

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

July/August 2025

July 2025 Joint Meeting at EAOS

Monday July 21st

Doors Open: 5:30pm

**St. Davids Episcopal
Church
401 S. Broadway
Englewood, FL**

**Speaker: Bret Ullery
Topic: Dendrobiums**



Bret and his wife Ruth own and operate Accent Orchids in St. Petersburg, FL. They started their business in 2012 and now grow more than 8000 orchids, specializing in dendrobiums.

Bret has served as president of the Tampa Bay Orchid Society and 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>. If you have any questions, call him at 813-299-8834 or email bretullery@gmail.com.

Note: VAOS will not have a meeting on July 2nd

July/August Events

**July 10
Growers Clinic**

**July 21
Joint Meeting at
EAOS**

**August 6
General Meeting**

**August 14
Growers Clinic**

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

Face Book Group

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



Note: VAOS will not have a meeting on July 2nd

JOINT MEETING WITH EAOS ON JULY 21ST

Every summer, when things slow down, we join our sister orchid society, the Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS), in joint meetings. In July EAOS will host the VAOS at their July 21th meeting. In August, VAOS will host EAOS at our August 6th meeting.

VAOS will not have a meeting on July 2nd.

Instead, we will join EAOS at their Monday, **July 21ST** meeting:

Location: St. Davids Episcopal Church

400 S. Broadway

Engelwood, FL

Doors open at 5:30pm. Meeting starts at 6pm

Speaker: Bret Ullery, Accent Orchids

Topic: Dendrobiums

Bring your donations for the raffle table and bring your blooming plants for the plant table awards.

On August 6th VAOS will host EAOS members at our monthly meeting with an Ice Cream Social.

Mark your calendars!



August 2025

General Meeting

With Our Guests EAOS

Wednesday, August 6th
Doors Open: 6:45pm
Venice Community Center

Speaker: Jim Roberts
Topic: Summertime and the
Growin' is Easy



Jim Roberts owns and operates Florida SunCoast Orchids in Myakka City, FL. He has been a regular speaker at our monthly meetings and a long time participating vendor in our annual orchid shows. Jim has been growing orchids over 25 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida. In 2001, he moved to Florida with a small collection of plants and the dream of operating an orchid nursery became a reality. He grows his beauties in three gutter connected greenhouses encompassing 10,000 square feet of growing space. As always, he strives to grow and sell the best quality orchid plants and to build a lasting reputation in the industry as one of the very best.

Jim's presentation topic, **Summertime and the Growin' is Easy**, will focus on growing orchids outside in our hot summers and will be of interest to both our year-round and seasonal residents.

www.floridasuncoastorchids.com

Jim will have plants for sale.



VAOS SOCIAL
CORNER



June 21, 2025



Here is to the hazy hot days of summer in SWFL. Many great social options to get your orchid fix are in the works for our locals as well as the planning for our seasoners return.

Our annual bus trip is filling up fast, do not lose your seat by waiting until the last minute to secure one. This event is open to VAOS, SAOS, EAOS as well as the Venice Garden Club.

Remember to check out our monthly meetings and grower's clinics for your bi-monthly orchid fix.

Below are a few upcoming events we would like to share so you can mark your calendars.

Save the Dates:

Wednesday August 6, 2025 Monthly Meeting as we host EAOS with our Ice Cream Social

Thursday October 9, 2025 Orctoberfest Annual Pot-Luck Dinner 5:00pm-9:00pm
Dinner and Orchid Bingo with great prizes.

Friday October 17, 2025 Redlands International Orchid Festival Bus Trip Fruit & Spice Park. 7:00am-7:00pm (See Flyer & Sign-up information)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Langman

VP Social VAOS





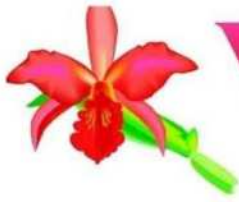
WELCOMES THE ENGLEWOOD
AREA ORCHID SOCIETY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Build your own
sundae**



Monthly VAOS Meeting
Wednesday
August 6, 2025
Doors open at 6:45 PM



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

VAOS Road Trip to Redland International Orchid Festival

Limited
Seating

Friday October 17, 2025

7:00AM-8:00PM

Departs Venice Community Center 7:00AM promptly.

Bus leaves Fruit & Spice Park at 4:00 PM promptly.

Sign Up
NOW

\$45 per person

Includes bus trip, festival ticket, snacks, and water. What a deal!

Driver gratuity will be collected during bus ride as it is not included in the cost of the trip.

Bring your own containers for storing your purchases.

There is a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 per person, which will apply to the price of your bus ticket, this is to reserve your seat.

