

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

September 2025

September 2025

General Meeting

Wednesday September 3

Doors Open: 6:45pm

Venice Community Center

Speaker: Beth Lamb

Topic: Orchid Virus

Diseases & Commercial Growers Perspective

Ann E. 'Beth' Lamb is the owner of a small business Lamb & Lamb, Inc (2003) involving propagation of orchids from seeds and from tissue culture. I have been continuously employed in the horticultural industry since 1985 and have experience in the following areas: Propagation of plants using conventional tissue culture, and bioreactors; certified-pathogen tested propagation stock, pathogen-virus elimination, breeding and improvement of new ornamental foliage and flowering plants, and protecting them via applications for intellectual property; breeding/ seed and clonal propagation of orchids, contract research / technical documentation for Plant Patents (USA) and Plant Breeder's Rights (EU).

I am also employed as a technical advisor for Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery's plant tissue culture laboratory. Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery is one of the largest producers of containerized Citrus transplants in the United States. My work here since 2010 involves maintaining the on-site tissue culture laboratory, initiating new cultures and producing clean starter plants of commercial and experimental varieties of Citrus, Eucalyptus, Peach, Timber Bamboo and Blueberry.

I have degrees from the University of Florida, Bachelor of Science ('82) and Master of Science ('85) Plant Pathology and Plant Virology.



September Events

**September 3
General Meeting**

**September 11
Growers Clinic**

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

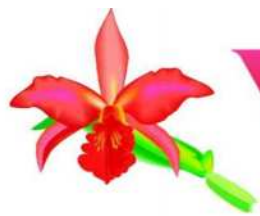
Face Book Group

[https://](#)

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



VAOS SOCIAL
CORNER



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

What a great turnout for our **joint VAOS / EAOS meeting!** Jim Roberts knocked it out of the park with so many great ideas to grow our orchids during the hazy, hot summer here in SWFL. The cherry on top was our ice cream social enjoyed by all! Apologies for no photos, I was focused on ice cream and socialization.

“Orchtoberfest”... This is our **annual “Potluck” dinner** held the second Thursday of October in place of our grower's clinic. Each member is asked to sign up, bring a covered dish and enjoy an evening of food, friends and orchid Bingo! Check out the flyer for more information.

Our **Redlands bus trip** is right around the corner, Friday October 17, 2025. I know it is a long day for many but the worthy benefits of securing your seat: Leave the driving to the bus driver, napping before and after the trip on the bus, snacks, enjoying a day full of all our favorite things...ORCHIDS, spending quality time with fellow orchid lovers, what could be better than that? As we need 15 more attendees to ensure we can go, I encourage everyone to sign up now so we fill the bus.

Member to member challenge??? Our **‘Show Them Where You Grow Them’** is a great success each year. Why not open this event on a smaller scale? We all enjoy growing our orchids so why not share your space with others. My challenge to each of you this year is to invite one or two members of our society to visit your own orchid oasis? What a great way to meet new people on a personal level as well as seeing a variety of creativity in action and sharing growing experiences. Post your visit photos on our Facebook page and let the fun begin.

Finally, as the year is fast approaching the “Season”, we are proud to announce our **annual Holiday Party and Orchid Auction** on December 7th. Details to follow.

Thank you to all our members who participate in all our VAOS events, it takes a village to create such an amazing society.

Save the Dates

October 9, 2025, Orchtoberfest Annual Pot-Luck Dinner 5:00pm-9:00pm Dinner and Orchid Bingo with great prizes. (See flyer)

October 17, 2025, Redlands International Orchid Festival Bus Trip Fruit & Spice Park. 7:00am-7:00pm Bus (See flyer) If we must cancel due to not filling the bus or mother nature you will receive your full deposit. If you do not show on day of bus trip you forfeit your deposit of \$20.00.

December 7, 2025, Annual VAOS Holiday Party & Orchid Auction details to follow at our September 3, 2025, meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Langman, VP Social



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Fall Festival Potluck

Join us for a fun evening with your fellow orchid lovers.

Thursday October 9, 2025

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Venice Community Center



Sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, or side dish.

VAOS will provide dessert, water, soda, coffee/tea and place settings.

Members may BYOB beer or wine

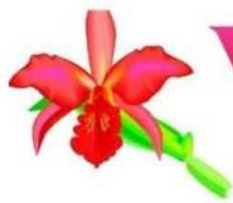
Orchid BINGO: Play to win

Blooming plants & Orchid Items.

(Members are welcome & encouraged attend)

**Sign up no later than our October 1st meeting or contact Denise by
October 8th so that we will have an accurate head count and food list.**

Denise M Langman VP Social social@vaos.org



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025

7:00 Judy called the meeting to order. Welcoming new members as well as our guests from our sister society of Englewood.

