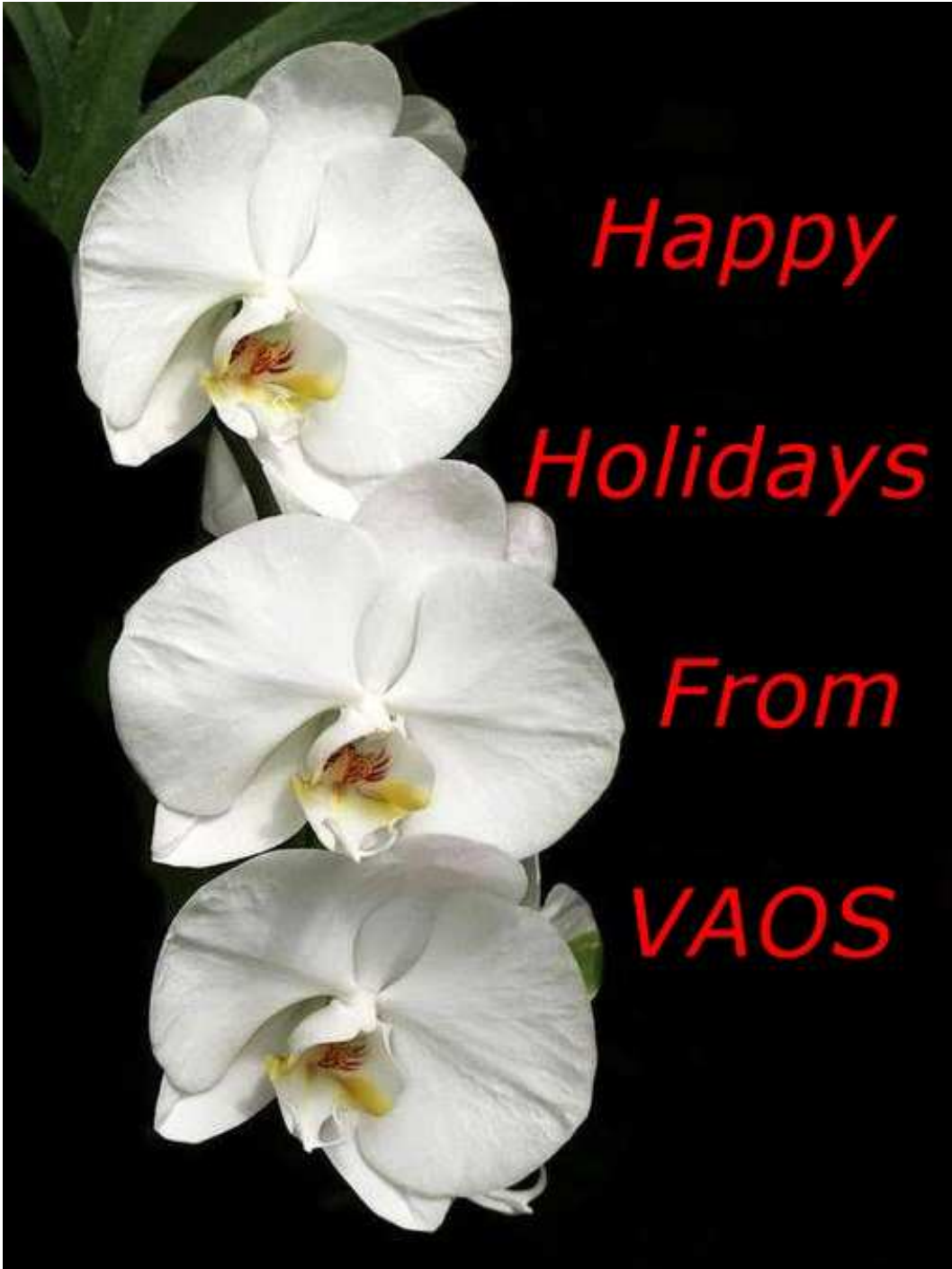


VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at www.vaos.org

December 2024



December Events

No General Meeting or Growers Clinic in December

**December 15
Holiday Luncheon & Auction**

**December 29
Plant Registration
Opens for
Sarasota Show**

Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

Face Book Group

[https://](#)

[www.facebook.com/](#)



[groups/](#)



December 15, 2024 Holiday Luncheon & Orchid Auction

Our end of year event to celebrate with 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 to support our society and the wonderful educational speakers and events we have each month.

