

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

March 2024

**March 2024**

## **General Meeting**

**Wednesday March 6th**

**Doors Open: 6:30pm**

**Venice Community Center**

**Speaker: Rick Belisle**

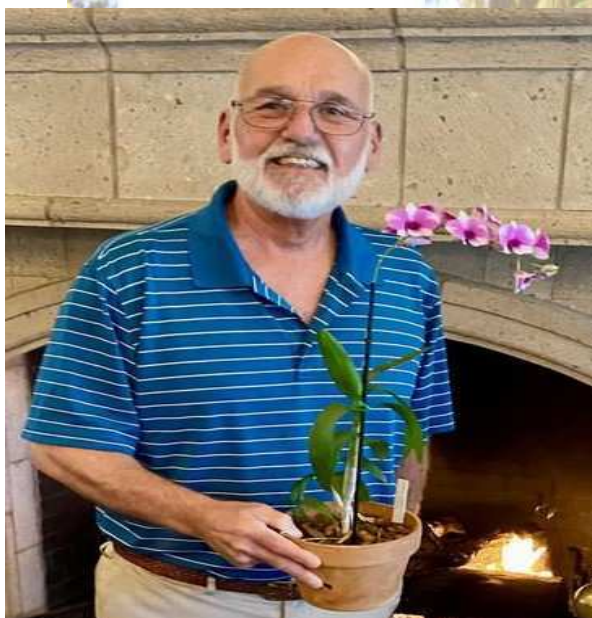
**Topic: Welcome to VAOS**

Rick Belisle has been growing orchids since 2009 when, in a meeting of the Newcomers of Venice, he heard, during a presentation by our own Carol Wood, that "orchids offer you the opportunity to have color year round." Intrigued by that statement, he approached Carol and she, after some discussion, suggested he come to the next VAOS meeting.

At that meeting, he joined the Venice Area Orchid Society to learn more about orchids and how to grow them. Now, after many trials and tribulations, he has approximately 100 orchids in his collection. They include Dendrobiums (his personal favorite!), Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Catasetums, Stanhopeas, and a few Phalaenopsis.

He is an active member of the VAOS, is the Mentoring Program Coordinator for the club, as well as the Director of Education, Training and Outreach. He has taught classes on orchids and orchid care in orchid shows and to orchid clubs, garden clubs, and to many other service clubs. During our annual Show and Sale he is our Master of Ceremonies, welcoming our guests, reading off the hourly raffle winners, and teaching our classes.

His presentation will be not only for new members, but also more "seasoned" members, who might just wonder (or forget!) exactly what it is we, the Venice Area Orchid Society, are all about. The discussion will cover the Who, What, Where, How and When of all that we do...and the list, after putting it all together, and as you'll see, is quite extensive!



## **March Events**

**March 6  
General Meeting**

**March 14  
Growers Clinic**

**March 23  
Member Plant  
Sale**

### **Quick Links:**

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)



# VAOS Show – Thank you Volunteers!

A big thank you to all of our members who contributed to a very successful show and sale! We had a great turnout and our profit from the show will help to cover our administrative and operating expenses.

We would like to thank **Jerry Daenzer** and his 10 member team who did an outstanding and efficient job of clearing and then setting up the ballroom following the SILLs lecture. Jerry and Judy Loeffler designed the spacious layout for our show. Thanks to our 8 volunteers who came in Sunday afternoon for takedown and clean up. By 6pm, the hall was empty and broom swept clean.

**Elaine Ortt** and her 30 volunteers worked the admissions and exit tables all day Saturday and Sunday with a smile. Thank you!

Our hospitality team, **Naoki Kawamura, Janet Keown and Don Posegate**, managed the kitchen throughout the weekend, stocked supplies and drinks, served lunch to our judges, vendors and volunteers and did a fabulous job! Thank you to all our members who brought in their favorite dishes. We have a longstanding reputation for our excellent food!

New Show Host Chairs **Michele and Steve Baker** and their 30 volunteers did a fantastic job covering exits, displays, answering questions and ensuring a problem – free show. Many compliments for your friendly team, thank you!