Sign up with name and phone # by contacting Denise

Social@VAOS.org

Payments via check please note "bus trip" made out to: VAOS

Sent to: PO Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

or

Pay by Zelle: VAOSMoney@gmail.com

Deadline for all payments is October 1, 2025 firm.



www.vaos.org



social@vaos.org

July Growers Clinic – Mounting Orchids

The **July 10 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! The presentation will focus on naturalizing orchids by “**Potting Without Pots – Mounting Orchids**”. We’ll explore various ways to mount orchids on trees, shrubs, cedar planks, driftwood, and other surfaces. Members can/SHOULD bring: 1. a plant (properly prepared for mounting, i.e. unpotted and, basically, “bare root”) and, 2. the item (wood, shell, driftwood, etc.) for mounting. The VAOS will provide the moss/cedar mulch and black zip ties used in the mounting process. Members should remember to wear their VAOS Name Tags, please. There will be a Sign-in Sheet for guests. The Social Hour will again start at 6:00PM and the Growers Clinic will start at 7:00PM and both are held in Room F of the Venice Community Center. Park on the left (south) side of the building and enter through the side door.



August Growers Clinic - Cattleyas

The **August 14 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 the presentation will focus on the “**Culture Basics of Cattleyas**”. Members should remember to wear their VAOS Name Tags, please. There will be a Sign-in Sheet for guests. The Social Hour will again start at 6:00PM and the Growers Clinic will start at 7:00PM and both are held in Room F of the Venice Community Center. Park on the left (south) side of the building and enter through the side door.



May Growers Clinic Recap

Please accept my apologies for the delay in submitting this review. The May 15, 2025 Growers Clinic was well-attended and the 40-odd attendees walked away with a trove of useful information. The Social Hour was again popular with some new faces and a wide variety of snacks being enjoyed during some fun conversations and, above all, camaraderie. Then the main program began. Stephanie Luburger did her usual masterful job in discussing the ins and outs of identifying and controlling the pests and diseases that can adversely affect our favorite plants. Stephanie included many anecdotal examples from her own experience, which made for meaningful dialogue with the group. Also included was an eye-opening reference that all insects found in and around our orchids are not bad! Lacewings and Lady Bugs are actually good! They augment our work by feeding on many of the very pests we're trying to eliminate! Her positions of "Use 'Natural' products first, then, if needed, move onto the more lethal chemicals", and "Use only the 'Natural' products outside your greenhouses/pool cages so as to protect the pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.) and keep the more lethal products for use INSIDE your greenhouses/pool cages" were well-received. Of course, the ubiquitous cautionary statements of "Please Read and Follow Label Directions" were emphasized throughout the evening. Last, but not least, luckily, our Orchid ER had a relatively slow night, with only a few "Patients", who were diagnosed and released for treatment and recuperation at home. Our thanks to all who attended and made this yet another fun meeting!

-By Rick Belisle



June Growers Clinic Recap

The June 12 Growers Clinic was well-attended and the 40-odd attendees walked away with many ideas and lots of useful information. The Social Hour was again popular with some new faces and a wide variety of delicious snacks being enjoyed during some fun conversations and, above all, camaraderie. The main program, a new, somewhat “raw” undertaking, was to intended to gather and dispense some of the **tips and tricks** experienced growers have shared over the years...sort of a “fill-in-the-gap” exercise. As such, there was much discussion, clarification and Q&A from virtually all of the attendees. Included was a demonstration on how to make your own pot clips, for both clay and plastic pots, and a “cheat sheet” was handed out which, for a few dollars up front for the materials, when utilized will save many dollars over time. The “Cheat Sheet” can be found on our VOAS website under the Orchid Care Cheat Sheets tab. All in all, while some “cutting & fitting” needs to be done to the program, as expected, and judging from the overall participation, it’s a program well worth refining and keeping for the future.

Judy Loeffler then conducted a free raffle of various types of pot clips and plant supports, as well as some mounted B. Nodosa hybrids. Last, but not least, our Orchid ER had a relatively slow night, with only a few “Patients”, who were diagnosed and released for treatment and recuperation at home. Our thanks to all who attended and made this yet another fun meeting! If you’d like more information on the tools for the DIY Pot Clips, or, if you have any suggestions on what areas/topics you feel might be of interest to you and/or beneficial to the group, or if you just want to give us some feedback, feel free to email mentor@vaos.org.

Our next Growers Clinic will be Thursday, July 10, the topic of which is “Potting without Pots...Mounting Orchids.”

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education



Monthly Meeting June 11, 2025

7:02 Judy called the meeting to order.

She welcomed all the new members.

Next month's meeting is a conjoined meeting with Englewood on July 21st in Englewood. The following month's meeting on August 6th, we will host the Englewood society and have our annual ice cream social.

Thursday June 12th (tomorrow) will be our grower's clinic. At 6:00 starts the social hour bring a snack to share the meeting is located in the side room right next to where we are now.

