



ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others

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Volume II Issue 12
December 2020



**Orchid
Society of
Greater
Kansas City**

*As a non-profit organization to...
...Promote interest in and to
disseminate information in
culture, development, and
hybridization of orchids.....*

**The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas
City meets the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and
\$30 for Household.**

President: Jean Rogers
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Vice-president: Kristy Charland
charland.ek@outlook.com

Treasurer: Joy Prout
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Editor: Jean Rogers
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Dues are due by end of December.

December-January News!

Comments from Jean Rogers, President

Please remember that Dues are due by January 1st and membership goes delinquent if not paid by the February meeting. The day after the meeting, membership information is sent to Joann Curtain for its inclusion in the yearbook. You don't want to be left out!! ☺

Hope you enjoyed our December 13th program: David Bird, "Improving Your Orchid Culture". He is such a knowledgeable man and so willing to help. It was great having him!

And how about those Prizes!!! Since we don't have to pay the expenses of bringing in speakers, we thought it would be good to utilize some of the program budget overage to benefit members in another way – so some of you are able to use your gift certificate to select what helps you most, and everybody gets to select a plant that may be a new genre for you, and/or provide the opportunity to again have the same plant as other members and share information on its care and progress. And Thanks!!! To Kristy Charland for helping me unbox, water, and wrap all the orchids!!!

We were so pleased to get the Round Table going again, and that so many participated in it. Please remember that if you don't want to wait till next meeting, you can always post to Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page and get help from other members. And If you don't do Facebook but you are an AOS member, you can send pictures to the Greenhouse Chat (see AOS Webinar Chart below) and experts will help you during the Webinar Chat AND follow up with you. If you are not an AOS member, please consider becoming one. You can do that at their website. <https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society. Also, please remember that Dues are due during December. Unpaid memberships go delinquent after the February meeting.



*Happy orchid growing.
Jean*

Project Plant Recap & Update

Sunset Valley Orchids provided the offsprings of (C. Fire Fantasy 'H&R' x C. Cosmic Delite 'SVO' HCC/AOS), now registered as C. Warpaint. Please share pictures when yours blooms. I didn't hear from anyone this month – anything happening??? Kristy Charland has formed an 'album' on our Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook page where we can see how different the flowers can be. Please go to the website listed below to keep up with the blooming. Fun, Fun!!!!



Facebook Group

Our Facebook page, Orchid Growers of OSGKC, is a great place for us to communicate, share, learn from each other. All through the month we have orchids that bud and bloom and we get so excited and want to share it, and the meeting is sooooo far away!! Use the Orchid Growers of OSGKC Facebook Page. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/?ref=share> It is easy to post your precious orchids and get oooohhs and ahhhhs from other members. Or something is going on and you want to ask someone – post it on this website. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy (charland.ek@outlook.com). She'll be glad to help. **If you want to email us**, please look at March's Newsletter for contact information of willing helpers in the Society and their 'specialty'. (Can't find the March issue – email jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com). This is all especially important since we can't meet in person.

Meetings

Upcoming speaker - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:



Carri will be speaking to our society on January 10 on growing in Spaghnum Moss, "Moss-Growing Demystified." Carri's involvement with orchids began 40 years ago with her first Phalaenopsis orchid. Since then, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Greater New York Orchid Society for more than 20 years, as well as on several American Orchid Society committees.

In 1990 Carri was one of the original "gang of five" who founded the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Inc. (IPA).

Since becoming an Accredited American Orchid Society Judge in 1998, Carri has judged at national and international shows. Beginning in 2007, she traveled to Taiwan each year to serve as an AOS Judge for their annual Taiwan International Orchid Show (TIOS).

As a small commercial grower for 35 years, Carri focuses her orchid business, the OrchidPhile, on offering her clients the newest in cutting-edge Phalaenopsis species and hybrids, in addition to other genera which grow well under the same conditions. Of increasing importance to her clients is vivid color, heavy-substance flowers that will provide them with long-lasting displays, fragrance and multitudes of flowers with more compact growth and spike habits. In the last two years she has also seen Taiwan's increased interest in breeding some new & more unique intergeneric hybrids utilizing Phalaenopsis as one parent.

She has participated in orchid shows along the east coast, New England & Eastern Canada, creating an exhibit at each and managing her sales tables. She also has traveled extensively as an international speaker to orchid societies & symposiums on various topics involving the genus Phalaenopsis.

You can find more information on OrchidPhile on Facebook, including the latest plant offerings.

Last Month's Meeting Speaker Notes by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington

12/13/2020

David Bird from Birds Botanicals presented a cultural session highlighting a few species he enjoys growing. He first shared some tips for growing phalaenopsis, by demonstrating a few beautiful jumbos/big boys that had five spikes! How did he achieve this? By giving them heavy feed, a deep pot and consistent watering when the media is dry. If you experience bud drop, your humidity might be too low. He also suggested diligently breaking of old spent flowers to kick flower production into gear.

He then discussed tips for growing dendrobiums. Starting with an example of a dendrobium nobile, covered in kiki's of which he easily snapped one off. He advises to repot kiki's when the roots are of sufficient length and they should take off on their own. To improve blooming, now is the time to hold back water, preparing the dendrobium for the spring blooming period. He then demonstrated another gorgeous specimen, the paphiopedilum helenae. The key to David's success is repotting them every year in the early spring or fall to stimulate growth. A few other key points he mentioned about paphs, is good water quality, generous drainage and fertilizing only once or twice a month.

David described some of the adaptations he has made in developing a new greenhouse, after spending many years in the cave. He has now been able to do more wonderful things with beautiful cattleyas that were not viable in his previous growing conditions. When the cattleyas have sheaths, new growth, and good roots he juices them up with plenty of food

and water. He described that he keeps the greenhouse to a minimum of 60 degrees at night and during this time of year as warm as possible around 85 degrees during the day. During the summer that the flowers are able to take much warmer temperatures than he is able to withstand! After answering of few member question's, he left us anticipating the future release of his sale plant list coming in early spring 2021.

