

VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

November 2024

**November 2024
General Meeting
Wednesday
November 6**

**Doors Open: 6:30pm
Venice Community
Center**

**Speaker: Mac Rivenbark
Topic: Orchid Growing Outside of a Pot**

Mac and his wife Helen started an orchid business 26 years ago after many fascinating trips to the Philippines where Helen is from. With extensive study Mac has become an expert in Philippine and other Asian orchid species and has grown and successfully bloomed hundreds of different species.

Mac has served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was the past president of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society and enjoys giving lectures and learning from others about orchids. Come see and hear this exciting, educational and interesting lecture.

Mac will have plants for sale
Mac's Orchids, Ft. Lauderdale



November Events

**November 6
General Meeting**

**November 13
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)





Our thoughts are with all of those who have been affected by the recent wrath of “Mother Nature”. Our meeting site at the Venice Community Center has been a FEMA Point of Distribution. Our local greenhouses and much-loved vendors have been directly impacted. The devastation across our state has impacted so many people. We are all affected, directly and indirectly, by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We can and will build back as we are all Florida Strong!

Unfortunately, due to these storms, we have decided to postpone our Pot Luck festival and cancel our Bus trip this year.

Our Potluck “Orchtoberfest” has been postponed until March of 2025. This will hopefully give us more reasons to celebrate with all our members as well as a relaxing fun evening after completion of the 2025 VAOS Show & Sale. Those who planned on attending our Pot Luck, please save your culinary skills to donate to our kitchen for our Show on February 1-2, 2025.

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



November 16, 2024 Annual Fall Bus Trip Anyone who paid will be refunded by our Treasurer Ian via Zelle or by check at our November 6, 2024 meeting.

December 15, 2024 Holiday Luncheon & Orchid Auction

Our end of year event to celebrate our members and to ready ourselves for “Show Season”!!!

Anyone who may be interested in donating items for our Orchid Auction can reply to Denise at social@vaos.org by December 1st with the type of item and value. Each auction item will be displayed before the auction with a plaque stating the donor and any pertinent information about your donation. What better way to have your orchid plants, photos, paintings, and mounts honored than at an event that is held to support our society, the wonderful educational speakers and events we have each month.

***Sign-up for the above social event can be done via email to Denise at social@vaos.org or at our November 6, 2024, meeting. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We look forward to making new orchid memories with each of you!!! *** See flyer for more information.

*Reminder to all who bring a refreshment to our monthly meeting, 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.



Annual Holiday Luncheon

Plantation Golf & Country Club

500 Rockley Blvd., Venice, FL 34293

(Off Rt 41 midway between Jacaranda & River Rd.)

Saturday December 15, 2024

11:00AM -3:00PM

Join your friends from VAOS for our annual holiday get together. Enjoy Lunch, Orchid related Auction and memories in the making!

\$25.00 per person

Lunch Buffet with Dessert,
Coffee, Tea & Iced Tea.

Cash Bar

Payment must be received by

December 6, 2024 to secure your reservation.

Zelle: VAOSMoney@gmail.com or

Mail your check noting Holiday Party to:

VAOS, PO Box 443, Venice, FL 34284-0443

Include names of attendees with payment.

RSVP by

Dec. 2, 2024 to Denise social@vaos.org

General Meeting Minutes October 2, 2024

President Judy Loeffler opened the meeting at 7pm. She welcomed guests and new members and described the format for our meeting. She encouraged members to buy their raffle tickets and vote for their favorite plant during the refreshment break.

We are making some changes to our speaker program. It is often difficult to hear the questions asked following the speaker presentation. Please hold your questions until after the presentation. Raise your hand and our staff will bring you a microphone – therefore all can hear your question.

Janet Keown will be at the front door to help you with your name tags. Please bring and wear your name tags.

Orchid Envy is having a sale with orchids priced as low as \$10. They are located on W. Venice Ave. near Harbor Dr. Please support our local suppliers.

The show season will be here before you know it: Sarasota January 4-5 with set up Friday January 3; Our show February 1-2 with set up Friday January 31; and Englewood April 5-6 with set up Friday April 4.

Our November growers clinic will address preparing your orchids for shows and the cold weather.

Judy announced that tonight we will start signing up volunteers for our annual show in February. We will need approximately 120 volunteers – sign up sheets and descriptions of jobs to fill are located on the table by the door. Sign up at our meetings, clinics, social events or by email ShowChair@VAOS.org. Please do not use Facebook or private message to sign up.

