

# VENICE AREA Orchid Society

Newsletter

Visit us on the web at [www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

March 2025

## March 2025 General Meeting

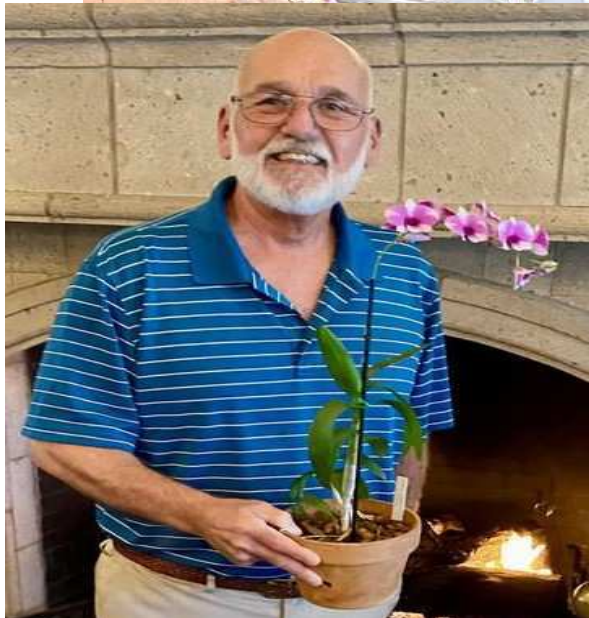
**Wednesday March 5th**  
**Doors Open: 6:30pm**  
**Venice Community  
Center**

**Speaker: Rick Belisle**  
**Topic: Welcome to VAOS**

Rick Belisle has been growing orchids since 2009 when, in a meeting of the Newcomers of Venice, he heard, during a presentation by our own Carol Wood, that “orchids offer you the opportunity to have color year round.” Intrigued by that statement, he approached Carol and she, after some discussion, suggested he come to the next VAOS meeting. At that meeting, he joined the Venice Area Orchid Society to learn more about orchids and how to grow them. Now, after many trials and tribulations, he has approximately 100 orchids in his collection. They include Dendrobiums (his personal favorite!), Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Catasetums, Stanhopeas, and a few Phaleonopsis.

He is an active member of the VAOS, is the Mentoring Program Coordinator for the club, as well as the Director of Education, Training and Outreach. He has taught classes on orchids and orchid care in orchid shows and to orchid clubs, garden clubs, and to many other service clubs. During our annual Show and Sale he is our Master of Ceremonies, welcoming our guests, reading off the hourly raffle winners, and teaching our classes.

His presentation will be not only for new members, but also more “seasoned” members, who might just wonder (or forget!) exactly what it is we, the Venice Area Orchid Society, are all about. The discussion will cover the Who, What, Where, How and When of all that we do....and the list, after putting it all together, and as you’ll see, is quite extensive!



## March Events

**March 5  
General Meeting**

**March 13  
Growers Clinic**

**March 17  
Potluck Dinner**

### Quick Links:

[VAOS Officers](#)

[Orchid Resources](#)

**Face Book Group**

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





Our 2025 Annual Show & Sale was a huge success this year and that is special thanks to YOU, our members! The teamwork, dedication, and all-around great personalities made for a successful start to 2025!!!

Here is “What’s Happening” in our society over the next few months. As with any event, it takes the participation of all our members to enjoy all VAOS has to offer.

**VAOS Potluck Dinner & Orchid Bingo Monday March 17, 2025**, from 5:00PM-8:00PM at the Venice Community Center. This is the Orchid Bingo & dinner we originally scheduled in October when Hurricane Milton decided to visit. Sign-up sheets will be available at our next Monthly Meeting on Wednesday March 5, 2025 at 7:00PM. (See Flyer)

**VAOS Annual Member Plant Sale, Saturday April 12, 2025**, 9:00AM-12:00PM at West Blalock Park, directly behind VCC. Our event will be a dual event at the park this year as we will be sharing space with Earth Day Participants who will have an arborist as well as other activities throughout the park. If any member is interested in selling their personal plants, supplies or other gardening items, please sign up at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) by April 10, 2025. You will be responsible for your own table, chair and set up. Set up may begin at 8:15am in the left corner of the park. Left of the butterfly garden as you look west. Other spaces in the park will be utilized by the Earth Day Group so please sign up in advance to secure your spot. (See Flyer)

We will host a mini repotting session at 10:00AM and a mini mounting session at 11:00.

