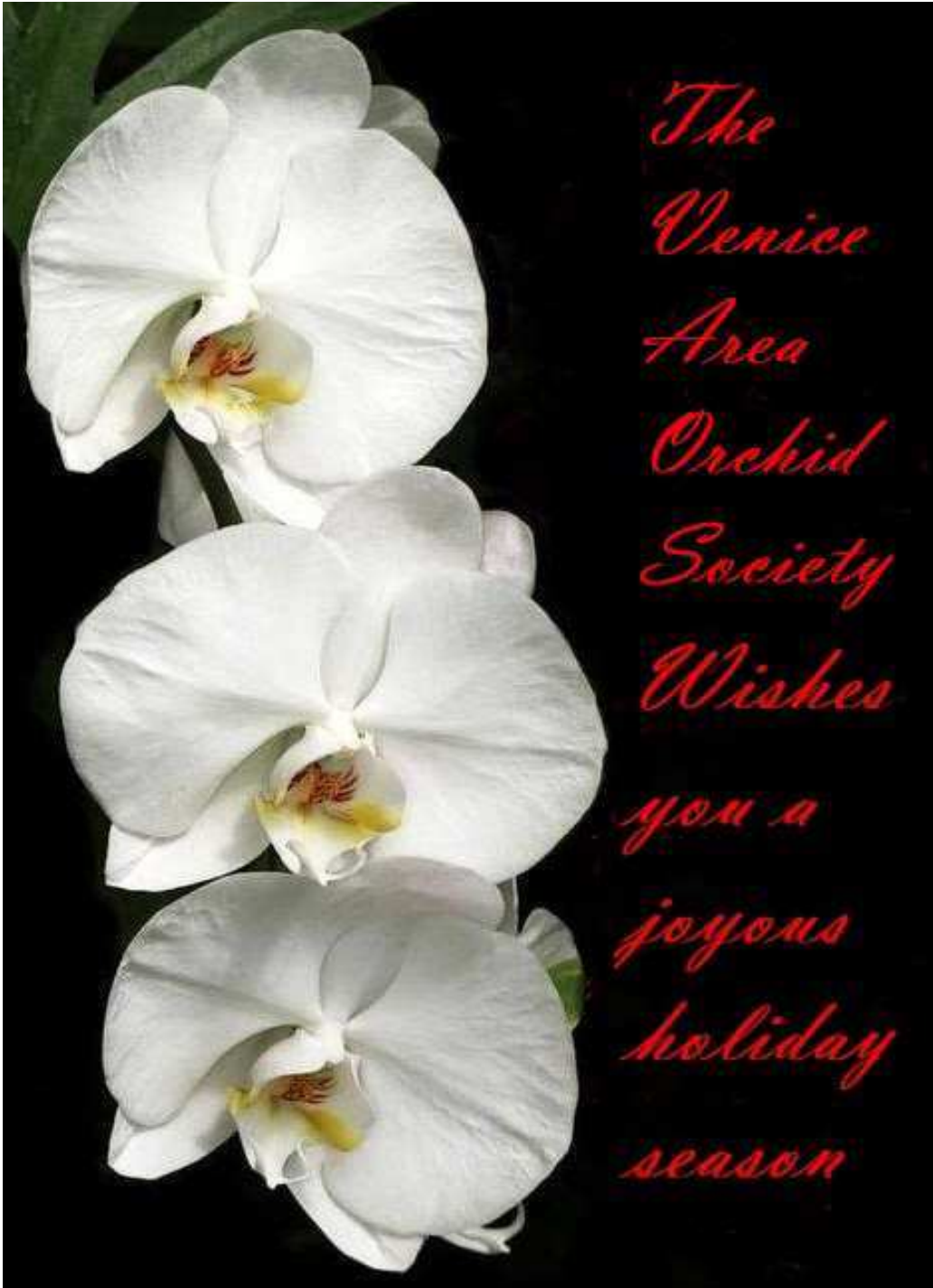


VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

December 2023



December Events

**No
General Meeting
Or
Growers Clinic**

**December 9
Holiday Dinner
Party**

Quick Links:

[VAOS 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)





Annual Holiday Dinner

Plantation Golf & Country Club
500 Rockley Blvd., Venice, FL 34293
(Off Rt 41 midway between Jacaranda & River Rd.)