Joy and Mark Prout – Awarded Honored Lifetime Members by Susie Hanna

OSGKC has recognized its member leaders who have provided decades of outstanding service to the Society by awarding them the status of Honored Lifetime Members. These members have demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm for promoting orchid growing and conservation; participated in the Society's activities; served as committee member or chair; executive officer or president; provided leadership for shows, events, or field trips, and served as mentor to the Society's members.

This Award has only been given 12 times since society formed 60 years ago!

I am very pleased to tell you why my dear friends, Mark and Joy Prout, deserve this award. It's hard to fully acknowledge their commitment to the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City. During their more than two decades as members, here are some of the many contributions they have made: Mark spent seven years studying and traveling to become an American Orchid Society Accredited Judge. Maintaining his credentials requires ongoing work. Mark served as Program Chair, attracting many well-known orchid experts to speak to our group. He has given multiple presentations to the society on growing topics.

Joy has held many positions. She is currently our Treasurer and Budget Chair, as well as a co-chair for Shows and Exhibits Committee. Both have served as President and Vice-President of the society. When I was President, Joy was always there to help and support me.

They've gone through at least two cars and several sets of tires driving to shows in St. Louis, Omaha, Arkansas and other locations. They served as Show Chairs for our 2012 Mid-America Show. And they contributed in many ways to our 2007 and 2018 MAOC shows. Both have spent many hours building society orchid displays at shows, as well as serving on Judging teams at the crack of dawn of the first day of the show.

They've memorized all the rest stops between Kansas City and the St. Louis Judging Center where Mark has attended countless monthly meetings.

As growers of orchids, Mark and Joy won Orchidist of the Year Award four times. Mark is, in my opinion (and I can back this up with plenty of evidence!), our best grower, and he is the go-to person for orchid growing advice.

And as our president, Jean Rogers, has said to me, "Any time I need anything for the society, if I call Mark and Joy, they are always willing to help."





Judging Notes...

Upcoming Shows & Judgings Around Our Region

If you have an orchid blooming that you think is FANTASTIC – Contact Mark Prout. If it is time for a meeting at the Judging Center – they could take your plant to be evaluated for an award (and/or give you their best opinion if it indeed should be looked at). There are Judging Centers all-across America. The one closest to us is the MidAmerica Judging Center in St. Louis, MO. It holds monthly judging on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The mission of the Judging Centers is to provide orchid growers in the region with the opportunity to have their plants evaluated and judged for AOS awards. These include HCC, AM, FCC, JC, AQ, CBR, CHM, CCM, and CCE.

Stay Tuned:

February 3, 2021 Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis Show

Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

March 10, 20201 Mid-America Judging Center

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

March 17, 2021 Springfield Orchid Society Show

Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

March 24, 2021 Greater Omaha Orchid Society Show

Missouri Botanical Garden, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

April 14, 2021 Mid-America Judging Center

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

May 12, 2021 Mid-America Judging Center, Business Meeting

Missouri Botanical Garden, Commerce Bank Center for Science Education, 4651 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO

November OSGKC Judging

14 members submitted 51 blooming orchids for judging and show in November.

Blue Ribbons were received by: Jean Rogers for Rth. (Carolina Orange D'or x Love Sound) in the Cattleya category, Dr. Dan Schlozman for Paph. (Yellow Tiger x glanduliferum), Sabrina Markese for Phal. NOID #3, Dipti Solanti for Den. Enobi Purple 'Splash' AM/AOS, Sue Bondurant for Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' in the Oncidium category, Jean Rogers for Cattleya percivaliana 'Curtins' in the Species category, and Dr. Dan Schlozman for Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite 'Parkside' AM/AOS in Miscellaneous category

Red Ribbons Jean Rogers for Rty Roy's Magic and Rlc. Sa-Knob Delight 'Krairit' in the Cattleya category, Megan Mayo for Paph. Deperle, Sabrina Markese for Phal. NOID #2 and Phal. NOID #4, Jean Rogers for Den. Velvet Midnight 'Winter Wine', Ariel Paulson for Ons. Wildcat 'Rainbow' and Jean Rogers for Wils. Space Mine 'Red Rendevous' in the Oncidium category

White Ribbons were received by: Jean Rogers for Sergioara Yokosuka Story in the Cattleya category, Merri Archibald for Den. Piper Red, Sariah Kinney for Phal. Jiaho's Pink Girl, Sabrina Markese for Phal. NOID#1, and Kristy Charland for Phal. (Nobby's Green Eagle 'Montclair' x Jennifer Palermo 'Blue Hawaii'), Anna Archibald for Paph. Mint Chocolate, and Kristy Charland for Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' #1, Megan Mayo for Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' #2, and Anna Archibald for Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani'.



October Orchid of the Month (drum roll)

Phal. NOID #3 grown by Sabrina Markese

Members Choice:

Rth. Roy's Magic grown by Jean Rogers



“Just for Viewing Pleasure” – Thanks to; Susie Hanna & Al Clinton, Jean Rogers, Sue Bondurant, Sabrina Markese, and Mark Prout for submitting pictures for our viewing pleasure.

December Digital Ribbon Judging -beginning of points for 2021 awards.

1) **Ribbon judging** will be by designated ‘judges’ from the society based on 2 pictures – a close up of the best flower and a picture of the plant showing all flowers/plant. Both pictures need to be submitted in order to be in the judging. Ribbon winners will receive digital awards which, if they desire, can be traded for real ribbons when we meet again.

2) **Members’ Choice** – members have **5 days** from date newsletter is emailed, to send your nomination (vote) in for the orchid of the month that is your favorite, again, based on the two pictures in the newsletter. Please send your nomination (vote) to Jean Rogers at jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com **This month - Send by the end of the day Saturday Dec. 27th**. Winner will receive 3 free raffle tickets to use the following month.

Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging. Deadline for submissions was December 17th at midnight-early so awards could be figured. Watch for the January dates in an upcoming email. Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures.

