

Volume II Issue 5 May 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 2nd 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 Megan Mayo annalizbald@gmail.com THEKORNKIDDO@aol.com

https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew And for any help, please contact Mark Prout, AOS Rep for our Society.

May-June News!

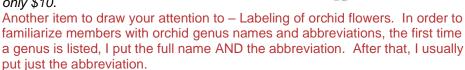
Comments from Jean Rogers, President, Editor

Isn't Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids amazing!! I'm so glad Susie found her. Every time she talks, my wish list grows!!! Now if Susie schedules her for talking on Dendrobiums, I'm really in trouble because I LOVE Dens.!!! There is so much variety. You don't just 'grow a Dendrobium'. You have to know about them, to know which type you have, to know how to take care of them – so much difference!!!

I want to draw your attention to the articles I reprint in the newsletter. There were articles on 4 different Dendrobium cultures from Rf Orchids, in case you

missed them. In addition to culture however, many of the articles I reprint have links that you can follow. These growers often have found some 'tried and true' products that they include a link for. Just highlight it, then press ctrl and click.

For example: In this newsletter, there is a link to this thermometer/humidity. I have hunted and hunted before and not found anything I liked – and this for only \$10.



Remember that we have Iva hostessing Beginners Group at 1:00 before meetings. ANYONE and EVERYONE can listen in. Though it is directed at the more beginning grower. I learn something from Iva every month!!! If you are a seasoned grower and have questions or comments, just hold them for Care and Culture Round Table which begins at 1:30. Cindy Hobbs and Susie Hanna are doing a dynamite job of receiving members questions/pictures and lining up members to help. We have such a great group of people who what to help each other!!! If you have questions/problems, please send them and pictures to Cindy at tincan1201 @aol.com 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.

> Happy orchid growing. Jean

0 (83%) (83%) 0 (83%)

1

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 1st cross and 15 of the 2nd cross. Orchids were received March 17th.



Lc. Mari's Magic 'H & R'



Slc. Candy Sparks 'Superior Flare'



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



Blc Bouton D'or 'Halycon'

Meanwhile, please continue to keep Kristy Charland posted if anything else is happening with last year's C. Warpaint. 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 oooohhhs 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, 2020 Newsletter for contact information of willing helpers in the Society and their 'specialty'. (Can't find the March 2020 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:

We have another interesting speaker scheduled for our June13 meeting. We are working toward a goal of building our knowledge of growing a variety of orchids, especially for those who grow under lights or on a window sill. June's speaker is Jim France, Oakwood Orchids, "Growing Orchids Without a Greenhouse. There will be plenty of time to ask questions. You can find Oakwood Orchids on Facebook.

In July, we have a virtual tour of three of our members' growing areas. Ariel Paulson will share his light garden area full of orchids and <u>many</u> other types of plants. Karen Schorno grows in a conservatory attached to her home, so she has a mixture of lights and sunny windows. Jen Winter has an extensive orchid collection in a greenhouse. So there will be much to see and more to learn. Check out their Bios and pictures in the "OSGKC Bios" in Google Docs. Join us for the Orchid Growers' Tour July 11. Here is a feature from one of our newer members who's on the tour – excited yet???

Jen (Dudley) Winter

I bought my first orchids in 1998 from a local grower when I was stationed in Hawaii. I was a terrible orchid mommy at first and I didn't think I was cut out to grown them and patient 1 and 2 did not survive the move home to the midwest. Skipping ahead a couple decades, my green thumb vastly improved with the help of the internet and more disposable income.

I own a manufacturing company, Daystar Filters, where I make special telescopes and filters to look at the sun. It's a big spectroscopy, chemistry, machining and electronics lab all rolled into one. Think lasers on breadboards and metal cutting machines the size of a UPS truck. Our facility is steps away from my home on 35 acres out in Warrensburg, MO. In recent years, I have also become an iris and daylily farmer, though I'm not sure I want to

sell any just yet.

Most importantly, I am mommy to an English Angora house rabbit, Thunderpuff. That means my 20lb big fluffy boy lives in the house just like a cat or dog, hopping around like he owns the place because he is totally the boss.

During the COVID shutdown my orchid habit went into overdrive. A few plants turned into dozens then hundreds. Soon I was buying plugs and flasks and everything from vandas and catasetums to stanhopeas and bulbophyllums. I'm pretty sure I'm over 1000 now. Running a business taught me a lot about success through known methods vs. trial and error and a good mix of both. In most fields, it takes years to learn from one's successes and failures. So my motto to get better at what I do is "Hurry up and fail!" Instead of dreading failure; I prefer to expect and plan for it as an opportunity to figure out how to succeed.