July 10th, 2025, is our next grower's clinic, and it will be on mounting orchids.

7:05 Denise took the floor.

She reminded us of the bus trip coming up. On October 17th we will be travelling to Redlands. A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required to sign up and the total cost is \$45.00, which includes the admission cost for the show.

7:10 Rick took the floor to remind us about the grower's clinic and how the clinics have been building on each other since the first after the February show trying to help beginners get started. The next clinic will be giving tips and ideas offered by our own society members that have had years of experience. He also encouraged everyone to come early and get to know each other by sharing a snack, and a non-alcoholic drink.

7:15 Judy introduced Alan Black and gave a brief bio on him. She also advised everyone that Alan is more than just a speaker, he is a true friend to our society members.

7:16 Alan Black took the floor and gave a great presentation.

8:05 Judy advised we would take a break and asked that everyone vote and make sure to check out the raffle table.

8:30 Review of the plant table.

8:42 Janet did the tickets from the raffle table.

9:00 Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Michele Baker, VAOS Secretary





Treasurer's Report



May 30, 2025

OPERATING FUND April 30, 2025	\$9,799.50
+ Inflows	559.11
+/- Transfers to/from Reserve Account	0
- Outflows	(964.75)
OPERATING FUND May 30, 2025	\$9,393.86

Reserve Account May 30, 2025 - \$32,540.97

July/August Culture Tip

Well, that “other” season is upon us! Those frequent afternoon thunderstorms, along with the high humidity, provides a breeding ground for fungus, insects and mites. Mites, incidentally are not in the insect “family”, but rather are arachnids, in the same family as spiders and scorpions, and, hence, are not controlled by traditional “insecticides”. If, when doing your daily “orchid walk” (you DO take a daily walk around your orchids, looking for not only problems, but new growths, buds, and blossoms, right??), and you see tiny spider webs, chances are you have mites. Mites are reddish-brown or pale in color, and grow in colonies on the underside of leaves where they pierce the leaf tissue and feed by sucking out the fluids. They can go from Egg to Adult in as little as 5 days! There are many ways to control them, organically and naturally. The method you choose will depend on your personal preference and also the number of plants you have and where you grow them. For just a few plants, grown indoors, simply wiping the leaves with an alcohol-soaked cotton ball will suffice. For orchidists with many plants, grown outside, you can use a Neem Oil spray (but NOT if the temps are over 90°!) or “Kill Sauce”* or a product like BioAdvanced Insect, Disease & Miticide Control. It comes in a Ready-to-Use form as well as a Concentrate for use in your hose-end sprayer. As always, read and follow label directions. It will control aphids, scale, Black Spot and Powdery Mildew as well as those pesky mites!

- Kill Sauce recipe:
- 2 parts water, 1 part rubbing alcohol, 1 part 409 or Simple Green



Greetings from the Swamp!

My name is Adam Herdman and I am just about halfway through my PhD program at the University of Florida. Despite my involvement in orchid research for a decade now I have been so very lucky in the company of volunteers, land managers, researchers, and academics that keep me learning new things every day. Only in working together will the best work be completed, and I am very pleased with the progress being made on the ambitious projects we have embarked on. This spring I have stepped it up and begun serving the



community at the University of Florida, serving both on the Student Conduct Committee and in the Environmental Horticulture Graduate Student Association. In EHGSA this spring, I was happy to serve as the Faculty Representative and assist with the most successful plant sale yet. This upcoming year, I will be taking on an additional role as the Lead Grower. Since my last newsletter, my hard work was rewarded as I was given the prestigious Garden Club of America's Catherine H. Beattie Fellowship in botany for my program. We were also awarded a conservation grant from the American Orchid Society to support the conservation of the Ghost Orchid. I am very proud to be recognized on this level and I would not be doing any of this without the support from people like you.

To address conservation concerns here in Florida, I initiated several regional scale projects that have finally begun to bear the fruits of my labor. Our project on the population genetics of the Ghost Orchid has passed a major milestone, we have finally finished sampling all populations across Florida and have sent them off for sequencing at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and Chicago Botanical Garden. From the aforementioned awards, we have secured funding to complete the project that will provide foundational information for Ghost Orchid Conservation. The hope is that once we are armed with the results from this project, we will be able to make informed decisions on reintroduction and live collections that will contribute to species recovery.

In preparation for these results, we have analyzed data on the initial reintroduction of the Ghost Orchid that I started in 2018. Although there are only 24 plants of the original 123, it represents a brand new population and we have learned so much along the way that can be used to even the odds for these delicate plants. Specifically, we have found that the unique mosaic of species that we observe is not random, and the community neighboring the ghost orchid has an impact on the plants' survival. In conservation we often have to squeeze as much as possible out of very little, and I am pleased with our results



and to be publishing on this study shortly. We hope to combine the data from all the projects to establish more experimental sites in the future, and this study will be critical to telling us how to do it.