We need someone to serve as coordinator for our Arts & Crafts table at our show. It involves setting up the display and registering the artwork for judging and ribbon awards. This year we will be adding an artistic display and will bring back the seedling display. Please contact Judy if you can help.

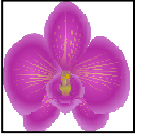
Our show t-shirts last year were such a hit that we plan to order more this year and sell them at our show. Members who volunteer their time receive a free show t-shirt.

Denise Langman, VP Social, provided an overview of upcoming VAOS events. Vicki Fisher, VP Programs, introduced our speaker Edgar Stehli. Following the speaker presentation we took a 15 minute refreshment break followed by presentation of the plant table and the monthly raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted by Michele Baker, Secretary



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



NOVEMBER

- Prepare plants for cold.
- Reduce fertilizing.
- Place dormant plants in dry area.
- Supplement potassium and magnesium for winter health.



And, of course, cleaning up your growing area and plants by removing dead leaves helps to 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

September 30, 2024



Treasurer's Report



OPERATING FUND August 30, 2024	\$4,547.99
+ Income	694.00
+ Transfers from Reserve Account	3,000.00
- Expenses and Payments	(1,416.97)
OPERATING FUND September 30, 2024	\$6,825.02
Reserve Account September 30, 2024 - \$37,538.87	
Petty Cash on hand \$75.00	

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

November 9th Growers Clinic

If you've looked at your calendar, or been in some of the "big box" stores lately, you'll see that we're creeping on that time of year again. Yep, two "seasons" are just around the corner. Those being Winter (Ewww!!!) and the Orchid Shows (Yayyyy)! So, in preparation for both, on Thursday, November 9, the Growers Clinic Team will discuss **tips and tricks for protecting your orchids from the cold weather as well as what to do and how to prepare them for the upcoming shows**. And, of course, the meeting will offer our Orchid ER. Members should remember to wear their VAOS Name Tags, please. There will be a Sign-in Sheet for guests. As usual, the meeting will begin at 7:00pm in Room F of the Venice Community Center. You can park on the left side of the building and enter through the side door.



After Hurricane Orchid Care

Many/most of us were able to do what we could to prepare our orchids for Hurricane Milton. Moving them into garages, placing them on or near the ground to protect them from wind, placing them among the shrubs to try and give them some protection...but, despite all our best intentions, they probably succumbed to some sort of damage, either from too much water, too much wind or, conversely, not enough water and not enough light.

In any event, now that life has returned to some sort of normalcy, and we certainly feel sorry for those who are not quite there yet, I found an interesting short article on the [Better-Gro.com Blog](#) that may be of help. To wit...

Storms are traumatic for us as well as our plants. Plan to have plenty of fungicide and bactericide to treat orchids after the storm has passed. Orchids may receive too much water during a storm (indoors or outdoors) and may not dry out as quickly as they should. Watch your plants very closely for the telltale signs of an infection.

This made me recall an axiom from our friend, fellow VAOS member and VAOS Show and vendor, Jim Roberts, "When in doubt, dry it out!". So, if your plants WERE subjected to large amounts of rain, you'll want to dry them out for at least a few days, then apply fungicide (Draconil or similar) and bactericide (Phyosan 20, Pool Algaecide or similar) as per label directions. When treating orchids with a fungicide, it is best to dry them out completely before applying the fungicide; this ensures the fungicide can properly adhere to the plant's surface and maximize its effectiveness. A dry orchid leaf allows the fungicide to better contact the plant's surface increasing its chance of reaching fungal spores, while applying fungicide to wet leaves can dilute the solution and reduce its effectiveness.

Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education

2025 ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW SCHEDULE

Sarasota Orchid Society (January 2025)

Friday Set up Jan 3rd – 10am – 4pm

Saturday Show Jan 4th - 9am - 5pm

Sunday Show Jan 5th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Jan 5th – 4pm

Location: Sarasota Municipal Auditorium: 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Theme: Orchid Delirium

Show Chair: Sara Nortrup Sara.Nortrup@gmail.com

Venice Area Orchid Society (February 2025)

Friday Set Up Jan 31st – 1pm – 7pm

Saturday Show Feb 1st - 10am - 5pm

Sunday Show Feb 2nd - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Feb 2nd – 4pm