**VAOS Member Show Them Where You Grow Them Saturday May 3, 2025** is a great way to see how other growers in our society care for their “Chids” in their own environments. If interested in being on our tour map this year, please contact Denise at [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) for information.

Any questions or ideas about our social events can be directed to Denise at **Social@VAOS.org**.

Looking forward to an exciting SPRING!!!!

Respectfully submitted

*Denise M Langman*

VP Social VAOS





# **VAOS POTLUCK DINNER**

**Monday March 17, 2025**

**5:00PM-8:00PM**

**Venice Community Center**

**Join your fellow orchid members for an evening of friends,  
food and orchid BINGO!**

**Sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, or side dish.  
VAOS will provide dessert, water, soda, coffee/tea, and place  
settings.**

**Sign up today to secure your seat!**

**Members may BYOB beer or wine**

**Orchid BINGO: Play to win great orchids & orchid related items.**

**Sign up no later than March 10<sup>th</sup> by contacting [Social@vaos.org](mailto:Social@vaos.org)**



# VAOS Show – Thank you Volunteers!

A big thank you to all of our members who contributed to a successful show and sale! We had a good turnout and our profit from the show will help to cover our administrative and operating expenses.

We would like to thank **Jerry Daenzer** and his team for their outstanding job with show set up and take down. Well done!

Thank you **Rick Belise** who served as our MC and conducted six training sessions during the show.

**Bridget Kleindienst** and her volunteer team worked the admissions and exit tables all day Saturday and Sunday with a smile. Thank you!

Our hospitality team, **Naoki Kawamura, Janet Keown and Don Posegate**, managed the kitchen throughout the weekend, stocked supplies and drinks, served lunch to our judges, vendors and volunteers and did a fabulous job! Thank you to all our members who brought in their favorite dishes. We have a longstanding reputation for our excellent food!

Show Host Chairs **Michele and Steve Baker** and their volunteer team did a fantastic job covering exits, displays, answering questions and ensuring a problem – free show. Many compliments for your friendly team, thank you!

Congratulations to **Kristin Shaw** and the display team for creating a beautiful, 10' x 10' exhibit for VAOS. Our display, composed of member plants, took 1st place, ten trophies, 45 ribbons and the AOS award!

Thank you **Sara McCartney** and the volunteer clerks who worked with the AOS judges Saturday morning as they judged and awarded trophies and ribbons, good work! Thank you **Irene Bozogan** who served as our judges host.

Thank you **Ian and Karen Kennedy** and your team for managing the Information/Membership Table. This team answered questions, distributed culture sheets, sold books and signed up new members. Well done!

**Kathy Kee** and her team did a fabulous job designing and selling floral arrangements at the Orchid Boutique, managing the raffle table and handing out bouquets. A very talented group!

Thank you **Richard Ho, Linda Schaller and Vicki Fisher** for all your work to register plants, manage the database, produce reports and support the judging process. Great job!

Thank you **Barbara Baner and Diane Kearney** for setting up the Arts & Crafts exhibit.

Thank you **Angela and Rich Hitts** for setting up and taking down the road signage around Venice!

A special thank you to **Denise Langman and Sara McCartney** who served as show co-hosts and **Stephanie Luburger and Jay Loeffler** who contributed to the success of our show.

Thank you all who contributed to our show! You are amazing people and we appreciate you!

*Judy Loeffler & Carol Wood, Show Co-chairs*

## 2025 SHOW VAOS EXHIBIT

The best weekend of the year has come and gone. I hope everyone found lots of beautiful plants to add to their collections. I know I did. Perhaps we will see them in a future display.