Judging: (Send your “Member’s Choice” to jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com by December 27th)



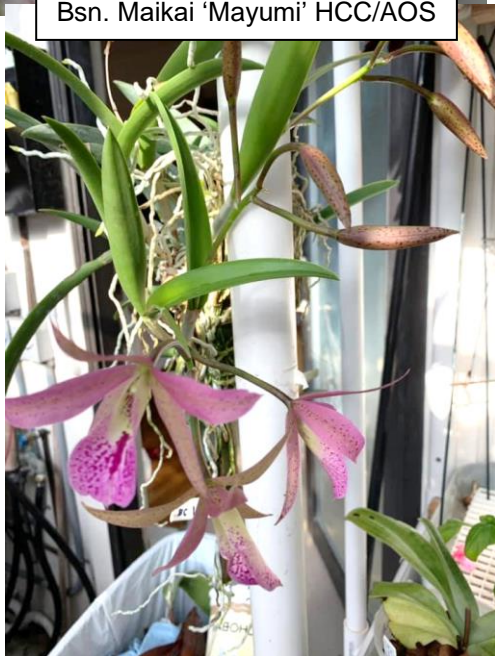
Bsn. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS



C. NOID #1



C. Gaskell-Pumila 'Azure Sky' HCC/AOS





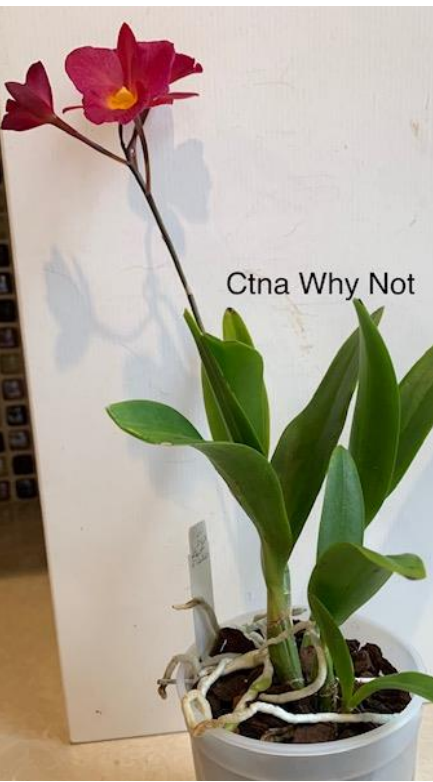
C. NOID #1



Cattleya Puppy Love



C. NOID #2





B. Little Stars



Bark. palmeri f. coerulescens



Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride'

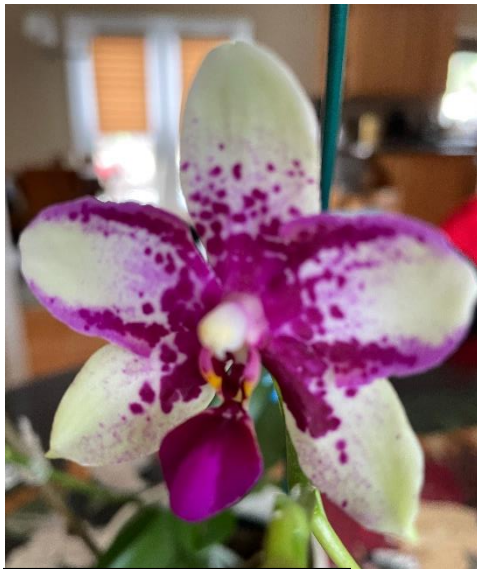


Phal. Pylo's Sofia 'Peter's Pride'

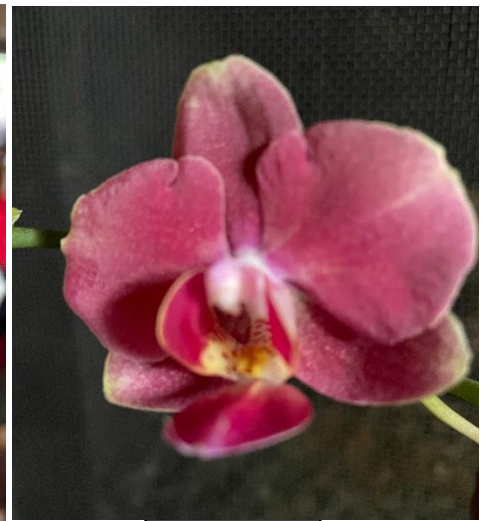




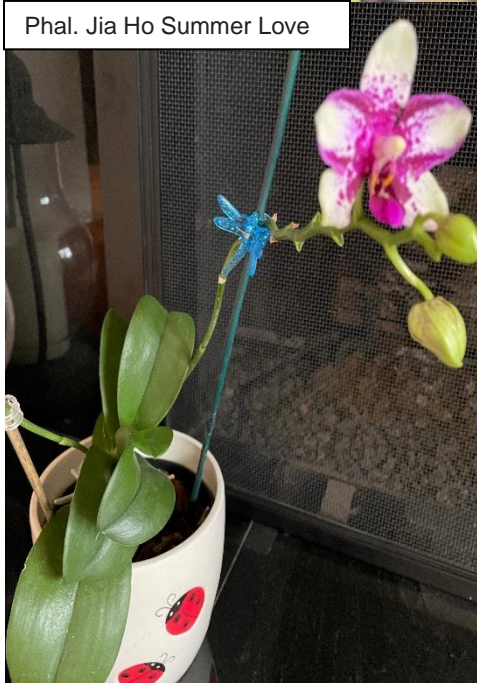
Phal. Sunhope Raraavis



Phal. Jia Ho Summer Love



Phal. NOID #1



Phal. Jiaho's Pink Girl





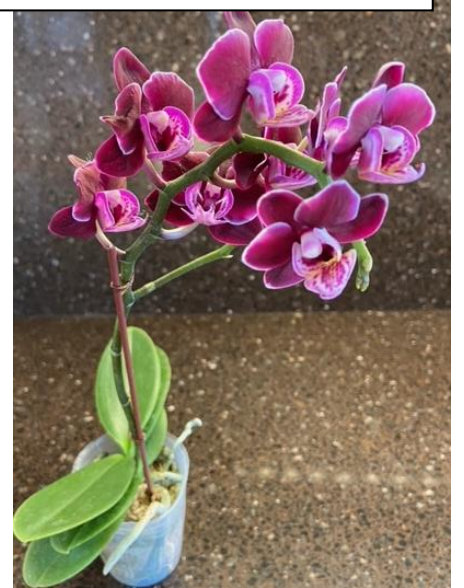
Phal. Liu's Yellow Star Dust



Phal. GW Green World 'Yaphon'
AM/AOS



Phal. Chiacle Story 'Raspberry'