Reminder that this month growers clinic will be held in the room behind us and that the social hour starts at 6:00pm, bring snacks to share. This month will be on Culture Basics of Cattleyas.

Naoki has an article featured in the AOS Orchid Magazine on page 600. A copy of this article will be available in this month's newsletter.

7:05 Denise took the mic to catch us up on the upcoming events. Sign ups are now taking place for the Bus trip set for October 17th to Redlands show. The cost is \$45 per person and that covers your ticket into the show. Deadline to sign up is October 1st. If we do not sell enough tickets, you will have a full refund. If you pay and do not come you will not be able to get a refund. She is working on having another Potluck dinner that will be in October and asked that we watch our calendars.

7:08 Judy advised that she is already working on our next show which is set for February 7th and 8th. Our setup date will be Friday the 6th. As always, she is going to be asking for volunteers. We will be asking members to step up to fill 120 volunteer time slots.

Remember we are trying to improve our meetings, and we encourage asking questions. Please, if you have a question ask the speaker then he will repeat the question prior to answering the question. This way everyone can hear what he is explaining.

Judy introduced Jim Roberts, the owner of Florida Suncoast Orchids in Myakka City, FL as our speaker of the evening. Jim has been a regular speaker and friend of our society for a long time as well as a popular vendor at our show. Jim has been growing orchids over 25 years in climates ranging from the cold of Minnesota to the heat of Florida. We are proud to say he is a member of our society as well. Tonight Jim's lesson is "Summertime and the Growin' is Easy".

7:10 Jim Roberts took the floor.

8:05 Judy said that we will break for ice-cream and please vote for the plants on the plant table, along with getting your raffle tickets.

8:25 Joanne and Vicki presented the plant table.

8:38 Raffle begins, tonight we have an amazing amount of raffle items said Janet.

9:05 Dismissed

Submitted by Michele Baker, VAOS Secretary

Treasurer's Report

July 31, 2025



OPERATING FUND June 30, 2025	\$9,562.69
+ Inflows	230.00
+/- Transfers to/from Reserve Account	0
- Outflows	(1,456.18)
OPERATING FUND July 31, 2025	\$8,336.51

Reserve Account July 31, 2025 - \$32,541.51

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic



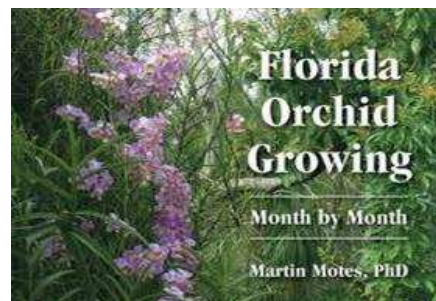
SEPTEMBER

Water well, as needed, when dry.

Fertilizing slows down a bit as days start to get shorter.

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. Available for sale at our monthly membership table for \$20.



VAOS 2025 GIFTS & DONATIONS

The VAOS was formed in 1962 as a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. Our Bylaws state our mission: “to encourage, organize and support educational activities among its members in order to develop and extend knowledge concerning the cultivation and hybridization of orchids and to promote the conservation and protection of native species”.

VAOS revenue comes from proceeds from our annual orchid show and from membership dues. These funds cover our administrative and operating expenses, provide subsidies for member social events and excursions, cover speaker fees and expenses, fund our reserve fund and fund annual gifts and donations. Our Bylaws require us to retain one to three years’ reserve to cover operating expenses. The Treasurer Report is published monthly in our newsletter.

Every year the VAOS makes financial donations to organizations that support orchid education and conservation. We support the American Orchid Society (AOS), the Florida North Central Judging Center (FNCJC) and provide scholarships or donations to educational or research organizations that support orchid research and conservation.

. The AOS supports world-wide orchid conservation. As an affiliate of the AOS, we support their mission each year with a financial donation. The FNCJC located in Tampa hosts monthly judging events where members may enter their plants for AOS awards. The judges who come to Venice each year to judge our show are affiliated with this center and they travel at their own expense.

In March 2025 the VAOS board of directors approved donations to the AOS (\$750) and the FNCJC (\$1000). Our annual donations were down this year due to lower annual show proceeds. Our show attendance was down and our show expenses were up. We hope to be able to resume more generous donations next year.

We are pleased that we are able to support these important organizations and research programs through financial donations and will continue to do so. .

Submitted by Carol Wood, Past President



VAOS ORCHID SHOW UPDATE

While our annual show is still five months away, your show team has been busy with all of the show planning and preparation details that go into a successful show.