*Sign-up for the VAOS Annual Luncheon, (flyer attached) can be done via email to Denise at social@vaos.org Your payment reserves your seat – send your payment to our Treasurer per the instructions on the flyer. Payment is due no later than December 6, 2024. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We look forward to making new orchid memories with each of you!

Welcome to our newest members & our friends from afar! The very best way to get the most out of your growing experience is to meet fellow orchid lovers! Our show season is a fabulous way to do just that. Don't forget to sign up for our show and sale!!! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Judy & Carol at [ShowChair@VAOS.org](mailto>ShowChair@VAOS.org) or sign up at our holiday luncheon.

We are Thankful for all our VAOS members!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully submitted , Denise Langman, VP Social





Annual Holiday Luncheon

Plantation Golf & Country Club

500 Rockley Blvd., Venice, FL 34293

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

Sunday 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

November 2024 Growers Clinic Recap

On Wednesday, November 13, Rick Belisle and the Growers Clinic Team offered a dual program on Preparing Your Orchids for Winter and Preparing Your Orchids for Shows. Approximately 20 members and guests attended. Many were observed taking notes as well as photos of some of the various slides in the presentation. Because of the interaction, suggestions and experiences exchanged between the attendees, there was plenty of “knowledge transfer” at this meeting! Of particular interest was the slide depicting the tolerable temperature ranges of various Cattleyas. Some no lower than 64° while others as low as 34°!. An expanded version of that popular slide has been placed on our VAOS Website (vaos.org) under VAOS PUBLICATIONS. There was also an excellent discussion and overview on preparing for the upcoming shows, the first of which is in January! Several of the attendees were able to add their experiences and thoughts and generated much enthusiasm! Note well: Due to the holiday season, there will be NO Growers Clinic in December. The next Growers Clinic will be on Thursday, January 16, 2025, where we will discuss Dendrobiums and their Care.

A poster for the Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale. The background is black with a white decorative border of various orchid species. The text is centered and reads: ORCHID DELIRIUM, Sarasota Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, January 4 - 5, 2025, Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-4, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota FL, Admission \$5.

**ORCHID
DELIRIUM**

**Sarasota Orchid Society
Annual Show and Sale**

January 4 - 5, 2025
Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-4

Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota FL

==== Admission \$5 ====

Your Blooming Plants Are Needed!

Sarasota Orchid Society Show

Our first orchid show of the 2025 season, the annual Sarasota Orchid Society Show and Sale.

Plant Registration: Sunday, December 29th – Wednesday, January 1st

Set up: Friday January 3rd, 10am – 4pm

Show: Saturday January 4th, 9am – 5pm and Sunday January 5th, 10am – 4pm

Take Down: Sunday January 5th, 4pm

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

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.

Drop them off by Thursday January 4th by 5pm: Kristin Shaw, 1541 Poinciana Rd., Venice, 484-707-8674 (South Venice)

Or call Kristin to arrange pickup 484-707-8674

Or bring them to the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Friday January 3rd before 10am

All plants must be registered in advance via email between Sunday December 29th and Wednesday January 1st

Email your plant name with a photo or bloom size and color description to PlantReg@VAOS.org.

Look for a return email confirming your plant registration with a number to attach to your plant. This will facilitate display set up at the show.

Plants should be cleaned, staked, free of pests and disease

Plants should be labeled with the plant name, the owner's name and the plant registration number provided when you register your plant

Flowers should be in prime condition to last through the weekend show. Please water your plants thoroughly and place in a box or container for transport to the show.

Volunteers are needed to transport plants and display materials to and from the Sarasota Show and to help with our display. To volunteer please contact:

Kristin Shaw, VP Displays Email: disp@VAOS.org 484-707-8674

If you have questions regarding plant registration please contact:

Linda Schaller, Plant Registration Chair Email: PlantReg@VAOS.org 815-222-0319

General Meeting Minutes November 6, 2024

7:00 Judy Loeffler called the meeting to order. She announced we have 6 new members present. She reviewed how our meeting formats are run and reminded everyone to get their raffle tickets.