Phal. Sogo Vivien 'Marginata'
JC/AOS





Phal. Maurish Fancy 'Rich Lantern'



Phal. Formosa Cranberry 'Peloric'



Phal. NOID #3



Phal. NOID #4





Phal. NOID #5



Phal. NOID #6



Phal. YangYang Red Diamond 'Prince'



Phal. (GW Green World x Yaphon Gold Rose)





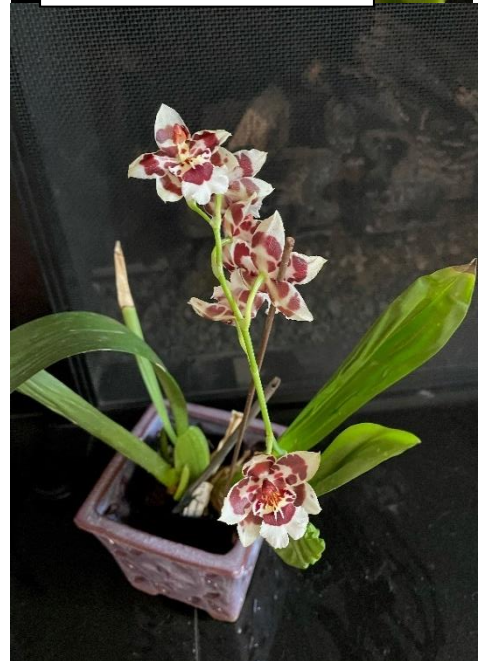
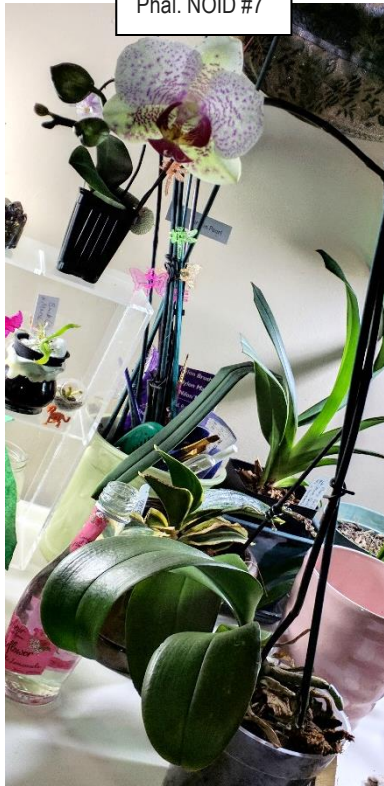
Phal. NOID #7



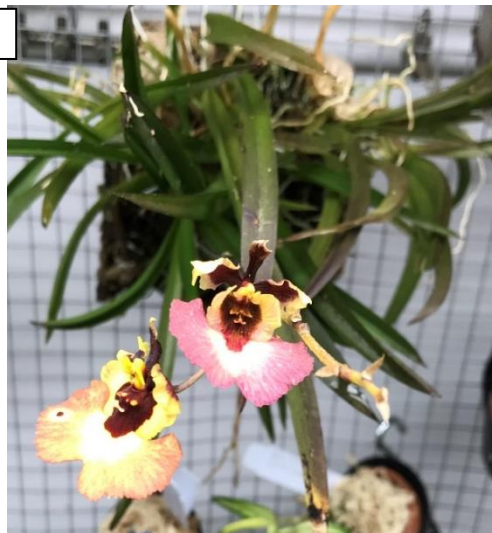
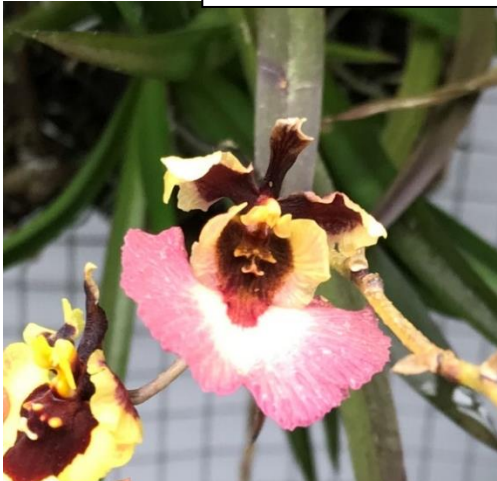
Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester 'Great Bee'



Onc.. Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay'