GROWING SPACE(s):

I have 3 greenhouse/growing spaces but right now really only use 1.

- The 12ft x 24ft outdoor greenhouse is not thermally stable enough for orchids. It's way too hot and sunny in the summer and way too cold in the winter.
- I have a 24ft x 24ft 2nd floor south facing "Florida Room" with windows on the east, south and west. I used it up until fall of 2020. It was packed with 5 shelf carts 5ft long on wheels, as well as hanging bars and tables and every surface covered with plastic and pots. I had to give it up for 2 reasons. I was trying to keep humidity up to 60-80%, which was molding the walls and all the furniture and belongings in that room. I also realized I couldn't properly water vandas in that space other than to dunk them in a trash can full of water, which is dangerous.
- So in 2020, we converted a 12ft x 56ft long outdoor deck into my new space. I sourced 9 used 1970's tinted, tempered glass slabs, bought 3 sliding glass doors and framed in walls with a roof. Now I can use a garden hose* and mist system and keep humidity so high I have achieved fog.

<u>Last Month's Meeting Speaker Notes by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington</u>

OSGKC

5-16-2021

Dr. Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids - "Growing Miniature Orchids, Part 2" -

On another rainy Sunday, Dr. Kristen Uthus asked us to question what type of orchidists we are. Do we have cold growing environments with temperatures below 50F or hot growing environments with temperatures above 84F? How do you prefer to water? Do you enjoy spritzing and watering everyday or do you like going a few days between waterings? The last and most important question is are you a Form (foliage/shape) or Flower grower? For most of us we are in the middle, so Dr. Uthus shared her knowledge of great miniatures based on the above questions.

Moderate to low light orchids like Bulbophyllums, Leptotes, Pleurothallids enjoy moist cool to warm environments. For many of these species terrariums can be a great place for growing. If you have a difficult time keeping these guys watered, consider potting them rather than mounting them. Most mounted orchids have no problem being potted to give you more time in between waterings.

The high light orchids like Cattleyas and Vandas enjoy drying out between waterings. Mounting cattleyas is beneficial to help ensure you don't over water them, but for vandas the roots still need high humidity. By potting your vandas with a chunky potting medium you can keep the humidity up while still giving proper time between waterings.

We all anticipate Dr. Kristen Uthus to return in the future to give us more hints and information on her favorite Dendrobiums.

A few extra growing hints:

- *Bulbophyllums are happy growing out of their pots (let them)
- *Dendrobiums that need a dry period start it when it gets cold outside
- * Draculas can handle higher temperatures if they have less light.
- *Masdevallias if it's hot don't give them extra water; give them less light.
- *Orchids in spike or in flower water more than other time

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.

June12, 2021

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

April OSGKC Judging

19 members submitted 59 blooming orchids for judging and show in April.

Thanks to the following members for submitting orchids for judging in April: Kristy Charland, Brian Donovan, Pei Kuan, Cindy Leech, Megan Mayo, DiptiSolanti, Dr. Dan Schlozman, Louise Hicks, Jen Winter, Jean Rogers, Donna Klehm, and Annie Stoker.

"Just for Viewing Pleasure" – Thanks to; Susie Hanna & Al Clinton, Merri Archibald, Susan Tompkins, Jen Winter and, Mark and Joy Prout for submitting pictures for our viewing pleasure.

Blue Ribbons were received by: Dr. Dan Schlozman for JFK. Appleblossom #1 (Cattleya), Donna Klehm for Onc. NOID (Oncidiums), Brian Donovan for Aerangis fastuosa (Species), Pei Kuan for Phal. NOID #2 (Phalaenopsis), Jen Winter for Paph. (Maudiae 'Los Osos' x Hsinying Cyber Leopard 'C.H.') (Paphiopedilums), Megan Mayo for Dendrobium monilforme 'Koganemaru' (Dendrobium), and Jen Winter for Zygopetelum Debbie De Mello (Miscellaneous)

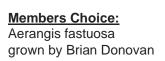
Red Ribbons were received by: Dr. Dan for JFK. Appleblossom #3 (Cattleya) and Dc. Kosh Wallis 'Paradise' HCC/AOS (Cattleya), Kristy Charland for C. AOS Beach Magic, Jen Winter for C. Melody Fair 'Mishima', Kristy Charland for Onc. Sharry Baby (Oncidium), Jen Winter for Den. Sherry Abe, Pei Kuan for Phal. NOID #3, Dipti Solanti for Phal. Chiada, Heidi Stoker for Phal NOID #7, Jen Winter for Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens, Jean Rogers for Mormodia (Mo.) Regine Viardand, and Dr. Dan Schlozman for Paph. Honey.

