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# ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others

#### Volume II Issue 3 March 2021



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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Annual dues are \$25 for Individuals and \$30 for Household.

President: Jean Rogers jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: Joy Prout joy.diane.prout@att.net

Editor: Jean Rogers jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com

Membership: Anna Archibald annalizbald@gmail.com

Megan Mayo THEKORNKIDDO@aol.com

# March-April News!

Comments from Jean Rogers, President

Hope you enjoyed our March 14<sup>th</sup> program: "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 1" by Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids. Part 2 will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. Did you ever imagine there were so many miniature orchids?

OK now, some of you still haven't sent your picture(s) and/or Bio for the Member Picture Digital Pamphlet. We have close to 40 members who have though!! YAY YOU!!! I know it's not a perfect solution, but at least we can be familiar with each others faces and hope to know each other when we do get together again. Cindy Meyer has sent me a copy, so it is in its final production stage. If you haven't done so already, please send your picture right away to Cindy Meyer at <u>cameveri@qmail.com</u> and, include your **birth day and month**. If you have Household Membership, send info for both!! And, if you need a LITTLE more time to do your bio, please send just as soon as you can. Several of you have been talking to me about "when are we going to get together again". I want you to know we are working on that. We've reserved Antioch Park for our members picnic. It will not be like the ones in the past, but we'll figure out a way to celebrate being together.

Please remember the auction is in April. Once again, the Society really appreciates donations from the members to be able to auction, or put on a \$5 - \$10 table. If you don't just love it anymore, it might be someone else's heart-throb. If it needs division, it's spring!! Now is a good time and another member would love the opportunity to buy the division. If you have a talent or craft that you'd like to donate a product, we'd love it – how special that would be!! April 18<sup>th</sup> is the Auction.

It's great that we have Round Table from 1:30-1:55 before meetings, hosted by Cindy Hobbs. If you have questions/problems, please send them and pictures to Cindy at <u>tincan1201@aol.com</u> as soon as you can so she can work on finding members to address the issue. 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. <u>https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew</u> And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society.

> Happy orchid growing. Jean

# Project Plant Recap & Update

This year we are split, we have two crosses that we will grow. Some members purchased one, some the other, some both!! My how different the parents are. Sunset Valley Orchids provided the offsprings of the two pairs. Please share pictures when yours blooms. 17 were ordered of the 1<sup>st</sup> cross and 15 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cross. Orchids were received March 17<sup>th</sup>.





Blc. Schroder's Love 'SVO' AM/AOS



Blc Bouton D'or 'Halycon'

Kristy ordered a couple extra so if you want one, please let her know (email below) - \$13, Blooming Size.

Meanwhile, please continue to keep Kristy Charland posted if anything else is happening with last year's C. Warpaint. Here is Mark Prout's. Now those are Warpaint colors!! Kristy 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 ahhhs 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, 2020 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 meeting(s)** - From Susie Hanna, OSGKC Program Chair:

On April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 we will have a Members Only auction **on Zoom**. There will be many old favorites, many unique orchids, many orchids in bloom or in bud. Everything will be at least Blooming Size. An email will be coming to you to ask if you plan to participate so you can receive a bidder number. The auction will be run just like the last Virtual Auction in September. These are not orchids you will find in any big box store or even Florist Shops. Names and pictures will be sent out as soon as the list is finalized (although they do sometimes send different items than they have on the proposal). If you have plants or divisions of plants you would like to donate, please contact me.

## Special Pop-Up Orchid Event, Sunday April 11

Sarah Hurdel, master grower of many different plants, will be hosting an Orchid Chat from her growing room for OSGKC members on Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the event.

Sarah will be showing her light carts and growing set-up, and will feature individual plants and their care. She has some innovative growing methods using a combination of different sizes of perlite, sponge rock, styrofoam, and Peat-based potting media.

This is a chance to interact with an advanced grower to ask specific questions about growing in a home environment.

Sarah has a new Facebook page where you can learn more and see photos of her plants. Find her at Something About Orchids on Facebook.

## Last Month's Meeting Speaker Notes by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington 3/14/2021

### Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids

- "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 1" -

Dr. Kristen Uthus shrunk us down into the wonderful world of miniature orchids. Miniature orchids are adorable and can have unique flowers and leaves. Classifying miniature orchids is a difficult task as the AOS does not have a specific definition. Some say a miniature orchid is less than 12 inches and some say it's less than 6 inches (not including the inflorescence). The size is based on the plant's genetic constraints, those constraints have to do with breeding.

The main reason you should start considering miniature orchis is, because eventually you will run out of space! Miniatures offer you a variety of smaller growing options. From hanging plants to terrariums; you can pack more orchids into a smaller space.

Mini orchids in the cattleya alliance have wonderful flowers, but they also can have great foliage when not in bloom. Dr. Kristen Uthus enjoys orchids with terete leaves like the brassavola nodosa. The terete leaves usually indicate the orchid enjoys drying out between waterings. Dendrobium Dockrillia or wassellii are two excellent varieties! Variegated leaves are another common feature of miniature orchids.

The Vanda neofinetia falcata which has 2200 varieties. Bulbophyllums and Angrecoy/ Angraecum are great water loving minis. In the Braided Collection Lockhartia is actually a dry loving mini orchid, unlike other water loving braided minis. When looking for showy flowers; Sophronitis coccinea is a beautiful warm loving orchid. Also the unique Dracula orchids. Like the name, Draculas do not like light! If you are interested in draculas the dracula lotax is the one with the most gentle bite. Masdevallias have showy flowers and grow in shady wet conditions. Dendrobium jenkinsii and bellatulum are great for midwestern growers. They enjoy cool winters and hot summers.