Max Rivenbark, the nights speaker, gave the new members a plant for joining.

7:10 Denise Langman took the floor- The bus trip was cancelled, please see Ian for your refund. Potluck was postponed - will be setting a new date later. Holiday party is Sunday December 15th and it will be a luncheon being held at the Plantation Golf & Country Club. The cost is only \$25.00 per person.

The Englewood Area Orchid Society is having their Annual Plant sale Saturday November 9th from 9:00 AM until 12pm. It is located at the Christ Lutheran Church 701 N Indiana Ave., Englewood.

Palmer Orchids is having a sale November 22-24.

7:15 Judy encouraged everyone to attend the Christmas lunch and advised the members that our society is paying for a portion of the meal costs, so it is a deal at \$25.00

Reminder that there is no Meeting in December, but we do have a growers clinic coming up on Wednesday November the 13th, it will be in the smaller room to the side.

It's almost show season. Sarasota's show is January 4th – 5th. Set up is Friday the 3rd.

Englewood's show I April 5-6 set up is Friday the 4th.

Our show is February 1-2 with set up Friday January 31st.

Thank you to the team that helped out straightening the storage unit and we are ready for 2025.

The time to sign up to be a show volunteer is now. We still need 80 more volunteers for our show, currently we are at 40. We need an Arts and Crafts committee chair that will involve setting up displays and registering artwork with the judges.

This year we will not be taking request to volunteer through Facebook. That is too complicated. Please direct requests to showchair@vaos.org or use my direct email which is judyvaos@gmail.com .

We are trying to improve the sound so are asking if you have any questions during the program please raise your hand and Rick will come to you with the microphone.

7:20 Vicki came forward and gave the introduction and Bio for Max Rivenbark who is tonight's speaker. Max has 26 years of experience with growing Orchids.

7:22 Max Rivenbark took the stage.

8:05 Vicki Fischer announced that we are taking a break and please remember to vote for your favorite plant.

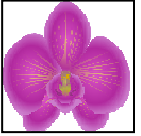
8:27 Vicki and Joanna Shaw went over the plant table and announced the night's winners. Janet and Don took over the raffle table and announced the night winning raffle numbers.

9:03 Janet thanked everyone for coming and we adjourned.

Submitted by Michele Baker, Secretary



Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



DECEMBER

- Water well, as needed, when dry.
- Protect cold-sensitive genera.
- Supplement potassium and magnesium for winter health.



And, of course, cleaning up your growing area and plants by remove dead leaves helps keeping 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

Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2024

OPERATING FUND September 30, 2024	\$6,825.02
+ Income	740.00
+ Transfers from Reserve Account	3,000.00
- Expenses and Payments	(8,111.08)
OPERATING FUND October 31, 2024	\$2,453.94



Reserve Account October 31, 2024 - \$34,539.16

Petty Cash on hand \$75.00

Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer

VAOS SHOW UPDATE



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

If you would like to volunteer please contact Judy & Carol at ShowChair@VAOS.org or sign up at our meetings and social events.

Please note your volunteer time slot on you calendar. We will distribute the final volunteer sign up list in our February 2025 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 or phone 941-488-4545 (Judy). We cannot accept sign up on our Facebook Group or by private message.



**Thousands of Blooming
Orchids, Orchid Art
and Supplies**

Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Ave.
Venice, Florida

Admission \$5 • (under 10 free)

2025 VAOS Membership Dues

Please pay your annual dues by **January 1st** to keep your membership active.

Dues are \$20 per household. If you joined or renewed on or after October 1st, 2024, you are paid through 2025.