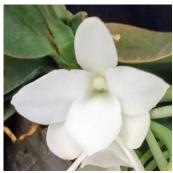
White Ribbons were received by: Kristy Charland for JKF. Appleblossom #2, Brian Donovan for Phal equestris and Phal equestris var. Orange (both Species), Cindy Leech for Den. kingianum var. pulcherrimum, Kristy Charland for Osp. Fran's Jewels (Oncidium), Dr. Dan Schlozman for Phal. Joey 'Brother' x Samera var. Indigo



<u>March Orchid of the Month</u> (drum roll)

Jkf. Appleblossom #1 grown by Dr. Dan Schlozman





May 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.

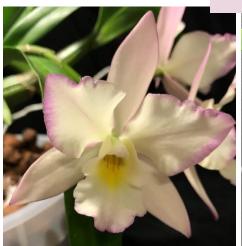
2)**Members' Choice** – members have **5 days** from date newsletter is emailed, to send your nomination (vote) in for the orchid of the month that is your favorite, again, based on the two pictures in the newsletter. Please send your nomination (vote) to Jean Rogers at jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com **This month -Send by the end of the day Sat. June 10th.**

Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging.

Deadline for submissions was May 25th. Watch for the June dates in an upcoming email. Huge thank you to all the members who sent pictures.

Orchids for Judging: (Send your "Member's Choice" to jeanierogerswarren@gmail. com by June 10st)

Jackfowlieara (Jkf.) Appleblossom





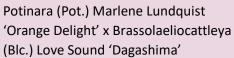








'Orang (Blc.)







Phalaenopsis (Phal.) NOID #1

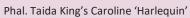




'A05724'

























Phal. Lioulin Pretty Lip 'Perfection'





Phal. NOID #3







Phal. Sir Elton John 'Pink Python'









Phal. Taida Pride Queen 'Taida Orange'





Phal. Gan Lin sunlight 'DF1350'



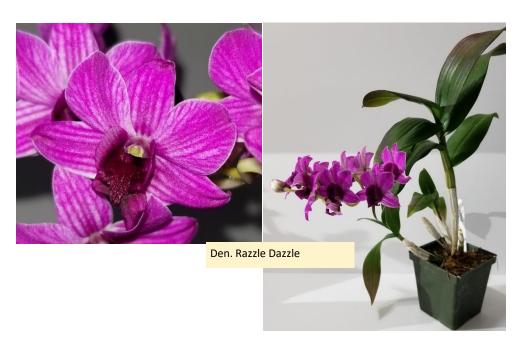














Paphiopedilum (Paph.) Heron's Faire



























Vanda falcata Honggang





Miltonia (Milt.) Rene Komoda











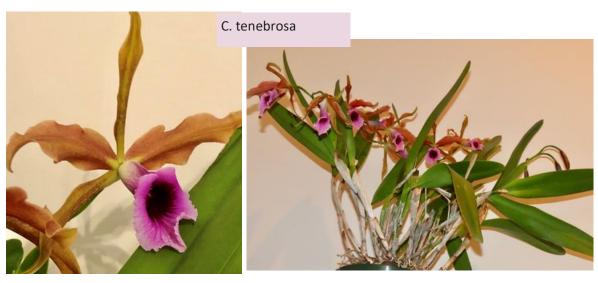












NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!

From Susan Tompkins











From Mark and Joy Prout





Catasetum (Ctsm.) Dentigrianum





Phal. KV Beauty '5701'









Lycaste (Lyc.) aromatic x Sudamerlycaste (Sud.) fimbriata





Cattleya Canhamiana 'Lone Jack'



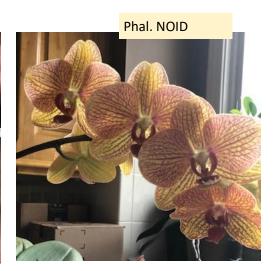


From Jean Rogers



Aliceara (Alcra.) Tahama Glacier 'Ithan' AM/AOS





Ctt. Jewel Box







Sophrolaeliocattleya (Slc.) Lee's Ruby 'Valentine gift' x Slc. Tutankamen 'Pop'AM/AOS



From Susie Hanna

Miltoniopsis (Mps.) Lennart Karl Gottling



For Fun and Learning!!

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

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

F I F I F I I F I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I I F I

From Dr. Dan Schlozman Jkf. Appleblossom

I grow this plant in a small greenhouse in Cattleya light using the techniques described by Ray Barclay of first rays orchids. I use expanded clay pellets as my potting media. Fertilizer is K lite and supplemented by a kelp product sold by Ray as well as a probiotic also sold by Ray. The last two are applied with a hose in sprayer. I change the potting media every three years or unless the roots jump out of the pot.



