

Newsletter

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April 2024

# **General Meeting**

Wednesday April 3rd,2024

Doors Open: 6:30pm

**Venice Community Center** 

**Speaker: Tomas Bajza** 

**Topic: Miniature Orchids** 

To introduce myself — my name is Tomas Bajza and I am an orchid lover and addict.

I originally came to the USA from the Czech Republic and settled down in hot tropical Miami.

I adored orchids during my teenage years, but at that time there were not many to see in my country. My orchid beginnings were funny and sad, all at the same time. I managed to obtain few orchid plants back in Czech, two Phalaenopsis plants, and one Cymbidium plant. I had neither knowledge nor options to do some research (the Internet was really not present), so I grew as I felt. That approach was of course totally wrong. My poor Phals were over-watered constantly and kept by the window right above the heating, so the humidity was at zero. They must have hated me all these years as they were suffering and barely surviving, but I got at least one spike once, before they both went to orchid heaven.

My Cymbidium was even "better". That sucker did nothing except grow leaves for years. Then I went to college and moved out of the house, completely forgetting about the plant. Once I came back home in the fall, my mother called me outside to our courtyard, when I got there, she pulled out from behind the Oleander bush my forgotten Cymbidium with absolutely amazing long spike carrying some 40+ green waxy oleanders, and fertilized it with chicken poop when fertilizing my oleanders, that's it!"



# April Events

April 3
General Meeting

April 11
Growers Clinic

April 13 Member Orchid Growing Area Tour

#### **Quick Links:**

**VAOS Officers** 

**Orchidresources** 

#### **Face Book Group**

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



Continued on next page

#### Tomas Bajza Bio Continued from previous page

I was laughing my a\*\* off about my over-caring this plant for so many years with no success while my mother just threw it outside behind the bushes. That's it, she gets the blooms!

Even though I am living in Florida surrounded by orchids, I got into serious orchid growing only over a decade ago, starting with the usual grocery store Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums, slowly adding Cattleyas and Vandas since these were the orchids that everyone in Florida grew! All of these were large orchids and mostly hybrids. I was constantly searching different online orchid forums and saw a post about Lepanthopsis astrophora — that was the very first time I had ever seen a miniature orchid. I had no clue that such a thing even existed! I fell totally in love and immediately ordered a few. When they came, they were even smaller than I ever imagined!

That was it, I've got bitten by a "huge" miniature orchid bug — and in the past years I was fortunate enough to collect hundreds of micro and miniature orchid species, many of them pretty rare. I am a very stubborn grower — I do not listen to anything, and I do not like the word "impossible". I like all orchids, but I do love a huge amount of cold or intermediate growing species. Many growers in Florida told me that I cannot grow these here, because it is too hot, or they are too hard to grow. I do not believe any of this till I try things myself and either succeed or fail!

Through extended research, reading and being active on different orchid boards and in orchid groups, I've learned tremendously. I do not consider myself in any way an orchid expert, but someone once told me that a beginner orchid grower is someone who killed less than 10 plants, an advance orchid grower is someone who killed more than 100, and an orchid professional is someone who killed over 1000 and doesn't count anymore. By this yardstick, I do belong to advance growers.

I've been very fortunate with meeting and becoming friends with many international orchid growers and nursery owners. At the beginning, I bought only plants sold by US nurseries. Nowadays, nearly all of my orchids come from abroad. Buying orchids from US growers is safe and the majority of the plants come nicely established. Unfortunately, there are no species I am looking for offered by the US vendors anymore. I was really pushed to search and start my own importing because I could not just find any of the plants I wanted to own.

There is another "hobby" I do have, love for photography. With a growing miniature orchid collection, there were endless opportunities for taking the pictures of these amazing, sometimes microscopical blooms. Posting my pictures online caused quite a "buzz" leading to first invitations from various orchid societies to provide speeches for their members about growing miniature orchids and cold growing species in hot environment.

Here we are today. What used to be a "hobby" slowly grew to a small business that is expanding. We found out there are hundreds of growers, like me, searching for these hard to find, unusual, uncommon and rare micro and miniature orchids. Thankfully we can share our babies with the rest of the orchid world via our website and educate people interested in growing miniature and small orchids through my speech engagements across the USA. A number of my articles about miniature orchids were published in orchid magazines across the globe as well.

Doing what you love is the most rewarding thing in life!