There are too many minis to fall in love with, so luckily Dr. Kristen Uthus will be back in May to talk more on Growing Miniature Orchids.

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## April 10, 2021

Springfield Botanical Center, 2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO 65807

## May 8, 2021

Springfield Botanical Center, 2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO 65807

# February OSGKC Judging

14 members submitted 33 blooming orchids for judging and show in February.

Thanks to the following members for submitting orchids for judging in February: Anna Archibald, Megan Mayo, Dr. Dan Schlozman, Jean Rogers, Donna Klehm, Merri Archibald, Karen Schorno, Kristy Charland and Ariel Paulson

**Blue Ribbons** were received by: Megan Mayo for Dendrobium Hsinying Frostymarea 'Firebird' and for Tolumnia (Ash Hollow x Rrm Fox Hollow) x Tolu. Private Dancer 'Six mile Creek' HCC/AOS in the Oncidium category, Dr. Dan Schlozman for Phal NOID #3, Coel. mossiae mendenhall in species, Masd. Machu Pichu 'Pichu Point', and for Ctt. Blazing Sun 'NN' HCC/AOS, Kristy Charland for Phal. Mainshow Green Monster in 1<sup>st</sup> Bloom Category, Jean Rogers for Paph. In-Charm Cloud and for Clo. Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink'.

**Red Ribbons** were received by: Anna Archibald for Phal. Palm Coast and for Paph. Krull's Donna Brown x callosum var. sublaeve, Megan Mayo for Rrm. Pink Lace in Oncidium category, Dr. Dan Schlozman for Den. Red Emperor 'Prince' #2 and for Masd. Ken Dole, Ariel Paulson for Psychilis x Cattleyopsis lindenii, Kristy Charland for Lc. Tropical Trick, Merri Archibald for Phal. NOID #2, Donna Klehm for C. Fairyland 'NN', and Karen Schorno for Max. sanguine in Species category.

White Ribbons were received by: Dan Schlozman for Phal NOID #5, C. NOID, Den. Red Emperor 'Prince' #1, Ariel Paulson for Encyclia Green Hornet in Cattleya categoty, and Kristy Charland for Phal NOID #4



February Orchid of the Month (drum roll) Ctt Blazing Sun 'NN' HCC/AOS grown by Dr. Dan Schlozman

> Members Choice: Clowesia Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink' grown by Jean Rogers



"Just for Viewing Pleasure" – Thanks to; Susie Hanna & Al Clinton, Jean Rogers, Anna Archibald, Dr. Dan Schlozman and, Mark and Joy Prout for submitting pictures for our viewing pleasure.

# March Digital Ribbon Judging

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 <u>jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com</u> This month - Send by the end of the day Saturday March . **30**<sup>th</sup>.

# Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging.

Deadline for submissions was March 25th<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the April dates in an upcoming email. <u>Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures.</u>

Orchids for Judging: (Send your "Member's Choice" to jeanierogerswarren@gmail. com by March 30th)





Ctt. Gold Nugget



Lc. Fire Island 'Firey'



Rth. Spring Blaze



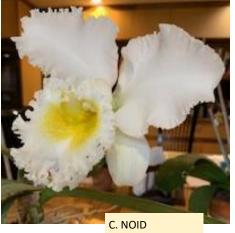




Ctt. Jewel Box











Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS





Encyclia fragrans









Paph. delenatii 'Giant'





Sophronitis cernua





Encyclia cordigera





Den. gregulus





Den. Bruce Gordon

Den Micro Chip







Phal. NOID #1











Phal. NOID #4

Phal. Yaphon Very Open







Max. tenuifolia







Paph. Wardette's Charm



Paph. Melanthus









Paph. Memoria Serafin Perez







# NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!From Anna ArchibaldFrom Crystal Remington



# From Susan Tompkins



### From Jean Rogers

Phal. FANGtastic Green Envy 'Judy Su' AM/AOS

Rlc. Mysterious Valley





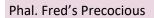


## From Susie Hanna



Phal. (Fred's Surprise x Classic Beauty)







Phal. Montclair Sunset



# From Jen Winter

Den. Red Emperor "Ember"