Congratulations to **Kristin Shaw** and the display team for creating a beautiful, 10' x 10' exhibit for VAOS. Our display, composed of member plants, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, six trophies and 45 ribbons!

Thank you **Mary Anne DiGrazia** and the 22 clerks who worked with the AOS judges Saturday morning as they judged and awarded trophies and ribbons, good work!

Thank you **Ian and Karen Kennedy** and your team for managing the Membership Table. This team had way too much fun as they answered questions, distributed culture sheets, sold books and signed up new members. Well done!

**Karen Mann** and her artistic team did a fabulous job designing floral arrangements for sale at the Orchid Boutique, managing the raffle table and handing out bouquets. A very talented group!

Thank you **Richard Ho, Ted Kellogg, Linda Schaller and Vicki Fisher** for all your work to register plants, manage the database, produce reports and support the judging process. Great job!

The Arts & Crafts exhibit has been so successful that it will be expanded next year. Thank you **Noreen Chervinski** for your expertise in organizing this!

Thank you **Ian and Karen Kennedy and Rick Hindman** for helping Judy put out and take down the road signage around Venice!

A big thank you to **Denise Langman and Sara McCartney** who joined our show team last year and have helped us so much in every aspect of our show planning and production.

Thank you all who contributed to our show! You are amazing people and we appreciate you!

# VAOS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

March 6, 2024

Every year our society holds its annual meeting in March when we elect new officers and thank those board members who are completing their terms. At our February meeting we presented the nominee and asked for nominations from the floor for the open board position. There were no other nominations for the role of President.

Judy Loeffler, currently Show Co-Chair, is nominated to succeed Joanna Shaw as President. Judy has previously served as Membership Chair and Treasurer for VAOS.

The following officers have agreed to serve another two years to complete their four year terms:

Stephanie Luburger, Communications Director

Vicki Fisher, Vice-President – Programs

Kristin Shaw, Vice-President – Displays

Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

There are many opportunities to become involved with our society, volunteer positions and current and future board positions. If you are interested, please contact Ian Kennedy, Treasurer and Membership Chair for more information ([iankennedytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:iankennedytreasurer@gmail.com))

*Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Nominating Committee Chair*

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## Thank you Ted Kellogg

Thanks to Ted Kellogg for donating a quality printer to VAOS, needed during our shows to print judging forms and reports.

Ted has been an active member of VAOS for 23 years. He is an AOS Judge and has served VAOS as president, webmaster, plant registrar and AOS judging chair for many years as well as in other capacities. He has been a mentor and teacher to many of us over the years and we appreciate his knowledge, wisdom and guidance. So when you see Ted, tell him Thank You!



# Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2024

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<b>OPERATING FUND</b> December 29, 2023	\$7,623.02
+ Income	6,091.00
- Expenses and Payments	(8,331.58)
<b>OPERATING FUND</b> January 31, 2024	<b>\$5,382.24</b>

**Reserve Account** January 31, 2024 - \$35,536.01

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

*Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer*

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## In Memoria

### Frank Camarota

Long-time member Frank Camarota passed away on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Frank worked with his wife Jane in the Orchid Boutique at our annual show, for 32 years. Frank helped set up the Orchid Boutique display, sell raffle tickets, and repair items for sale. He tackled all his 'jobs' with energy and a smile. Frank and Jane worked together to develop their own orchid collection, most of which are permanently housed in the Bay Village Orchid Garden.

The family plans a "Celebration of Life" service at Bay Village of Sarasota on March 16. Contact Karen Mann for more information 203-232-6056.





**Welcome back to our northern members! As we all know, time flies quickly so mark your calendars for a few fun orchid related events coming this spring!**

Our **March 6, 2024** meeting theme is all things **SPRING!** Your donations of refreshments with a springtime feel, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, fruit type baked goods, etc... would be greatly appreciated and all those who bring a refreshment will receive a raffle ticket.