Please save the dates:

VAOS 2026 Show & Sale

February 7-8

Set up Friday February 6

Judy often says “It Takes an Army” and we depend on our member volunteers to help us produce a successful show. We will start signing up volunteers for our show soon and we will have about 120 volunteer time slots to fill. We encourage all of our members who are able to participate. We’ll need help with:

- Pre-show marketing and promotion
- Show set up and take down
- Front door admission & exit tables
- Show hosts
- Judging Clerks
- Hospitality
- Food donations
- Orchid Boutique
- VAOS Exhibit
- Arts & Crafts

Right now, we are looking for members interested in joining our Show Marketing Team. If you have an interest or background in marketing/advertising/PR we would love to have you join our team! Our marketing strategy combines digital and traditional marketing with community outreach and includes online advertising, newspaper and magazine ads, press releases and flyers. If you would like to get involved, please contact Judy or Carol.

We will have more information as our show date approaches and we look forward to working with all of you!

Judy Loeffler & Carol Wood

VAOS Show Co-chairs

showchair@vaos.org



September 1, 2025

Dear Venice Area Orchid Society Members,

We're excited to announce our upcoming Orchid Society Auction, and we need your help to make it a blooming success!

The auction will be held on Sunday December 7, 2025, at our annual Holiday Party.

We are currently seeking donations of orchids, orchid-related items, or any garden-themed goods for the auction. All proceeds will go toward supporting our society's events, educational programs, and community outreach.

If you have plants or items you'd like to contribute, please bring them to any of our upcoming meetings on September 3, October 1, November 5 or give to any of our board members. Every donation—large or small—helps and is greatly appreciated.

Let's make this a memorable event for all!

Thank you,

Denise M Langman

VP Social

September Growers Clinic – Vanda Culture

The **September 11th** presentation will focus on the "Culture Basics of Vandas" and will be led by **Naoki Kawamura**, who, as you may know, is our Vanda Guru!

The September 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!

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, with the Social Hour beginning at 6:00PM. It 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.



August 2025 Growers Clinic Recap

On Thursday, August 14, Rick Belisle and the Growers Clinic Team offered a program on **Growing Cattleyas**. We began, at 6:00PM, with our Social Hour. Denise Langman brought out the ice cream and toppings, remnants of our recent General Meeting, which nicely accompanied the various goodies brought in by other members. At 7:00PM, we began the clinic, with approximately 40 members and guests attending. Many were observed taking copious notes as well as photos of some of the various slides in the presentation. Bridget Kleindienst brought in a truly spectacular example of one of her cattleyas which was referred to several times during the course of the evening. Joanna Shaw shared much of her cattleya knowledge with insights into growing and displaying these awesome plants. Janet Keown and Bridget Kleindienst, very experienced growers in their own right, augmented many of the discussions, as well. Of particular interest was the slide depicting which of the various Cattleyas, in the Cattleya Alliance that, if assembled and grown successfully, can provide you with “Year-Round Color”. **An expanded version of that popular slide has been placed on our VAOS Website (vaos.org) under VAOS PUBLICATIONS.**

The Orchid ER was less busy than normal (which is probably a good thing!) Interesting to note is that there seems to be some anecdotal evidence that our newer members, for which the Growers Clinics are designed, i.e., to build the knowledge and confidence of beginning orchidists, is working! To wit, of the seven plants brought into the ER, none of them were ill! All of them were healthy plants that just needed either re- or up-potting, a little “nudge” to get them in the blooming “mood”, or a little more time to adapt to their new surroundings because they were recently repotted or mounted. Fewer Sick Orchids = More Healthy Plants and Happier Growers! Join us next month for a discussion of those beautiful Vandas and Vandaceous orchids put on by the popular and very successful grower, Naoki Kawamura!

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education



My Experiment with Keikis

As many of you know, I love my Dendrobiums! Long-lasting blossoms, easy to grow, a wide variety of genera, and frequent producers of keikis! Well, one of my plants, Dendrobium Popeye, a cross of Den. Nopporn White x Den. Walter Oumae, has been a frequent and gorgeous bloomer. Together with its white petals with pink stripes and its pink lip, it creates quite a show!

At one of our meetings, a member mentioned to me that we might offer more information on keikis, Hawaiian for “baby”, and what to do with them. Oddly enough, a few days later, as I was doing my MOW, my Morning Orchid Walk (you DO do a MOW, right?), I noticed my Den. Popeye had a broken pseudobulb. It was, while still connected at the base, lying on its side. Attached to the downed PB were four keikis! “Hmmm...what an opportunity! Let’s see if I can make this work and grow these “youngsters” into the beautiful, full-fledged adults they can be!”

So, I removed the damaged PB. I treated the cut with hydrogen peroxide and then sprinkled some powdered cinnamon on it to seal the wound and, hopefully, prevent any bacteria, fungus, etc. from invading my precious plant. Now...what to do with the keikis?