Phal. NOID



## From Al Clinton

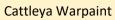


From Mark and Joy Prout

Rlc. Burdekin Wonder 'Lake Land' AM/AOS









Dendrobium Bohemian Rhapsody

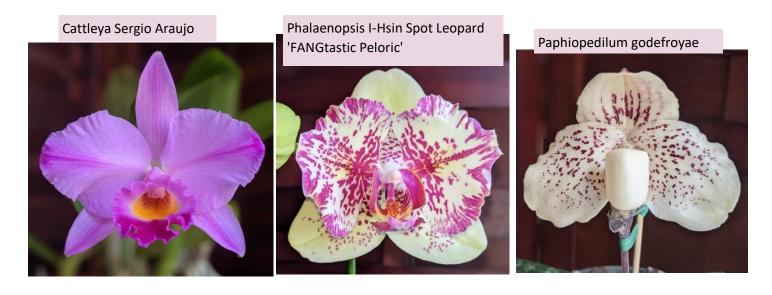


Paphiopedilum Carolyn Butcher 'Memoria Alex McConnell' HCC/AOS



Guarianthe aurantiaca var. flava





Sobralia callosa



Phragmipedium Hanne Popow



Phrag. Dominianum 'M&B' AM/AOS

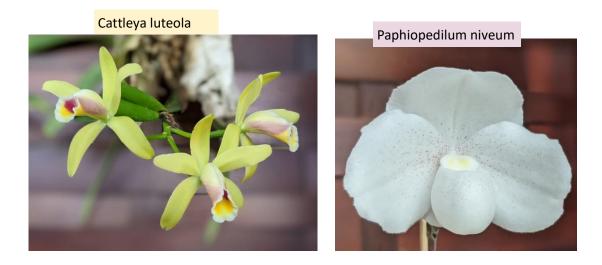


Encyclia Borincana



Clowesia Grace Dunn 'Chadd's Ford' AM/AOS





# 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 Jean Rogers Paph. In-Charm Cloud

My Paph. Is on the cooler north side of my grow room. It typically gets to about 73 during winter days and down to 58-60 at night. Summers are probably about 5-7 degrees higher. It is under two 4' T5 grow lights that are on about 11 hours in winter and 14 hours in summer – it does not go outside in summer. I water it about twice a week with water from my dehumidifier. About once a month it gets fertilizer – MSU Pure water at ¼ strength with Cal-Mag at 1T per gallon. Humidity is typically about 55% with the humidifier about 2 feet from it. It is potted in a Paph/Phrag. Mix from rePotme.



### From Dr. Dan Schlozman Phal. NOID #5

I grew this in a Pete lite mixture similar to what was described in the talk on Habenarias only much wetter. I watered twice a week even if they did not appear dry (see first rays methodology for using K light and supplements) fertilizer was the same as the previous plant-K light probiotics and kelp. The light was the usual Phalaenopsis light. I grew these plants in clay when possible so they would dry out faster as the medium is quite wet.



### From Kristy Charland Phalaenopsis Mainshow Green Monster, 1<sup>st</sup> Bloom

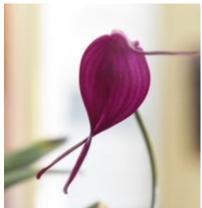
I've found the key to grow these novelty phals is warmth. I use a seedling heat mat that is on a timer with my LED lights. They have nice warm days, and a cool down at night. I use Norman's nutrients for fertilizer, ½ strength after watering once a week, and use mega thrive usually once a month. They are potted in sphagnum moss, and I water sparingly when the roots are becoming silvery.





### From Megan Mayo

**Dendrobium Hsinying Frostymarea 'Firebird' Tolu. (Ash Hollow x Rrrm. Fox Hollow) x Tolu. Private Dancer 'Six Mile Creek' HCC/AOS** The Den and Tolu are in the same area in my little plant room. I have a 4 ft shop light with 2 LED bulbs overhead. The light is on 12 hours a day. The temp ranges from 73\* - 68\* The Tolu is on cork and watered 2 x a week with filtered water. I haven't started with the fertilizer water yet. The Den. is watered with filtered water and very weak MSU in semi-hydro. The humidity is around 50%



### From Dr. Dan Schlozman Masd. Machu Pichu 'Pichu Point' - Pleurothallid

I grew it and sphagnum that was compressed as much as possible. For watering I soaked it when the plane itself was dry or nearly dry. I used K-lite fertilizer, a probiotic and kelp as described by Ray Barclay at 'First Rays Orchids'. These clay pots that were double plotted to keep them cooler. I had some supplementary LED light as the area I was growing was rather dark. I used an air conditioner set to keep the plants at 72 or below.



### From Dr. Dan Schlozman Coel. mossiae mendenhall, species Ctt. Blazing Sun 'NN' HCC/AOS

Both plants were grown in a similar fashion using K-lite fertilizer and additives as described above and a semi-hydroponic medium. I repot when the plant jumps out of the pot and have not been taking into account whether new roots were growing.



# From Jean Rogers

Clowesia Rebecca Northern 'Grapefruit Pink' - Other

This has been dormant all winter and gotten no water but is under two 4' T5 bulbs. When the growths and/or roots are about 5-7" tall, I'll start watering and fertilizing abundantly. Once danger of frost is past, it will go outside on the northeast side of the house.

# **Outside OSGKC Resources**

Kristy's Korner

March 25, 2021

# Hello orchid fans!

I hope by the time you're reading this that you have your Project Plants, and the growing is underway!

If you are the 'Facebook type' of person, I strongly suggest that you join some of the orchidist Facebook groups. Today, I'm going to reference a post from a member of my "Orchid Growing Under Lights" group. This idea is so ingenious and very lovely to look at, so I asked the author if I could share it with you, and he agreed. His name is Vladimir Orlov, and he has created a "Living Wall". On here you will find, Pleurothallis dresseri, Dinema Polybulbon, Dendrobium cuthbertsonii as well as some bulbophyllum species. Notice how the lights are mounted on the sides with metal supports. This method would also be great for an ordinary display of a collection of mounteds using a metal grid of some kind. It is anchored in an aquarium. He says that his orchids are much happier being able to grow their roots much longer. Here's an article about him https://www.uvureview.com/valley-life/artsculture/russianstudent-cultivating-special-projects-at-greenhouse/



https://vladimirnorlov.wixsite.com/greenwallblog?fbclid=IwAR1SKT6NA6qfhVhjrBT5omHqA7-sufOiUo1jOlX3uk8CsHKSA-H0VbNRKgk

BE WELL!

Here's the link to his blog:

Kristy

If you are like me, a speaker generates SOOOO many questions. I found this tidbit on New World Orchids website. Thanks so much to Dr. Uthus for granting permission to reprint it.

# Moss is my favorite

November 16, 2019 by Kristen Uthus Leave a Comment

# Easy on the hands

## Balances moisture and air flow

# Loved by most orchids



That's my haiku about moss. When I give an orchid talk, the topic invariably turns to how to care for whatever orchids I am discussing. Care includes watering, temperature, light, and potting preferences. That always leads me to ask the group, "How many of you HATE moss?" I have found that the number of hands that go up depends very much on the part of the country I am visiting, but I don't think it should. People who know me know that you can not disparage moss without a fight from me!

