

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

June 2024

June 2024

General Meeting

Wednesday June 5th

Doors Open: 6:30pm

Venice Community Center

Speaker: Thanh Nguyen

Topic: Paphiopedilums



Thanh is the owner-operator of **Springwater Orchids**, located in Melbourne, FL. He is an engineer by trade, but also has been collecting and growing orchids for 50 years. His orchid business began in 2001, mainly selling on the internet but gradually moved to orchid shows in recent years.

Thanh loves orchid species. And although he grows and sells all orchids genera, his forte has always been the genus of Paphiopedilum. He collects fine plants; grows, sells, breeds, and enjoys sharing his experiences with his customers and colleagues. His passion in paphs resulted in numerous award-winning plants and an on-going paphs breeding program using local lab work, and local growing environment. His breeding program recently extended to mini/compact plants, and interesting primary crosses. He also continues to breed species, improving overall plants and flower quality, and broadening their growing conditions to make growing these orchids a joy, not an aggravation!

Give it a try, buy a seedling!

Thanh will have orchids for sale.

June Events

June 5
General Meeting

June 13
Growers Clinic

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid resources](#)

FaceBook Group

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



Treasurer's Report

April 30, 2024

OPERATING FUND March 29, 2024	\$4,351.09
+ Income	690.00
- Expenses and Payments	(1,630.28)
OPERATING FUND April 30, 2024	\$3,590.81
Reserve Account April 30, 2024 - \$45,537.13	
Petty Cash on hand \$75.00	

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

When is the Best Time to Repot My Orchid?

Orchids are best repotted when they are in active growth. Orchids are usually in active growth shortly after blooming when they send out new shoots and/or leaves and new roots begin to form. Be careful not to break the tips of the growing roots or the new growth of the plant.

Phalaenopsis are very forgiving and can be repotted just about any time they are not in bloom. On the other extreme, Dendrobiums prefer to be repotted only as new growth appears.

There will always be instances when an orchid must be repotted immediately (for example if the pot breaks, or the media is severely decomposed) in which case be as gentle as you can.



Hanging Orchids Like Mother Nature

Most of the orchids we grow are epiphytes, meaning they grow on trees in their natural habitat. Orchids in the Cattleya family are well suited for mounting. Common mounts include tree fern plaques or poles, cypress, cork, driftwood (well soaked to remove salt), cedar and grape wood. Mounted orchids will require more frequent watering. Orchids can be attached to the mount with plastic zip ties, nylon stockings or fishing line. Place a small pad of sphagnum moss or coconut fiber husk between the plant and the mount to encourage new roots. Many growers start the plant off horizontal and then hang it when roots have attached to the mount.

Mounting orchids will be the topic of our July 11th Growers Clinic.

VAOS General Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2024

7:01 pm Judy Loeffler called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She made a special welcome to new members and first-time guests.

The membership directory was emailed out on April 25th. If you have not received yours see Ian or Karen Kennedy.

April 11 was our repotting grower's clinic, and it was a success with over 75 members in attendance.

Reminder that the Redland International Orchid Festival is coming up May 17th through the 19th. This is a large festival with over 50 booths featuring educational exhibits and vendors.

Just a reminder that with the heat coming back we need to watch our orchids for sunburn. The heat this week reached 112 degrees heat index so make sure you're getting air through your plants.

Our next grower's clinic will be May 9th and Stephanie Luburger will be talking about "Orchid Pests". The meeting will be in the smaller room and will have a different set up with the orchid ER table being in the middle of the room so that everyone can have a better view of the plants. The chairs will be at an angle to make viewing of the program easier as well.

Reminder that the tee shirts are still on sale and that they are \$5.00 for pink or blue. The few remaining tie dye are \$20.00.

7:07 pm Vicki Fisher introduced Ty and Henrey from the Orchid House and gave a brief bio on their backgrounds. They spoke on soft cane dendrobiums and brought plants in for sale.

7:40 pm Vicki Fisher said we would break for 15 minutes and reminded everyone of the refreshment table, the voting, and the raffle.

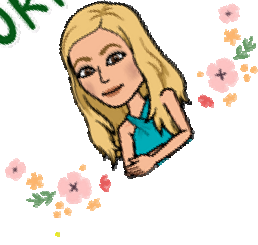
8:00 pm Joanna Shaw and Vicki Fisher called everyone's attention to the plants that had been brought in for judging. They explained again the way plants are broken up into sections for voting and announced the winners.

8:24pm The raffle was taken over by Natalia Contreras as she called all the numbers and reminded everyone to yell loudly once your number was called.

8:45 pm the meeting ended.

Submitted by Michele Baker, Secretary

VAOS SOCIAL CORNER



Save the Dates

June 5, 2024 Monthly Meeting Theme **Flag Day Celebration**; wear red white and blue, bring a refreshment get a free raffle ticket

July 15, 2024 **Englewood Orchid Society** will be hosting the Venice Area Orchid Society members for a meeting.

August 7, 2024 VAOS Monthly Meeting **Make your own Ice Cream Sundae Social** as we welcome & host Englewood Orchid Society

September 4, 2024 Monthly Meeting Theme is **Falling for Orchids** as we step into the fall season we will celebrate in colors of red, orange, gold and purples.

October 2, 2024 Monthly Meeting Spooktacular a Halloween themed social event for all to enjoy. Bring a Halloween themed refreshment to share and earn a free raffle ticket.

October 10, 2024 Annual Pot-Luck Dinner **Orchtoberfest** in place of the growers clinic. Join us from 5:00pm-9:00pm at VCC for Dinner and Orchid Bingo with great prizes.