As we prepare our "Chids" for spring and dormant plants begin to awaken, now is a great time to clean up your growing areas. With that in mind we will be holding our annual **Member Plant Sale** in West Blalock Park on **Saturday March 23, 2024, from 9:00am-12:00pm.**

As in years past, each member must provide their own tables, chairs and items for sale. It may be divisions of older plants, pots and orchid items that you have outgrown or no longer need in your space. The items you sell are not solely orchids as all other types of plants are welcome. 😊 We will also be hosting a mini mounting class and repotting class compliments of VAOS members.

We are planning "**Show Them Where You Grow Them VAOS Style**". At this time, I am asking any members who may be interested in showing off their growing areas to other members for a tour day to please contact me at [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org). In order for me to facilitate creating a map to share with members on a Saturday in April. I am looking at the date of **Saturday April 13, 2024**. The deadline for participating members to show their space would be Friday April 5, 2024.

Those who are interested in touring please let me know by April 5, 2024, for me to complete the maps and make this a great event. You will be responsible for providing your own transportation.

Any updates on the above can be found on our Facebook page and on our website once confirmed. Any questions; contact Denise at [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org).

Looking forward to a fun springtime of all things Orchid!

*Submitted by Denise Langman, VP Social*



# Spring Member Plant Sale

Mini mounting and repotting classes at  
10:00AM and 11:00 AM for those who are  
interested.

**23 MARCH, 2024**

**9:00AM-12:00PM**

**Anyone planning on selling their plants, divisions or orchid related items  
must register by March 20, 2024.**

**Register by emailing Denise at [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org)**

**Please bring your own table, chair and anything else you may need to sell  
your items. VAOS has only secured the place, date and time for this event.**

**West Blalock Park  
401 Pensacola Road  
Venice, FL 34285**

# Venice Area Orchid Society

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

**February 1, 2024**

7:01 Joana Shaw welcomed everyone and reminded that it is show weekend.

Aslan Koch, our speaker, has plants to sell.

7:04 Judy Loeffler gave show update. Reminder that all volunteers should enter through the back door. Reminder to leave your plants for the show plants with tags tonight. Please wear your name tags and see the committee member at the door to be advised as to where you should go. If you provide food for the kitchen, you will have free admission. If you are volunteering, you will be provided a tie-died tee shirt the day of the event.

On Friday morning, 10am – 12pm, please no talking until after the SILLs lecture in the main hall is over.

Still have some needs for volunteers: 3 more clerks with or without experience, and someone to take down the signs on Monday. We are also in need of 3 large coolers.

Floor restrictions this year due to the new flooring will be rubber wheels only. If you have any questions, see Carol or Judy.

There is still a need for more food for Sunday, big bowls for serving salads as well. Lunch will be served on Friday for those volunteering for set up. There will be tables in the Orchid Boutique room for breaks and eating.

During our show if you are asked a question by a guest that you cannot answer, send them to the Membership table to Ian and his crew. Magazines are still needed for the membership table as well. They will be sold for \$1.00.

Please pick up your display plants on Sunday at 4:30. .

7:15 Joanna thanked Judy and Carol for all the hard work and the update.

Reminder that Englewood show is February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a tabletop display for that show.

Mary Anne from Englewood asked that you take postcards and promote their show on your social media.

7:20 Ian Kennedy took the floor to address our upcoming annual election. Joanna Shaw is completing her term as president. Judy Loeffler has been nominated for incoming President.

Four officers have agreed to stay on to complete their four year term:

Stephanie Luburger – Communications Director

Vicki Fisher – VP Programs

Kristin Shaw – VP Displays

Ian Kennedy - Treasurer

## Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page

7:28 Vicki Fisher gave Bio on Alan Koch – he owns and operates Gold Country Orchids and specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing in 1969. He has moved five times as his obsession for orchids grew. The last move was to his 10 acres of land in Lincoln, California. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature compact and Cattleya breeding.

8:20 Joanna and Vicki went through the plant table of the night's plants brought in for judging.

8:31 Natasha called the raffle for the night.

8:52 Raffle ended- Good night see everyone over the weekend.

