



# Vero Beach Orchid Society



September 2024

September Speaker: Bill Nunez



I began growing orchids in the late 60's after several years of tagging along with my father to visit his friend's greenhouses. Some of these growers were prominent growers in the area and some of you may remember them.

Jack Sweet, Cliff Curry, John Matthews, John & Gloria Naugle, Gladys Whitesell, Richard Bates and a few others began to receive a few back bulbs from some of these folks and a few of them lived. I was off to the races after that. I built my first flask box when I was in high school. I grew up on 1800 acres of family-owned ranch land. I started working on Cattle ranches in the 70's and became familiar with Florida cypress swamps. I enjoyed my adventures in these wonderful swamps. They became my refuge, and I always had the sense of traveling back hundreds of years in time when I entered one of these untouched places. I was able to find many of the Florida orchid species along with native ferns and a variety of wildlife.

I have been growing orchids most of my life and I get a great pleasure now when I am making new hybrids mostly in the Cattleya alliance.

I have been fortunate enough to receive several AOS awards and register several of my hybrids.

The greatest satisfaction for me is to have one of my hybrids awarded.

Now I am older than dirt and I am still fascinated with orchids. Somewhere back in my memory I am still a young man on an afternoon adventure in a pristine Florida cypress head, oak hammock, or creek bottom.

Bill Nunez AKA 'Rhizome Cowboy'

Bill will provide plants for sale as well as raffle plants. He will be speaking on Tag Nomenclature. Hope to see you all there on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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Editor's Note:

We will be asking for any nominations for offices. Keep in mind, whoever is nominated must accept the nomination. The October meeting will finalize the nominations acceptance and November will be the elections/confirmation of the ticket. We would like to see some folks step forward, even if not a board member, at least to provide some new perspectives on things we can do as a group to help better meet the wants of the membership.



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**VERO BEACH ORCHID SOCIETY OFFICERS**

President – Carolyn Greene  
Vice President – Jeanne Thompson  
Secretary – Rose Ann Jones  
Treasurer – Deborah Ford  
Show Chairman – Deborah Ford

**Board of Directors**

Joanne Brown  
Doug Mew  
Cathy Gustafson

**Committees**

Membership – Joanne Brown  
Hospitality – Rose Ann Jones  
Sunshine – Louise Albright  
Newsletter Editor – Carolyn Greene

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VBOS Website: [www.vero-beach-orchid-society.org](http://www.vero-beach-orchid-society.org)

**DUES FOR 2024: SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$20.00**

**FAMILY DUES: \$25.00**

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 19TH AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM**