accommodate Raphael's arrival time we will change the order of our meeting. We will first present our Plant Table, and announce winners later so members can vote at intermission.

Announcements:

Joanna Shaw reported we will not have a meeting at the Venice Community Center on July 5th. Instead, Englewood Area Orchid Society will host a joint meeting. Joanna asked Mary Anne DiGrazia, President of EAOS, to present information about the upcoming meeting at Englewood in July. Mary Anne reported the meeting will be July 17th at St. Davids Episcopal Church. The address is 401 S. Broadway; doors open at 6:30pm. Katie Caldwell will be speaking about Hurricane Preparation for your orchids. On August 2nd, we will be hosting Englewood members here at the Venice Community Center.

Joanna Shaw reported the next Growers Clinic will be held on June 15th, the third Thursday, instead of the second Thursday this month. It will be at 7:00pm in the Venice Community Center. Rick Belisle reported the Growers Clinic program will be about controlling disease.

Plant Table orchids were presented by Joanna Shaw with Vicki Fisher assisting. Joanna and Vicki offered helpful information about care and growing conditions for the orchids and answered questions from members. Joanna encouraged members to vote for their favorites during intermission. Winners will be announced after the program. She encouraged members to post plants on the VAOS Facebook page. Joanna said If the name of an orchid is unknown, Robert Palmer, owner of Palmer's Orchids, will often helpfully identify the orchid if requested.

Program

Joanna introduced our speaker, Raphael Romera, a well-known vendor in this area. Raphael and his wife, Christine, came to Sarasota from Venezuela in 2003. They established Plantio La Orquidea, at 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota. It is an extension of a large family- owned orchid business in Venezuela. They produce original hybrids and specialize in warm growing species. Visits to Plantio La Orquidea are arranged by appointment or on days they are open to the public. Raphael was informative about growing Schomburgkia, also known as Myrmecophila orchids. He presented many beautiful orchid photos and answered questions about growing conditions and care of the large species.

After the Program, Joanna Shaw presented winners of the Plant Table.

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

Submitted by Peggy Fahrenback, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

May 31, 2023

OPERATING FUND April 28, 2023	\$6,106.65
+ Income	676.00
- Expenses and Payments	(2,241.39)
- Transfer from Reserve Fund	0.00
+ Petty cash on hand	75.00
OPERATING FUND May 31, 2023	\$4,616.26

Reserve Account May 31, 2023 - \$42,933.38

During the month of May we recorded 12 new members

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

***** **Venice Community Center Renovations** *****

The Venice Community Center will undergo renovations this summer to replace the ballroom floor. As a result we have had to cancel our August 2nd monthly meeting. Our September 6th monthly meeting is still on schedule but may have to be cancelled if there is a delay in completing the renovation.

There is no impact to our July, August and September scheduled Growers Clinics.



June Growers Clinic Recap

On Thursday, June 15, the Monthly Growers Clinic was held at the Venice Community Center. A total of 40 or so orchid lovers, including a few new members and a few guests (read: prospective members!) attended to learn about dealing with the various diseases that might affect our beloved orchids. Along with contributions from Naoki Kawamura, Vicki Fisher, Janet Keown and Rick Belisle, Stephanie Luburger did her usual masterful job in leading the discussions and answering the questions and concerns raised during her presentation.

The Orchid ER had a relatively mild night as only about 12 patients were brought in, most suffering from the same symptoms ...namely, needing some additional hydration! Usually, by this time, we are into our traditional "rainy season" but, as most everyone is well aware, our usual June has been anything but! So the general consensus was, and a reminder made by Vicki, that we all need to perform what our friend, former speaker and Bulbophyllum Expert, Bill Thoms, often said..."Use our 'POO'...Powers of Observation" and inspect, water, feed and spray as needed.



UPCOMING VAOS EVENTS SAVE THE DATE

July 13, 2023 Growers Clinic

August 2, 2023 No meeting due to flooring replacement in VCC

August 10, 2023 Growers Clinic

September 6, 2023 Monthly Meeting (Pending flooring completion) Bring your favorite Half Time snacks to share for our meeting; everyone who brings an item will receive a free raffle ticket for our raffle table.

October 4, 2023 Monthly Meeting Make your own Ice Cream Sundae Social as we welcome & host Englewood Area Orchid Society

October 12, 2023 Annual Pot-Luck Dinner in place of the growers clinic. We ask all members who attend to bring their favorite pot-luck dish to share. 5:00pm-9:00pm Dinner and Orchid Bingo with great prizes.