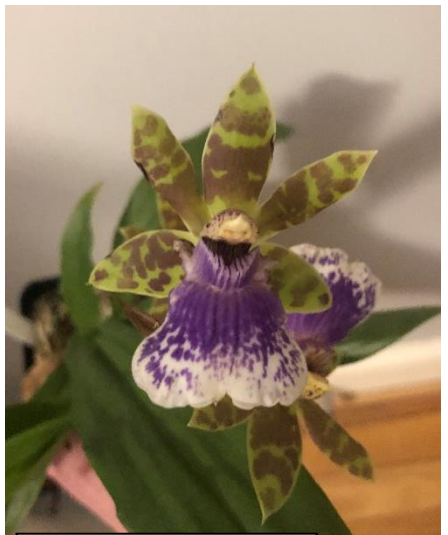


Tolumnia Tequila Sunrise





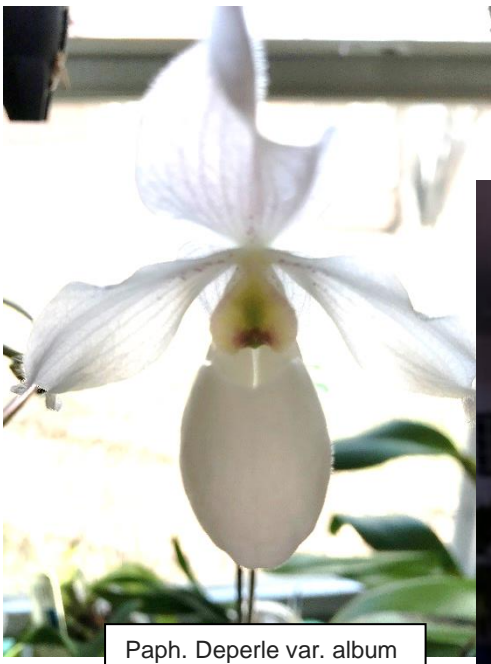
Barkaria Rebecca Marsh 'With Love'
HCC/AOS



Zygopetalum Jumping



Liparis lacerata



Paph. Deperle var. album



Paph. Fairre Helen



Ctsm. Leto Correa



Epidendrum porpax 'Chiquita' AM/AOS



December Meeting Attendee Gifts



NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!

From Jean Rogers

Vuyl. Melissa Brianne 'Dark'



Angraecum sesquipedale



Den. Sonia



C. Roy's Magic - the green (last month) turns to bright yellow w/ age.



From: Kristy Charland

Barkeria Glyn Marsh 'With Love'
HCC/AOS



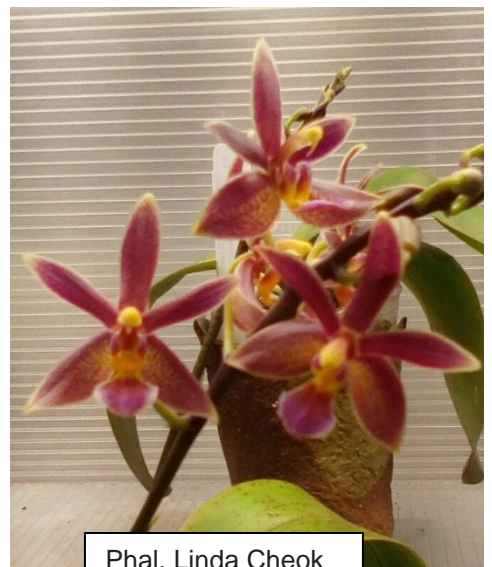
From Al Clinton and Susie Hanna



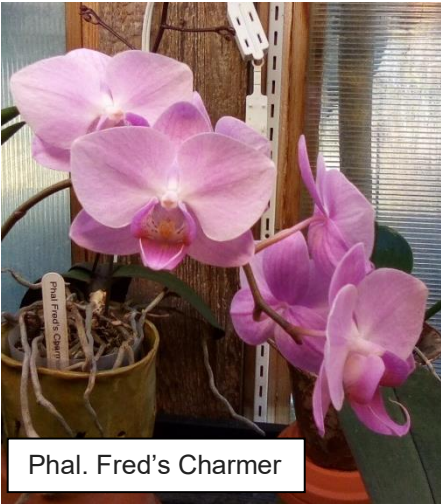
Barkeria Rebecca Marsh 'With Love'
HCC/AOS



C. Mark's Valentine

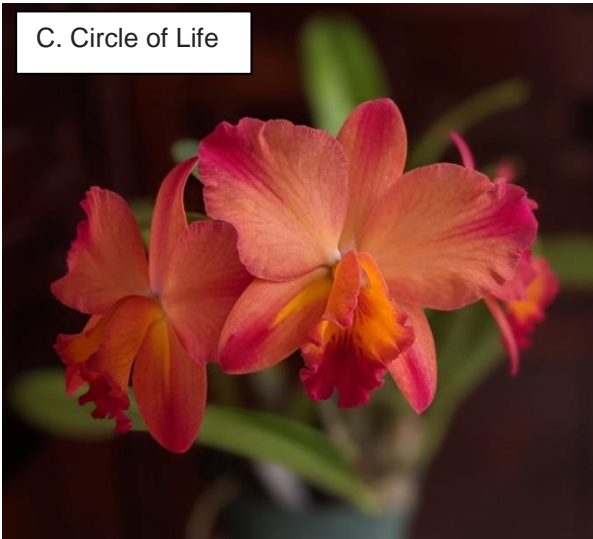


Phal. Linda Cheok



Phal. Fred's Charmer

From Mark Prout

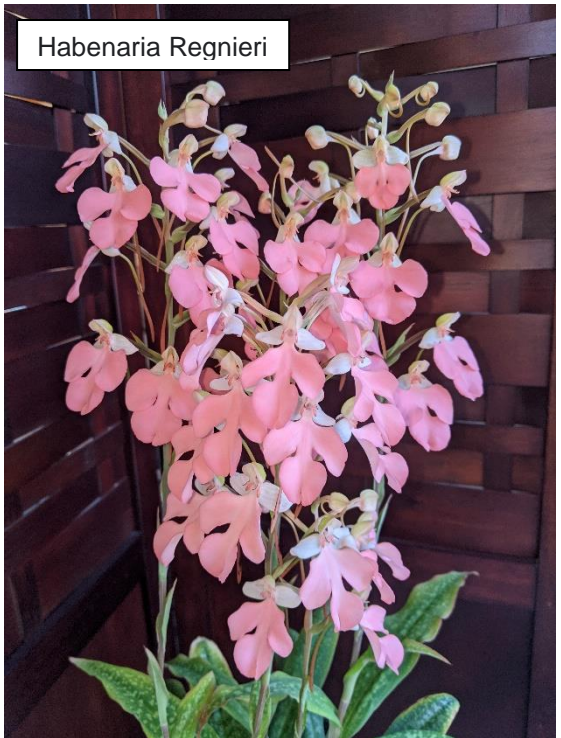
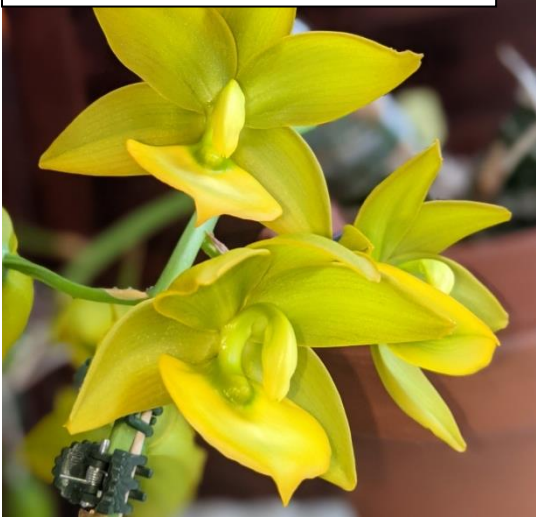