From Megan Mayo

Dendrobium (Den.) moniliforme 'Koganemaru'

My Den. monilforme Koganemaru is downstairs, hanging on the wall, 6-12 inches under LED lights. I water it 2x a week with filtered water then a dip in 1/2 strength MSU fertilizer during growing season. Most of these plants are kept in a mounded moss, so they sit on a little mossy hill in their net pot. The temp varies from 73-68. Humidity is 64% at the moment. Some are TINY some are medium sized and some are 12 inches tall but that's about it. They stay small, which is loads of fun!!



From Donna Klehm Oncidium (Onc.) NOID

My little plant is in the east window with natural light. I water each Saturday with tap water and a pinch of fertilizer by just pouring water through it once and then a second time. It's snuggled in with all my other orchids so humidity is high.



From Pei Kuan Phalaenopsis NOID

I keep all my orchids at west window in my living room. I got this phalaenopsis on September 2019. This is its first rebloom. I pot it in moss with a little charcoals and I water it once a week. Meanwhile I fertilize it with Grow More 20-10-20 every other week. The fertilizer I use is light every time. The key to grow this phalaenopsis is not to over water it.



From Brian Donovan Aerangis fastuosa – Species

I originally purchased my Aergangis fastuosa from J&L Orchids in 2012. This is a great species that never gets too big. It produces a night scent that far exceeds its size. Some find the scent pleasant, but others might find it aggressively sweet. It will grow well mounted, but I've kept mine in a 4" pot for the last several years. I have it in a mix of medium and fine fir bark. I water it about once a week (a little more in the summer and a little less in the winter). I keep it under bright light (somewhere between Phalaenopsis light and Cattleya light). It can take a decent amount of fertilizer. I think the key to this species is to keep it in a small pot and don't fuss with it too much.

Outside OSGKC Resources

Kristy's Korner

April 27, 2021

Hello orchid fans!

Kristy is swamped overtime with finishing building and getting ready to move into a new house. News from her next month!

BE WELL!

Kristy

22

We thank James Rose of Cal-Orchids for granting permission to reprint any information from his website.



NEOFINETIA FALCATA AND IT'S HYBRIDS







Neofinetia falcata, while a rather new celebrity on the recent orchid circuit, is one of the oldest known orchids in cultivation. It is a native to Japan, Korea, and China and there are societies of growers who grow this orchid exclusively, and membership is by invitation only. These plants have been cultivated in Japan for centuries and is known as the 'Orchid of the Shoguns', who maintained private collections, some of them added to by the Samurai soldiers who were perhaps attempting to gain favor with their Shogun. Selected varieties of the species have long been admired and held closely by the most enthusiastic collectors in Japan for centuries and of course all cultivars have a wonderful citruscoconut fragrance. Some can cost into the thousands of dollars even today. Many of these cultivars are what amounts to mutants by today's nomenclature, as they have small stunted growth, or unusual, often random, variegated foliage. Though accepted as high priced commodities in Japan, they are just now becoming somewhat popular here in America. Perhaps more widely sought after are the colored flower varieties that have pink or green flowers are are lower in price. At Cal-Orchid, we have spent years breeding with the robust form of Neofinetia native to Amami Island. This strain generally has larger flowers, longer sprays and much more robust plants. Flowers with type are typically white although occasionally will have some pink tint. We have been fortunate to bloom many select forms and created many sibblings for our customers to enjoy. It is now the only form we offer. The foliage is often tinted with black pigment. Of course, as no stone is left untouched by our taxonomists of today, so the Genus Neofinetia has now been reclassified as Vanda. We remain ever the mavericks of the orchid world, and so prefer to retain the older name as we personally feel there are just so many horticultural differences between these genera. Be all that as it may, Neofinetia falcata is just a fantastic plant for all growers from beginner to advanced and it does well under so many cultural conditions making it a candidate for inside the house, the greenhouse, and even on trees in So Cal coastal gardens

Neofinetia *hybrids* are really great plants for people who enjoy the novelty of the more miniature plants or perhaps are city dwellers and just don't have much growing space. They do great on the windowsill. Through years of breeding one can now purchase plants of many different types of flowers and colors. An added bonus is that some of the crosses are extremely fragrant, most notably the blue Neostylis Lou Sneary. The hybrids also express hybrid vigor making them, in many cases, easier to grow than the species. Another nice thing about these hybrids is that they all have quite different foliage types; whether the robust Neost. Pinky or style of the very petite Neost. Baby Angel or Chrisnetia Green Light. We are constantly sourcing new hybrids, so please check back often to see what new ones we have to offer.



