

# Englewood Area Orchid Society



March, 2023

also at EAOS.ORG

## From the President's Desk

We are almost to the end of this year's show season. It's always a busy time of year. I know we are all looking forward to our show on March 3 & 4, with set up starting at 8:00 on the 2nd. We might have a smaller venue, but we'll still have a great show thanks to all those who have stepped up to help with the show. We can't do it without you.



Just a reminder to pay your dues for 2023. It's only \$15 for a household which is pretty reasonable. Venice has been charging \$20 for several years. You can send your renewals to: EAOS, P O Box 257, Englewood, FL. 34295.

Don't forget that we have a great library of orchid books that you can take out and enjoy and return the next month. It is a great way to learn more about orchids in addition to our monthly meetings.

I passed out flyers for the show along with business cards with the information about our monthly meeting. Don't forget to share them with friends and anyone you meet that might be interested in orchids. We want to grow our society to be an even better one.

We have booked our first "gig" in North Port. The society will have a table at the North Port Newcomer Day on May 6th. Hopefully we'll meet lots of people that enjoy orchids and want to learn more about them. We hope to get out there to let the people of North Port, Port Charlotte and Englewood know we are here and eager to meet them and have them join us. Be on the lookout for other opportunities and pass along to the membership committee.

## Calendar

Meetings (except Aug. and Dec.) are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at St. David's Episcopal Church, 401 S. Broadway, 6:30 pm.

**Mar. 2** -- Setup for show

**Mar. 3&4** -- EAOS Show at Tringali Community Center

**Mar. 20** -- Regular meeting - 6:30  
Plant Table setup, 7:00 meeting.

Englewood Area Orchid Society Presents  
**ORCHIDS**

**Orchid Show & Sale  
Friday & Saturday**

**March 3 & 4, 2023 10am - 5pm**

**\$5 Admission Plenty of Parking!**

**Sales & Exhibits  
Retail Orchids & Supplies  
Artwork Books Raffles**

**Free Professional Advice  
& Culture Information**

**Show Located Inside  
Tringali Community Center  
3460 North Access Road  
Englewood, FL**

**For Information  
www.EAOS.org**



northport2000@comcast.net

We all enjoyed Rafael Romero's nice presentation about Brassavola orchids. They are one of my favorite type of orchids. They use this orchid a lot to make new crosses. It's a good orchid to grow in our area, so if you don't have any, be on the lookout for a plant or two to grow and enjoy. We've had a number of BC Maikai Mayumi orchids on the raffle table. They bloom several times a year with small clusters of flowers and are so enjoyable.

Next month's speaker will be Tatiana Arias, Ph.D, who is an Orchid Research Botanist who works at Selby Gardens.

Here is to a great society!

Mary Anne DiGrazia, EAOS President



EAOS display at the Venice show.

## EAOS needs your orchids

If you have orchids blooming on Thursday, March 2, bring them to the setup at Tringali. You do not need to worry about registration for this show. Because of the limited space at Tringali and the fact that there will be no judging of the displays, all blooming orchids are acceptable. Each of the societies will install a tabletop display as a decorative element at the show. Please attach your name to the side of the pot (not on the bottom) so that we can match the correct orchids to their owners at the end of the show. There is no need to send pictures of the orchids or to preregister; just bring your plants to the setup by 9:30 am.

## February Plant Table



First Place – Rth. Shinfong Little Sun -  
Debbie Robbins



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Rl. digbyana – Candy Bott



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: V. Pachara Delight – Dottie Johns



Feb. speaker Rafael Romero presents the orchids on the plant table.

## Show season is ending

The Englewood show closes the local show season on March 3 & 4 at Tringali Community Center, 3460 N Access Rd, Englewood. The site of the show is the Community Center at Tringali, not the gym, which has been leased by FEMA until the end of March. This venue is less than half the size of our normal show venue and so requires the streamlining of our usual setup. Sales of orchids and orchid supplies will still be part of the show. The society displays will be smaller than in the past.

## Dues are payable for 2023.

Just a reminder that we are in a new year and that dues of \$15 per household are now payable. This helps to cover expenses for our meeting place and speaker. Be a member and pay your dues now. You can send your renewals to: EAOS, P O Box 257, Englewood, Fl. 34295.

## Show volunteers needed

Volunteers are still needed for the show on March 3 & 4. If you have not already signed up, call to find out what you can do to make the annual show a success.

We also need donations of water or bottles of soda, chips, snacks, desserts, or any other food items. It is important that we feed the workers and vendors during the setup and on the show days.

Needed: Volunteers to hand out our fliers at the Farmers Market on Thursday, March 2nd. There are hundreds of people that go to the Farmers Market who might like to attend our show.

Please email MaryAnne or call her to let her know what you would like to contribute. Email [tommaryanne@centurylink.net](mailto:tommaryanne@centurylink.net) or call 941-697-9237.

## Important Meeting in March

It is important that all members attend the March meeting on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda will be a motion to dissolve the EAOS. This is your opportunity to speak out on the future of the orchid society. You may have ideas on how to improve and to expand the society. Come to the meeting and let others know your ideas.

Even before Covid and the hurricane, our society was shrinking. We are at a point where the loss of even 1 member could make it impossible to do a display for the shows in Sarasota, Venice, or Englewood. If we cannot commit to action now, we may have reached a point that the society cannot continue. Bring your ideas to the meeting on 3/20 to save your society.