**Tomas Bajza Tarzane Group** 

# ONLY VALID ON OUR WEBSITE TARZANORCHIDS.COM

### 18% OFF YOUR ORDER - USE CODE "VENICE2024"

#### Terms & Exclusions

Reusable Code
While supplies last
No minimum purchase
Only valid on our website
Cannot be used on previous orders
Code must be used during checkout
Cannot be combined with any other offer
Excludes Gift Cards, Taxes and Shipping
VALID UNTIL MARCH 31, 2024

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

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#### **VAOS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION**

At the March meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual meeting and election for open Board positions. Judy Loeffler was nominated in February to succeed Joanna Shaw as President and Michele Baker was nominated as Secretary to complete the term when Peggy Fahrenback resigned because of her move out of the area. The vote was unanimous for both Judy and Michele. They assume their new roles immediately.

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

Stephanie Luberger, Communications Director

Vicki Fisher, Vice-President – Programs

Kristin Shaw, Vice-President – Displays

Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

As Joanna Shaw completes her four year term we thank her for her leadership and dedication to VAOS!

## **Treasurer's Report**

#### February 29, 2024

OPERATING FUND January 31, 2024	\$5,382.24
+ Income	25,596.30
- Expenses and Payments	(6,597.98)
- Transfer to Reserve Account	(15,000.00)
OPERATING FUND February 29, 2024	\$9,380.56

**Reserve Account** February 29, 2024 - \$50,536.38

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

## **Membership Directory**

VAOS will be publishing our annual Membership Directory in late April. The directory includes member names, email addresses and phone numbers and is distributed via email to our members.

If you wish to opt out please contact Ian & Karen Kennedy, Membership Chair, at <a href="Memb@VAOS.org">Memb@VAOS.org</a>. The deadline to opt out is April 15<sup>th</sup>.





#### Show Them Where You Grow Them... Saturday April 13, 2024... 9:00AM- 1:00PM

We have three amazing growers, who are excited to share their growing areas and their orchid habitat with all of you. One in Venice, one in Nokomis and one in south Sarasota. Visit one or all during the tour.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page & watch for an email blast as the map of the growers' locations will be posted so you can choose one or all at your leisure.



Looking to lend a hand, do you have a few creative ideas you would like to share with your fellow orchid lovers? VAOS has created a *Refreshment Team* who will assist the Social Director at our monthly meetings. We need two people for each meeting to arrange the refreshment table, set up and clean up. Each monthly meeting has a theme which is reflected in the refreshments and table décor. Anyone willing to volunteer can contact me at <a href="Social@VAOS.org">Social@VAOS.org</a> or sign up at our April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Sign-up sheet will be available for each month so you can choose the months that work best for you.

We will orchestrate a quick training session and some brainstorming to enhance our Monthly Meetings social time. Looking forward to working with you!

Submitted by Denise Langman, VP Social

## **Show Them Where You Grow Them**

#### Saturday April 13, 2024

9:00am-1:00pm

Please join us for our member orchid growing area tour on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Three of our members will host a tour of their growing areas, one in Venice, one in Nokomis and one in south Sarasota. Visit one or all during the tour.

Monitor our Facebook page & watch for an email blast as the map of the growers' locations will be posted so you can choose one or all at your leisure.

Naoki Kawamura VAOS Vanda Specialist

4447 ViaDel Villetti Drive, Venice, FL

Type in "KAW" to find him in the directory and he will let you in.

Vicki Fisher Our Catasetum Specialist

305 Citrus Drive, Nokomis, FL 34275

Michael Mayers Bay Village of Sarasota

8400 Vamo Road, Sarasota, FL

Follow directional signs to garden area. VAOS Member Michael Mayers has created

this work of art for the residents to enjoy.

The tour is free and member guests are welcome. Hope to see you there!



#### **VAOS Monthly Meeting Minutes - March 6, 2024**

7:00 Ian Kennedy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Our March meeting is our annual meeting and election. Judy Loeffler was unanimously elected as President and Michele Baker as Secretary. Ian announced that three other board members had agreed to complete their four year terms: Kristin Shaw, VP Displays, Stephanie Luberger, Director, Communications and Ian Kennedy, Treasurer.

Judy then spoke and thanked her fellow show hosts Carol Wood, Denise Langman and Sara McCartney for making the show a success. Judy went on to thank all the others who took part in the show and mentioned all those members who helped. Judy advised that talks about next year's show were underway and that with some tweaking that it would be even better.