Saturday December 9, 2023

5:00pm-9:00pm

Join your friends from VAOS for our annual holiday get together. Enjoy Dinner, Orchid related Auction and memories in the making!

\$35 per person

Dinner Buffet with Dessert,
Coffee, Tea & Iced Tea.

Cash Bar

Payment must be received by
December 1, 2023 to secure your reservation.

Zelle: VAOSMoney@gmail.com

or Mail your check noting Holiday Party to:

VAOS, PO Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

Include names of attendees with payment.

RSVP by Dec. 1, 2023 to Denise
social@vaos.org

Your Blooming Plants Are Needed!

Sarasota Orchid Society Show

Our first orchid show of the 2024 season, the annual Sarasota Orchid Society Show and Sale.

Set up: Friday January 5th, 9am – 4pm

Show: Saturday January 6th, 9am – 5pm and Sunday January 7th, 10am – 4pm

Take Down: Sunday January 7th, 4pm

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

Your blooming plants are needed to create our display. We will collect and transport your plants to the show and ensure their safe return to you on Monday following the show.

- **Bring your plants to our Wednesday, January 3rd monthly meeting or:**
- **Drop them off by Thursday January 4th : Bruce Weaver, 328 West Bay Dr., Venice Island, 941-800-7804 (leave by front door)**
- **Or, bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Friday January 5th at 9am**

All plants must be registered in advance via email between Monday January 1st - Wednesday January 3rd.

Email your plant name with a photo or bloom size and color description to PlantReg@VAOS.org.

Look for a return email confirming your plant registration with a number to attach to your plant. This will facilitate display set up at the show.

- Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease
- Plants should be labeled with the plant name, the owner's name and the plant registration number provided when you register your plant
- Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend show. Please water your plants thoroughly and place in a box or container for transport to the show.

Volunteers are needed to transport plants and display materials to and from the Sarasota Show and to help with our display. To volunteer please contact:

Kristin Shaw, VP Displays Email: disp@VAOS.org 484-707-8674

If you have questions regarding plant registration please contact:

Linda Schaller, Plant Registration Chair Email: PlantReg@VAOS.org 815-222-0319

Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2023

OPERATING FUND September 29, 2023	\$ 5,323.35
+ Income	3,406.00
- Expenses and Payments	(4,404.83)
OPERATING FUND October 31, 2023	\$4,324.52

Reserve Account October 31, 2023 - \$39,535.03

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

Mentor Program Update – Honoring Peg Fahrenback



As most of you may know, our Mentoring Program has been in existence since 2012. Back then, a member, Peg Fahrenback, felt that, as good as our General monthly meetings and Growers Clinics were, something was lacking. There seemed to be a need for more “personalized” learning opportunities. We had many very knowledgeable growers and also many who were struggling with adapting the teachings from meetings to their own growing conditions. Hence, Peg came up with the idea of a Mentoring Program, whereby more knowledgeable growers (the Mentors) would share their knowledge with those members who were struggling (the Mentees). Another member, Tony Nacinovich, designed a lapel-type pin, still in use today, that would be given to and proudly worn by all graduates of the program. To date, we have over 105 graduates, many of whom are still VAOS members and several have gone on to be mentors themselves!

Well, as the saying goes, Tempus Fugit. Much to our chagrin, Peg and her husband, Bill, are in the process of relocating from Venice to the Sarasota area. As we all know, that whole process can be quite daunting, time-consuming and exhausting! Consequently, they'll be taking a break (a short one, we hope!)



from VAOS activities. However, we couldn't let Peg go without a little reminder of all the things she's done to help our club, particularly, the creating of our Mentoring Program.