Location: Venice Community Center: 326 So. Nokomis Ave., Venice

Theme: Orchids In Living Color

Show Chairs: Judy Loeffler & Carol Wood ShowChair@vaos.org

Englewood Area Orchid Society (April 2025)

Friday April 4th Set Up – 9am – 5pm

Saturday Show Apr 5th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Show Apr 6th - 10am - 4pm

Sunday Take Down Apr 6th – 4pm

Location: Englewood Sports Complex: 1300 S. River Rd., Englewood

Theme: Shine Bright Like An Orchid

Show Chair: Natasha Romero JustOneMoreOrchid@hotmail.com

VAOS SHOW UPDATE

Just two months to go before our annual show - one of the top two orchid shows in the state of Florida and our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are expecting over 4000 attendees. Lots of work goes into planning and hosting a successful show. Many factors contribute to our success – a beautiful venue at the community center, quality orchids from nationally known vendors, our great home cooked food brought in by our members and most importantly our show volunteers. Every year we survey our judges and vendors following our show and their number one compliment is always our friendly volunteers. We depend on our members to volunteer for our annual show and every year they don't disappoint.

Members can sign up to volunteer for 2-3 hour time slots Friday, Saturday and Sunday and there is something for everyone:

- Facility set up and take down
- Front door admissions
- Show hosts
- Judging Clerks
- Hospitality
- Orchid Boutique
- VAOS Display
- Membership Table
- Signage

All volunteers receive free admission to the show, a special edition show t-shirt, great food, great camaraderie, and working in a room filled with 1000's of fragrant blooming orchids!

Show Schedule:

- Friday show set up January 31st – 1 – 7pm
 - Saturday show February 1st – 10am – 5pm
 - Sunday show February 2nd – 10am – 4pm
- Sunday show take down February 2nd – 4pm – 5pm

If you would like to volunteer please contact Judy & Carol at ShowChair@VAOS.org or sign up at our November meeting, growers clinic or holiday luncheon.

Please note your volunteer time slot on you calendar. We will distribute the final volunteer sign up list in our February 2024 newsletter just prior to our show.

Thank you for volunteering!!!

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR 2025 SHOW

**Please sign up as we need approximately 120 volunteers
to work our annual show**

SELL ADMISSION TICKETS – 2.5 hr time slots Saturday & Sunday. Cashier skills required. A sit down job.

CLERKS - Work with AOS judges finding and pointing out plants in the exhibits and placing ribbons. A great learning experience! Saturday 7:30am – 10:30am

FOOD - Bring your favorite dish Saturday or Sunday: hot or cold main dishes, casseroles, pastries, platters, desserts, etc. Bring to kitchen by 11am each day. Sign up your dish and what day.

HOSPITALITY – Help with serving food and drinks for Friday lunch and Saturday and Sunday buffets. Reheat food, dish washing, clean up and food storage.

MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION TABLE - Promote VAOS, sign up new members, sell books and magazines, hand out culture sheets, answer culture questions. Sign up for 3 hour slot Saturday or Sunday.

ORCHID BOUTIQUE - Sell orchid floral arrangements and accessories; sell raffle tickets; assemble floral arrangements and bouquets. 3-4 hr time slots Saturday & Sunday

SET UP & TAKE DOWN - Set up the hall for exhibits & sales. Lay plastic, assemble backdrops, place greenery, set up tables. Some strong backs needed. Friday 11:30am – 2pm

Show take down and clean up. Assist removal of plants and displays. Dispose of trash, sweep floor. Fresh/rested volunteers needed. Sunday 3:45pm – 6pm

SHOW HOSTS – Welcome attendees. Answer questions. Monitor entrances, exits & displays. Sign up for a 2.5 hour slot Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Some sit down jobs.

All members who volunteer their time receive free show admission, great food & camaraderie & a special edition show t-shirt.

Proceeds from our annual show fund our operations, subsidize member social events and support orchid research & conservation.

Sign up at our meetings, clinics and social events or by email [ShowChair@VAOS.org](mailto>ShowChair@VAOS.org) or phone 941-488-4545 (Judy). We cannot accept sign up on our Facebook Group or by private message.

VAOS 2024 GIFTS & DONATIONS

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.