*Submitted by Michele Baker, Recording Secretary*



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hi everyone, this is my last message to you as President as my term is completed. It's been an interesting four years!. To put things in perspective, my very first official task as president in March 2020 was to decide when to shut down due to the impending pandemic. ☹️ That seems so long ago and I have pushed those memories so far out of my mind it seems like a lifetime ago! Our strong society survived the shutdowns and is just as vibrant today as it was 4 years ago! Thanks to our Board, and especially to Jay Loeffler who really planned and implemented our virtual meetings and kept us engaged during those couple of years. Thanks to all of you and your patience as we worked through the logistics of reopening and masking. I'm so grateful we did not have any major drama and political battles, we just did the best we could and so did you. I thank all of you for that. Otherwise, I'm happy to say it was a fairly easy four years.

We have an amazing Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated individuals who give their energy to the Orchid Society to keep it running smoothly. All I really had to do was hold the rudder and try not to break anything! Although the name of the president is changing, the overall leadership is not. It really is a team effort.

Thank you everybody, it's been an honor!

Joanna Shaw, outgoing president



## VAOS SHOW DISPLAY

Well, my favorite weekend has come and gone, yet again. We had a another successful and fun show at the community center.

Our display team did a beautiful job, with what I considered to be a difficult theme. As always, getting started was the hardest part, but we got it. Thanks to some beautifully grown plants I think we built a great display. We had some challenges creating height, but in the end we filled the display with a diverse selection of orchids, and greenery.

The star of the show was a dendrobium grown by Irene Bozogan, which won several trophies, including best in show, which often goes to a vendor grown plant, and a cultural award from the AOS judges! Great growing!

While only placing second, the display garnered may ribbons and trophies, and everyone who submitted plants and helped out should be very proud of what we accomplished. Now, on to Englewood!

Thank you to everyone who helped, submitted plants, and offered words of encouragement.

*Submitted by Kristin Shaw, VP Displays*









## **VAOS AOS Certificate, Trophy & Ribbon Awards**

Three AOS certificates, six trophies and 45 ribbons were awarded to VAOS Members.

### **AOS Certificates**

Natasha Romero	AOS Artistic Certificate, Arts & Crafts – Ceramics, 82 points, White Fantasy AOS Artistic Certificate, Arts & Crafts – Sculpture, 83 points, Green Orchid
Irene Bozogan	AOS Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM), Den. Cherry Dance

### **Trophies**

Irene Bozogan	Best in Show- Den. Cherry Dance Best Dendrobium – Den. Cherry Dance John Roche Memoria Award, Most Outstanding Plant by VAOS Member - Den. Cherry Dance Jack Severson Memoria Trophy, Best Small Cattleya – Rth. Fuchs Orange Nuggett
Janet Keown	Dodi Sullivan Memorial Award, Best Vanda – Angcm. Alabaster 'Williamsburgh 76' AM/AOS
Joanna Shaw	Best Specimen Hybrid – C. Carol Easton "New Horizon"

### **Ribbons**

Sherry Beck	1 Blue, 1 Red
Rick Belisle	1 Blue
Irene Bozogan	3 Blue, 1 Yellow
Marilyn Dedyne	1 Yellow
Nancy Dettling	1 Blue
Vicki Fisher	4 Blue, 2 Red, 2 Yellow
Naoki Kawamura	1 Red, 1 Yellow
Janet Keown	2 Blue, 1 Yellow
BiBiche Knauf	1 Blue, 1 Red
Denise Langman	2 Blue, 1 Red
Gunther Lobisch	1 Yellow
Judy Loeffler	1 Red
Tony Nacinovich	1 Blue, 2 Red, 1 Yellow
Dottie Sedlack	1 Blue
Joanna Shaw	2 Blue, 2 Red, 1 Yellow
Kristen Shaw	1 Blue, 1 Red
Irene Thimm	1 Blue, 1 Red
Stephen Wiener	2 Blue



## Congratulations Irene!

Irene Bozogan was awarded not one, not two, not three but four trophies at the VAOS show. We believe that this is a VAOS record!!!!

Three of her trophies were for her Dendrobium Cherry Dance, pictured above. They were Best in Show, Best Dendrobium and Most Outstanding Plant by a VAOS Member.

Irene also received an AOS Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) for this plant.

