



VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

September 2024

September 2024

**General Meeting
Wednesday
September 4**

Doors Open: 6:30pm

**Venice Community
Center**

Speaker: Jim Roberts

Topic: Fertilizing Your Orchids 101

**Basic and Advanced information
about the truth of fertilizers.**

What/how/why/when to fertilize.

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 will have plants for sale

Florida Suncoast Orchids Myakka City, FL



September Events

**September 4
General Meeting**

**September 12
Growers Clinic**

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchidresources](#)

Face Book Group

[https://](#)

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



VAOS General Meeting Minutes August 7, 2024

7:00- VAOS President, Judy Loeffler welcomed everyone and also welcomed four new members.

Judy explained how our society meetings go. She then made mention of what a special night it was to have the Englewood Orchid Society members with us as well. She thanked the Englewood Society for having us last month. Tonight is our annual ice cream social and reminded everyone to make sure they got their raffle tickets. Also, we have an exciting grower's clinic tomorrow night at the same location just in the other room and Rick Belisle will be speaking on Cattleyas and general problems and solutions. She asked that all members please remember to wear their name tags.

7:05- Denise Langman took the floor to go over the upcoming events. We are having a Holiday lunch party this year in order to accommodate those who do not drive after dark. It will be held at the Plantation Golf & Country Club on December 15. She handed out flyers with save the dates for all the events until the end of the year. Reminder that we are having a bus trip in Nov. She also pointed out that she updates information in our newsletter, email blasts and on Facebook.

7:10 Judy took the floor back and gave a quick reminder that next month we will be covering more of our annual show planning. She explained what the show was for those who may be new.

On a sad note, she advised that Dr Edwin Fox, who was a past Vice President had passed away. His daughters are hosting a private sale. Flyers were available at the front table giving all the information on the plants and who to contact to make an appointment.

7:12 Vicky Fisher took the floor to introduce tonight's speaker Bill Nunez aka "Rhizome Cowboy". He will be speaking on *Encyclia tampensis* and *Encyclia* hybrids. She gave a quick bio and turned the floor over to him.

7:13 Bill Nunez took the floor to a round of applause.

8:10 Judy advised we were going to take a quick break and asked everyone to purchase their raffle tickets and vote on the plants that had been brought in for judging as well as enjoy the wonderful ice-cream that had been brought out.

8:25 Vicki Fisher and Kristen Shaw went over the plant table and announced the plants that were taking home the ribbons.

8:35 Natalia Romero Contreras started the raffle. The meeting ended at 8:50pm

Submitted by Michele Baker, Secretary



Save the Dates

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

October 2, 2024 Monthly Meeting **Spooktacular** a Halloween themed social event for all to enjoy.

October 10, 2024 Annual Pot-Luck Dinner Orchtoberfest in place of the growers clinic. Join us from 5:00pm-9:00pm at the Venice Community Center for Dinner and Orchid Bingo with great prizes. We ask all members to sign up to attend and bring their favorite pot-luck dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be available at the September 4th meeting. See flyer.

November 6, 2024 Monthly Meeting **Welcome Back to our Northern Growers**

November 16, 2024 Member Fall Bus Trip to Krull Smith, Orchids in Bloom & Ecuagenera USA greenhouses in Apopka, FL. Sign up beginning September 4th,

December 15, 2024 Holiday Luncheon & Orchid Auction Plantation Golf & Country Club 11:00am-3:00pm more details to follow.

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

**Don't forget to bring in your blooming plants for your chance to win a ribbon at each of our Monthly Meetings.

***Finally, share your divisions/extra plants or orchid related items & potting materials by donating them to our raffle table.

VAOS ORCHTOBERFEST POTLUCK 2024



Join us for a fun evening with your fellow orchid lovers

Thursday October 10, 2024

5:00 - 9:00 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 great orchids & orchid related items, Raffle Table-
Blooming plants & Orchid Items.

Sign up no later than our October 2nd meeting or contact Denise by October 6th so
that we will have an accurate head count and food list

DENISE M LANGMAN, VP SOCIAL

SOCIAL@VAOS.ORG



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



September 9th is generally considered to be the “mid-point of the hurricane season”. By now, we would have experienced those frequent afternoon thunderstorms, perhaps a rain-laden Tropical Depression, but, hopefully, not a hurricane! Things are just damp and soggy! That dampness creates PRIME harborage for bacteria and fungus, especially the dreaded “crown rot”, that often signals the demise of a plant.

One way to combat this is to religiously (every 2 weeks!) spray your plants (yes, flowers, blossoms, leaves, pseudobulbs, pots, etc.) with a good fungicide made for orchids. There are a few, and Physan 20 is one of them. The key ingredients to watch for are the “quaternary ammonium chlorides” which should add up to 20%, hence “Physan 20” or “RD 20”, etc. At that strength, they’re used at 1 teaspoon per gallon for maintenance, and 2 tsps per gallon if you are treating confirmed cases of crown rot. A word to the wise... Unlike interest rates, the number of orchids in our collection, or the number of grandchildren we’ve been blessed with, using MORE than the RECOMMENDED DILUTION is NOT better, and can actually be deleterious to your orchids! These products are available at most garden centers and, of course, from Amazon. A pint (16 oz) bottle makes 96 gallons for “maintenance”, and, as they are liquids, are easily dispensed in your hose-end sprayer.