November 1, 2023 Monthly meeting Bake your favorite holiday type cookie to share with our members. Those who bring a baked item for the meeting will receive a free raffle ticket.

November 4, 2023 Krull Smith Bus Trip 7:00am-7:00pm Sign up & details will be available From Denise at social@vaos.org

December 9, 2023 Holiday Party at Plantation Golf & Country Club 5:00pm-9:00pm Sign up & details will be available From Denise at social@vaos.org

Submitted by Denise Langman, VP Social

July 13th Growers Clinic

Potting and Mounting Clinic

The July Growers Clinic will have 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! After reviewing the feedback and "Gee! I couldn't make it" or "I just joined!" received from April's "Dividing and Repotting Class", the team has decided the presentation this month will be a "combination" of BOTH the "Dividing and Repotting" class AND the naturalizing orchids by "Potting Without Pots" class! This will definitely be "hands on"! We'll explore dividing and repotting methods as well as various ways to mount orchids on trees, shrubs, cedar planks, driftwood, and other surfaces. John Masters will be bringing some of his gorgeous cedar cuttings and demonstrating his unique and ever-spectacular mounting methods.

ADDED BONUS... Rafael Romero, from Plantio La Orquidea, will be attending this session. He'll be helping answer questions, make suggestions, and helping the team with the Dividing & Repotting and Mounting Clinics and the ER Session, as well. He'll also be bringing a few plants and mountings to sell.

The Growers Clinic Team will explain the supplies, tools and planting media, demonstrate basic procedures, and share their tips of the trade. Then the REAL fun starts!

Participants will re-pot their own orchid with the assistance of several experienced growers and helpers. We will work in teams of 4 or 5 around a table with each person bringing an orchid that needs repotting as well as a suitable pot to replant the orchid and a sterile pair of shears. With only two hours available and a large turnout expected, it is critical that everyone adhere to the instructions below:

Bring your divided plant ready to pot. If you do not know how to divide the plant, bring it with all media removed and ready to be divided

All plants must be removed from their pots and **all old planting media and dead roots must be removed prior to the clinic.**

Those Mounting: can/SHOULD bring the item (wood, shell, driftwood, etc.) for mounting.

Only one plant per person

Bring your pot and shears

Please make sure your plant is free from pests or diseases.

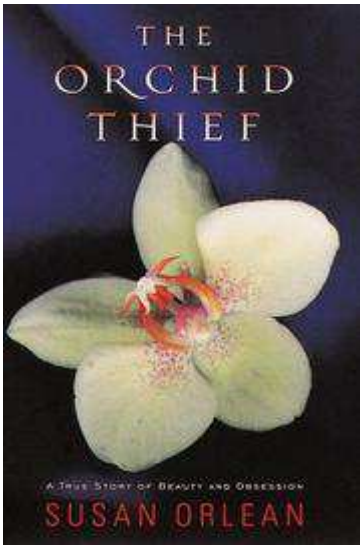
Media and supplies for most orchids will be provided. The meeting starts at 7:00PM and is held in Room D of the Venice Community Center. Enter through the front door. We have invited members of the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS) to join us.

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Education & Training

August Growers Clinic

The August 10th Growers Clinic will have 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!

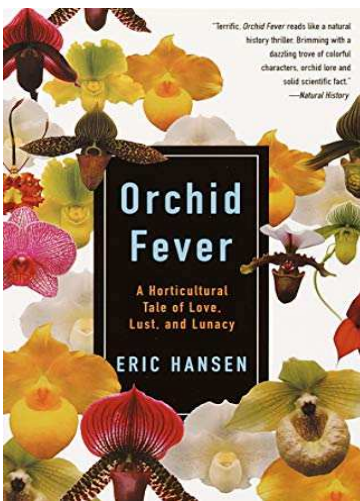
This month the presentation will focus on the “**Culture Basics of Cattleyas**”. The meeting starts at 7:00PM and is held in Room F of the Venice Community Center. Park on the left (south) side of the building and enter through the side door.



SUMMER READING FOR ORCHID LOVERS

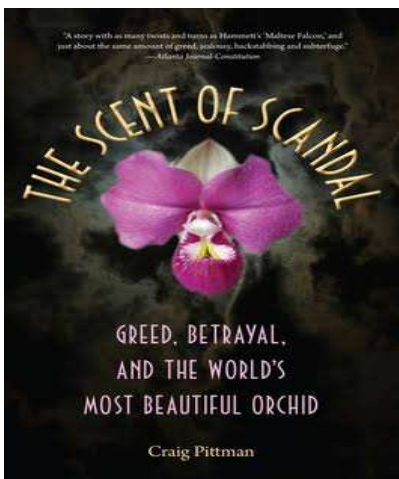
Looking for a good read this summer? Here are my three favorite books recommended for orchid lovers.

