



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

April 2025

April 2025 General Meeting

Wednesday April 2nd

Doors Open: 6:30pm

Venice Community
Center

Speaker: Bret Ullery

Topic: Orchids 101 - Basic Orchid Care



Born in Kansas City, MO in 1961, Bret's love of orchids began in February 2006 when he gave his wife Ruth her first orchid, a lime green hard cane dendrobium. After that they joined the Florida West Coast Orchid Society, a month later they attended their first orchid auction, and 26 plants later the passion had begun.

With more than 8,000 orchids now, they own Accent Orchids. He and Ruth, started their business in 2012 with their nursery in the backyard. Bret built all their shade houses that hold their orchids.

Bret has been the president of the Tampa Bay Orchid Society and is currently the president of the Florida West Coast Orchid Society. His love to educate people is his motivation. He currently gives presentations on Dendrobiums, Schomburgkias, Grammatophyllums and watering systems. You can follow Accent Orchids on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/AccentOrchids>, to see what's recently happening with him and Accent Orchids. If you have any questions, call him at 813-299-8834 or email bretullery@gmail.com.

Bret and Ruth will have plants for sale.

April Events

April 2
General Meeting

April 10
Growers Clinic

April 26
Member Plant Sale

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

Face Book Group

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





Englewood Area Orchid Society

Presents.....

"SHINE BRIGHT LIKE AN ORCHID"

Orchid Show & Sale

\$5 admission fee

**April 5th & 6th, 2025
10am - 5pm**

**Englewood Sports Complex
1300 S River Rd, Englewood FL**



EAOS ORCHID SHOW APRIL 5-6

Two down, one to go! Englewood's show is rapidly approaching. The show will take place April 5th and 6th with set up on Friday the 4th. This show will not have AOS judging, so we have decided to enter a table top display. I would be honored to be allowed the use of some blooming orchids.

If you would like to display your plants, they can be brought to our April 2nd meeting. Or if that is too early, they can be brought to the Englewood Sports Complex on River Rd Friday morning. As of right now, we are looking at a 10am start time. Another option is to bring them to my house directly on Thursday. The address is 1541 Poinciana Rd Venice, FL 34293. I can be reached at krispie180@gmail.com or 484-707-8674.

Further information will be sent out via email blasts as we get closer to the show. Anyone interested in helping set up, and transportation of supplies can also contact me at the above email and phone number. I will send a set up email with more information as we get closer. We aren't renting a truck this time, as we won't need as many supplies, so volunteers with vans and or SUV's are a plus.

Thanks in advance

Kristin Shaw, VP Displays





Spring Member Plant Sale

Saturday April 26, 2025

West Blalock Park

401 Pensacola Road

Venice, FL 34285

Hours: 9:00am- 12:00pm

Members planning on selling their plants, divisions or orchid related items must register with Denise by April 21, 2025. If you are not registered in advance you will not be allowed to sell your items.

Register by emailing Denise at Social@vaos.org

If you plan to sell anything you will be responsible for bringing 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.

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



March 20, 2025



VAOS Potluck Dinner & Orchid Bingo Monday March 17, 2025, was an awesome way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day VAOS style! The food was plentiful and so delicious. The newest members had an opportunity to meet other members in a more relaxed setting.

The Orchid Bingo was so much fun with so many orchid prizes for our members to nurture into maturity. Our centerpiece raffles were a beautiful way to enjoy the beauty of our hobby while amidst our fellow members for dinner. Special mention to **Sara McCartney** for all her assistance in creating this event. **Natalie McKinney** of **Orchid Envy** for the centerpiece orchids. **Kelly McWilliams** and all the members who helped with the post event clean up! What amazing teamwork. (See photos)

Here is "What's Happening" in our society over the next few months. As with any event, it takes the participation of all our members to enjoy all VAOS has to offer.