Rick Belisle presented the meeting program, "Welcome to VAOS". He covered all board positions and their duties. He showed slides with all of the board members' duties as well as our mission statement. He explained that we are a 501c3 not for profit, and that with that comes a lot of specific rules we have to follow. Rick advised that VAOS donates money to different avenues such as scholarships and educational and conservation efforts.

Rick gave the website information and advised that there was a lot of great information there for beginners and experienced growers as well. He also explained that we have a mentor program for individuals who wanted one on one help. He said that our organization has a vast amount of knowledge with our current board members and past presidents as well as our guest speakers.

Rick made a point to let everyone know that if you bring in any type of treat you will get a ticket for the raffle table. He explained that the raffle table was made up of items that were donated. Raffle ticket proceeds benefit the VAOS. Then he spoke of the plant table where ribbons are awarded by a team of member judges for the best plants. Rick announced that we will be adding a "newbies" category to the plant table for first year members.

Rick announced that we are holding our annual member plant sale on March 23 at Blalock Park just behind the Community center. There will be plants and other items for sale by members. Members need to provide their own tables and chairs and there will be classes offered as well. This is open to the public and there is no charge. Rick opened the floor to questions and then dismissed for break at 8:05.

8:20 The plants on the judging table were reviewed and ribbon winners were announced.

The raffle was completed and the meeting ended at 8:35. .

Submitted by: Michelle Baker
Recording Secretary

#### THANK YOU RICK BELISLE

The VAOS is fortunate to have many members who volunteer and dedicate their time and talents to our organization. One of them, Rick Belisle, deserves special recognition.

Rick serves as our Director, Training and Education. In this position he has multiple responsibilities including: the Growers Clinic, the Mentor Program, community outreach and class instructor and MC at our annual show.

Rick plans and coordinates our monthly Growers Clinic that involves scheduling and maintaining the calendar of programs, developing Power Pointe presentations, acquiring and organizing supplies for hands on demos, coordinating the Growers Clinic Team, and conducting Growers Clinic presentations, hands on demos and the "Orchid ER".

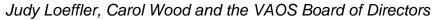
Rick coordinates our popular Mentor Program by recruiting VAOS expert growers as mentors, matching new mentees to mentors, conducting follow up and the awards ceremony for mentee graduates.

Rick has become a popular speaker in our community conducting presentations and training sessions for garden clubs and other organizations in an effort to inspire interest in orchid growing and the VAOS.

Rick is our class instructor at our annual show, conducting three sessions Saturday and Sunday on orchid growing basics and benefits to joining the VAOS. He serves as our MC and announces the hourly plant raffle at our show. We love how he holds the crowd in suspense as he slowly reads out the winning number!

Rick is active on the VAOS Board of Directors and provides valuable input and ideas for many initiatives. He is currently a member of the committee reviewing the VAOS Bylaws for update.

We appreciate Rick's leadership, his many contributions, and his enthusiasm. When you see Rick thank him for all he does for VAOS!









#### **EAOS SHOW**

Don't be sad that show season is over, be glad that the next one will be here before we know it! In all seriousness, it's always sad when the season ends, but we had fun.

Englewood once again had tabletop displays this year, which I enjoy. And having the displays next to one another is fun, seeing in real time what the others are doing.

The team consisted of myself, Rick Hindman, Denise Langman, Dawn Bozogan, Joanna Shaw, and the label team; Linda Schaller and Vicki Fisher.

We had a 6'x5' table top to work with. We started with white phals and cattleyas as our focal point, to pinks into purples on the right, yellows to oranges to the left. All centered around a beautiful piece of driftwood. As the theme was orchids by the sea, we accented the display with coconuts and shells generously lent to us by Dawn Bozogan and Joanna Shaw. And since we are based in the shark's tooth capital, a handful of shark's teeth in the front.

I also want to thank Jay and Judy Loeffler and Bruce Weaver for helping load the truck, moral support, and pep talks! And thanks to all who helped transport supplies, greenery and orchids. We are truly lucky to have such an active society with so many people willing to pitch in with their time and resource!

Thank you to all!

Submitted by Kristin Shaw, VP Displays





#### **ORCHID BOUTIQUE LOOKS TOWARD 2025**

The Orchid Boutique is a treasured, long time tradition of the annual VAOS show that showcases how cut orchids can be displayed and enjoyed. It is unique to the Venice show, offering floral arrangements and accessories for sale. Also, it manages an orchid plant basket raffle. Orchid Boutique raises over \$2000 each year which VAOS distributes to local and national orchid conservation projects.

