



OSGKC  
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Orchid Society of  
Greater Kansas City

# OSGKC News

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY    www.osgkc.org    March 2009

## OSGKC March 8th Meeting: Annual Auction

By Glenn Lessenden

The March meeting will be the auction. April events include Tom Larkin's open greenhouse on April 5 and our growers tour on April 19. I'm still organizing for the growers tour. Anyone who would like to host part of the tour please e-mail me. The May meeting will be Leo Schodje talking about "Growing Orchids Under Lights" on May 3.

## Guide to exhibiting orchids

from AOS

First in a three-part series

Creating award-winning orchid exhibits eludes the grasp of many: They feel that they are not "artistic" enough. Although being an artist may help, it is not a necessary prerequisite for putting together a beautiful...even an award-winning exhibit. An understanding of AOS judging criteria is fundamental if you seek official recognition of your efforts. Of course it helps if you have a selection of high quality orchids and a little imagination. Here you'll find guidelines for determining the number of orchids and foliage plants you'll need, suggestions on groundcover materials, an explanation of color flow, staging techniques, a checklist so you won't forget that one important item.

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## Spring Orchid Auction

By Monica McNamara

Please consider donating your healthy and pest free orchids for our Spring Auction on **Sunday, March 8**. This is the primary fundraiser for OSGKC and remember that your donations may be tax-deductable as we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Receipts will be provided on auction day during the plant check-in.

Blooming plants are preferred. For non-blooming plants a plant of the actual flower or representative flower (or at the very least a written description of the bloom) is highly recommended.

Anyone interested in donating plants is asked to email [mmorchids@everestkc.net](mailto:mmorchids@everestkc.net) as soon as possible:

- The total number of plants
- Names of plants to be donated (the list will be posted on our Website)

A breakdown of:

- bloomer plants for auction
- non-blooming plants for auction
- non-blooming plants for the \$5 sale table

Caregivers of previously donated orchids – please send me the names of the foster plants you will be bringing to the auction.

Please make plans to attend our auction and bring one friend to assure the success of this event!

We are also still looking for volunteers to help with the auction. Please let me know if you are interested.

Questions? Contact Monica McNamara at [mmorchids@everestkc.net](mailto:mmorchids@everestkc.net) or 913/851-8709.



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## From the President

Our Annual Fundraiser, the Orchid Auction, takes place at our next meeting on Sunday, March 8. Businesses that advertise on our website and in our yearbook donate plants and orchid-related supplies.

We have also received some donations from the community and we encourage members to also make donations of healthy plants and orchid-related items. Each member's presence at the auction is important to its success. What is also critical is advertising or getting word out to the public so as to have greater attendance at this important Society event. Please take personal responsibility and pass out fliers, tell coworkers, and you are highly encouraged to bring one or more friends with you to the auction!

Remember that this is our only planned fundraiser for 2009 and is a crucial part of OSGKC's budget!! Let's work together to make it a success.

See you there,

*Monica McNamara*

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*Exhibiting - AOS, con't from 1*

If you are a member of an orchid society and scheduled to be putting in an exhibit at a show this year now you can be the hero. If you have been lurking in the background lacking the necessary confidence to take the plunge, read these pages. Exhibit work can be dirty, tiring, fun and very rewarding. If you are a student judge there is useful information for you here as well. Use the checklist. If you are a hobby grower who has been considering doing an exhibit someday, now is the time. The information is here. *AOS point system for judging exhibits:*

The American Orchid Society Handbook on Judging and Exhibition provides the following point scale for judging. *Groups of Plants or Cut Flowers Arranged for Effect.*

This point scale is similar to ones used by horticultural organiza-

## OSGKC Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2009

March 8<sup>th</sup> is the auction. April 19<sup>th</sup> will be the grower's tour.

The society is looking into renting a van for April 5<sup>th</sup> to go to the Larkin's open house. Cindy Hobbs has sent out an email asking members if they were interested.

The beginners group talked about diseases.

May they will talk about constructing special growing places for orchids.

The society exhibit received a blue ribbon at the show in St. Louis. The society will put an exhibit in the Omaha show March 21-22.

We will also be putting an exhibit in the Springfield show March 28-29

Doug & Beth will not be able to put together the exhibit in Springfield.

The Mid America Congress is March 26-29 in Columbus, OH. Doug and Beth Martin have room in their car if someone wants to ride over with them.

Cindy Hobbs presented the budget.

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tions throughout the world and is used for scoring exhibits for show trophies and ribbons.

The four key areas that are judged are  
**Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Scale & Rhythm:** 35 pts.  
**Quality of Flowers:** 35 pts.  
**Variety:** 20 pts  
**Labeling:** 10 pts.  
**TOTAL - 100 pts.**

*[See next month's newsletter for a description of the four key areas.]*

## Support OSGKC Sponsors:

Bergman Orchid Farm  
Bird's Botanicals  
Oak Hill Gardens  
r.f. Orchids  
Windy Hill Gardens  
Whippoorwill Orchids

Total Income is \$3,000

\$900 dues

\$350 raffle

\$1,800 auction

Expenses:

Speakers \$2000

Total expenses \$4,800

The budget was approved.