Searching through my collection of pots, I settled on a low, 2.5” tall x 10” wide, plastic pot. I understand that, like human babies, they like to be comfortable, well-fed, not wet, with not too much sun. So, I then added some LECA (clay balls) to the bottom of the pot to aid in draining any water, and topped it off with an inch or so of natural cypress mulch, the kind I use with my catasetums.

Without damaging or disturbing the few delicate roots of my “babies”, I trimmed off as much of the PB’s as I could. I then positioned the resulting keikis on the media, holding them in place with a pot clip I made for plastic pots (following the directions we discussed at the June Grower’s Clinic involving DIY pot clips!). I then placed the pot outside, but at the bottom of one of my plant stands, so as to get fresh air, water and some sun, dappled by the leafy catasetums above it. The accompanying photos show the finished product and dates. I’m anxiously watching the growth of the roots, PB’s and leaves. These 2 photos were taken 6 weeks apart. Quite a difference!

By Rick Belisle



Papilionanda Naoki Kawamura

By Naoki Kawamura

AFTER HAVING BLOOMED a hybrid, *Papilionanda* Arjuna × *Vanda cristata* I purchased from Motes Orchids, Dr. Martin Motes and Bart Motes registered the hybrid in my honor. Not only was it named after me, but they also managed to work with Julian Shaw, Royal Horticultural Society Hybrid Registrar, to preserve my Japanese Kanji characters (河村直紀) in the registration.

Due to the complexity of *Papilionanda* Arjuna, each seedling is different. In fact, the first one I bloomed was pale green. In less than two months, the flower color changed to greenish brown. Shortly after, I took the blooming plant to the Pacific Northwest Judging Center and received an HCC in October 2016. I added the clonal name 'Ninja'.

In 2017, I was promoted to National Sales Support Manager for a bank I work with and was able to relocate from Portland, Oregon to Venice, Florida. The orientation was the most important factor while we were looking for a house. The house we chose is southwest facing, with no obstructions and I primarily grow vandas on rolling racks. The racks are made out of aluminum and nylon casters so that they will not rot or melt from Florida's heat and humidity.

I received a second award on another *Papilionanda* Naoki Kawamura in November 2018. The clonal name, 'M And N 20th Anniversary' was added to remember our anniversary month. I would say this is my favorite among all *Papilionanda* Naoki Kawamura plants I have. There are now 17 AOS awards given to this grex as of June 2025, which include three FCCs. One of the FCCs is mine. There is a funny story regarding the clone 'Whisper He's the Best' FCC/AOS. I did not remember the flowers on the plant when it bloomed for the first time, but after giving it to Laura Newton, she and Wes Newton bloomed it and received an FCC! Lesson learned, "Do not give away an orchid after its first bloom."

All my orchids are grown inside a screened pool cage which creates about 30% shade. On days when the temperature is expected to exceed 70 F (21 C), I water them twice before 7:30 am. In the middle of summer, when the day temperature is expected to be at or above 90 F (32 C), in addition to watering twice in the morning, I water them after lunch. When we get an



1 KAY CLARK

afternoon rainstorm, it is a blessing.

Every weekend, I use a balanced fertilizer (1 tsp/gallon [about 1.3 cc/l] with Plant Potion #9 (1/2 tsp/gallon [0.65 ml/l]) from Laura Newton. Due to the number of plants in my collection, I have an 8-gallon (30-liter) battery-operated sprayer. As for preventative treatments, I apply a combination of Cleary's 3336 and Orthene once a month from March through October. This practice is very simple, but I rarely skip an application. I believe consistency is a key to the best culture.

We use hurricane shutters to protect the plants from excessive rainfall and from the occasional cold snap. When a night temperature is expected to be below 50 F (10 C) for more than three hours, I roll the plant racks into our covered lanai and close the shutters. The lanai has a ceiling fan to keep air moving.

— Naoki Kawamura is a student judge in the Florida North-Central Center (email naoki.kawamura@yahoo.com).



2

[1] *Papilionanda* Naoki Kawamura 'M And N 20th Anniversary' AMAOS (Arjuna × *Vanda cristata*).

[2] The author with his two favorite papilionandas. Photograph courtesy of the author.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

**September 13-14 Ridge Orchid Society
Show** Lakeland, FL Info: dkemig@gmail.com

October 1 General Meeting, Venice
Community Center. Speaker: Phillip Bredren
Topic: Novelty Phals

October 9 Fall Potluck Dinner. See flyer

No October Growers Clinic

October 17 Bus Trip to Redlands. See flyer

**October 31 -November 2 Apopka
International Fall Orchid Festival** Info:
www.krullsmith.com

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:
September 3**

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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