Member Jane Camarota started the Orchid Boutique over 25 years ago. It has evolved into a favorite show destination, with a core of volunteers who invest their time and talents every year. Its leadership is changing, but selling unique floral arrangements and accessories is in its DNA. The team works all year attending yard sales, church bazaars and thrift shops in search of the perfect containers for floral arrangements or unique accessories. Orchid Boutique is already collecting vases/containers for the VAOS 2025 Orchid show.



# CAN YOU HELP US WITH ORCHID BOUTIQUE VASES/CONTAINERS NEEDED...VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**VASE DONATIONS**: The Orchid Boutique collects donations of vases and containers throughout the year to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind, boutique floral arrangements for our yearly Orchid Show. Usually, we use 60 or more vases/containers. Animal shapes are especially popular.

Each orchid vendor provides us with a variety of orchid stems before the show. The Orchid Boutique volunteer designers then choose a vase of their liking and make beautiful arrangements using the cut orchids and greenery. These arrangements are priced and sold at the show.





#### **ORCHID BOUTIQUE Continued**



The Orchid Boutique also designs and sells a fabulous raffle basket of orchids. Additionally, we make and give away flower bouquets for those who are handicapped when they come to the show. All proceeds support VAOS.

**VOLUNTEER**: To make our Orchid Boutique a success we always need volunteers! Whether you're interested in set up/take down, floral design, and sales, we always have a place for you to participate. We have scheduled shifts, at your convenience, whether you are interested in designing arrangements or helping with our setup on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, the days of the show, we need floral designers, sales people, and helpers to break down the Boutique area.

Join us. Together, we can make the Orchid Boutique at our VAOS 2025 Orchid Show the best ever!

Please call/text: Kathy Kee ((914-310-9732) or Karen Mann (203-232-6056) if you have a vase or container to donate or would like more infomation about volunteering! Thank you.



#### ADAM HERDMAN ORCHID CONSERVATION GIFT

The VAOS supports several organizations and projects dedicated to orchid education and conservation through annual financial gifts and donations. One of our donations this year has been made to Adam Herdman, University of Florida, in two forms: a \$1000 scholarship and a \$1500 donation to his research project on native Florida orchids, the Ghost Orchid and the Ribbon Orchid.

Adam entered the PhD program at UF this past fall. His paper on the Ribbon Orchid was published last year. He documented a huge decline in the orchid's population after Hurricane Irma which surprised all of us, but we hope that now more attention will be given to this lovely little orchid's conservation.

Adam Herdman was collecting more survey data on the Ghost Orchid in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Reserve, and also the Ribbon Orchid. These annual surveys provide confidence in the status of orchid populations within this region of the Fakahatchee Strand. We need annual long-term surveys to make accurate predictions on whether or not orchid numbers are stable, increasing, or decreasing. The early surveys suggest the latter (decreasing), but 10 years of data are needed for the most accurate model projections. We are nearing the decade mark (Year 9 for 2023). Adam has been able to collect yearly data even during COVID which we are grateful to him for.

Read Adam's thank you note and description of his research project on the following pages.





#### **Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**

Department of Environmental Horticulture

2550 Hull Rd. PO Box 110670 Gainesville, FL 32611

Greetings and Happy New Year!

It is with sincere graditude that we thank the wonderful people at the Venice Orchid Society for their support of the sciences and research at the University of Florida.

My name Is Adam Herdman and I recently embarked on the journey to obtain my PhD at the University of Florida.. Although I have been Involved with orchid research since 2015, this was a great leap of faith and I am very fortunate to have the support of so many on this journey.



In 2016, under the mentorship of Dr. Lawrence Zettler, I was sent from the corn fields of Illinois to the swamps and sloughs of SW Florida to survey the populations of Ghost Orchid there. I remember at the time I was skeptical of the value In this work but was happy to take part as any undergraduate researcher would be. Over the course of the month of July we would wade Into the swamps with the gators, snakes, and get eaten alive by mosquitoes just to get to these small remnant populations. What I found out there was that In studying the Ghost Orchid, a appreciation for the delicate nature of the species was formed and a strong conviction for conservation solidified. After that first year out In the swamp I was hooked, and I would return to SW Florida every summer thereafter to study this species. During this time, I met Dr. Ernesto Mujica at Soroa Botanic Garden and Dr. Micheal Kane at the University of Florida, who

encouraged me to ask questions and to seek answers. Eventually, this lead me to apply to the University of Florida In order to continue the study of native orchid species, upon reflection of my path this was Inevitable.

