

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

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

May 2024

**May 2024**

**General Meeting**

**Wednesday May 1st**

**Doors Open: 6:30pm**

**Venice Community  
Center**

**Speakers: Ti & Henry  
Khang**

**Topic: Cymbidiums**



Ti & Henery (Khang) Ho have always been around orchids and fascinated by them at an early age. Their love for orchids grew greater than ever as they grew older and given access to a greater diversity of orchids from around the world.

With backgrounds in microbiology and business administration, they founded Florida Orchid House nursery to explore and advance their passion for growing, hybridizing, and trading orchids. Their goal is to make available the varieties of orchids that are not easily found and grown by other growers. Currently, their focal point is set on the cultivation and breeding of Asian varieties including soft cane Dendrobiums and other orchids.

Florida Orchid House will have plants for sale.

## May Events

**May 1  
General Meeting**

**May 9  
Growers Clinic**

**May 17-19  
Redland Orchid  
Festival**

### Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchidresources](#)

**Face Book Group**

[https://](#)

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



# Treasurer's Report

March 29, 2024

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<b>OPERATING FUND</b> February 29, 2024	\$9,380.56
+ Income	656.00
- Expenses and Payments	(10,505.47)
- Transfer from Reserve Account	5,000.00
<b>OPERATING FUND</b> March 29, 2024	<b>\$4,531.09</b>

**Reserve Account** March 29, 2024 - \$45,536.74

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

*Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer*

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## Help Wanted

I am looking for a member with an accounting or office management background who can be a backup for me in taking care of the society's accounting books. This would not be a day to day commitment but a willingness to be familiar with our accounts and records and to give them a review periodically as a "second pair" of eyes. If you are interested, please write me at [iankennedytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:iankennedytreasurer@gmail.com). Thanks.

*Ian Kennedy, Treasurer*



## VAOS General Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2024

Judy Loeffler, President, started the meeting at 7pm with opening remarks. She described the meeting format and announced that plant table ribbons would now be awarded in seven categories including for newbies. The member plant sale at Blalock Park on April 13<sup>th</sup> was a success with a great turnout. Judy encouraged members to read the articles on Adam Herdman in the April newsletter. VAOS made a scholarship donation to Adam's PhD program and also a donation to his research program on Florida native orchids.

Judy reminded members to please donate vases and containers to the Orchid Boutique team for our 2025 show. She thanked the members who have volunteered to help with refreshments at our monthly meetings. She thanked Rick Belisle for his presentation at our March meeting on the VAOS.

The "Show Them Where You Grow Them" tour will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Judy thanked Michael Mayers, Vicki Fisher and Naoki Kawamura for hosting this year's spring tour. The April 11 Growers Clinic will be a hands-on demonstration of orchid dividing and repotting conducted by one of our favorite growers, Jim Roberts, FloridaSunCoast Orchids. Come early at 6pm as Jim will have plants to sell.

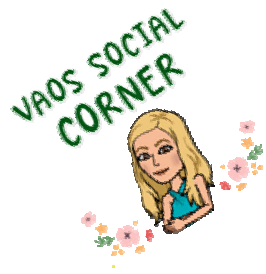
Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education, and head of the VAOS Mentor Program, awarded pins to four mentee graduates.

Vicki Fisher introduced our speaker, Tomas Bajza, who presented "Miniature Orchids". His presentation was very well received with many members excited to try his approach to growing miniatures.

Following the refreshment break, Joanna and Kristin Shaw presented the plant table. Natasha Romero and Martha ran the raffle and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.







What a busy spring we have had at VAOS. Our **member plant sale** held in Blalock Park was a wonderful way to clean out our growing areas to make way for new acquisitions. Special Thanks to Stephanie Luburger and John Masters for sharing their experience with potting and mounting during the event. Even though we had to switch days at the last minute due to an oversight on behalf of the Venice Recreation Department, it worked out perfectly as the weather was gorgeous on sale day! Thanks to all the members who participated in our spring sale. A picture says a thousand words so here are a few “words” in pictures...







**Member Plant Sale Blalock Park March 24th**

## Social Corner Continued

What an overwhelming response to the **Show Them Where You Grow Them** event held on April 13, 2024.