The display team put together another award winning display, made possible by the generosity of our members loaning us their prized plants. We were awarded the first place ribbon, and the AOS trophy! The judges thought the display exemplified the show theme with wonderful color flow. They also noted the diversity of genera, and the impressive specimen plants. We were awarded many trophies, Joanna Shaw won 4 for her beautiful *Cattleya trinae*, best large cattleya, best specimen species, best of cattleya alliance, and best plant by a VAOS member! And Sara McCartney won an AM/AOS award for her dendrobium, and gave it the clonal name 'I wasn't going to bring it!' I was only kidding when I suggested that name!

The team consisted of Kristin Shaw, VP Displays, Linda Schaller, and Vicki Fisher, doing plant registration and labeling. Rounding out the team were John Bozogan, Irene Bozogan, Dawn Bozogan, Alan Bozogan, Sara McCartney, Denise Langman, Joanna Shaw, Rick Hindman, Stephanie Luburger, and of course Richard Ho, for liaising with the judges.

I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. It really is a pleasure and honor to work with such generous, talented people.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Loefflers, for many reasons, including allowing us to park the rental truck in their yard, and keeping the greenery. And for being my cheerleaders! Our society is lucky to have them.

VAOS members were awarded 50 ribbons and ten trophies as summarized on the following page.

Thank you all again,  
Kristin Shaw, VP Displays



## 2025 SHOW - VAOS EXHIBITOR AWARDS

### PLANT RIBBON AWARDS

Bannister, Karen	3 Red
Belisle, Rick	2 Blue
Bozogan, Irene	3 Blue
DeVirgilio, Carol	1 Red
Fisher, Vicki	1 Blue, 2 Red
Kawamura, Naoki	1 Blue, 1 Red
Kennedy, Ian	1 Blue, 1 Red
Keown, Janet	1 Blue, 1 Red
Langman, Denise	1 Red
Mayers, Mike	1 Red, 2 Yellow
McCartney, Sara	3 Blue
Monell-Simard, Francena	1 Blue, 1 Yellow
Sedlak, Dottie	1 Blue
Shaw, Joanna	3 Blue 1 Red
Shaw, Kristin	1 Blue
Speyrer, Michelle	1 Blue, 3 Red, 3 Yellow
Thimm, Irene	1 Blue
Volonakis, Helen	1 Blue, 1 Red, 1 Yellow
VAOS	Blue Ribbon, Best Exhibit



### ARTS & CRAFTS RIBBON AWARDS

Adam, Pauline	1 Red, 1 Yellow (Photography)
Mayers, Mike	1 Blue (Photography)
Nacinovich, Tony	1 Blue (Photography)
Romero, Natalia	1 Blue (Other)



### TROPHY AWARDS

- Bozogan, Irene – Best Oncidium Alliance Plant, Oncsa. Sweet Sugar
- Kennedy, Ian – Best Miniature Plant, Den. peguanum
- Romero, Natalia – Best Art Or Craft Entry, Planet Orchid
- Shaw, Joanna – Best Specimen Species Plant, C. trianae ‘A.C. Burrage’ AM/AOS
- Shaw, Joanna – Best Plant by VAOS Member, C. trianae ‘A.C. Burrage’ AM/AOS
- Shaw, Joanna – Best Cattleya Alliance Plant, C. trianae ‘A.C. Burrage’ AM/AOS
- Shaw, Joanna – Best Large Cattleya Plant, C. trianae ‘A.C. Burrage’ AM/AOS
- Speyrer, Michelle – Best Phalaenopsis Plant, Phal. Lianher Happy Dancer
- Volonakis, Helen – Best Cyripedium Alliance Plant, Paph. Chou-Yi Complex
- VAOS – AOS Trophy, Best Society Exhibit





# Treasurer's Report

## January 31, 2025



<b>OPERATING FUND</b> December 31, 2024	\$8,358.22
+ Income	1,575.00
+/- Transfers from Reserve Account	2,000.00
- Expenses and Payments	(6,885.82)
<b>OPERATING FUND</b> January 31, 2025	<b>\$5,047.40</b>
<b>Reserve Account</b> January 31, 2025 - \$29,539.94	
Petty Cash on hand \$75.00	

*Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Treasurer*



Tony Nacinovich was awarded an AOS Artistic Certificate for his photo of Rlc. George King 'Southern Cross'.  
 Congratulations Tony!