We ask all members who sign up to attend to bring their favorite pot-luck dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be available at the September meeting

***Reminder to all who bring a refreshment during our Monthly meetings, you will receive one coin to turn into the raffle table for your free ticket.**



Respectfully Submitted, Denise M Langman, VP Social VAOS

Jay Loeffler Photo Composition Tips

Continued from Last Month

Composition Tip 2: Fill the frame

When you're shooting a large photo it can be hard to know how big your subject should be in the frame, and how much you should zoom in. Leaving too much empty space in a scene is the most widespread compositional mistake. It makes your subject smaller and leaves viewers confused about what they're supposed to be looking at.

To avoid these problems you should zoom in to fill the frame, or get closer to the subject in question. The first approach flattens the perspective of the shot and makes it easier to control or exclude what's shown in the background, but physically moving closer can give you a more interesting take on things. Try Both.

1. Filling the frame makes the object larger.
2. High off-center placement makes a more interesting scene.



Photo Composition Tip 3: Aspect ratio

The aspect ratio of an image describes the proportional relationship between its width and its height.

It's easy to take every picture with the camera held horizontally. Try turning it to get a vertical shot instead, adjusting your position or the zoom setting as you experiment with the new style. You can often improve on both horizontal and vertical shots by cropping the photo later.

1. You can crop the shot later if the object is too tall to shoot horizontally
2. Turn the camera and try an upright shot to see different and maybe improved results.





Meet Judy Loeffler VAOS' New President 2024

Judy Loeffler was elected VAOS President in March 2024. She joined the VAOS in 2011 along with her husband, Jay. Judy says she joined the VAOS in the month of March and by June she was already working on the Board of Directors!

Judy and Jay served as Membership Directors for six years. Judy then served as Treasurer for four years before becoming President. She has also been the Show Co-Chair with Carol Wood for 11 years. This means Judy is doing much of the management and planning for one of the best orchid shows in the state of Florida! Judy was also active on the display team for nine years, helping set up our displays for all the shows we participate in. She kept and maintained the greenery (ferns and other foliage plants) that we used to fill in the empty spaces in our display.

Judy was the very first graduate of the VAOS mentorship program and she says she was very lucky to be mentored by both Jim Thomas and Rich Amos. Because Jim Thomas was doing much of our education and outreach at the time, Judy became involved with the Grower's Clinic and also community teaching. She and Jim gave presentations at local Garden Clubs and the Community Center Expos to help people learn about growing orchids and hear about our Orchid Society.

Judy is originally from Indianapolis and she moved here in 1969. During her working career, she sold new and used cars and managed several travel agencies. She has a strong background in sales which makes it easy for her to talk to people and to encourage them to get involved with our Orchid Society!

Currently, Judy and Jay have more than 500 orchids in two greenhouses and a shade house, including many she inherited when her mentor, Rich Amos, passed away. She says she loves all different kinds - "there's not one I don't like", although she says the "oddball ones" and dendrobiums are her favorites.

Judy also loves all different kinds of crafting -- she loves to create things and she loves to collect Christmas decorations. Each year her house is decorated floor to ceiling with multiple Christmas trees of all different themes including one that is just decorated with ribbons and trophies she has won with her orchids! She loves the way the spirit of Christmas makes her feel.

Because of her involvement in the Orchid Society, Judy says she has met some wonderful lifelong friends. She is thrilled to see new people coming along and starting to fill into some of roles she has filled in the past. It makes her proud to see people she previously encouraged to now step forward to become new leaders! She feels like a Mama Bird watching her babies take off! Lots of thanks to Judy for all her energy and enthusiasm!

June 13th Growers Clinic - Orchid Diseases

The June Growers Clinic will of course have with 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 follow upon May's "Orchid Pests" by highlighting "**Orchid Diseases**". Learn to identify common diseases 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.

JOINT MEETING WITH EAOS IN JULY

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 15th meeting. In August, VAOS will host EAOS at our August 7th meeting.

VAOS will not have a meeting on July 3rd.

Instead, we will join EAOS at their Monday, **July 15th meeting:**

Location: St. Davids Episcopal Church

400 S. Broadway

Engelwood, FL

(Behind Stephanos Restaurant and Bealls Outlet)

Doors open at 6:30pm. Meeting starts at 7pm

Speaker: Jake Bateman, Palmer Orchids

Topic: Brassavola Orchids

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

On August 7th VAOS will host EAOS members at our monthly meeting with an Ice Cream Social.

Mark your calendars!



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



With the onset of our “wet season” it’s probably a good idea to get ahead of the potential issues caused by insects, fungus and diseases. One way is to add a Tbsp of BioAdvanced Rose & Flower Care granules to each plant. It’s a systemic that will travel through the plants system and help ward-off Thrips, Mealy Bugs, various fungi and diseases as listed on the label, and add a very little fertilizer, to boot! It lasts for up to 6 weeks! Do it now, and mark your cellphone calendar “alerts” for July 15, Labor Day and Columbus Day.



May 2024 Growers Clinic Recap

The May 9 Growers Clinic was well-attended and the 37 attendees walked away with a trove of useful information. A new and, hopefully better, seating arrangement was used and designed to improve the overall experience by putting the Orchid ER “patients” in the center of the room.

Of course, Stephanie Luburger did her usual masterful job in discussing the ins and outs, with input from Naoki Kawamura and Jimmy Thomas, of dealing with the pests that can adversely affect our favorite plants. 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 rather 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!

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

July 11 (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Mounting Orchids

July 15 Joint meeting at EAOS. See article this newsletter

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:
June 5

Contact Us

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Membership

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