CULTURE

Temperature-- In nature, the temperature for the species ranges from nearly freezing well into the mid 90s. Some cultivars have been photographed with a dusting of snow. Optimal conditions would be day temperatures in the mid 80-85 degrees with night temperatures in the 55-60 degree range. This what is generally found in an intermediate greenhous or as in the home and under these conditions you will see very strong lush plants.

Light-- Bright filtered light seems to be what is best, maybe even a little brighter due to it's Vandaceous nature. This is similar to what is preferred for cattleyas. Leaves should be a nice green color maybe even with a tint of red. Though the plant will grow well under shady conditions, it will be reluctant to flower well.

Humidity and Air Movement-- As with other monopodial orchids, Neofinetia and it's hybrids grow best when not exposed to very dry conditions. Keep the humidity fairly high, in the 60-70 degree range. Good air movement will ensure that the growing conditions are fresh and remember, keeping the leaf temperature down assists in preventing disease.

Water and Fertilizer-- The summer is Monsoon season where Neofinetia and it's various hybrid parents exist. This means that you should provide ample watering in the hot Summer months, perhaps two to three times a week. The plants become fairly dormant in the fall and winter months which means that water should be cut back. In Japan, they often let the plants go almost completely dormant. The root tips are good indicators of when water practices have been appropriate. Fertilize quite often in the growing season with any balanced formula, giving less in the winter season.

Potting-- There are many ways Neofinetia and it's hybrids can be grown. Our preferred way is in a mixture of fir bark often with some charcoal. They are also great candidates for teak baskets. or on mounts. We even found them mounted on large black lava rock. Gorgeous! The traditional Japanese way is in pots with the plant perched up on a mound of New Zealand sphagnum moss. This technique requires high quality, pure water. In pots, many of the roots will spill outside the pot; don't worry, this normal. If the mix is old or if you water too much during the wintertime, you will surely rot the roots and so this should be avoided.



Air Management

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

"Air management" is probably the single, most significant aspect of orchid culture, but a subject that is usually never directly addressed in discussions about how to grow them.

Let's start with the basics: Orchids, for the most part, are epiphytes – "air plants" – growing attached to trees or rock outcroppings, or in the leaf litter on the forest floor, and have their extensive root systems rambling around the surface, where they are exposed to lots of air. They are not parasites, but have evolved to the point of not needing a soil medium from which to take nutrients, instead gleaning their existence by absorbing their water and nutritional needs primarily from nutrient-bearing rainwater cascading on them from the canopies of the forests and jungles in which they live. One of the more observable aspects of that evolution is the water-storage mechanisms of the plants, such as pseudobulbs or thick, fleshy leaves, and the development of the sponge-like layer of cells on the root surface, the gray or silvery velamen that turns mostly transparent when saturated, showing the green inner cells of the root. Another part of that evolutionary development, but one we tend to ignore, is that of gas exchange.

We are all aware of the fact that "animals take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide, while plants take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen". (Actually, plants do both.) In animals, that gas exchange occurs through the lungs or gills, while in plants, it occurs pretty much over their entire surface. Orchids, because they have evolved to hold onto moisture in between potentially infrequent periods of rainfall, tend to have limited gas exchange from the leaves and pseudobulbs, so have shifted much of that important activity to the root system.

As we "domesticate" our plants, putting them in pots, we unnaturally confine the root system and "set up" our plants for potential problems, some of which have led to the proliferation of orchid-culture myths.

In a pot, the volume of air to which the roots are exposed – and with which the gas exchange must happen – is limited to the pore space in the potting medium and is refreshed only through whatever openings are available in the pot itself. The more densely the medium is packed, the less volume of air is available to the root system, and some of those "air pockets" are effectively cut off from the others, so do not get refreshed. When we water those potted plants, some of the liquid is absorbed by the particles of potting medium, but another part of it is held by surface tension in little pockets between the particles, effectively reducing the free air volume and further cutting off the connecting pathways between the remaining pores, reducing the refresh rate even more. The plants are still going through their essential gas exchange processes, but they have to deal with a root environment of "polluted"-, rather than fresh air to do so. That situation sets up two stressful scenarios – suffocation and poisoning.

(As an aside, it is the gas-flow limiting effect of the trapped water that leads to problems, not the presence of water itself, although that's what we've all been taught about "overwatering causing root rot". Consider that plants grown hydroponically have constant water exposure without rotting.)

Gas exchange occurs through diffusion, a natural process in which the concentrations of ions on either side of a membrane – root cell walls in this case – try to equalize. In free air, the carbon dioxide content is typically around 0.04%, so any level slightly higher than that easily leaves the root cells and disperses in the air. If the reduced airflow of the compact or saturated medium restricts that, the gas concentration in those isolated pockets gets much higher, stopping or even reversing the osmotic process, and suffocation and cell death can occur. Additionally, as it cannot be dispersed easily into the air, the carbon dioxide can react with the water to form carbonic acid, which can poison the roots.