Mail your check, payable to VAOS, to:

VAOS

P.O. Box 443

Venice, FL 34284-0443

You may also renew using Zelle from your online bank account, send to:

VAOS

VAOSMoney@gmail.com

Make sure to note “dues” on your payment as well the member name(s)

If there have been any changes to your contact information – phone and email address – please notify Ian & Karen Kennedy, Membership Chairs, at: memb@VAOS.org

Submitted by Ian & Karen Kennedy, VAOS Membership Chairs



Let There Be Light

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, one of the presentations in the November 13 Growers centered on Preparing Your Orchids for Shows. A discussion ensued regarding temperatures for encouraging plants to spike, the reference being that Phals require a 10-15 degree temperature change to encourage spiking. One of our members, Irene Bozogan, asked the question, “besides phals, what other orchids require those temperature variances to encourage them to spike?” Great question! A look around the room, and at the blank faces, resulted in the answer, “We don’t know but we’ll find out!”

So, using various syntax for questions in our trusty Google search engine resulted in some quite startling information! At first, we came up with, of course, the popular theorem having to do with the temperature changes, which would satisfy most people. However, Irene then asked the question “what about Ecuador, for instance? They are so close to the equator as to have very little temperature change. How does that affect the outcome? What about wet and dry seasons?” This, naturally, led to yet more searching.

Interestingly, Ecuador has over 4,000 species of native orchids, and has, along with Columbia, more orchids per square meter than any other country in the world! Now that is not only interesting, but begs to yet other questions. Ecuador has a coastline (“sea level”) and also shares in the Andes Mountains, with heights of up to 15,500 feet! How does *that* figure into the equation? According to the information I found, even with the variances in elevation, the temperatures at a given elevation only vary by between 12 and 15 degrees on any day. This may explain why Ecuador, and also Columbia, have so many orchids in bloom at any one time.

But, where does the amount of daylight enter the equation? Is it the “intensity” or the “length of daylight” that is the key? Certainly, as here in the US, winter days have less daylight than summer days, regardless of whether the location is above or below the equator.

Then, to try and answer the questions, I went to the old stand-by, the AOS. As it turns out the AOS states that, all other things being equal and relative, i.e., there is sufficient food, water/moisture and air (that made me think of that acronym we use in our Orchids – 101 class, F-L-A-W), the true requirement for determining if, or when, a given orchid will begin the flowering cycle is the amount of available light that that particular orchid species requires! Said, another way, even if a given orchid has the correct amounts of air, food and water, unless the “minimum light requirements” for that orchid are met, it will not bloom. Hence, and we’ve all read it or heard it or said it, when a member brings their plant to the Orchid ER and asks, “I’ve done everything...fed it, watered it, I have fans moving air yet it won’t bloom!”, the answer most often given is, “it needs more light”. I would venture to say that the correct answer should now be, “it needs the correct amount of light necessary to bloom.” Let there be light!

References:

Ecuador - Climatology | Climate Change Knowledge Portal

Principles of Light - American Orchid Society

Submitted by Rick Belisle

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: Dennis Barth Dennisbarthla@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

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

We invite our talented members of VAOS, SOS and EAOS to share and display their artwork at our annual show February 1-2, 2025. Eligible for AOS ribbon judging, the categories include:

Needlework
Painting - Oils
Painting - Acrylics
Painting – Watercolors
Sculpture
Ceramics
Jewelry
Photography (includes digital modifications)
Printing
Other



The rules:

- Orchids must be the dominant subject of all items submitted.
- Each item should be properly prepared for exhibition (framed, mounted, display stand, etc.).
- Contributors must be members of VAOS or a member of an orchid society participating in this show.
- Submissions will be screened prior to display and trophy or ribbons may be awarded at the judges' discretion.
- Art pieces previously winning prizes at a VAOS show are welcome to be displayed in exhibit but will not be judged.
- Judges may redefine classes based on entries submitted.

So, a heads up to get your favorite artistic creations ready for the show! Contact Carol at ShowChair@VAOS.org for instructions if you are interested.

Submitted by Carol Wood, Show Co-Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS

No monthly meeting or growers clinic in December

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

December 29 - January 1 Plant registration for Sarasota Show

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

January 8 (1st Wednesday) General Meeting, Venice Community Center. Speaker: Lawrence Zettler Topic: Orchid Conservation in North America

January 16 (2nd Thursday) Growers Clinic, Venice Community Center, 7pm. Topic: Dendrobiums

January 26—29 Plant registration for VAOS Show

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:
<https://aosfncj.wixsite.com/aos-florida-north-ce>

**Next meeting:
January 8**

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

