



Vero Beach Orchid Society



October 2025

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 greatly enjoyed my adventures into these wonderful swamps. They became my refuge and I always had the since 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 thereon October 16th at 7pm.

Editor's Note

Beginning next year, we will be raising the cost of dues by \$5. The individual membership will be \$25 and the family will be \$30 since the cost of everything is getting outrageous, this will help keep the society in a position to make our expenses without going into a negative situation. We hate to do it, but the economic situation gives us little choice. To defray part of the dues cost, we'll be giving credit for time volunteered in our outside activities. So, as long as your physically able to spend some time at our tent in Gardenfest, working at the April show, and/or working through part of the September show, you'll get credit and the dues for the next year will be reduced. We're not asking for a huge amount of time, only 5 hours. When you volunteer, you'll check in with the coordinator. When you're ready to leave, let them know so we can log the correct number of hours. If you clock in 5 within the year, your dues will be reduced by \$5 the next year. Of course, if you're physically unable, we wouldn't expect you to be out there. We are also going to prorate the dues, so those who join in the latter half of the year, will get a bit of a break. This is something that should have been done many years ago, but we're trying to make it right this coming year.

Our annual party will be on December 6th, starting at 12:00, noon, at Marsh Landing. It will be a "cocktail buffet" format with salad and dessert included. We'll let everybody sit wherever you want and randomly pick table numbers from the container so you don't all have to stand in line at the same time. You'll have name tags that will determine which plant you'll get as before. Since you will have October and November, up to the November meeting to reservation, you'll have plenty of time. The menu will consist of water, tea, soft drinks, and coffee. The menu offerings will be main entrees including Herb Chicken, Honey Lime Mahi, Pot Roast, Mashed & Gravy, Green Beans, Carrots. Also include will be rolls and cornbread or similar offerings.

We had enough volunteers the cover what needed to be covered. Fortunately, the volunteers from McKee did much of the runner activities. Unfortunately, there weren't many of our own group. Pretty much the same handful of people who attend every function. We'd really like to see more participation from any of you who are physically able to do so. To encourage volunteers, we're allowing folks to "work off" part of their dues in the coming year.

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Vero Beach Orchid Society

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DUES FOR 2025:

SINGLE MEMBER DUES \$20.00

FAMILY DUES: \$25.00

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 16TH AT THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, 2526 17TH AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:00 PM