In both cases, the plant responds to the stress by producing phenols in an attempt to "kill" the stressful agent. Unfortunately, those phenols are toxic to the roots themselves, so if that stress is not eliminated relatively quickly, root death will occur. It is those phenols, by the way, that give the roots the brown and black colors we see in "rotted" roots.

So what is the practical significance of this to the grower?

When selecting a potting medium for the plant, above all, think in terms of maintaining free and adequate flow of air to the root system. Consider the pore size within the medium and how it relates to root size (yes, roots can clog air flow too), and how "bridging" water droplets will play a role upon watering. Choice of medium can affect the latter, as some materials are more sponge-like than others, so "suck up" those bridging droplets and release them slowly. (Another aside here – the old adage about letting the potting medium dry out between waterings has nothing to do with letting the roots dry, it's done to allow those bridging water droplets disappear so the plants' roots can "breathe" again.)

Also consider the moisture needs of the plant and your ability to provide an adequate supply. Obviously a mounted plant should have no air supply issues, but in the home, it's most difficult to water mounted plants often enough, and maintain the humidity to give the plant time to absorb the water before it evaporates. To compensate for that, we utilize potting media that absorb and hold moisture to different degrees and for various lengths of time. We can utilize different particle sizes as well (smaller particles have higher surface-to-volume ratios than do larger ones, and can absorb more water more quickly), but then we might be compromising the size and volume of those passageways for air to reach the roots.

Keep in mind that uniform particle size in the medium provides the maximum void space. A room full of basketballs and a room full of ping-pong balls have the same void space (you can do the math yourself), but when you start to mix particle sizes, the small ones fill the voids between the big ones and the free volume is reduced. Read more about that here.

Armed with this information, if you aim for an airy potting medium that works with your watering habits to provide your plants with an adequate moisture supply, your growing should be headache free. All you have to do is remember this priority list:

 $Air \rightarrow Water \rightarrow Air \rightarrow Nutrition \rightarrow Air!$

Care and Feeding

We thank Amanda Matthews one of our newer members, of Orchideria for granting permission to reprint any articles from her website. And especially thank her for sending a printable copy for OSGKC Newsletter.

ORCHID TEMPERATURES: DOES TEMPERATURE INFLUENCE ORCHID BLOOMS?

Finding the correct temperature for growing your orchid is essential for it to bloom. You can water, apply humidity, provide light, and fertilize correctly, but if there's not a temperature fluctuation at night, most orchids will refuse to bloom.

Does temperature influence orchid growth? All orchids need at least a 10° to 15°F degree temperature drop at night to bloom. This cooling off period at night removes the excess heat from their leaves. This aids in performing adequate gas exchange, since orchids perform their main "breathing" process at night.



During winter, do you run the heater during day and night, too?

If you grow your orchid in the same environment year-round, with no variation of temperature, the first signs you'll see are of heat stress.

Heat stress occurs when the orchid shuts down its gas exchange (stomata) pores to preserve humidity. It does this because it's too hot, and will lose humidity if stomata are opened.

Turn off the heater at night. Besides saving in energy costs, your orchids will appreciate the drop in temperature.

Orchids have temperature preferences, too. Not all orchids like to live in the same climate or habitat. When you bring an orchid indoors, you'll need to recreate their primordial habitat within your home. Imagine if you place a cool-temperature orchid next to a warm-one and give both the same treatment.

One, or both, will have a hard time growing. That's why it's fundamental to understand the different types of orchids and **how they react to each temperature**.

Nighttime temperatures that are too low will produce blackened tips on the leaves. Flowers will wilt.

Tip: Don't mistake these with the normal aging of leaves, which occur naturally. When leaves die off, the start to blacken at the tips. But temperatures that are out of control will also cause blackened leaf tips.

There are three distinct categories for temperatures: cool, intermediate, and warm-growing orchids.

- Cool orchids tolerate temperature of 50°F (10°C) during winter. During the summer, the maximum should be 75°F (24°F).
- Intermediate orchids prefer 55° to 86°F (13° to 30° C).
- Warm growing orchids range from 64° to 90° F (18° to 32° C.)

Is temperature the only difference?

One misconception is that the orchids that thrive in these three distinct temperature categories are naturally from locations that have the same temperature. Even though this is an understandable mistake, it's not the temperature that influences as much as the elevation.