Here at the University Of Florida things could not be going better, with the mentorship of Dr. Carrie Adams and Dr. Hector Perez I am In a position to really make things happen. The first semester of any graduate program Is often

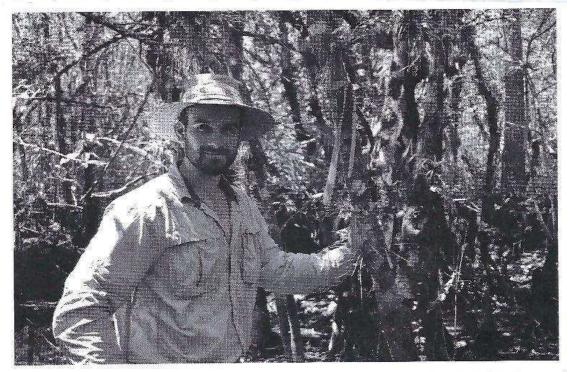


fraught with uncertianty and getting your footing, but the experience that has been brought together here at the University Of Florida has meant that we have quickly pulled together projects on the ghost orchid. On November 3rd, a workshop was held on the conservation efforts relating to the ghost orchid at the Naples Botanical Garden. I was lucky enough to present what was observed out at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge over my eight years of Involvement, and was surprised at how many land managers and academics were Interested In a

An Equal Opportunity Institution

collaboative conservation effort. I am extatic to report that because of this meeting we have redefined the projects that we were planning to persue.

Since this meeting we have been working hard to set up the groundwork that Is needed to make these projects happen. We have Partnered with Fernando Rocha and Dr. Jeremie Fant at the Chicago Botanic Garden to study the population genetics of the ghost orchid regionally. A major gap in the understanding of the ghost orchid lies with the genetics within the populations, and It was even mentioned In the petition for listing of the species. Recent reintroduction efforts have pointed towards trouble reproducing and may Indicate trouble with Inbreeding, we are seeking to broadly asses each population. More recently, we have received permits to collect ghost orchid seed to persue research on cryopreservation and niche breath. Cryopreservation Is essential to any conservation effort because building the techniques and bank of seeds will ensure preservation and quality of material for future research. Documenting the range of conditions that can affect growth of the seedlings through their life history will be Informative on future reintroduction attempts. When the time comes to grow plants In the greenhouse, we will be looking at how factors such as temperature, humidity, and light affect the growth of the species.



My time at University of Florida thus far has been exciting and I know that all of us here are looking forward to the possibilities that lay before us. What was obvious to me early on all the way back In 2016 was the fact that so many areas In conservation would not happen without the dedicated efforts of the people Involved, Indeed, In the case of the Ghost Orchid It is very much so the case, and It is because of overwhelming support from people like you that I am able to be here and will be continmuing research on the ghost orchid.

I would like to extend a most sincere thank you to the people of Venice Orchid Society and their support of research on orchids. I hope that I have made clear the Importance of the support and that I will have more good news to give you in the future!

Adam Herdman Graduate Assistant and PhD student University of Florida



#### **GROWERS CLINIC**

# April 11 Hands on Dividing & Repotting Clinic

This month is our popular demonstration of dividing and repotting an orchid. Special guest, **Jim Roberts of Florida Suncoast Orchids** and the VAOS Growers Clinic Team will lead a hands-on orchid repotting session. Jim will demonstrate how an orchid should be divided. Jim will also bring plants for sale.

Participants will be potting in different types of media as needed, including bark, LECA, lava rock and coconut husks. The Growers Clinic Team will explain the supplies, tools and planting media, demonstrate basic procedures, and share their tips

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:

- All plants must be removed from their pot and all old planting media and dead roots must be removed prior to the clinic
- 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 April Growers Clinic will end with our Orchid ER and free raffle. 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!

The repotting clinic starts at 7:00PM and will be held in room B in the ballroom. Enter through the community center front doors.

Come early! Jim Roberts, Florida Suncoast Orchids, will have orchids for sale between 6pm and 7pm.





#### **Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team**



#### APRII

Repotting of large collections continues.

Water heavily and well.