To that end, the lapel pin given to all Mentoring Program graduates, will now and forever more be called, the Peg Fahrenback Pin. Best Wishes on a successful move!



Orchid Show & Sale

Venice Area Orchid Society Presents

“Peace, Love & Orchids”

February 3 - 4, 2024

Saturday 10am - 5pm

(displays open at 11am)

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Venice Community Center

326 S. Nokomis Ave.

Venice, Florida

Admission \$5

(under 10 free)



www.vaos.org

**Thousands of Blooming Orchids, Orchid Art & Supplies
Free Orchid Classes**

VAOS SHOW UPDATE

Just two months to go before our annual show - one of the top two orchid shows in the state of Florida and our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are expecting over 4000 attendees. Lots of work goes into planning and hosting a successful show. Many factors contribute to our success – a beautiful venue at the community center, quality orchids from nationally known vendors, our great home cooked food brought in by our members and most importantly our show volunteers. Every year we survey our judges and vendors following our show and their number one compliment is always our friendly volunteers. We depend on our members to volunteer for our annual show and every year they don't disappoint.

Members can sign up to volunteer for 2-3 hour time slots Friday, Saturday and Sunday and there is something for everyone:

- Facility set up and take down
- Front door admissions
- Show hosts
- Judging Clerks
- Hospitality
- Orchid Boutique
- VAOS Display
- Membership Table
- Signage

All volunteers receive free admission to the show, a special edition show t-shirt, great food, great camaraderie, and working in a room filled with 1000's of fragrant blooming orchids!

Please save the dates:

- Friday show set up February 2nd – 1 – 7pm
- Saturday show February 3rd – 10am – 5pm
- Sunday show February 4th – 10am – 4pm

Sunday show take down February 4th – 4pm

If you would like to volunteer please contact Carol & Judy at ShowChair@VAOS.org or sign up at our January 3rd meeting

Please note your volunteer time slot on you calendar. We will distribute the final volunteer sign up list in our February 2023 newsletter just prior to our show.

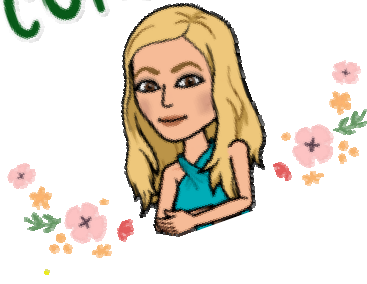
Thank you for volunteering!!!

Volunteer for our 2024 Show

Show Committee	When	Job	# Volunteers
Set Up/Take Down Coord: Jerry Daenzer 284-5001	Friday 11:30am – 2pm Sunday 3:45pm – 6pm	Friday: Set up hall for exhibits. Lay plastic, assemble back-drops. Sunday: Show take down & clean up. Fresh volunteers needed	20
Display Coord: Kristin Shaw 484-707-8674	Friday 11:30am – 7pm Sunday 4pm – 6pm	Pick up and return display props & greenery from storage. Display design/ set up Friday & take down Sunday	20
Clerks Coord: Mary Anne Digrazia 697-9237	Saturday 7:30am - 10:30am	Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience!	20
Front Door Admissions Coord: Elaine Ortt 485-5313	Saturday 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 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
Show Hosts Coord: Steve & Michelle Baker 468-5903	Friday 1pm - 7pm Saturday 9:45am - 5pm Sunday 9:45am - 4pm	Welcome guests. 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.	34
Hospitality/Kitchen Staff Coord: Naoki Kawamura 503-539-1760	Friday 10am – 4pm Saturday 7:30am– 3pm Sunday 8am – 2pm	Set up, organize food and drinks for buffet Saturday and Sunday. Reheat food, dish washing, clean up and food storage. 3 hr. slots	12
Hospitality/Food Coord: Naoki Kawamura 503-539-1760	Saturday and Sunday	Bring your favorite dish 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.	All
Membership Table Ian & Karen Kennedy 203-241-4793	Saturday 9:45am – 5pm Sunday 9:45am – 4pm	Promote VAOS, sign up new members, sell books & magazines, hand out culture sheets, answer questions. 3 hour slots	8
Orchid Boutique Karen Mann 496-8385	Saturday 9:45am – 5pm Sunday 9:45am – 5pm	Sell floral arrangements and accessories; sell raffle tickets; clean up and transport supplies. 3 hour slots	16
Road Signage Coord: Judy Loeffler 485-9569	Monday 1/29/24 set out Monday 2/5/24 take down	Set up Venice area road signs and banners. Pick up truck or SUV needed. Transport to/from storage. Detailed map provided.	2