Why do I love moss? It is the most versatile of all potting media and it has the added benefits of not falling out in the event of an overturned pot and being very easy to work with. I admit that while I do pot a few orchids in bark, I hate doing it because it's not easy to get the bark in among the roots without damaging them in the process and getting microsplinters in my fingers to boot! Moss, on the other hand, is soft and easy on roots and fingers. But that's not enough to make me use it. I prefer moss because I think it's the best choice for the plant.



### Moisture

Sphagnum moss is a natural sponge. It holds many times its weight in water which means that it can keep humidity around the plant's roots for a long time. I find that southern growers and growers in warm climates in general favor moss because at their temperatures, plants dry out very quickly. Moss gives them a couple extra days before they have to water again. The moisture retention capacity of moss is especially excellent for plants that love water, such as bulbophyllums and pleurothallids. You can pot plants in moss and set them in water—not something you generally want to do with most other orchids. Personally, I find it easier to determine when moss is dry than when bark is dry because moss is essentially weightless when dry. It



<u>Neof. falcata</u> Senbazuru in sphagnum moss

also changes color and texture when wet (darker and softer), so you have a lot more clues to go on than you do with bark.

### Air

I know some of you read the previous paragraph and were shouting (perhaps just in your head—I hope), "That's exactly why I don't use moss!! It never dries out!!" Ah, but it's all in how you use it. The other magical property moss has is air pockets. Air around the roots is essential for all those fat-rooted genera like vandas, cattleyas, phalaenopsis, and dendrobiums. Their roots are adapted to drying out BUT also to having high humidity. To maintain those air pockets, use a light hand with the moss. Put a little moss in the center of the root ball along with something non-absorbent like an inverted net pot, a Styrofoam peanut, or a wine cork—cheers! Then gently wrap the outside of the root ball with a thin layer of moss. Slide the plant into the smallest pot the roots will fit into comfortably, and you are done. If you're still worried about insufficient air and excess moisture, put the plant in a net or clay pot for faster drying.

You know those phals you buy at the grocery store (or your friend gives you when she has almost killed hers)? They come packed within an inch of their lives in moss. This is one of the reasons moss gets a bad name. When dry, super-compressed moss is almost impossible to wet without prolonged soaking. Once wet, it may stay wet until the next century. This, of course, leads to root rot and a slow death for the plant. Why do they come that way? For shipping, of course. Remember how I said that moss is great because it doesn't fall out of the pot? Yeah, there you go! If you pot the way that I suggested, however, your plant SHOULD fall out when you turn it upside down!

#### Repotting frequency



<u>Porroglossum</u>apaloae; like all <u>pleurothallids</u>, they love the moisture retention of moss

If there is one drawback to using moss, it's that moss deteriorates faster than bark. Plants that stay pretty dry most of the time can go up to two years in moss, but really a year is better. If I am adding media to a basket, I do not use moss because I don't want to change it out later (way too lazy for that). Related to this, sphagnum grows algae and sometimes other mosses on its surface. Those spores are always present in the air, and sphagnum is a happy home for the spores. The algae/moss doesn't hurt your plant one bit. I think it adds a little character to the plant. On the positive side, regarding repotting. because moss is so soft, I repot plants year-round as I find time (please no letters about what a bad idea this is). The moss doesn't break newly forming roots, so I just have to watch what my fingers are doing.

I am happy to say that I have made some moss

converts by correcting the heavy hand that many people use when potting in moss. Some have even become real moss disciples. The next time you repot a plant, particularly if it is a moisture-loving species, give moss a try. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at your root growth and that is the key to all orchid success!

Happy growing!



# **Bud Blast**

Thanks to Ray Barkalow and First Rays for granting permission to reprint any of his articles.

"Bud blast" is a term used to describe the situation in which a plant seems to be growing well, but the flower buds fail to fully develop and open. There are many possible reasons for that, but all are caused by an undue stress being put on the plant.

Insect or mite damage is a common cause of bud blast, as they suck the juices out of the buds or help introduce pathogens that cause them to die. Both may be controlled through the proper use of an appropriate pesticide, and mite infestation can often be prevented by maintianing a decent <u>humidity</u> level in the growing area.

Low <u>humidity</u>, by itself, is another common cause of bud blast, as the buds may lose water more rapidly than it can be "pumped" into them by the plant. This can be made worse by blasts of air from forced-air heating or air conditioning systems.

A sudden change in conditions – even briefly – can also lead to bud blast. I cannot tell you how many times I've purchased a budded plant at a show, only to have some, if not all of the buds fail because of a very brief chill when moving from the car into the house or greenhouse. Hot air coming from a room heater can be another culprit.

Improper watering may also play a role. Underwatering is a direct cause of bud blast – the plant draws water out of its tissues in order to stay alive, with the sensitive buds losing out quickly. Overwatering is an indirect cause of bud blast, as suffocation of the root system weakens its functioning, so the plant is unable to take up sufficient water.

A change in lighting can lead to bud blast, whether that be too much or too little. If the flower buds are exposed to unusually bright light, they can become warm and desiccated, so will fail to develop. A plant that should be in bright light may abort the buds if moved into shade before they open. Flowers are how pollinators are attracted, and as each plant's pollinators are unique to the plant's growing environment, a change may suggest that pollination is unlikely, so the plant aborts the attempt in order to save resources.

Another, often overlooked category of bud blast initiators is chemical vapors in the air. Exposure to fumes from paints and solvents seems fairly obvious, but we should not overlook gas stoves and heaters or ripening fruit. Ethylene is released by incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels, so keeping burners clean and tuned to burn efficiently is the key to prevention. Ripening fruits also emit ethylene gas, so if you have a bowl of apples nearby, or tomatoes ripening in a windowsill, they might be the source of bud blast issues, as well.