Joanna Shaw was awarded four trophies for her plant *C. trianae* 'A.C. Burrage' AM/AOS. They included Best Specimen Species, Best Plant by VAOS Member, Best Cattleya Alliance and Best Large Cattleya.

Congratulations Joanna!





**Sara McCartney won an AM/AOS certificate for her Den.  
Burana Greenstar  
Congratulations Sara!**

# March Growers Clinic— Orchids 201

## March 13th

The March 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! Then, since last month the team presented “Orchids 101 – Basic Orchid Care”, this month, it’s the follow-up! Rick & the team will present “**Orchids – 201**” and will get into specifics on **Pots, Media, Repotting & Tools** required for a successful repotting project. Guests are welcome. 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.



## Monthly Quick Tip from Your Growers Clinic Team



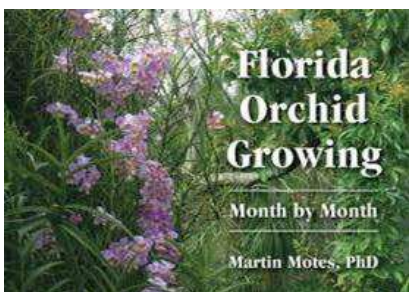
### MARCH

- Preventive spray for Thrips.
- Repot your dormant plants: catasetums, calanthes, and soft cane dendrobiums.
- Repotting of cattleyas, oncidiums, hard cane dendrobiums, etc. continues.
- Watch lighting as the sun gets higher creating longer growing days.

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 - [Florida Orchid Growing: Month-by-Month](#) book by Martin Motes, PhD.

Available for sale at our membership desk monthly meetings



*Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education*



## General Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

7:00 Judy called the meeting to order and welcomed new members.

Judy went over how our meetings are run and explained the plant table and the raffle table. She explained a little about VAOS and when we meet.

Judy went over the show and had a long list of people to thank for all the hard work and dedication that everyone put into making this years show a success.

Judy proudly announced that our team of talented display people took first place in the display voted on by our guest judges. Those same judges awarded many VAOS members individual awards, and she congratulated each of our members on their individual achievements.

Judy was excited to say that we are now working on next year's show which is slated for February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Judy explained that the money we raised at the show is crucial as it pays for the building rentals for all our events and the speakers, we have coming in. She added that it covers the costs of our member events such as the Holiday party and the potluck as well as affording us to partner with people such as Adam Herdman who is studying at the University of Florida for his PHD in orchid conservation.

7:19 Denise Langman came up and made the announcement that we are having our potluck on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 located at this same building. She explained that it was make-up from the one we could not have because of Hurricane Milton.

7:20 Vicki Fisher introduced our speaker for the night Keith Emig who presented "I know my plant is Awardable".

8:03 Judy announced we are going to take a 15-minute break and to make sure to vote and get your raffle tickets.

8:19 Joanna and Vicki presented the plant table and gave the names of the winning plants and their lucky growers.

8:30 Janet and Don did our raffle table.

9:00 Meeting was adjourned.

*Submitted by Michele Baker, VAOS Secretary*



# SPRING MEMBER PLANT SALE!

**Those interested in participating:**

**Bring your plants or divisions you want to sell. Sell your orchid related items you no longer use. Great time to clean out your growing areas for spring!!!**

**Bring your own table, chair and beverages!**

**VAOS will have greenery from our show available for purchase**

**All interested in selling must register with Denise via [Social@VAOS.org](mailto:Social@VAOS.org)**

**No sales until 9:00am**

**West Blalock Park on  
the Island**

**(Behind Venice Community  
Center)**

**401 Pensacola Road  
Venice, Fl 34285**

**Hours: 9:00AM-  
12:00 PM**

**(No sales until 9:00AM)**

**Saturday April 12,  
2024**

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Anyone planning on selling MUST register with [social@vaos.org](mailto:social@vaos.org) prior to the day of event.