Sign up at our monthly meetings or email ShowChair@VAOS.org to sign up

VAOS SOCIAL CORNER



Recap

Krull Smith Bus Trip was a great time for all in attendance. We had time to check out the many vendors at the fall open house as well as an unplanned visit to Orchids in Bloom weekend open house! Oh, the ideas at work for upcoming “Rambles” for our society!!! As I’ve said before, if you want to get the best experience as a VAOS member you must join the many great events we offer! A picture says a thousand words... Check out our Fall Bus Trip:





Save the Date:

Mark your calendars now before the season slips away!

December 9, 2023 Saturday, Holiday Party at Plantation Golf & Country Club 5:00pm-9:00pm; Dinner & Orchid Auction Sign up & details on attached flyer. Our auction items include so many Orchids as well as beautiful orchid creations by many of our members such as Joanna's Orchid Pottery, Just One More Orchid, Orchid Envy, Palmer's Orchids, Pat's Orchid Baskets & Mounts, Plantio La Orquidea, Walter Dettling and many more amazing items! Sign up now to enjoy this holiday event!

Love in Bloom

Best wishes to society members Michelle Conda & Steve Baker as they became husband & wife on November 11, 2023. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Baker!!!

Congrats Jay Loeffler

Please join me in congratulating Jay Loeffler! Jay's article on Ghost Orchids will appear in the December 2023 issue of the American Orchid Society (AOS) Orchids Magazine. Orchids Magazine is the prestigious journal of the AOS in publication for 91 years and distributed to over 10,000 international members and 600 worldwide orchid society affiliates.

Only an estimated 1,500 ghost orchid plants remain in Florida and less than half are known to be mature enough to reproduce. Threats to the orchid continue to grow due to habitat loss and poachers.

Jay's article details his years - long journey to grow and bloom the elusive and notoriously difficult to bloom ghost orchid. His article highlights the work of the University of Florida, Gainesville, and Illinois College to restore these orchids to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. He describes the complex symbiotic relationship between this orchid and mycorrhizal fungi and details his repeated attempts, failures and finally success in blooming a ghost orchid.

This article is the second Jay has had published in Orchids Magazine. His first article "An Extended Orchid Family, Why I Grow the Orchids I Grow", was published in October 2017, and posted on vaos.org under "vaos publications"

Look for Jay's article in the December 2023 issue of Orchids Magazine and we will reprint it in our January 2024 VAOS Newsletter and add it to vaos.org under "vaos publications"

Jay and his wife Judy have been active members of VAOS since 2012. Jay has served in several capacities most notably a four-year term as Vice President, Displays, when he created the most exquisite and artistically designed orchid displays most often winning first place and the AOS judges' trophy.