To identify future sites, we have begun monitoring existing sites in the swamps with data loggers to give us an idea of how conditions change between seasons. This will help us to prepare the Ghost Orchids I am growing in the lab for getting put back out into the unforgiving swamps. So far, the loggers have been deployed into the landscape for six months and I am eager to begin analyzing the data. In order to complete a profile on field sites, we will need another eighteen months. All of these studies to not exist in a vacuum and are interconnected, as you may have guessed we are planning to embark on another reintroduction in the future that will establish new sites and assist existing populations.

I was fortunate to be invited again by Orchid Conservation Chelsea to attend the Chelsea Flower Show 2025 that featured orchids of Hong Kong, Singapore, Hawaii, and Australia. I was very pleased to take part in this event for the third year in a row, and to meet so many talented people from around the world. It is important for the public to hear the message of conservation loud and clear, there is a growing global interest in the very thing I have dedicated a decade of my life to. There is no event that speaks more strongly to my commitments than the Orchid Conservation Chelsea, and I am pleased that the group has grown to sixty-eight strong. The hard work, dedication, and vision of the group caught the attention of the Queen of England again! Additionally, I am pleased that the booth was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's gold award in education this year.



This journey would not be possible without the mentorship of many people, but special recognition must be given to Dr. Carrie Reinhardt-Adams and Dr. Hector Perez, without whom none of this would be possible. I afford all of the successes to the support of my mentors, which have allowed this program to thrive. Conservation of our native orchid species often falls to a few key individuals and organizations. Without the overwhelming support and dedication from Venice Area Orchid Society, none of this work would have been possible. Thank you for your past, present, and future support.

Adam Herdman
Graduate Assistant and PhD student
University of Florida



VAOS Member Brenda Tucker Was Published in Orchids Magazine, June 2025

Brenda joined VAOS in February 2025

MY FAVORITE ORCHID

Rhyncholaeliocattleya George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS

Text and photograph by Brenda Tucker

MY COLLECTION IS small, about 60 plants, but six of those are divisions of the same plant, *Rlc.* George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS. I bought the original plant at least 10 years ago, and cannot remember how many times I have divided it. This plant blooms once a year, but it is always a spectacular display. The last time the largest division bloomed, it had 36 blossoms. I keep them in clay pots, using bark for a potting medium, and when I remember to fertilize, I use Osmocote Plus. The heavy pots keep them from falling over, because I have noticed that they bloom better if I let them get pot-bound, so they get quite heavy. They are kept on benches on our lanai (we live in southern Florida), so frequent storms can do a lot of damage. Hurricanes present another problem because we bring them inside the house. That becomes a major job!

I recently joined the Venice Area Orchid Society and have discovered a lot of benefits to belonging to this group. They helped me identify an unlabeled plant (NOID) that I have had for a couple of years, along with providing great day-to-day information. I would recommend anyone who grows orchids to join a similar group in their area. *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* George King 'Serendipity' AM/AOS has provided me and others with a great deal of pleasure. It is a beauty to look at, the scent is amazing and it is a healthy and prolific bloomer!

— Brenda Tucker (email
paintedlady4919@gmail.com)



MY FAVORITE ORCHID Call For Articles

DO YOU HAVE a special, favorite orchid? We are looking for short articles describing these favorites and how their owners grow them. It can be about any orchid in your collection you choose to write about. Please tell us where you got it (and the country of origin if you know it), how long you have had it, any awards it has won and how often it blooms (first time, twice a year, etc.). Most importantly, tell us how you grow it. We want to know how you water and fertilize. What are your light conditions? Is the plant potted or mounted? How do you get it to bloom? What other tricks and tips do you have in your arsenal to improve growth and blooming? Send pictures of your favorite plant. These can be at different stages of growth, but we would also like to see your plant in flower. The article should be 400–600 words long, and we can help with editing. Send articles and inquiries to Ron McHatton at rmchatton@aos.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

No July meeting at VAOS. Joint EAOS/VAOS Meeting in Englewood July 21st

July 1-6 Krull-Smith 4th of July sale, onsite and online. www.krullsmith.com

July 10 Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Mounting Orchids

July 21 Joint Meeting at EAOS. St. David's Episcopal Church, 401 S. Broadway, Englewood. 6pm. Speaker: Brett Ullery Topic: Dendrobiums

August 6 General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Jim Roberts
Topic: Summer Orchid Growing

August 14 Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Cattleya Culture

September 3 General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Beth Lamb Topic: Orchid virus

September 11 Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm Topic: Vanda Culture

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:
July 21

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

Visit us on the web at

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Visit our Facebook Group at

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