Similarly, it is a good idea to avoid wetting flower buds when watering, feeding, or applying other treatments. Fertilizer are mineral salts that may extract moisture from the buds, for example. Even if the material isn't directly damaging to the buds, and water left standing around the buds might favor the growth of pathogens.

Least likely is genetics – a plant may have a tendency to blast its buds, even under ideal conditions, due to a defective gene. This is rare among cultivated plants. Not many want to buy an orchid that cannot bloom, so they they get culled pretty readily by the breeder or grower.

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. <u>http://rforchids.com/</u>





# HOW WE GROW PHALAENOPSIS

The exquisite "moth orchids" are popular among novice and experienced growers alike. Their beautiful and incredibly long-lasting flowers are borne on easy-to-grow plants, putting phalaenopsis at or near the top of just about everyone's recommendation list for beginners' orchids. Most of the phalaenopsis plants offered for sale are hybrids, the results of many generations of breeding from species plants that are native to eastern Asia. The spectacular, winter-flowering white and pink flowers we see most often are the descendants of several species native to the Philippines and other Pacific islands.



In their native habitats, species phalaenopsis grow in moist forests where the temperature remains quite warm most of the year, and both humidity and rainfall are generally high year-round. The plants are epiphytes, growing on shady tree branches.



Advances in hybridizing have produced yellow and red shades as well, although phalaenopsis in these color ranges tend to bloom in the spring and summer, with smaller and less numerous flowers per stem. Some of the smaller-flowered hybrids, particularly those with *Phal. violacea* in the background, are even fragrant!

Phalaenopsis, like vandas, are *monopodial* orchids. This means the plants have a single growing point on a stout stem, and new leaves emerge from this single growing point. The leaves are thick and succulent, but because the plants are native to moist forests they have no capacity to store water for dry periods. Unlike cattleyas, which are adapted

clay pot

to distinct moist and dry seasons, phalaenopsis and the closely-related hybrid doritaenopsis need moderate but even moisture and moderate to high humidity at all

# **Cultural Requirements**

times.

Potting media – Because phalaenopsis grow best when their roots are moist (not dripping, soggy wet!), potting media for these plants have to be more moisture-retentive than the materials used for potting many other kinds of orchids. Phalaenopsis never want to dry out completely, but they must have good air circulation at the roots. They are epiphytic orchids, remember; in their native habitats their roots are exposed to the air.

Potting media for phalaenopsis should include a generous amount of moisture-holding material such as sphagnum moss. Some growers use sphagnum exclusively, but it is difficult to maintain healthy roots in pots of pure sphagnum moss as the material holds a great deal of water. If the plant is potted too tightly in sphagnum, the roots will smother. Sphagnum should be mixed with other materials that provide air spaces in the pot. For use in plastic pots we mix it 1:1 with expanded clay pellets (Aliflor and Hydroton are two brand names), but you can also use chopped styrofoam peanuts, medium chunks of hardwood charcoal, or some similar material that won't rot. If we're potting in clay pots, we mix equal parts of sphagnum, expanded clay and chopped treefern/redwood mix. Before we begin potting, we moisten the mix with water.

You can grow phalaenopsis in either plastic or clay pots. Both have advantages and disadvantages, and the best pot for your plant depends entirely on your growing conditions. Plastic pots dry more slowly than clay pots, so if you use plastic you should not water the plants as often as you would water plants in clay pots. Clay may be preferable for very large plants, as it is heavier and big phalaenopsis can be quite top-heavy, particularly when they're blooming.

Light – One of the reasons phalaenopsis are popular as indoor plants is their relatively modest light requirements.

They will grow, and bloom, with significantly less light than many other orchids and therefore they can be spectacular house plants under the right conditions. You can grow phalaenopsis on a bright windowsill inside the house, as long as the plant is protected from direct sunlight. Their light requirements range from about 750 – 1,000 footcandles at the lowest to nearly 3,000 footcandles. This is about the minimum amount of light necessary for success with cattleyas, but phalaenopsis will not tolerate any direct sunlight. They must be shaded at all times. The plants will grow and flower best with more rather than less light within this range.





Dtps. Chian Xen Pearl 'Ming-Ho' AM/AOS

**Temperature** – Phalaenopsis prefer warm temperatures, with a minimum winter night temperature above 60F. A few nights of 60-65F will not harm them, and in fact they often begin their flower spikes as a reaction to a few cool nights. If you have a sheltered spot on your patio, you can put your phalaenopsis outdoors, in the shade, when overnight lows begin to fall into this range. A week or so with these cooler night temperatures may stimulate the plant to begin producing its flower spikes for a spectacular display later in the winter.

**Watering and Humidity** – When to water? The simple answer: when the potting medium is beginning to dry but before it has actually become dry. Keep the

potting medium moist (not wet!). Depending on your conditions, this may be every 3-4 days to once a week or so. Providing adequate humidity indoors can be a real challenge, but it's critical to success with phalaenopsis. Neither the plants nor the flowers are happy in dry air. The flowers will last much longer (3-4 months is not uncommon, and 5 months not unheard-of) if the atmosphere around them is adequately humidified. We recommend a minimum of 50% relative humidity. Remember, these are tropical jungle plants! Dry air is the most common cause of bud drop on phalaenopsis. **Problems** – Adequate humidity around the plants also reduces the chance of problems with spider mites. These tiny creatures thrive in warm, dry conditions and take a heavy toll on phalaenopsis plants indoors. So-called "humidity trays" have little effect on the moisture in the air. A room or whole-house humidifier will do a better job bringing the moisture level up to a more comfortable level, for you as well as for your plants. When watering phalaenopsis, it's important to keep the center growing point, or "crown", free of moisture. If you accidentally splash or spill water on the plant, blot up the excess with a paper towel so that the crown is dry. If water collects in the crown, it can lead to a fatal fungal infection known as "crown rot".