Her fourth trophy was for her plant Rth. Fuchs Orange Nuggett winning the Best Small Cattleya trophy. Irene tells us that she almost did not enter this plant, a reminder to all of us that you just never know if your plant might win a trophy or ribbon!



## March Growers Clinic – Orchids 201- Pots, Media, Repotting & Tools

### March 14th

The March Growers Clinic will start 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! Then, since last month the team presented “Orchids 101 – Basic Orchid Care”, this month, it’s the follow-up! Rick & the team will present **“Orchids – 201” and will get into specifics on Pots, Media, Repotting & Tools** required for a successful repotting project. Guests are welcome. 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.

*Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education*

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## 2024 VAOS Membership Dues

Each year we review our membership list and purge the names of people who have not renewed. What this means is that they will be removed from our distribution lists and will no longer receive our emails and newsletters.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership but would like to, mail your \$20 check to: VAOS P.O. Box 443 Venice FL 34284 or pay at the next monthly meeting on March 6<sup>h</sup>, either by check or cash. You can also pay by Zelle, from your online bank account:

[VAOSMoney@gmail.com](mailto:VAOSMoney@gmail.com)

**Be sure to describe the purpose of your payment in the memo field of the Zelle transaction.**

If you joined or renewed on or after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 you are paid through 2024.

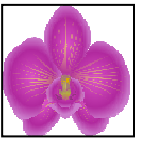
This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information - phone and email address. If your contact information has changed, please notify Ian & Karen Kennedy, Membership Chairs, at:

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

*Submitted by Ian & Karen Kennedy, VAOS Membership Chairs*



## Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



### MARCH

- Preventive spray for Thrips
- Repot your dormant plants: catasetums, calanthes, and soft cane dendrobiums
- Repotting of cattleyas, oncidiums, hard cane dendrobiums, etc. continues
- Watch lighting as the sun gets higher creating longer growing days.

And, of course, cleaning up your growing area and plants by removing dead leaves helps keeping 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.

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### February Growers Clinic Recap

WOW! Our February, 8, 2024 Growers Clinic was jam-packed and took up virtually all of the allotted time leaving very little for the, thankfully, few Orchid ER “patients”. Approximately 50 members and guests showed up for the **Basic Orchids – 101** class. Attendees ranged from brand-new members, who joined at our recently-held show and sale, to more seasoned veterans, who came to reinforce and/or further expand their knowledge. There were many great questions from the group that generated various solutions, perspectives and a wealth of “knowledge transfer” from the team of Rick Belisle, Richard Ho, Vicki Fisher, Stephanie Luburger, Naoki Kawamura and John Masters. For those who might have developed “writers’ cramp” while taking notes, we have created the “Orchids -101 Cheat Sheet” and placed it on our VAOS website under the VAOS Publications tab.

*Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Education & Training*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 2-3** Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show  
Info: [fafie328@aol.com](mailto:fafie328@aol.com)

**March 6** (1st Wednesday) General Meeting,  
Venice Community Center. Speaker: Rick  
Belisle Topic: Welcome to the VAOS

**March 8-10** Palmer Orchids Open House

**March 14** (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic,  
Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Basics:  
Pots, Media, Repotting, Tools

**March 22-24** Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Show,  
Naples, FL. Info: [jlongwell1@comcast.net](mailto:jlongwell1@comcast.net)

**March 23** VAOS Member Plant Sale at West  
Blalock Park. See flyer in this newsletter

**April 3** (1st Wednesday) General Meeting,  
Venice Community Center. Speaker: Tomas,  
Tarzane Group Topic: Giant World of Miniature  
Orchids

**April 5-7** Apopka International Spring Orchid  
Festival & AOS Spring Meeting at Krull-Smith  
[www.krullsmith.com](http://www.krullsmith.com)

**April 11** (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic,  
Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic:  
Dividing & Repotting, Hands On Potting Clinic

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

**Next meeting:**  
**March 6th**

## **Contact Us**

**Venice Area Orchid Society**

**PO BOX 443**

**Venice, FL 34284-0443**

## **President**

**Joanna Shaw** [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

## **Membership**

**Ian & Karen Kennedy**

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

**Visit us on the web at**

[www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

**Visit our Facebook Group at**

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