VAOS Annual Member Plant Sale, Saturday April 26, 2025, 9:00AM-12:00PM (note the date change) at West Blalock Park, directly behind VCC. If any member is interested in selling their personal plants, supplies or other gardening items, please sign up at social@vaos.org by April 21, 2025. You will be responsible for your own table, chair and set up. Set up may begin at 8:15am in the center of the park under the oak trees. Sign up in advance to secure your spot. (See Flyer)

VAOS Member Show Them Where You Grow Them Saturday May 3, 2025 is a great way to see how other growers in our society care for their "Chids" in their own environments. If interested in being on our tour map this year, please contact Denise at social@vaos.org for information. (See Flyer)

Any questions or ideas about our social events can be directed to Denise at **Social@VAOS.org**.

Looking forward to an exciting SPRING!!!!

Respectfully submitted

Denise M Langman

VP Social VAOS





MARCH GROWERS CLINIC RECAP

A lively, spirited and fun group of new as well as seasoned members and guests attended Thursday night's Growers Clinic. The evening started at 6:00PM with a return of the Growers Clinic Social Hour. Several members attended bringing a variety of delicious snacks and goodies to share. Hopefully, as the word gets out, more will attend future social hours, the next one being on April 10. Janet Keown was kind enough to bring in a selection of mounting materials "free for the taking". Thank you, Janet!

We then continued the night with the Orchids 201 presentation, delving a bit deeper into specifics on pots and potting, media, and the tools required to continue down the path to becoming "orchid growers". The Orchid ER session, had a relatively small number of "patients" in which many of the diagnoses spurred further and deeper discussions and morphed into other areas resulting in some excellent teaching and, more importantly, learning opportunities! After all, isn't that the focus of the Growers Clinics? To learn? Overall, the team of Rick Belisle, Richard Ho, Janet Keown and Ian Kennedy put together another fun and successful evening!

Key take-aways from the Orchids – 201 discussion or...

"Questions to ask yourself before potting/repotting/mounting an orchid":

What **TYPE** of orchid is it?

What **SPECIFIC CARE** will it need ie, light, water, etc.?

What type of **POT/MOUNTING** will be used?

What type of **MEDIA** will be used?

The answers to these questions will guide you to selecting the best materials and process which, ultimately, will lead to a happy, healthy plant and satisfied grower!





Treasurer's Report

February 28, 2025



OPERATING FUND January 31, 2025	\$5,047.40
+ Inflows	23,395.00
+/- Transfers to/from Reserve Account	(3,000.00)
- Outflows	(6,682.14)
OPERATING FUND February 28, 2025	\$18,770.26

Reserve Account February 28, 2025 - \$32,540.18

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

VAOS 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 Chairs, at Memb@VAOS.org. The deadline to opt out is April 15th.



April Culture Tip

Cymbidium

Those of us with Cymbidiums have plants that should be putting on a spectacular show. Adjust all staking and twist-ties and be on the lookout for aphids, slugs and snails. Give adequate water because flowering strains the plants. As new growths appear later, increase the nitrogen level in the fertilizer. Should a plant look healthy but not be blooming, try increasing the light during the next growing season. The number-one reason for no flowers in this wonderful genus is lack of light.



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



APRIL

- 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 removing 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

General Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025

7:05 Judy welcomed everyone and asked to silence their phones.

Welcomed new members and gave a short overview of how our meetings are run.

7:08 Denise took the microphone to announce the upcoming pot- luck on March 17, 2025.

It will start at 5:00, then we will play Bingo after we are done eating. She then explained we are having a plant sale coming up in April. It is a sale for members to bring their own plants to sell. Coming up in May we will be having a show them where you grow them event. This is where we have a few of our growers allow us to come to their homes and see their personal collections.

7:12 Judy announced that Dr. Larry Zettler's book is now available on amazon for \$26. It is on Saving Orchids, species survival in the changing world. It has a note that we helped to publish it.

Englewood is still having their show on April 5-6 located at 1300 River Rd, at the Englewood Sports Complex. April 4th will be set up for a small display. If you have a blooming plant you would like used drop it off at the complex Friday morning. This is a non-AOS judged event.