Our first stop on the tour was to **Michael Mayers at Bay Village**. We had the greatest opportunity to view his on-going work in progress. The idea was planted by one of our long-time members Jane Camarota, a VAOS member for 25 years and a resident of Bay Village for 10. She requested that I tell the members that “she is missing everyone”.

Once Michael began attaching the resident’s gifted orchids to the trees around the pond and garden it became a labor of love. One that he enjoyed doing as well as one that others can enjoy for years to come. Another sweet lady we happened to meet was also a long-time orchid enthusiast learning the ways of Florida orchids through volunteering at a greenhouse in Bradenton many years ago. Tam Kenyan, 91 years young, assists Michael to keep the growing orchids at their optimal levels by trimming and weeding the gardens. Spectacular work Michael, Jane & Tam!!!

Our next stop was to **Vicki Fisher’s “Catasetum Heaven”** where we saw so many different orchids in various stages of growth. Her shade houses and under her tree were filled with some of the most interesting varieties of orchids and cacti. It is very clear how she is our catasetum specialist within VAOS! Great growing Vicki!

Our final stop was to see VAOS’ **“Vanda King” Naoki Kawamura**. Naoki has beautifully set up custom aluminum racks to hang his extraordinary collection. So many blooms in such variety. It was an honor to have been invited to his home.

To all our Member Growers who opened their home and collections to us we are extremely grateful to have seen the how behind your blooms! Each one grows their orchids in totally different ways, all very beautiful, but also unique to each grower. This shows us that where you grow is a signature of you and the many lessons learned along the way through our meetings, speakers, clinics and socialization among our VAOS family. Thank You All!

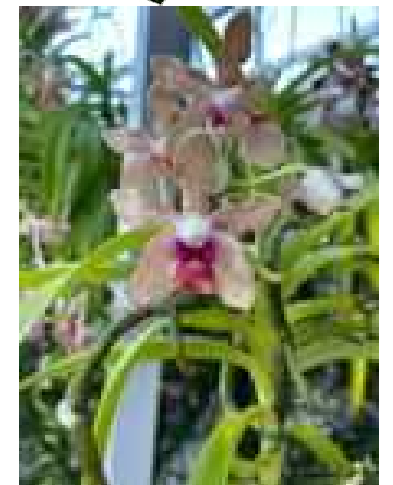
We look forward to many more “Show Them Where You Grow Them” events soon. Please keep an eye on your newsletters for future opportunities to Show Your space!

On another note; I would like to personally thank the following members for volunteering for our **refreshment committee**; Jennifer Gardner, Kelly McWilliams, Joan Piper & Dawn Bozogan. Sare McCartney & I welcome your assistance and ideas to help to make our meetings fun and innovative.

*Respectfully Submitted, Denise M Langman, VP Social VAOS*

Photos from our **Show Them Where You Grow Them** appear on the following page.







## May 9<sup>th</sup> Growers Clinic

The May 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 we will highlight a slide presentation on “**Orchid Pests**”. Learn to identify common pests and how to treat them. 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*







## Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



### MAY

- Be aware of air circulation - longer, hotter days.
- Finish repotting of various genera.
- Water well, as needed, when dry. Be aware of rainy season if growing outdoors.
- Initiate preventive spray fungicide if heavy rains.

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

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

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## April 2024 Growers Clinic Recap

Thursday, April 11, was indeed a special evening for the 75+ members who attended **the Dividing and Repotting Clinic**. First off, every attendee received a raffle ticket for orchid-based goodies. Then, we were treated to an awesome presentation on Dividing & Repotting by our long-time VAOS Show & Sale exhibitor, and VAOS member, Jim Roberts, from Florida Suncoast Orchids.

Jim arrived early so as to offer a selection of his wonderful plants for sale as well. What added to the fun was that one of the attendees had mentioned that she was not yet a member and wanted to join our club. An application form was produced, she filled it out, and paid her membership dues on the spot. Mention of this was made during the class opening comments at which time Jim Roberts surprised her, and everyone, by giving her an orchid as a “Welcome Gift”! Jim then gave a very informative “Show ‘n Tell” which was laced with many of his personal observations from so many years in the business. The class then got busy, under the watchful eyes of the Growers Clinic Team who answered questions and made suggestions, in the potting and repotting of their orchids. There were many big smiles and nods of satisfaction with the ensuing results.