Cool-growing Orchids

Cool-growing orchids are found mostly in higher elevations. Elevation doesn't necessarily mean in feet (or meters), either. Sometimes, you can observe cooler growing orchids higher up on trees, and not lower. But mostly, they grow in higher elevations compared to the other two categories.

These orchids include:

Cymbidium,

Coelogyne,

Odontoglossom.



Intermediate-growing Orchids

In nature, the intermediate-temperature orchids can be found in an altitude that ranges from **1,000 to 3,000 feet.** Of course, this does depend on how far away from the equator you are, too. The majority of the orchids that can be grown indoors come from the intermediate category.

Aerangis

Cattleyas

Cymbidium

Epidendrum

Maxillaria

Paphiopedilum.



Warm-growing orchids

The last group, **the warm-temperature orchids, coincide with lower elevation orchids.** They are naturally grown closer to the tropics and the equator. Therefore, they thrive on high-light, direct sun, high humidity and...are extremely difficult to grow indoors. If you live in southern Florida or the Gulf States, you'll have more success growing these outside.



Indoors, these warm-growing orchids are extremely difficult, near to impossible to grow, unless you want mold on your walls and indoor light system that recreates our sun.

The one exception is the most famous orchid, the Phalaenopsis.

It is a higher-temperature orchid, not to mistake it with a higher light orchid. These are two separate categories.

Vandas are also included in this category. The picture on the left is a vanda orchid.

Photo by Dipti Solanti, October OSGKC Judging

What if an orchid gets exposed to higher or lower temperatures?

This open-ended question has a lot of what-ifs to answer. Usually, if the orchid is exposed to a colder temperature, like from the greenhouse to your home in the back seat of a car, bud blast an occur. (Read this article for more information on bud blast.) The leaves can wrinkle, curling up on themselves. These are reversible situations and can be avoided in the future.

If you purchase an intermediate-growing orchid, and constantly kept it a sub-par temperature, **mold will start to grow** on the crown and leaves.

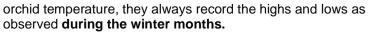
But if the orchid is exposed to year long exposure of temperatures that are sub-par, they probably won't blossom. **Smaller pseudobulbs** will grow compared to last years. Leaves can dry up and **fall off prematurely**. Flowers wilt. The growing period will take longer, and new roots and flower spikes will take forever to appear.

Insufficient lighting is the number one reason orchids won't bloom, but the second is **too low of temperatures.**

If you don't have one already, a thermometer with a humidity gauge is essential for orchid care. They are rather cheap, like the one I have (Affiliate Link) cost around 12 US\$.

	Minimum At Night	Maximum During Day	Species of Orchids
Cool	50° F (10° C)	75° F (24° F)	Cymbidium Coelogyne Odontoglossom
Intermediate	55° F (13° C)	86° F (30° C)	Aerangis Cattleyas Cymbidium Epidendrum Maxillaria Paphiopedilum
Warm	64° F (18° C)	90° F (32° C)	Angraecum Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Vanda

If you observe the graph above, you might be thinking, "But my Cattleyas grow in 100°F weather during summer." When literature refers to



Summer is not accounted for.

Why is this? During summer months, temperatures will naturally be higher, but won't hinder growth if you're a bit outside the natural preference zone. As long as you don't **overheat**

or provide too much sunlight, causing **sun damage**, there will not be much to notice.

It's during winter that the temperature has more direct effect on the growth of an orchid, and can hinder blooming. This isn't to say that if you have a cool-growing orchid and force it to grow in hotter conditions, it probably won't blossom.

Temperature Fluctuations Night/Day and Seasonal

Not only do orchids need a fluctuation in temperature during the days/nights, they also need a **distinction between seasons.** You'll see this more when you purchase winter blooming versus summer blooming orchids.

Seasonal distinctions are extremely important to orchids, as other houseplants, too. During winter, there will be a shortage of natural nutrient supply, so **you'll need to water less.**

Fertilize less, too.

The days will be shorter and darker, so you can turn down your artificial lights to around **12-14 hours a day**, instead of 14-16 hours.



And...

There will be **less pollinators** in the environment to justify blooming.

This is crucial.

A flower only blooms to propagate its species, and if they attract a certain type of pollinator, that only comes in winter or summer, why waste the energy to bloom out of those seasons?

This is why each orchid species has a different blooming period: some bloom in summer, other spring, others winter... The upside is that you can

have orchids in bloom year-round in your house if you choose the right ones to make your collection. Phalaenopsis bloom year round.

Think back to the natural habitat of the orchid. There aren't such distinct summer/winter changes, in terms of temperature. Most subtropical and tropical orchids live in a constant temperature year-round, only fluctuating during the day and night.