Submitted by: Carol Wood

VENICE AREA ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 1, 2023

Joanna Shaw opened the November Monthly meeting at 7pm. She announced that Peggy Fahrenback is selling Cattleya orchids at her home. Joanna discussed the upcoming bus trip to Krull Smith's greenhouse on November 4th. She encouraged members to sign up if they want to go. Seats are still available. Joanna also mentioned that Englewood is having a Plant Sale on November 4th. She then drew attention to the Plant table, suggesting attendees vote for their favorite orchid. Joanna encouraged members to purchase Raffle table tickets to win an orchid. She announced our speaker, Francisco Miranda, has orchids for sale. She reported that Ian Kennedy is taking sign-ups and money for the Holiday Dinner at Plantation Golf and Country Club on December 9th.

Announcements

Judy Loeffler, Co-Show Chair presented information about the February Orchid Show. She also provided a colorful poster promoting it. This show will be the 56th year of VAOS orchid shows. The theme is Peace, Love, and Orchids. Judy is encouraging members to have fun dressing in 60's attire. The member's volunteer shirt is colorfully tie-dyed. Judy is planning to wear her "dare to wear" 60's outfit!

Judy encouraged members to sign up to volunteer for the Show as soon as possible. Sign-up sheets are at the Membership Desk. The Show will be on February 3rd; and 4th.

Judy also encouraged members to sign up to bring food for the kitchen on Set-up and Show days. Both hot and cold food is needed. She discussed changes needed to protect the new floor at Venice Community Center. The set-up date is Friday, February 2nd. Help is needed to bring in set-up props and supplies. Volunteers also help to assemble the VAOS display. February 4rd is Takedown when orchids are removed from the display.

Judy discussed Show volunteer opportunities. Clerks work with the AOS Judges on Saturday morning. Clerks will be trained on February 1st at 5:30 pm. Door volunteers will sell tickets on Saturday and Sunday. Show Hosts welcome attendees and monitor displays. Steve Baker and Michelle Conda are Co-Chairs of the Show Host Committee.

Ian and Karen Kennedy will anchor the Membership Table. This is the "hub" of information about VAOS. Volunteers pass out handouts to attendees and answer questions. They describe the many programs, resources, and social activities of VAOS. Judy encouraged members to enter orchid-related arts and crafts to display in the Show. She also explained the Orchid Boutique creates orchid bouquets to sell. They give a bouquet to handicapped attendees to brighten their day. Joanna Shaw enthusiastically encouraged beginning growers to enter orchids in the Show. She discussed once having "beginner's luck" and won a trophy.

Program

Vicki Fisher, Program Director, introduced the speaker, Francisco Miranda. His topic was "The Dynamic Duo—Cattleya walkeriana and nobilior. He has owned Miranda Orchids since 1999. It is a well-known source for Brazilian orchids. Francisco presented a PowerPoint program about Brazilian orchid species. He discussed how to identify differences between orchid species from Brazil. He also discussed how orchids adapt to growing conditions such as drought, rainfall, and change of seasons. Some Brazilian orchids only bloom during rainy season.

Joanna Shaw presented the Plant Table orchids and awards given. An enjoyable variety of orchids were displayed. Natasha Romero presented the Raffle Table, calling out winning ticket numbers for each orchid.

Submitted by Peggy Fahrenback, Recording Secretary



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



DECEMBER

- Water well, as needed, when dry
- Protect cold-sensitive genera
- Supplement potassium and magnesium for winter health.

And, of course, cleaning up your growing area and plants by removing dead leaves helps to keep your plants healthy. This should be done throughout the year as needed.

For more detailed information consult the [Florida Orchid Growing: Month-by-Month](#) book by Martin Motes, PhD.