Earlier this year VAOS made donations to Dr. Lawrence Zettler to publish his book "Saving Orchids" and to PhD candidate Adam Herdman, Univ. of Florida, to help fund his orchid research. In September the VAOS board of directors approved donations to the AOS (\$2000) and the FNCJC (\$2000). In addition, in October we made \$300 donations to five of our local vendors who participate in our annual show who sustained hurricane damage to their greenhouses. If you would like to provide additional support to our vendors you may reach out to them directly. They are Accent Orchids, Florida Orchid House, Florida SunCoast Orchids, Orchid Envy and Plantio La Orquidea.

. 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.

The VAOS was formed 59 years ago 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.

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



The gift of
DONATION

Greetings from the Swamp!

My name is Adam Herdman and I have just begun the second year of my PhD program at the University of Florida. Although I have been involved in orchid research for many years, there still are so many questions that have gone unanswered, this is at the very foundation of my program here. Since the last newsletter, my program here at the University of Florida has been progressing very quickly. After spending six months of work to obtain permits and permissions, I was finally able to start conducting the research this spring. Many of the projects we embarked on this spring focus on large scale population dynamics and spatial distribution for the Ghost Orchid.



This July, I was pleased to help close out a ten-year survey of the Ghost Orchid populations on the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. This project has been instrumental in the development of my career path and has helped to define the projects that are going to be conducted in future. I believe field monitoring is critical to any conservation efforts because it has the capacity to tie any data observed in the lab back to the landscape. This information will be used to project the population into the future and gauge the future status of these fragmented populations.

It is because of the importance of these monitoring efforts that I decided to record a reintroduced population alongside the wild populations. After seven years of revisiting the same 123 plants, only 25 have persisted. Our findings have helped to quantify the constraints and challenges to future reintroduction efforts. We have found that the Ghost Orchids there

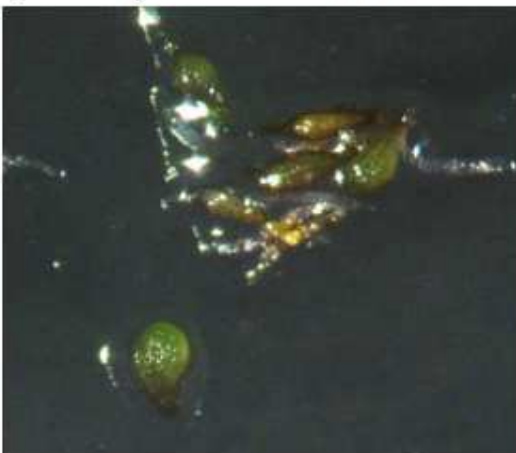
are having trouble reproducing, with many flowers but no viable capsules produced. These low rates of survival may seem like a failure, but it represents a brand-new population that did not exist before and is an important step forward in conservation of the species.

From the observations made in that reintroduction, I determined that we needed to conduct a large scale population genetics project to have a look the populations that have been observed to be struggling. We are still working on collections across Southwest Florida, but so far have sampled from 87 plants across 8 different sites. If all things run smoothly we should have reportable information on how similar the populations are by next year.

To help identify future field sites, we have begun deploying data loggers into the landscape to look at the local temperature and the humidity for each of the sites. In recording this information, the hope is to help identify abiotic conditions *in situ* that will also greatly assist in acclimatizing the plants in the greenhouse before putting plants out in the swamp. This project was also paired with other sites out at Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, where the Ghost Orchids can be found 60 feet up in the canopy. To help us get to these remote plants, we teamed up with Mac Stone and his team to climb these ancient cypress trees. Every day the loggers will record the conditions at the plants and tell us how these factors fluctuate seasonally.



In the lab, we are working hard to digest the valuable information that has been collected in the field and pair it with experiments that will meaningfully contribute to our understanding of these complex dynamics that may be driving distribution. I am currently working towards germinating Ghost Orchid seed in the lab and analyzing germination across a thermogradient. In looking



across a range of temperatures, the hope is to identify the conditions that are ideal for germination as well as the extremes. We have already begun growing Ghost Orchid seed in the lab at UF since 2015 and have recorded more information on the stages of growth.

I have been very lucky along this journey to have such supportive mentorship, and these projects would not be possible without Dr. Carrie Reinhardt-Adams and Dr. Hector Perez. I have come along way and have learned much about what it means to manage primary research projects that interface with land managers. It has been very satisfying to watch these initiatives develop when they were only an idea just one year ago. I am excited for the future of this program and look forward to writing to you again in another year.

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 support.

Adam Herdman
Graduate Assistant and PhD student
University of Florida

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Herdman', written over a horizontal line.