## In Memoriam

EAOS member, Ginny Torr, lost her husband Bernie in October. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her in her loss.

## 2023 Show Sponsors

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# February Minutes

Minutes of EAOS Meeting February 20, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Mary Anne DiGrazia welcoming all guests and new members and to all our returning members. Nice to have you all here.

## **Old Business:**

Dues are now payable for 2023 at \$15 per household. This is quite a bargain as it helps pay for the rental on this room, our speakers among other things. Please make your check payable to Englewood Area Orchid Society. If you haven't paid yet, please do so on the break.

Plant Table: Please bring your blooming plant to show off at the meeting. Vote for your favorite plant on the plant table. The top 3 will be our winners. Thanks for bringing in the lovely plants.

We will be having Culture Classes at 6:30 at the meetings. You can bring troubled plants for answers. Great way to get extra training and more orchid knowledge. We need a volunteer to conduct the classes.

During the break, buy raffle tickets, and vote for your favorite plant on the plant table. Also, check out Rafael's plants.

Due to health reasons, our vice president, Dorothy Johns has to step down and Lisa McNaughton has agreed to take the position. Thank you to Dorothy and Lisa.

I also want to thank Debbie Kugler for being our correspondent secretary and she has had to step down due to family needs. Jami Hess has taken over that position. Thank you to Jami for stepping up.

Venice Orchid Show: Ken and his team did a great job on our display for the Venice Show. Unfortunately, the support from the members was low and Ken did not have a lot of plants to work with. We did receive 10 first place, 5 second place and 5 third place ribbons, which was really great. I know that due to the hurricane and the cold spells, most of us did not have many blooming plants to put into the display. Ken entered the majority of the plants.

At the Venice Show they handed out a Trifold with info about the show and the society. Kitty has been working on one. I've given her one from Venice to give her additional help. This will be used to give to our new members and also can be given out in the community to let people know that we have a great society. We have great speakers where we can learn a lot and a great place to meet like minded people.

At the Venice Show I thanked the people for coming and gave them our postcard flyer. When I had the flyers re-run to correct the address for the show, the printer didn't receive the correct information, therefore, another set was printed with the incorrect information. Thank you to Suzanne Grimmer from VAOS for getting the stickers and printing the new address. All the flyers have the correct address label on, thanks to Mary Anne and Tom. I have flyers on the membership table and I would like each of you to take a stack and share them with others to get the word out that we are having our show on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Englewood Orchid Show: Our show will be here very soon. Set up will be on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 AM and many hands available to help would be great.

We need people to sign up for many volunteer jobs that we have available such as the raffle table, membership, plant table and very important is hospitality which we need several to sign up for and to help with the show also. Setting up and taking down are also important things to help with.

Because we will not be having AOS judging this year or ribbon judging, you may put your unnamed plant in the display. Please put your name on the pot. Bring plants to set up by 9:30 AM on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ken has done so much for the society with doing the displays, producing the newsletter to keep members updated on events, etc. and keeping the website updated. It is extremely important that we give him the help he needs to make his job easier. The past two shows have been quite a challenge because of the lack of plants to work with. Let's make this show much easier for him. I know you will help support him and I am counting on you.

We have to increase our membership to have a larger pool of plants to pull from. It is our society and we all need to try to step up and do more. The best time to buy plants for the next year's show is at each show as most of the flowers will bloom the following year at that same time. The more members we have, the more we will be able to exhibit and it will make Ken's job so much easier. He does an awful lot for the society and we need to show him we can step up and do our part.

### **New Business:**

Ken Woodward spoke to the members at the meeting. He stated that In accordance with the bylaws of EAOS, move that the members instruct the board to bring to the membership, at the March meeting on March 20, 2023, a motion to dissolve the Englewood Area Orchid Society.

Ken offers this motion hoping to begin a conversation on how to make EAOS a more viable organization. Our membership has declined from a high near 100 to about 75 in 2022. Our concern is not just the decrease in membership but also fewer plants for our displays. In previous years, we have had a few members with larger collections, but that is a thing of the past. In 2020, we were able to enter 73 orchids in the VAOS show. In 2023, we had only 27. In 2020 we had orchids from 13 members. In 2023, we had orchids from 8 members. What can we do to stay viable and thrive as a society? To continue participating in orchid shows, our best option is to recruit more members to get more plants. The "area" includes North Port and Port Charlotte, neither of which has an active orchid society, fertile ground for a membership campaign.

We have to get out and let people know in North Port and Port Charlotte that we have a wonderful society and ask them to join us.

We must set a goal of doubling the membership in the next year for meaningful change to take place. Every member, current and future, counts. To succeed, we need everyone to be involved. Our next step is to have this conversation among the whole membership by passing this motion. Motion was passed to discuss at the March 20, 2023 meeting.

Our speaker tonight will be Rafael Romero, who has been a great friend of EAOS. He will be speaking to us tonight about Brassavola orchids. It's one of my favorites and if you don't have any, I highly recommend getting one or more.

Rafael Romero presented the plants on the plant table with informative descriptions of each plant. Ribbons were awarded for the plants.

Attention then went to the raffle table where numbers were drawn. Winning numbers choosing from the plants and items that were donated for the raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Motter, Recording Secretary