The Orchid ER had an easy night with only 3 “patients”, each of whom was “treated and released” to recover at home. Join us next month for our discussion and class on Orchid Pests.

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

## From My Kitchen Studio ..... Jay Loeffler

In photography, it's not just what you shoot that counts – the way that you shoot it is crucial, too. Poor photo composition can make a fantastic subject dull, but a well-set scene can create a wonderful image from the most ordinary of situations. These are some of the best photography tips I found from the internet.... so it has to be true.

You do not have to remember every one of these rules and apply them to each photo you take. Take a little time learning each one in turn. You will learn to apply the different rules for the best effect.

There are all sorts of theories about the 'Rule of Thirds' but if you pay too much attention to strict formulas, your photos will lose any kind of spontaneity.

Working with subjects and scenes requires a more open-minded approach. What works for one photo does not necessarily work for another.

The decisions you make about composition can affect the way a shot looks and how people perceive your photos

Over the next few months I'll share tips I have found to help with your photos.



Continued next page



# Photo Composition Tip 1: Simplify the scene

When you look at a scene with your eye, you quickly pick out subjects of interest. But the camera doesn't – it captures everything in front of it, which can lead to a cluttered, messy picture with no clear point.

What you need to do when choosing your subject, select a focal length or camera viewpoint that makes it the centre of attention in the frame. You can't always keep other objects out of the picture, so try to keep them in the background or make them part of the story.

1 - Move in close to cut out other parts of the photo.

2 - Silhouettes and shapes make for strong subjects.



## Venice Orchid Project

Several years ago we started putting orchids in the trees at the Monty Andrews Arboretum at Blalock Park. These were not there for temporary display but we intended the plants to persist and become naturalized in the park setting. After 5 years we are happy to announce that over 50% of the plants have become "regulars" on the trees (mainly Oaks) in the park and we have begun adding a new garden at the entrance Gazebo at Selby Gardens Spanish Point Campus.

Donations have been the primary source for our stock and many of these have been cast-offs. The first thing to do is re-pot or re-mount the orchids, add fertilizer as needed and get them back to an active, root producing state. Once new growth is detected, many of these pitiful specimens are attached to trees and with moderate care, begin a new life as "naturalized" gems!

We have a good source of coconut fiber which is used on top of the root mass to cover and firmly attach the plant to the tree trunk with staples. Within three years the staples rust away, the fiber degrades and the orchid appears as it would in the jungle. Most of these plants have never been watered or fertilized, so growth is slow and flowering is modest. Yet, they persist and give hope that many more can follow.

Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and Encyclias are the best at adapting, but we have had Schomburkias, Broughtonias and Dendrobiums do well in various mediums. Some plants have done well in Palm boots, while some bloom regularly in old rotten stumps. D.aggregatum, and B. nodosa are easy as well, providing bright yellow and sweet scented evenings.

Many thanks to Orchid Envy for lots of our starter plants, Jay and Judy Loeffler for materials and advice and many of our members for donating their old and worn out plants that may go on to Immortality in the trees of Venice Parks!

*Submitted by Bruce Weaver, Director At Large*

Photos of some recent bloomers in Blalock Park appear on the following page.





**Venice Orchid Project  
Blalock Park**



**REDLAND**  
INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

**FOOD &  
MUSIC &  
ORCHIDS**

**MAY 17-19, 2024**

[www.redlandorchidfestival.com](http://www.redlandorchidfestival.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**May 4-5** Miami Beach Orchid Society, Orchids & Arts Festival. Info: mbgarden.org

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

**May 17-19** Redland Orchid Festival. See flyer

**June 5** (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Thanh, Spring Water Orchids. Topic: Paphiopedilums

**June 13** (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Orchid Diseases

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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:** [www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx](http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx)

**Next meeting:**

**May 1**

## Contact Us

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**Venice, FL 34284-0443**

## **President**

**Judy Loeffler** [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

## **Membership**

**Ian & Karen Kennedy**

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