FALL ORCHID SALE

Friday and Saturday | November 1st and 2nd, 2024 | 9 AM to 4 PM



- Browse through 7000+ sq ft of Orchids.
- Thousands of Orchids, species and hybrids to choose from.
- Advice on Orchid Growing from Experts. Free Parking.

Plantio La Orquidea, 3480 Tallevast Rd., Sarasota, FL 34243, Same driveway as Tropiflora

PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA

PLANTÍO LA ORQUÍDEA

3480 Tallevast Rd.

Sarasota, Florida 34243

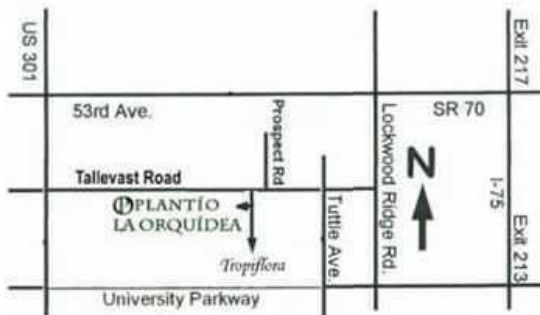
Phone: 941-504-7737

E-mail: info@plantiolaorquidea.com



10% off any purchase over \$25

Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only the dates of the event



JOIN US IN APOPKA • NOVEMBER 1 - 3, 2024

OPEN TO EVERYONE! • FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING!

The Apopka International

Featuring These Top-Quality Vendors:

In Conjunction with
**The International
Phalaenopsis Alliance
Symposium**

Fall Orchid Festival

Afri Orchids (South Africa)
Blue Ridge Orchids (North Carolina)
Blumen Insel (Japan)
Bredren Orchids (Florida)
Ching Hua Orchids (Taiwan)
Gold Country Orchids (California)
Just One More Orchid (Florida)
Krull-Smith (Florida)
Mainshow Orchids (Taiwan)
Miranda Orchids (Florida)
NT Orchids (Malaysia)
OFE Orchids & Supplies (Florida)
Orchid Eros (Hawaii)
Paph Paradise (California)
Scented Diva Candles (Florida)
Springwater Orchids (Florida)
Sunset Valley Orchids (California)
Tropicals From South America
Tropiflora (Florida)
Wilson Orchids (Taiwan)

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024 • 9:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Krull-Smith Nursery

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

407.886.4134

**Sponsored and
Hosted by**

Krull-Smith

SARASOTA ORCHID SHOW

Our first show of the season is the Sarasota Orchid Society Show on January 4-5 with set up on Friday January 3. Your blooming plants are needed to create our display. We will collect and transport your plants to the show and ensure their safe return to you on Monday following the show. All plants must be registered in advance via email starting on December 26. Detailed instructions for plant registration will appear in our December newsletter.

Sarasota Orchid Society

ORCHID AUCTION

RESCHEDULED Saturday,

November 2nd

BAY HAVEN SCHOOL

2901 W Tamiami Cir,
Sarasota

A wide variety of unique and distinctive quality orchids offered by vendors and our members.

Donated plants from:

All Around Orchids

Florida Orchid House

Palmer Orchids

Plantio La Orquidea

DOORS OPEN

1:15 PM

Register/Get bidding paddle

PREVIEWS START

1:30 pm

LIVE AUCTION

2:00 pm

Public is welcome!

Proceeds to fund
SOS programs

Cash, and Credit Card Accepted

≡ Palmer Orchids ☺



Fall Open House | Nov. 22, 23, 24

Our annual fall sale is a 3-day event at the nursery. It runs Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This sale features guest plant and supply vendors and a food vendor each day. Customers love to shop the \$10 tent and blue light specials.

Orchid talks are held once a day during the event.

**Englewood Area Orchid Society (EAOS)
Annual Plant Sale
Saturday November 9th 9am—12pm
Christ Lutheran Church
701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several vendor and other society events in November. See flyers in this newsletter

November 6 (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Mac Rivenbark Topic: Orchid Growing Outside of a Pot

November 13 (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Preparing Orchids For Winter and Upcoming Shows

December 15 *Holiday Luncheon & Orchid Auction* Plantation Golf & Country Club 11am—3pm. See flyer

The November 16 Fall Bus Trip has been canceled.

No monthly meeting or growers clinic in December

Save the Date

January 4-5 Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale. Set up Friday January 3rd

. 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:
November 6**

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

www.vaos.org

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