November 2023 Growers Clinic

On **Thursday, November 9**, Rick Belisle and the Growers Clinic Team offered a dual program on **Preparing Your Orchids for Winter and Preparing Your Orchids for Shows**. Approximately 40 members and guests attended. Many were observed taking copious notes as well as photos of some of the various slides in the presentation. Because of the interaction, suggestions and experiences exchanged between the attendees, there was plenty of “knowledge transfer” at this meeting! Of particular interest was the slide depicting the tolerable temperature ranges of various Cattleyas. Some no lower than 64° while others as low as 34°!. An expanded version of that popular slide has been placed on our VAOS Website (vaos.org) under VAOS PUBLICATIONS. There was also an excellent discussion and overview on preparing for the up-coming shows, the first of which is in January! Several of the attendees were able to add their experiences and thoughts and generated much enthusiasm! Notel: Due to the holiday season, there will be NO Growers Clinic in December. The next Growers Clinic will be on Thursday, January 11, 2024, where we will discuss Dendrobiums and their care.

January Growers Clinic - Dendrobiums

The **January 11th Growers Clinic** will start with a presentation and discussion on the Culture Basics of growing those beautiful and varied Dendrobiums! We'll then move into 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! Members should remember to wear their VAOS Name Tags, please. There will be a Sign-in Sheet for guests. 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.



Two of our members, Vicki Fisher and Naoki Kawamura each had two awarded plants in the November Orchids magazine

Congratulations to the both of them

Vicki Fisher

Clowesetum JEM's Speckled Russ 'Oh My'
(Cl. russelliana x Ctsm. denticulatum)

AM/AOS 82 pts



Photo: Wes Newton

Vicki Fisher

Catasetum Sandra Dixon 'Haute'
(Ctsm. Susan Fuchs x. Ctsm. tigrinum)

AM/AOS 84 pts



Photo: Wes Newton

Naoki Kawamura

Bulbophyllum Bechinolina 'Odoriferous'
(beccarii x echinolabium)

HCC/AOS 77pts



Photo: Wes Newton

Naoki Kawamura

Vanda insignis 'Naoki's Big Lip'
AM/AOS 82 pts



Photo: Wes Newton

AOS JUDGING

AOS Orchid Judging—Florida North Central Judging Center.

Check Website for Schedule:

Info: <https://aosfncjc.wixsite.com/aos-florida-north-ce>

Submitted by:: Jay Loeffler

2024 ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW SCHEDULE

Sarasota Orchid Society (January 2024)

Friday Set up Jan 5th – 9am – 4pm

Saturday Show Jan 6th - 9am - 5pm

Sunday Show Jan 7th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Jan 7th – 4pm

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

Theme: Orchids in Paradise

Show Chair: Larry Desiano LarryDesiano@sarasotaorchidsociety.org

Venice Area Orchid Society (February 2024)

Friday Set Up Feb 2nd – 1pm – 7pm

Saturday Show Feb 3rd - 10am - 5pm

Sunday Show Feb 4th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Feb 4th – 4pm

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

Theme: Peace Love & Orchids

Show Chairs: Carol Wood & Judy Loeffler ShowChair@vaos.org

Englewood Area Orchid Society (February 2024)

Thursday February 22nd Set Up – 10am – 5pm

Friday Show February 23rd - 10am - 5pm

Saturday Show February 24th - 10am - 5pm

Saturday Take Down February 24th – 5pm

Location: Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, 6961 San Casa Dr., Englewood (tentative pending hurricane damage repairs)

Theme: Orchids by the Sea

Show Chair: Mary Anne DiGrazia tommmaryanne@centurylink.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

No December monthly meeting or growers clinic

December 9 - Annual Holiday Dinner Party.
See flyer this newsletter to sign up

January 3 - (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Dr. Zettler Topic: Panther Ridge Orchid Restoration

January 6-7—Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale. See article this newsletter

January 11 - (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Dendrobium Basic Culture

SAVE THE DATE

February 3-4 - VAOS Annual Orchid Show
February 23-24- EAOS 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:

<https://aosfncjc.wixsite.com/aos-florida-north-ce>

Next meeting:
January 3rd

Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid Society

PO BOX 443

Venice, FL 34284-0443

President

Joanna Shaw pres@vaos.org

Membership

Ian & Karen Kennedy

memb@vaos.org

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Visit our Facebook Group at

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