## What's In A Tag?

So, you've bought an orchid(or three), and you're wondering what all that gibberish on the tag really means, I'm going to try to explain it here.

Generally the tag has at least two words, the first of which is often abbreviated. This is the genus, ex. Brassavola, Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, etc. This tells you what type of orchid you have. In the case of hybrids between two genera, the first is often abbreviated. I won't go into all the abbreviations, as it takes up about 8 pages on some of the websites I've looked at. The easiest way to discover what the abbreviations mean is a simple google search.

Which brings me to part two of your tag. If your orchid is a species, or as it may occur in nature, the next part will begin with a lowercase letter. For example, Brassavola nodosa, or Cattleya violacea. If it's a hybrid, each part will be capitalized. For example, Phalaenopsis Jennifer Palermo, or Cattleya Horace. If it is an unnamed hybrid, you will see the names of the two parent plants.

And sometimes, there is a part three, which is the cultivar name, capitalized with single quotation marks. Any clone or division of this plant carries the cultivar name. For example, Bc. Yellow Bird 'FLSO'.

And now to the reason I decided to write this in the first place. What are all the letters after some of those orchid names? Awards, generally from the American Orchid Society. The American Orchid Society awards are given to plants and flowers of exceptional quality. The one I see most often is AM/AOS, awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 80 to 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

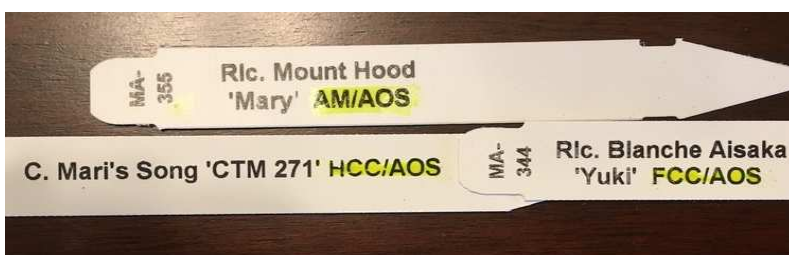
Others are HCC (Highly Commended Certificate), awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 75 to 79 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

FCC (First Class Certificate), the highest flower-quality award, awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more on a 100-point scale.

CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit), awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award and must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence), awarded to the exhibitor of a well-flowered specimen plant of robust health. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least 12 months immediately prior to the award and must score at least 90 points on a 100-point scale. Plants receiving this award represent the highest level of orchid culture.

I hope this clears some things up. It sure would have been nice to have this when I was starting out. But what I did have was the Venice Area Orchid Society, and all the collective knowledge. So if you are a new member: welcome and enjoy!



*Submitted by Kristin Shaw, VP Displays*

# VAOS ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

April 2, 2025

VAOS holds an annual meeting each year to elect new officers to the Board of Directors. This year our society will hold the annual meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. In conjunction with our regular monthly meeting.

Board members are elected to a two year term and may serve an additional two year term. We have no board vacancies this year. Two directors have agreed to serve for two more years. They are:

Denise Langman, VP Social

Ian & Karen Kennedy, Membership Chairs

There are many opportunities to become involved with our society, volunteer positions and future board positions. If you are interested, please contact Ian Kennedy, Treasurer and Membership Chair for more information ([lankenedytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:lankenedytreasurer@gmail.com))

*Submitted by Ian Kennedy, Nominating Committee Chair*

## FEBRUARY GROWERS CLINIC RECAP

WOW! Our February, 13, 2025 Growers Clinic was jam-packed and took up all of the allotted time and then some!. Approximately 40 members and guests showed up for the Basic Orchids – 101 class. Attendees ranged from several brand-new members, who joined at our recently-held show and sale, to more seasoned veterans, who came to reinforce and/or further expand their knowledge. There were many great questions from the group that generated various solutions, perspectives and a wealth of “knowledge transfer” from the team of Rick Belisle and Richard Ho, with input from Denise Langman and Sara McCartney. The Orchid ER had several patients, mostly of the Phalaenopsis type, who’s suggested treatments resulted in much learning by our “newbies”. For those who might have developed “writers’ cramp” while taking notes, we have created the “Orchids -101 Cheat Sheet” and placed it on our VAOS website under the VAOS Publications tab.