Our grower's clinic is on March 13th and we are doing something new this time with a tailgating prior. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Our clinic will be at 6 pm in room F. Feel free to bring a plant you may be concerned about.

7:15 Judy welcomed Rick Belisle to explain how our VAOS organization is set up and explain all of the rolls that our board members play.

7:16 Rick took the floor-

8:00 Rick dismissed us for a break.

8:15 Judy asked everyone to take their seats.

Joanna and Vicki went over the plant table.

8:35 Don and Janet pulled tickets for the raffle.

9:00 Meeting adjourned



VAOS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

April 2, 2025

VAOS holds an annual meeting each year to elect new officers to the Board of Directors. This year our society will hold the annual meeting on April 2nd. In conjunction with our regular monthly meeting.

Board members are elected to a two year term and may serve an additional two year term. We have no board vacancies this year. Two directors have agreed to serve for two more years. They are:

Denise Langman, VP Social

Ian & Karen Kennedy, Membership Chairs

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

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Nominating Committee Chair

APRIL GROWERS CLINIC – HANDS ON REPOTTING CLINIC

The April 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 have a VERY special Growers Clinic! **Jim Roberts**, from **Florida SunCoast Orchids**, and one of our popular VAOS Show & Sale vendors, will be our Special Guest Speaker! Jim's presentation will focus on our popular Demonstration of Dividing and Repotting an Orchid. Shown will be potting in different types of media including bark, LECA, Lava rock and coconut husks. Jim and the Growers Clinic Team will explain the supplies, tools and planting media, demonstrate basic procedures, and share their tips of the trade. Jim will also have a selection of plants for sale. 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:

• **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. 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.

Come early! Join us for a social hour 6-7pm prior to the growers clinic.



Show Them Where You Grow Them

Please join us for our member orchid growing area tour on May 3, 2025.

If you are interested in showing other members your growing spaces/ greenhouses, contact Denise at Social@vaos.org, no later than April 21, 2025, 2025 to be included as a tour stop. Any member is eligible to “Show Them Where You Grow Them”.

Once all members are signed up, a tour guide will be released via email with directions to each location and times to view the growing areas, Members can then tour the areas at their leisure during the specified times. Visit one or all during the tour.

The tour is free and member guests are welcome.

As we all love our pets, please refrain from bringing them with you on the tour out of respect for each grower’s home.

SATURDAY MAY 9 AM-1PM
3
2025
www.vaos.org



Join Us in Welcoming Spring to Florida with the

Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival

April 11-13, 2025 • 9:00am-5:00pm

AOS JUDGING: 10:00am Saturday April 12 at Krull-Smith Nursery

**Featuring Top-Quality Speakers and Vendors
from Around the World**

- Orchids
- Hoyas
- Staghorn Ferns
- Exotic Tropical Foliage Plants
- Growing Supplies

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING!

Sponsored and Hosted by

Krull & Smith

Location: Krull-Smith Nursery

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

Tel: (407) 886-4134 • orchids@krullsmith.com • www.krullsmith.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Bret Ullery Topic: Orchids 101, Basic Orchid Care

April 5-6 EAOS Orchid Show & Sale, Englewood Sports Complex. See article

April 10 Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Dividing & Repotting Hands-on Clinic

April 11-13 Spring Orchid Festival at Krull-Smith, Apopka. See flyer

April 26 VAOS Spring Member Plant Sale, West Blalock Park. See flyer

May 3 VAOS Member Growing Area Tour. See flyer

May 7 General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Tomas Bajza Topic: Miniatures and Hot Climate Growing

May 15 Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Orchid Pests & Diseases

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:
April 2

Contact Us

Venice Area Orchid Society

PO BOX 443

Venice, FL 34284-0443

President

Judy Loeffler pres@vaos.org

Membership

Ian & Karen Kennedy

memb@vaos.org

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