C. Circle of Life

Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow 'Red Sun'



Cycnoides Wine Delight 'Yellow Swan'



Habenaria Regnieri

Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS (large plant) and Ctt. Seagulls Gumdrop (Ctt. Chocolate Drop x C. cernua), small plant on left.



Ctt. Chocolate Drop close up



From Sue Bondurant



For Fun and Learning!!

Orchid Growing Tidbits (How I Grow It.....)

Some individual genera – Blue Ribbon Winners and special orchids - *How I grow it:*



From Dr. Dan Schlozman
Paph. Yellow Tiger x glanduliferum

I grew this in semi-hydroponic medium. Fertilizer was K lite along with kelp in a probiotic as described by Ray Barclay well at first rays orchids. The light was somewhat brighter than my Phalaenopsis light. I initially supplemented with fluorescent bulbs but later went to a grow light fixture of red and blue LEDs in the hopes of increasing the frequency of blooming in my collection. I used 12 hour on 12 hour off light supplement. I repot only when the pot gets over crowded.



From Jen Winter
Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy' Oncidium category

All of my mature Oncidiums to bloom did so in close proximity to a south facing window at waist height or lower, where they get more late season or low light from mornings and afternoons. Once I start to notice spikes on them, I start increasing watering frequency to every other day. I grow my Onc's without a drip catch or tray so water all runs off and can't pool up around them. Soon enough, one spike becomes 2 or 3 spikes on a larger, mature Onc. It can take them months to open even after they are at full height. I've had some take 4 months to open from first shoot to last bloom opening on the smallest spike.



From Dr. Dan Schlozman
Phaioalanthe Kryptonite 'Parkside' AM/AOS

I've had this plant several years and have never repotted it from its original sphagnum moss. It is a thin leafed plant and susceptible to chewing insects and fungus. My problem was with a black color beginning at the tip of the leaf and spreading downward. This year I kept ahead of it with fungal sprays. I grew it in light intermediate between Phalaenopsis and cat light. Fertilizer and supplements were the same as above. I intend to repot it this year in semi hydroponic medium.



From Dipti Solanti
Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash'



From Sabrina Markese
Phal. NOID

These are potted in Birds larger orchid mix. We have floor to ceiling Northwest facing windows where I keep the majority of my orchids. Water once weekly.

Fertilize with Grow More (20/10/20) every other week year round, switching to Grow More Bloom formula (6/30/30) when blooming.
No other supplements.
No special lighting.



From Jean Rogers
Rth. (Carolina Orange D'or x. Love Sound)

This grows in my 'grow room' in winter, and outside on a semi-protected NE side of the garage in the spring, summer, and fall. In the house, it is in front of an E window (with many trees and a house overhang; so it is also under 2 LED light tubes. In the grow room, the temperature is 60 nights to 75 days. I water once a week typically with tap water, MSU fertilizer at ¼ strength, and some CalMag at ½ tablespoon/gal. There is a humidifier within about 3 feet of it. It is in a medium bark, charcoal, and perlite mix.



From Jean Rogers
Cattleya percivaliana 'Curtins'

This grows in my 'grow room' in winter, and outside on a semi-protected NE side of the garage in the spring, summer, and fall. In the house, it is in front of a S window (with trees and a house overhang and is about 1.5 feet from the window. It is also under an LED light tube. In the grow room, the temperature is 60 nights to 75 days. I water once a week typically with tap water, MSU fertilizer at ¼ strength, and some CalMag at ½ tablespoon/gal. There is a humidifier within about 2 feet of it. It is in a medium bark, charcoal, and perlite mix.

Outside OSGKC Resources

Kristy's Korner

December 19, 2020

Hello orchid fans!

This month, Let's talk about Big Cats! No, not the type with claws and fur, but Cattleyas that become Big Plants with Big Flowers!

Let's talk about Akatsuka Orchid Gardens in Volcano HI, on the Big Island. Their website is www.akatsukaorchid.com. They specialize in the Big Cats, and they have lovely ones. You'll know it's one of their select crosses if the moniker "Volcano Queen" is attached to the name. This is their designation of the very best of that particular cross. They also sell flasks of their breeding.

Other features on the website are an extensive library of orchid care guides by variety, some tropical plants, orchid clubs that one can join, and a selection of 24 of the cutest orchid magnets made out of clay for only \$6.50 each. They also grow many other orchid varieties. They generally feature sales and specials as well. Now, they have Anthuriums as well as orchids ready for holiday displays.

Established in 1974, this family has been growing through the generations. If you have a minute opr two, check out their website. I'm growing a few of their Cats now. I'll let you know when I have a flower!

BE WELL! And Happy Holidays Gang! I sure do miss sharing the plants in person!!

Kristy

Several of you have indicated problems that possibly involve virus'.

We thank Sue Bottom and the St. Augustine Orchid Society for allowing us to print any of her Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out St. Augustine website, please do so.

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/>

Orchid Pests and Diseases - Orchid Viruses

Information assembled by Sue Bottom





Orchid Viruses

[View More Images](#)

Symptoms: Chlorotic and necrotic spots, streaks, lines and rings in the leaves.