Control of overhead watering is one of the main reasons most people grow phalaenopsis indoors. It's easier to keep the crown of the plant dry and disease-free. An obvious question comes to mind: how do the plants grow in the wet jungle? In

their native habitats, phalaenopsis orchids don't grow in pots with the crown upright. The plants grow attached to trees, with leaves tilted to one side (or even hanging down!) so that rainwater runs off the leaves and does not collect in the crown of the plant. If you can provide the shady, humid conditions these plants love, you can grow phalaenopsis this way in baskets of sphagnum moss, or even mounted on a slab of cork bark or driftwood.

The tall inflorescences we love so much have to be staked and trained. Once the flower spike begins to grow, it's important that the plant not be moved relative to the light source. The spike will grow towards the light and can develop undesirable twists, kinks and bends if the plant's position is changed. You'll also want to stake the spike to help it grow upright, and to support the weight of the flowers. There are a number of staking materials available. We like to use lengths of rigid bamboo, as this looks more natural, but wire stakes work well, too. Use very soft wire or raffia to tie the inflorescence to the stake.

**Fertilizing** – Most commonly cultivated orchids benefit from regular fertilizing, and phalaenopsis are no exception. They don't require the heavy feeding that most vandas do, but your phalaenopsis orchids will grow better and bloom better if you fertilize them about twice a month with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer. We like Jack's Classic 20-20-20 with minor elements, but any balanced fertilizer will do. To help stimulate roots and flowers, we add 1/4 teaspoon of SuperThrive vitamin/hormone solution to the fertilizer solution, and substitute Jack's Bloom Booster (10-30-20) formula every third or fourth feeding.

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# Let's Get to Know Each Other

# **OSGKC Members!**

# APRIL



Phal. stuartiana in the garden



# Deb Staley

Birthday April Fools Day 4-1

I joined OSGKC about a year ago when I was gifted a "grocery store" orchid. It was so beautiful, but I didn't know how to grow them and the meeting place was right by my house, so... Well, I got that orchid to rebloom and bought another one. But the second one will NEVER EVER bloom again, I'm pretty sure. I think orchids are frustrating, but the group sure seems fun.

My real estate business is solely focused on helping people downsize their home in JoCo KS. Mostly, they buy maintenance-provided homes like condos, townhomes, patio homes, and villas. This has been my specialty for a dozen years and I never want to retire.

One surprising fact about me is that I am a tap dancer and still teach it, although the studio is closed again because of the virus.

My crazy birthday is April Fool's Day. I have a cat who was a feral and dumped off in the country. She is a good kitty now and goes to the cat clinic right by our meeting place. Exactly two years ago I married my next-door neighbor (I sold his house). Life is good and I've been lucky. I'm grateful for everything and that includes friends I hope to meet at OSGKC when we are able to get together again.

# Al Clinton

Birthday April 19<sup>th</sup>

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?)

Joined in 2004.

2. How long have you been growing orchids? Since about 2002.

3. What got you hooked?

I had always been a gardener, hybridizing lilies and hemerocallis ("daylilies"). Susie had started with orchids in '96,and got me interested.

4. What type of orchid is your favorite?

I specialize in Masdevallias.

5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can)

We built a greenhouse (attached to our house) in 2009, and a few years ago we built a "cool"room inside it for Masdevallias. See photos.

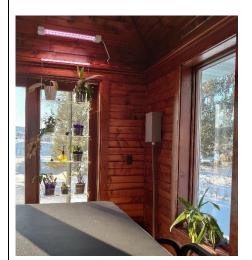
6. What was/is your profession or training - are you still working or retired?











Liberal Arts and Fine Arts education, taught Elementary Art, retired in 2000.

- 7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..."
  - None of my friends are surprised by what I do.
  - 8. Birth Month and Day" April 19.
- 9. Do you have any pets?
- A cat, Munchkin

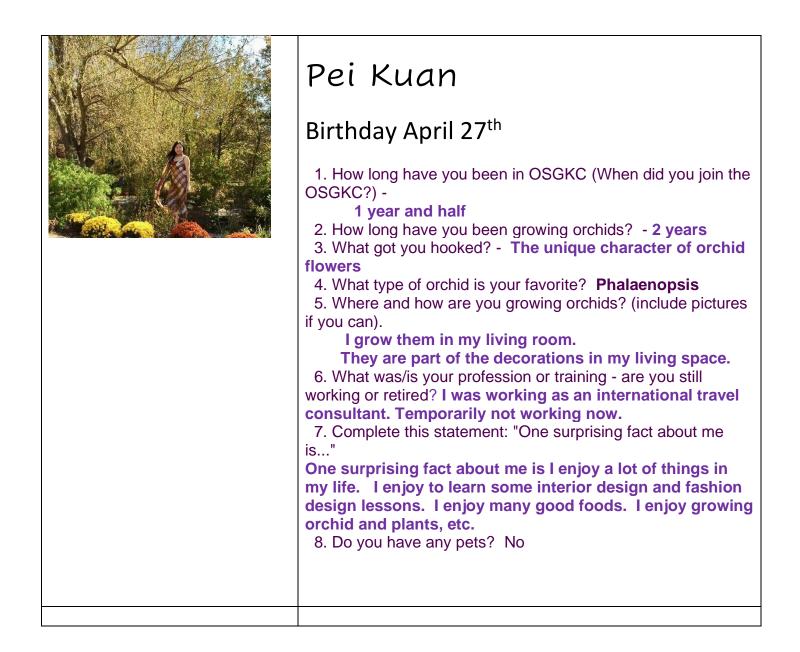
# Cindy Meyer

Birthday April 24th

My biggest life regret will forever be the 1 year in Taiwan and the 4 years I lived in China; wasting the glorious opportunity at my fingertips, by having well below adequate orchid knowledge. (2006, 14-18)

My orchid addiction blossomed in the fall of 2019 when my sister and I attended our first OSGKC auction. Ever since that day I've become hooked! Like my fellow OSGKC members I love animals and have 6 cats, countless chickens, herds of guineas, and flocks of peacocks. On occasion I massage a few horses. I am very grateful and thankful to be apart of this fascinating group of orchidists. To loving to learn- Cheers





# News from the AOS

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!