The March auction is a big fundraiser for the society. Blooming plants would be best. Let Monica know how many blooming and non-blooming plants will be there. The viewing starts at 1pm and the auction starts at 1:30.

Please get your dues in so the membership directory can be finished.

*Holly Hall*

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## Arkansas Orchidfest: Travel Plans

I would like to offer to coordinate a van or vans for a day trip to Tom and Barbara's Orchidfest on Sunday, April 5. We would plan to leave around 6:30 in the morning to arrive around 11 and come back around 3:30 that same afternoon. Research on van costs indicates it would cost between \$25 - \$30/person..of course leaving enough room in the van for plants too. I would like to get a number of all those interested so I can begin doing research on available vans. Also, anyone that has a van OR large vehicle that would like to offer to chauffeur a group would be wonderful too. Depending upon how many responses I get, I might need additional drivers as well. Contact me as soon as possible with the following information:

*Your name*

*Number in your party*

*If you are available to drive*

*If you have a large vehicle to transport people (Number of people who can ride in your vehicle?)*

I'll confirm at the March meeting.

*Cindy*



## AOS President's Communication: Altering Course

In the economic climate in which we find ourselves these days, we are all faced with difficult decisions when it comes to where and how we spend our money. Well, the AOS is no different. The Board of Trustees recognizes that our organization's Mission must be the focus, and at the same time we must understand who our members are, and what is required to do for our members to remain a viable organization. It is obvious that we must do what private and public institutions do, as well as what many families do. And that is, we cannot spend what we do not have.

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees and management took a very deliberate look at everything we are doing and determined whether each component adds value to the majority of the membership and whether it could be sustainable as a stand-alone program. As I explained in my last month's column, our magazine, *Orchids*, is the most important reward for being a member of this can continue to produce a monthly publication. In the same manner, judging and the Web site were determined to be as important as the magazine.

However, we came to the conclusion that the gift store and the gardens, both located in our headquarters in Delray Beach, Florida, were two areas that could not meet the criteria on an ongoing basis. Therefore, the Board instructed management to begin a wind-down of the gift store immediately. As far as the gardens are concerned, we want to make sure that we can meet our obligations with the special events that are under contract and are scheduled through the end of May. Then in June we will close the gardens and greenhouses to the public, while still maintaining them to protect the value of that investment. Again, I repeat, the gardens will not be disbanded or individual plants sold. On the contrary, the gardens will be maintained with reduced staff and with the help of volunteers, so when

## Life Style of a Winner: Plant of the Month, February 2009

Culture Tips by Al Clinton

**O**rchid's Full Name: *Dracula felix*.

**Watering:** Keep moist but not soggy. Likes frequent, light misting.

**Temperature** (include info on differential temp needs): Having cool temps is the key ingredient. I'm growing it in our north facing plant room. Winter 58 to 65 degrees. Can take warmer temps in the summer (80s) but doesn't like it.

**Light:** Lower light, like a *Masdevallia* or *Phalaenopsis*.

**Fertilizing:** One-fourth dilution of DynaGrow 7-9-5 weekly.

**Atmosphere** (i.e., breezy or not, etc.): Breezy and high humidity.

**Special features** (i.e., scented, etc.): This species is known for its abundance of flowers. This one had

about 105 flowers when shown at the February meeting.

**Other helpful and/or interesting information about this orchid:** Felix will be traveling to St. Louis with Mark Prout for the March 7th AOS judging.

**Where can this orchid be purchased?** Andy's Orchids.



we come out of this financial crisis they will reopen to the public, as the gardens are an important part of our recently implemented strategic plan.

We continue to face extraordinary economic times, and we will continue to take steps to operate with the income we are receiving. This means that we will continue to make cuts in programs and personnel to match the money available. The Board has instructed management that it must operate within these limits, and under no circumstance take money from investments.

At this moment, we are doing all we can to maintain services, and at the same time look for ways to increase the value of what the members receive for their membership. We need your help in getting new members and in securing donations, which are fully tax deductible, as dues alone are not enough to provide all the services to you.

But there is good news in these difficult times, as we have a headquarters that is fully paid for and a corps of volunteers, who together with the reduced staff, can help us serve our membership. The Board of Trustees is in continued contact with management to make sure we stay focused on our Mission and serve the membership while keeping a prudent look at how we operate on a month-to-month basis.

As a postscript to last month's column, I mentioned that we were no longer funding any grants for this fiscal year. This does not affect the private funding of fellowships and applications will be reviewed at the Spring Members Meeting. For example, the Furniss and Fang foundations still will consider worthy applications for their generous gifts to qualified applicants.

Carlos Fighetti  
AOS President  
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