Flowers may show necrotic spots and streaks as well as color break. The virus, if present, is present in all parts of the plant.

Treatment: There is no treatment for a virused plant. Destroy the plant to prevent it from infecting other plants. If the plant is valuable, isolate it completely from other plants and follow precautions to prevent infecting other plants.

Prevention: Strictly adhere to good sanitation practices:

Use Sterile Cutting Tools – Viruses are spread by transmitting the plant sap from one plant to another via mechanical means. The primary means by which viruses are spread from plant to plant is by improperly sterilized cutting tools. There are two ways to keep cutting tools sterilized, either use sterile single edged razor blades that are discarded after each and every use or use a hot flame to sterilize cutting tools after using the tools on a given plant. The cutting tool should be sterilized for 15 to 20 seconds with a hot flame on each side.

Controls During Repotting – Viruses can be spread whenever there is mechanical transmission of sap from an infected plant to another plant, even by leaves rubbing against one another. Observe these additional controls:

- Latex Gloves. Wear latex gloves when handling a given plant and discard those gloves when you are done handling the plant. Your bare hands can come into contact with plant sap containing the virus and infect the next plant.
- Newspaper on the Potting Surface. Keep the potting surface sterile. Keep a stack of newspapers handy and when repotting, place newspaper under the potting area. Upon completion, wrap up the newspaper, gloves and other detritus and discard them before touching the next plant.

Disinfect Your Pots Prior to Reuse – Make sure your pots are sterile:

- Disinfection of Plastic Pots. Plastic pots can be disinfected by first washing them with soap to remove residual organic matter, then soaking them for an hour in a 20% bleach solution, then soaking them for an hour in Phytosan mixed per label instructions.
- Disinfection of Clay Pots. Clay pots are porous and cannot be sterilized against viruses by using bleach and Phytosan alone. Follow the normal disinfection routine for plastic pots above and then bake them in an oven at 400F for two hours to kill any residual virus.

Controls During Routine Activities – Viruses can be spread whenever there is mechanical transmission of sap from an infected plant to another plant, even by leaves rubbing against one another. Observe these additional controls:

- Cutting Inflorescences. Use a sterile tool to cut each inflorescence from the plant. The easiest way to do this is to use a sterile, single edged razor blade to remove the inflorescence and discard it after each use (or bake in a 350F oven for an hour). If you use shears, you should flame sterilize them between each inflorescence.
- Removing Inflorescences by Hand. Don't do it! A virus, if present, can be unknowingly transmitted to your hand and you can infect the next plant when you touch it or remove the next dead flower bud by hand. Instead, use a sterile razor blade and discard it after each use.

Read More:

[What is an Orchid Virus](#) (Ross & Liz Maidment, Aranbeem Orchids)

[Cymbidium Orchid Viruses](#) (Joshua White, Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victory)

[Orchid Viruses](#) (Loren Batchman, *Orchids*)

[Virus in Cattleyas](#) (Sue Bottom)

[Color Break in Orchids](#) (McMillan and Vendrame)

[Common Virus Diseases of Orchids](#) (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

[Orchid Virus Diseases in Taiwan and their Control Strategies](#) (Dr. Ching-An Chang)

[Ornamentals Infected by Brevipalpus Mite-Transmitted Viruses](#) (Kitajima, et al)

[Virus testing an \(entire\) orchid collection for CymMV & ORSV](#) (Ancient Energy Orchids)

[Virus Testing - Do You Really Want to Know?](#) (Sue Bottom)

[A two step method for orchid virus disinfection of repotting tools](#) (Ancient Energy Orchids)

We thank r.f. Orchids, Inc. for allowing us to use Care and Culture articles from their website in our newsletter! If you have not checked out r.f. Orchids, Inc., please do so. They have contributed generous donations to our auctions and have amazing orchids for sale. Robert Fuchs, President, is currently AOS President. <http://rforchids.com/>

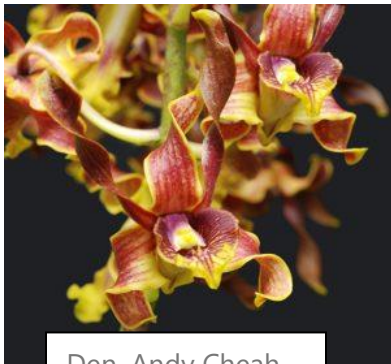
[Caring for your orchids.](#)



HOW WE GROW DENDROBIUMS, PART 3

In this “chapter” on growing dendrobiums, we’ll cover the plants in two closely-related sections: Phalaenanthé and Spatulata, commonly known as the “phalaenopsis type” and “antelope type”. The species interbreed readily and most of the popular dendrobium hybrids, sometimes called “den-phals”, are descended from these two groups. The “phalaenopsis” or “den-phal” type gets its name from the flowers’ resemblance to *Phalaenopsis* orchids; the plants produce arching sprays of flat, white or pink to red-purple flowers.

The “antelopes” typically have twisted sepals and upright, twisted petals that suggest an antelope’s horns, and have a wider color range. Some hybrids between the two groups, especially those with a lot of “antelope” ancestry, are called “semi-phal”, as the flower characteristics are intermediate between the two.



Den. Andy Cheah

These orchids are native to northern Australia, parts of New Guinea and Irian Jaya, where they inhabit two different climate areas. The species native to Australia generally experience a very seasonal climate, with distinct wet and dry periods during the year; the New Guinea species hail from areas where there is moderate to heavy rainfall throughout the year, with little if any dry season. Understanding this difference is important to success with these dendrobiums, particularly as the most popular “den-phal” hybrids have the most seasonal species in their ancestry.



Den. Agena Peach 'Peachy'

Cultural requirements

Except for the seasonal rainfall pattern in their habitats, other growing conditions are similar. These are generally upright plants, with leafy, tall, cylindrical pseudobulbs or “canes” that can grow to quite large size in some of the New Guinea species. *Den. canaliculatum* and *Den. affine*, from Australia, are typically compact growers and their relatively small size is often used to reduce the plant size in hybrids, but some of their cousins can produce canes 6 or more feet tall. Even the common “den-phals” one sees in nurseries and garden centers are often two or three feet tall; a well-grown plant of *Den. violaceoflavens* can reach 7 feet or more in height, without the long stem of flowers. Not many “windowsill” orchids among the species in these sections!