## APRIL – Congratulations to Us, The American Orchid Society is 100 years old!

The American Orchid Society has officially reached the 100-year mark. As a centenarian, we have felt all of the growing pains of the ages. We have stretched and exercised to become the strong body we are today. The affiliated societies have united the orchid loving public by providing a monthly meeting place for growers and exhibitors, from novice to expert. Many of our societies have been around for the long haul.



This prestigious award is given to an affiliate in recognition of sustained, outstanding contributions in areas of service and support in the field of orchidology. Nominations for the DASSA may be made by any member of an AOS affiliate and should be forwarded to the <u>Affiliated Societies Committee</u>.

If you think your society may be a contender, review the criteria for the award and send off your submission by June 01, 2021. And wherever you are...CHEERS to the future of orchids! <u>affiliated societies@aos.org</u> https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/DASSA Nomination Form.pdf



This gorgeous one of a kind painting from Angela Mirro was revealed during the March 13, Spring Meeting of the Members. One hundred signed and numbered museum quality prints were offered to AOS members at the close of the meeting. They sold out in two days! All proceeds from the sale of the prints go towards the AOS Orchid Conservation fund.

The original painting is on the auction block at the Centennial Celebration, Friday, October 29.







Make a toast to our next hundred years. Get your very own commemorative glassware in the AOS Gift Shop

Cheers to the next 100 years!

Special Centennial Auction - Friday, October 29, starting at 7 p.m.

## AOS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DATES: October 27th - 30th, 2021

We are proud to present the American Orchid Society's Centennial Celebration!

The four-day celebration will encompass our 2021 Fall Members Meeting activities, an exciting live auction, and a

splendid gala banquet that will feature a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, music, and dancing in a beautiful and historic setting.

Please join us at the beautiful landmark location - The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

# **Events include:**

- Wednesday, October 27 Meet and Greet reception for registrants 5-6 p.m.
- Thursday, October 28 AOS Judging, hosted by East Everglades Orchid Society
- Friday, October 29 Special Centennial Auction, starting at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30 Speaker Series, until 3 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30 Centennial Gala, starting at 6 p.m.

## Cheers to the next 100 years!

https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings/schedule.aspx You and your society can become <u>sponsors</u> of this event! Make your contribution here: <u>https://secure.aos.org/event/sponsor</u> Forever, be a part of the AOS Centennial.

# We Are Your National Volunteers Let us Know What We Can Do For You

# Valued Members and Volunteers

An organization is only as good as its members. The AOS is deeply indebted to the many talented and dedicated volunteers who give their time and service to encourage a widespread interest in orchids. They advance the mission of the AOS more than they will ever know. *Please contact any of us if you would like to join our committee.* 

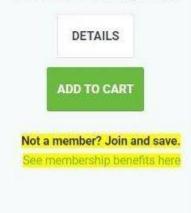
# **Affiliated Societies Committee**

affiliated\_societies@aos.org Denise Lucero, Chair Chad Brinkerhuff, Lois Dauelsberg, Edna Hamilton, Eileen Hector (vice-chair), Candace Hollinger, Donna Petitt, Graham Ramsey, Alex Rodriguez Staff liaison: Naya Marcano

# The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture

This 245-pa illustrated v photograph topics on o include spe popular ord orchid mou semi-hydro section on diseases. O

This 245-page book, beautifully illustrated with over 450 color photographs, covers a myriad of topics on orchid culture. Topics include specific information on popular orchid groups, repotting, orchid mounting, growing orchids semi-hydroponically, as well as a section on common orchid pests and diseases. ON SALE AT 50% OFF FOR ALL AOS MEMBERS. BE SURE TO LOG IN BEFORE PURCHASING! Regular Price \$29.99 Member Price \$14.99



# LIMITED TIME OFFER, HURRY Get it NOW

# 50% OFF Through the End of March! https://secure.aos.org/products/55/353

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? It's easy to find the <u>scheduled webinars</u> and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here: **REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** <u>http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx</u>

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



## From the AOS website... AN ORCHIDIST'S GLOSSARY

A glossary is an alphabetical list of concepts, terms and words within a given field of knowledge or science. It is in this sense that we have called this an Orchidist's Glossary. It views the listed words from the viewpoint of an orchidist only, and thus is most meaningful when limited to its field. It is far from fully comprehensive, but it does embrace a fairly wide range of words used by orchid growers, orchid botanists and various orchid authors. This section includes a pronunciation guide with sound files.

https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchidists-glossary.aspx

It pairs nicely with <u>ORCHIDS A TO Z</u> webpage that also includes sound files for the pronunciation of orchid genera. <u>https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z.aspx</u>



## **ORCHIDPRO**

The AOS awards database is available at no extra cost to members. A digital version is included with every AOS membership. You have access to the same program that the judges use. *From Most Recent Awards in OrchidPro...* 