The Orchid Thief is a 1998 non-fiction book by American journalist Susan Orlean, based on her investigation of the 1994 arrest of horticulturist John Laroche and a group of Seminoles in south Florida for poaching rare orchids in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.



Orchid Fever - A Horticultural Tale of Love, Lust and Lunacy - A seductive journey into the obsessive, outrageous, and mesmerizing world of orchids. From the steaming jungles of Borneo to the hallowed hallways of Kew Gardens, from the clandestine orchid nurseries of Europe to the peat bogs of northern Minnesota, here are luscious, sexy flowers, orchid smugglers, fist-fighting botanists, moths with twelve-inch-long tongues, and government officials who raid orchid nurseries with attack dogs and automatic weapons. Strange tales of insect pollinator fidelity, the orchid ice cream makers of eastern Turkey, and man-crushing killer orchids weighing half a ton are blended with stories about a wide range of gentle people whose passion in life is the creation of scented, fragile flowers.

(My personal #1 favorite)



The Scent of Scandal—Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid. The collision between Selby's scientists and the smugglers of *Phrag. Kovachii*, a rare lady slipper orchid hailed as the most significant and beautiful new species discovered in a century, led to search warrants, a grand jury investigation, and criminal charges. It made headlines around the country, cost the gardens hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations, and led to tremendous internal turmoil.

Submitted by Carol Wood

VAOS 2024 SHOW & SALE

While our 2024 annual orchid show & sale is still a ways off, we wanted to give our members an update on our show planning activities. Our 57th annual show will take place on February 3 - 4, 2024. Planning started shortly after our February 2023 show and involved reserving the facility, filing our show application with the AOS and Florida North Central Judging Center, and securing an initial commitment from AOS judges, our vendors and artists, committee chairs, judging chair and AOS photographer. Following each show we solicit feedback from our vendors, judges, show committee chairs and board that we incorporate into next years' planning.

During the second quarter our focus is on selecting our show theme, assessing and reordering supplies, selecting t-shirts and trophies, and floor layout planning. Third quarter activities involve firming up our advertising and printing schedules and negotiating rates, updating our show classification schedule and awards list and finalizing our poster, postcard, and tri-fold graphics for printing. During the three months before the show we send out contracts for vendors, artists and suppliers, finalize our floor plan, provide instructions for other societies participating in our show, and most importantly, recruit member volunteers to work the show. Meanwhile, each show committee chair is organizing their supplies, procedures and logistics for our display team, plant registration team, admissions, show hosts, clerks, hospitality and food, membership table, orchid boutique, arts and crafts and individual displays. We track all tasks and subtasks on a three page excel spreadsheet that monitors and reports status, income and expense for each subtask



The VAOS show is widely regarded as one of the top two orchid shows in Florida. Our venue/facility, quality vendors and volunteers contribute to our success in attracting more than 4000 attendees each year. Feedback from our vendors and judges always points to our friendly volunteers as the winning feature. As Judy likes to say, it takes an army. Please save the date as your participation will be essential to a successful show.

We have been through some challenging times these past few years with COVID and Hurricane Ian. Many of us are still dealing with damage to our homes and our orchid collections from Ian and now we start a new hurricane season. So, here is something to look forward to. Our 2024 show theme is

Peace * Love * Orchids.

We will have tie-dye t-shirts and encourage our member volunteers to add their own accessories – bell bottoms, frayed jeans, midi skirts, chokers, headbands, scarves and jewelry. Let's have some fun!

We will continue to provide show planning updates between now and February 2024.

Judy Loeffler & Carol Wood , Show Co-chairs

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

August 2- General Meeting, **Cancelled due to VCC flooring renovation**

August 10 - (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Cattleya Culture Basics

SAVE THE DATE

October 12 - Potluck Dinner

November 4 - Krull-Smith Bus Trip

December 9 - Holiday Dinner Party

February 3-4—VAOS Annual Orchid Show

ONGOING

Mentor Program: help for new growers,
contact Rick Belisle 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:
July 17th in
Englewood

Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid Society

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President

Joanna Shaw pres@vaos.org

Membership

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