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education

Treasurer’s Report

July 31, 2024

OPERATING FUND June 28, 2024	\$1,975.72
+ Income	0.00
- Expenses and Payments	(1,404.83)
+ Transfer from Reserve Account	5,000.00
OPERATING FUND July 31, 2024	\$5,570.89

Reserve Account July 31, 2024 - \$40,538.22

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

August Growers Clinic Recap

On Thursday, August 8, Rick Belisle and the Growers Clinic Team offered a program on **Growing Cattleyas**. Approximately 40 members and guests attended. Many were observed taking copious notes as well as photos of some of the various slides in the presentation. Of particular interest was the slide depicting which of the various Cattleyas, in the Cattleya Alliance, 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!) Fewer Sick Orchids = More Healthy Plants and Happier Growers! There was some discussion on caring for our ‘chids following heavy rains of Tropical Storm Debby and the use of Pool Algaecide as a disinfectant, bactericide and fungicide. We also had a fun time with the free drawings of plants, orchid-growing accessories and a cypress knee! Join us next month for a discussion of those beautiful Vandas.

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education



September Growers Clinic—Vandas

The September Growers Clinic will start 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! The September 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!. 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



SAVE THE DATE



2025 VENICE ORCHID SHOW & SALE

FEBRUARY 1 - 2, 2025

The Venice Area Orchid Society (VAOS) will present their 58th annual orchid show and sale at the Venice Community Center in beautiful downtown Venice, FL on February 1 – 2, 2025.

The show theme is: **“Orchids in Living Color”**

Seventeen (17) vendors will have 1000's of blooming orchid plants for sale as well as orchid floral arrangements, artwork, jewelry, accessories and supplies. Free orchid culture classes will be held both days. The show is one of the most popular orchid shows in Florida and comes just before Valentine's Day.

The Venice Area Orchid Society is one of the largest and most active orchid societies in the U.S. Our mission is to foster orchid growing, to provide a forum for orchid exhibition, to promote orchid conservation, and to share the knowledge and experience of growers and hobbyists. We are an affiliate of the American Orchid Society. Our annual show is our major fund raising event and is always held the first full weekend in February at the Venice Community Center in downtown Venice.

Show hours:

Saturday February 1 10am – 5pm

Sunday February 2 10am – 4pm

Location: Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice, FL

Admission: \$5 (under 10 free)

Free parking

For more information contact ShowChair@VAOS.org or visit www.VAOS.org



IN MEMORIA – John Kahnoski



Our dear friend and long time VAOS member John Kahnoski passed away on 6/20/24 at the age of 81, surrounded by his wife Sharon and family members after battling several health issues for many years. After a long career as a Firefighter Chief in Grand Rapids, Michigan, John and Sharon, his vivacious wife of 60 years, retired to North Port. When they joined VAOS they both immediately became active in all aspects of our society including meeting raffles, social events and our annual show where they managed our show hosts throughout the weekend.

You could spot them anywhere as Sharon was about one half John's size. As Sharon buzzed around with seemingly endless energy John was the quiet one, the gentle giant, always with a kind word, always ready to help where needed. John was a strong and steady presence, part of our VAOS family and loved by all. We will miss you John. Rest in peace.

Jay Loeffler Photo Composition Tips

Continued from Last Month

Photo Composition Tip 6: Use diagonals

Horizontal lines lend a static, calm feel to a picture, while vertical ones often suggest stability. To create a feeling of drama, movement or uncertainty, look for diagonal lines instead.

You can need nothing more than a shift in position or focal length to get them – wider angles of view tend to introduce diagonal lines because of the increased perspective; with wide-angle lenses you're more likely to tilt the camera up or down to get more of a scene in.

You can also introduce diagonal lines artificially, using the 'Dutch Tilt' technique. You simply tilt the camera as you take the shot. This can be very effective, though it doesn't suit every shot and is best used sparingly

1. Wide-angle lens creates diagonal lines automatically.
2. Low viewpoints make you tilt the camera upwards, which will strengthen diagonals.



Photo Composition Tip 7: Backgrounds

Don't just concentrate on your subject – look at what's happening in the background. This will tie in with simplifying the scene and filling the frame. You can't usually exclude the background completely, of course, but you can control it.

You'll often find that changing your position is enough to replace a cluttered background with one that complements your subject nicely. Or you can use a wide lens aperture and a longer focal length to throw the background out of focus.

It all depends on whether the background is part of the story you're trying to tell with the photo. In the shot below, the background is something that needs to be suppressed.

1. Use longer focal points to throw backgrounds out of focus.
2. Fill the frame - the less space taken up with background the better.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Jim Roberts Topic: Fertilizer

September 12 (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Vanda Culture Basics

September 28-29 Ridge Orchid Society Annual Show Lakeland FL. Info: Keith dkemig@gmail.com

October 2 (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Edgar Shehli Topic: Angraecoids

October 10 (2nd Thursday) Annual Orchtobertfest Pot Luck Dinner. Venice Community Center, 5 - 9pm See flyer this newsletter. (**No Growers Clinic in October**)

Save the Date

November 16 *Member Fall Bus Trip* to Krull Smith, Orchids in Bloom & Ecuagenera USA greenhouses in Apopka, FL. Sign up beginning September 4th,

December 15 *Holiday Luncheon & Orchid Auction* Plantation Golf & Country Club 11:00am-3:00pm. More details to follow.

February 1-2 VAOS Annual Orchid Show.
Set up Friday January 31.

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 4**

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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