Don't forget to fertilize!

Spray for Thrips, and watch for mites.

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

For more detailed information consult the <u>Florida Orchid Growing: Month-by-Month</u> book by Martin Motes, PhD.

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education

### **March Growers Clinic Recap**

We had a full house of members and guests attending our March 14th, Thursday night's Growers Clinic. The evening started with a short mention of upcoming events with VAOS, Next was the Orchids 201 presentation, continuing deeper into specifics on pots and potting, media, and the tools as a follow up to last months Orchids 101.

The evening continued with our Orchid ER session. Richard Ho presented members plants with answers to specific issues for each plant. I am still amazed at the quality of plants our members bring in looking for information to improve their plants.

The evening concluded with a free raffle for orchid related item for the class participants. Janet Keown and Judy Loeffler pulled tickets and the winners picked a prize.

The Growers Clinic team for VAOS with Richard Ho, John Masters, Vicki Fisher, Judy Loeffler, Jay Loeffler, Janet Keown, Naoki Kawamura and Bruce Weaver have such a vast knowledge of orchids, it makes these clinics very informative and successful!

Submitted by Jay Loeffler, Director At Large



#### **READY FOR A ROAD TRIP?**

If you have never visited Sunken Gardens botanical garden in St. Pete it is worth the trip. Located 65 miles north of Venice it is located at 1825 4th St. N, about an hour and 10 minutes drive. On Sunday April 7th they will host their Orchid Festival from 10am—4pm. Orchids and supplies for sale, lectures, music and refreshments.

More info: www.SunkenGardens.org

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SUNKEN GARDENS'

# ORCHID FESTIVAL

SUN. APRIL 7 10 AM - 4 PM

Browse thousands of orchids for sale. Attend lectures by orchid experts. Stock up on orchid supplies and pottery, orchid art, and more!

Festival is free with Gardens' admission or membership. No pre-registration required.

#### SPECIAL GUESTS

RIC & SWIFFER'S HOYAS
JUNGLE GEM BROMELIADS

#### LECTURE SCHEDULE

10:30 AM

Cattleya Culture Bill Nunez

11:30 AM

Orchid Propagation

Winter Haven Orchids

12:30 PM

**Dendrobium Culture** 

Accent Orchids

1:30 PM

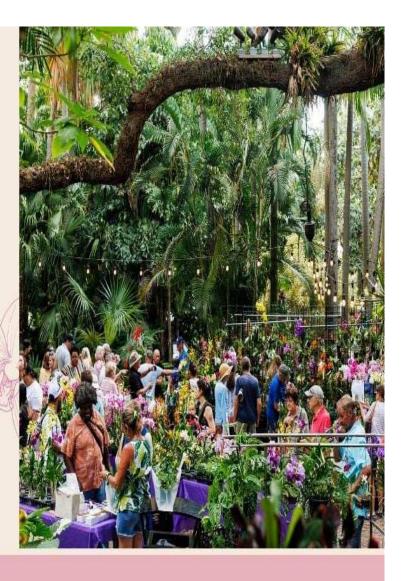
Repotting and Mounting

Art Stone Orchids

2:30 PM

Vanda Culture

Ashley Palmer Orchids



SUNKEN GARDENS

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 3** (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Tomas Bajza Topic: Miniature Orchids

**April 5-7** Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival & AOS Spring Meeting at Krull-Smith Info: www.krullsmith.com

**April 7** Sunken Gardens Orchid Festival, St. Pete. See article this newsletter

**April 11** (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, Topic: Dividing & Repotting Hands On Clinic with Jim Roberts. Plants for sale. See article this newsletter

**April 13** "Show Them where You Grow Them" Member orchid growing area tour. See article this newsletter

**May 1** (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speakers: Ti& Henry Khang Topic: Cymbidiums

**May 9** (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Orchid Pests

#### **ONGOING**

<u>Mentor Program</u>: help for new growers, contact Rick Belisle <u>Mentor@vaos.org</u>

#### **AOS JUDGING**

AOS Orchid Judging—Florida North Central Judging Center. Check Website for Schedule: Info:https://aosfncjc.wixsite.com/aosflorida-north-ce

# Next meeting: April 3

# **Contact Us**

Venice Area Orchid Society
PO BOX 443
Venice, FL 34284-0443

#### **President**

Judy Loeffler pres@vaos.org

### Membership

lan & Karen Kennedy

memb@vaos.org

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