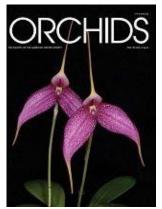
## <u>Rhyncattleanthe</u>

Fuchs Orange Nuggett 'Lea' CCM/AOS (82 points) (Rhyncattleanthe Orange Nuggett x Cattlianthe Viola Sanjume) Award No: 20211291 left Exhibitor: David White Photographer: Kay Clark Florida North-Central Judging Center

# Pterostylis concinna 'Dusty's Pea-Wee' CBR/AOS (0 points)

Award No: 20212557 center Exhibitor: Nile S. Dusdieker Photographer: Nile Dusdieker Chicago Judging Center Papilionanda Batram 'Frank Smith' FCC/AOS (92 points) (Papilionanda Mimi Palmer x Vanda denisoniana) Award No: 20211287 right Exhibitor: Krull-Smith Photographer: Kay Clark Florida North-Central Judging Center

The plants showcased here, demonstrate the variety of awards granted by the AOS. **The CCM, Award No: 20211291**, was given to the grower, and first time AOS exhibitor. He is now a proud member of the AOS.



Award No: 20212557 is something you do not see every day. A CBR is awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest that has received no previous awards.

The judges liked **Award No: 20211287** enough to grant it an **FCC**, the highest flower-quality award designated for orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more, on a 100-point scale.

To learn more about <u>orchid awards and judging</u> visit <u>https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx</u>

### **ORCHIDS MAGAZINE**

### **Repotting Those Huge Cattleyas**

SEEDLING CATTLEYAS are so much fun. They do not take up much space in your growing area when you first bring them home, so you can buy lots of them at orchid shows without worrying about where you are going to put them. You get to watch each plant grow bigger and stronger and imagine what their first blooms will look like. If you decide the flower was worth the wait, you give it a permanent home in your growing area. When it starts growing out of the pot, you move it into a larger pot and look forward to it producing multiple flower spikes and putting on a real show. Then one day your plant is growing out of an 8- or 10-inch (20- or 25-cm) pot, you start running out of options, and eventually you have to decide to either find a bigger pot or divide the plant.

I have a serious orchid addiction so it goes without saying that I am always running out of bench space. A compounding problem is my love of the large standard cattleyas that, not coincidentally, take up a lot of space. I needed a way of potting-up my overgrown cattleyas without having one pot turn into two or three or four, so I often pot divisions into the same pot. Spoiler alert: You will be ineligible for AOS cultural awards by having more than one plant in a pot, but if your primary goal is getting the most flowers per square inch (square centimeter) of pot space, read on.

Find the <u>entire article</u> beginning on page 260 in the April 2016 edition of <u>ORCHIDS</u>. *Text by Sue Bottom/Photographs by Terry Bottom* <u>https://secure.aos.org/digital-library/201604orch\_85-4/22/index.html#zoom=z</u> https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx

### From the AOS website... ORCHID CARE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Although many of us have learned that orchid growing is not a one-size fits-all endeavor, general guidelines exist to put those entirely new to orchids on the path to success.

### Are all orchids the same?

Quite the contrary. No plant family is more diverse. After all, the orchid family is the largest plant family, occupying almost all possible environments. From the thimble-sized *Mystacidium caffrum* to the 20-foot-tall *Renanthera storei*, orchids exhibit amazingly different shapes, forms and growth habits. Some orchids produce blossoms no larger than a mosquito; other orchid flowers are as large as a dinner plate. Your familiar corsage is just one of the thousands of attractive types that can be grown with ease, given the proper culture. And with today's propagation methods and current hybridizing trends, there are more choices to choose from than ever before.

## Are orchids fragrant?

Some are so powerfully scented as to perfume an entire greenhouse or living room. A few orchid fragrances defy description, while others mimic familiar aromas -- raspberry, coconut, lilacs and citrus. Others have no scent, but rely on shape and color to attract insects or birds for pollination, thereby continuing the life cycle of the species. Find more orchid Q & A here: https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-care.aspx



# Orchid Society

of Greater Kansas City

# OSGKC.org

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

DRCHID SDCIETY DF GREATER KANSAS CITY President – Jean Rogers jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com

Vice-president - Kristy Charland charland.ek@outlook.com

## Membership:

Visit <u>www.OSGKC.org</u> and click the "membership" link, and then under PayPal click donate Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household Membership chair: Anna Archibald annalizbald@gmail.com

Editor: Jean Rogers 9941 Marty St Overland Park, KS 66212 jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com 214-402-6958

On the web at: <u>www.OSGKC.org</u> Webmaster: Ariel Paulson

## On Facebook:



Facebook.com/OSGKC/ @OSGKC on Facebook or Messenger Orchid Growers of OSGKC https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878 999427064/

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 <u>www.osgkc.org</u> for updates and changes to our program schedule.

# April 11, 2021

Orchid Chat with Sarah Hurdel 2:00 Zoom

# April 17, 2021 Saturday 2:00 Zoom

Auction - Zoom, Members only

May 16, 2021 OSGKC Zoom meeting Speaker – Annual Dr. Kristen Uthus, New World Orchids, "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 2"

June 13, 2021 OSGKC Zoom meeting Speaker – Jim & Yvonne France, Oakwood Orchids, "Growing Orchids Without a Greenhouse"

July 11, 2021 Tour of Orchids, area members' growing spots

August 15, 2021 Picnic – Antioch Park

## August 27-29, 2021 Ohio Valley Orchid Fest Kettering, Ohio Outdoors, vendors, judging

September 12, 2021 OSGKC Zoom meeting Speaker - Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids - "Growing Epidendrums and Encyclias"

October 2, 2021 Springfield Orchid Society Fall Orchid Show. Springfield Botanic Center