Den. lineale

Temperature. All of the species in these two groups, and consequently their hybrids, are very warm-growing. Only *Den. crispilinguam* will grow under “intermediate” conditions, with night temperatures below about 60F; it grows at higher elevations in New Guinea, and is not common in cultivation. The rest require warm to even hot daytime temperatures, and warm (above 60F) nights, year-round. Exposure to cooler temperatures can result in rapid leaf-drop, so these dendrobiums need to be protected in cool weather. Even here in South Florida, our winter nights can be too cool for these orchids to remain outdoors.

Light. These are generally high-light orchids. Some of the species grow in full sun, and all want as much light as possible without burning the leaves. Most will do well under “vanda” light conditions.



“Den-phal” hybrids

Water. As indicated earlier, these orchids fall into two groups with respect to watering. The Australian species are native to areas with a distinct dry season. This group includes *Den. bigibbum*, *Den. phalaenopsis*, *Den. affine* (syn. *dicuphum*), *Den. canaliculatum* and *Den. undulatum* (syn. *discolor*). During the summer and early fall growing season, water generously and regularly, but gradually reduce water in the fall and keep the plants on the dry side through the winter and early spring. Humidity is fairly high during the dry season, so the plants do need a little water, but allow them to dry thoroughly between occasional light waterings. Most of the common “den-phal” hybrids are in this group.



Den. tangerinum

The second group, which includes the New Guinea “antelopes”, come from habitats where rainfall is moderate to heavy all year, with only a slight reduction (if any) in moisture for a short period in late summer or early fall. These plants do not want a dry rest. Water regularly throughout the year, and make sure the potting medium drains well. Good air circulation is important. Species in this group include *Den. antennatum*, *Den. gouldii*, *Den. lasianthera*, *Den. lineale*, *Den. mirbelianum*, *Den. stratiotes*, *Den. strebloceras*, *Den. sylvanum*, *Den. tangerinum* and *Den. violaceoflavens*. Hybrids with mostly “antelope” ancestry require these same conditions.

In all cases, be careful with water when the new growths begin, and keep water out of the tops of the new growths until they are two or three inches tall. The new growth is highly susceptible to rot if water is allowed to collect in the tip.



Den. sylvanum

Fertilizer. These dendrobiums benefit from regular feeding when they’re actively growing. Any balanced, water-soluble fertilizer can be used, diluted according to package directions. Jack’s Classic 20-20-20 is a good option; we feed once a week during the growing season. For the dry-season plants, reduce feeding in the fall and eliminate it completely when the plants are resting in the winter. Resume feeding when the plant begins to grow again.

Potting. Given the size of most of these orchids, pots are the best solution, and heavy clay pots are a necessity. Like many other dendrobiums, these have fine root systems and do best when somewhat underpotted, with their roots crowded in a container that seems too small for the size of the plant. To add weight to an obviously top-heavy plant, set the pot into a larger size and fill the space between pots with clean river gravel for weight. The potting medium must be open, well-aerated and very free-draining; we prefer coarse expanded clay and/or coarse charcoal. Some successful

growers use charcoal exclusively. Until the plant is well-established in its container, you may have to stake the tall canes to keep everything upright.

Problems. These dendrobiums have few really major pest problems. Snails and slugs may damage the leaves and canes, and occasionally during wet weather you may see some minor damage from leaf-spotting fungal diseases. In dry weather, mites can set up housekeeping on the underside of the leaves. Stale or decayed potting medium can lead to root problems, as with any potted orchids.



Reminder: all the orchids in these sections are very warm-growing. The plants must never be exposed to cool temperatures. With good care, these orchids are capable of blooming multiple times from the same canes!

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News from the AOS (AOS Corner has not been received since 10/2020)

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these AOS Corner items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone...and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to ORCHIDS magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!



WHAT ARE

WEBINARS? It's easy to find the [scheduled webinars](#) and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here:

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>



Greenhouse Chat January 2021

Ron McHatton, Thursday, January 7, 2021

Availability : Public

Tags : [Greenhouse Chat](#)

REGISTER NOW

Grow your knowledge and join AOS Education and Science Officer, Ron McHatton, for a fun filled hour of orchid questions and answers. Send questions to greenhousechat@aos.org.



**Mounting Orchids:
Prepping, Care, and
Best Practices**
with Michael Coronado



Mounting Orchids – AOS **Members ONLY**

Michael Coronado, Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Availability : Member-Only

Tags : [Culture](#)

REGISTER NOW

Mounting Orchids: Prepping, Care, and Best Practices.

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! *Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.* We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure. GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing. **Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to greenhousechat@aos.org**

Remember to check in with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram!**

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Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

OSGKC.ORG

**A non-profit, educational organization
stimulating interest in orchids and their
culture**

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**Like us, post your pictures or
comments, join the community!!**

What's Ahead ...

While we try our best to promote our unique hobby and continue to engage the interest of our orchid growing members, your safety and health must be our primary concern. We plan to do events by zoom until Health Officials report it's safe to gather again, and OSGKC Board determines likewise. Please check www.osgkc.org for updates and changes to our program schedule.

January 10, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Carri Raven-Riemann: "Moss Growing Demystified"

February 14, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Sarah Hurdel, "Growing Habenarias"

March 14, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 1"

April 18, 2021

Annual Auction

May 7-9, 2021 Southwestern Regional Orchid Growers Association

Show Kansas Orchid Society in Wichita

See:kansasorchidsociety.com

May 16, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 2"

June 13, 2021

OSGKC Zoom meeting

Speaker – Jim & Yvonne France, Oakwood Orchids, topic to be announced

July 11, 2021

Tour of Orchids, area members' growing spots

August 15, 2021

Picnic??