*Submitted by Rick Belisle, Director, Training & Education*



# Palmer Orchids

22700 TAYLOR DRIVE | BRADENTON, FL 34211

## SPRING OPEN HOUSE MARCH 7-9

ART STONE  
ORCHIDS  
BREDREN ORCHIDS  
ORCHIDS 365  
PAT'S ORCHID  
BASKETS & MOUNTS  
PATO CASERO  
PAUL'S  
PLANTSCAPES

CLOSED THURSDAY 3/6 FOR EVENT SETUP

**FRI  
7**

**9AM  
TO  
5PM**

**12P ORCHID TALK:**  
HOW TO GROW BARE ROOT  
DIVISIONS & VANDA CUTTINGS  
🍴 SOUTHERN SMOKED

**SAT  
8**

**9AM  
TO  
5PM**

**11A ORCHID TALK:**  
REPOTTING & MOUNTING  
ORCHIDS  
🍴 SOUTHERN SMOKED

**SUN  
9**

**10AM  
TO  
4PM**

**12P ORCHID TALK:**  
ORCHID BASICS  
🍴 THE TACO LADIES

PALMERORCHIDS.COM | INFO@PALMERORCHIDS.COM

Join Us in Welcoming Spring to Florida with the

*Apopka International*  
**Spring Orchid Festival**

**April 11-13, 2025 • 9:00am-5:00pm**

**AOS JUDGING: 10:00am Saturday April 12 at Krull-Smith Nursery**

**Featuring Top-Quality Speakers and Vendors  
from Around the World**

- Orchids
- Hoyas
- Staghorn Ferns
- Exotic Tropical Foliage Plants
- Growing Supplies

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING!**

Sponsored and Hosted by

**Krull & Smith**

**Location: Krull-Smith Nursery**

2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712

Tel: (407) 886-4134 • [orchids@krullsmith.com](mailto:orchids@krullsmith.com) • [www.krullsmith.com](http://www.krullsmith.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 1-2** Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show.  
Info: [fafie328@aol.com](mailto:fafie328@aol.com)

**March 5 General Meeting**, Venice  
Community Center. Speaker: Rick Belisle  
Topic: Welcome to VAOS

**March 7-9** Palmer Orchids Spring Open  
House. See flyer

**March 13 Growers Clinic**, Venice Community  
Center, 7pm. Topic: Orchid Basics (Pots,  
Media, Repotting, Tools)

**April 2 General Meeting**, Venice Community  
Center. Speaker: Bret Ullery Topic: Orchids  
101, Basic Orchid Care

**April 5-6** EAOS Orchid Show & Sale,  
Englewood Sports Complex

**April 10 Growers Clinic**, Venice Community  
Center, 7pm. Topic: Dividing & Repotting  
Hands-on Clinic

**April 11-13** Spring Orchid Festival at Krull-  
Smith, Apopka. See flyer

**April 12** VAOS Spring Member Plant Sale,  
West Blalock Park. See flyer

### ONGOING

**Mentor Program**: help for new growers,  
contact Rick Belisle [Mentor@vaos.org](mailto: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:**  
**March 5**

## Contact Us

**Venice Area Orchid Society**

**PO BOX 443**

**Venice, FL 34284-0443**

## **President**

**Judy Loeffler** [pres@vaos.org](mailto:pres@vaos.org)

## **Membership**

**Ian & Karen Kennedy**

[memb@vaos.org](mailto:memb@vaos.org)

## **Visit us on the web at**

[www.vaos.org](http://www.vaos.org)

## **Visit our Facebook Group at**

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