During the day, no matter summer or winter, the orchid needs to be in a warm place. Indoor orchids do well because temperature fluctuate less and are easier to control.

Don't Stop Learning!

If this article has been useful so far and you want more information about orchid care, please **subscribe to our newsletter**. This way you'll receive announcements about new YouTube tutorials, info-product launches, and other free guides. You'll get a 14-page fertilization guide to download as a gift. Emails usually go out once every two months, so you don't have to worry about overloading your inbox.

GET THE FERTILIZATION GUIDE & SUBSCRIBE

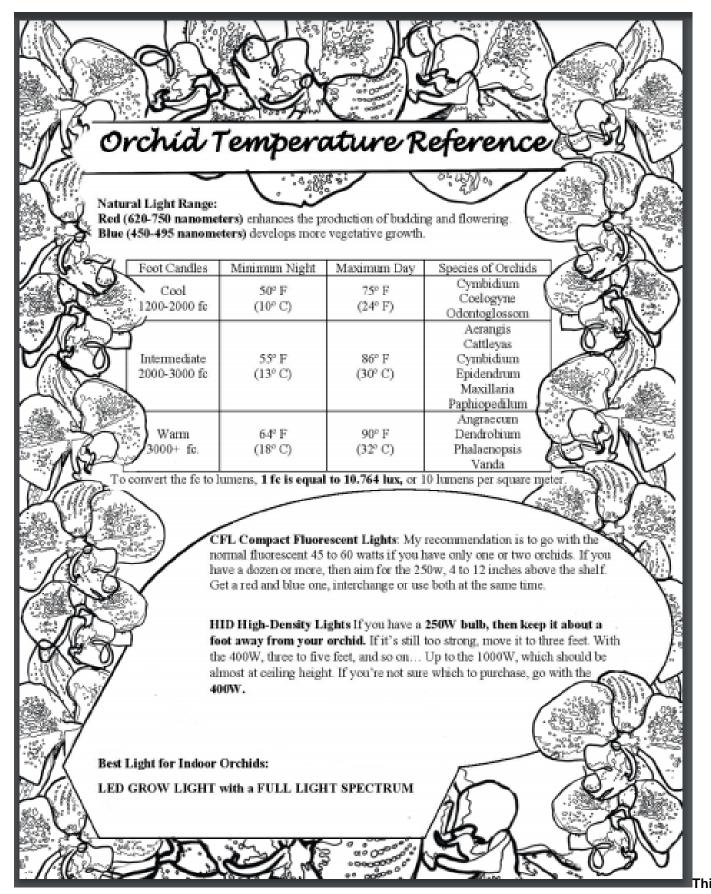
How to maintain temperatures

Let's say you went to an orchid greenhouse and came home with a Cattleya and a Phalaenopsis. Knowing that these are in two separate groups (according to temperature), you'll know that placing them side by side on the same shelf won't be the best solution.

To have more success at growing orchids, you can **set them up depending on their temperatures**, each in a different corner of your house. Use the windows and natural sunlight, and group orchids together by their temperatures.

A good suggestion is keeping the cooler orchid in the bedroom, warmer orchids in the kitchen, and intermediate orchids in the living room. Of course, this is a wild suggestion, but you get the idea. Grouping them together provides humidity, but also is easier to control variant temperatures and lighting.

This way it is easiest to display your orchids without having a proper greenhouse, orchid room, or making your house transform into a live jungle.



free download is for your enjoyment only.

Please do not publish or share it without mentioning Orchideria. Thank you!

Too much information to memorize?

<u>Download this 1-page PDF</u> reference of what you learned on this article and other important information about artificial lights, which you can read <u>here</u>.

If you are interested in the artificial lights that I use, you can see them here (Affiliate Link) but read the article above first.

My growing conditions are not the same as everyone else's.

Now that you know how to care for your orchids according to their temperatures, drop me a comment below on anything that wasn't touched upon in the article or if you have a question or comment.

If anything, drop us a note below to say if you enjoyed the article and ways we could better help you care for your orchid.

Happy Cultivating!

Let's Get to Know Each Other

OSGKC Members!





Jennifer McAroy

Birthday June 13th

- 1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?) I've been a member on and off for about 2 years now.
- 2. How long have you been growing orchids? About the same amount of time.
- 3. What got you hooked? My first plant! Once I got it to bloom a second time I knew this was for me.
- 4. What type of orchid is your favorite? I don't have a favorite. Phals seem to work best for me but I'm trying to get Dendrobiums to bloom and not kill them.
- 5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can) I grow them in my front window. It's nothing fancy and definitely not ideal. I'll send pictures soon.
- 6. What was/is your profession or training are you still working or retired? I was originally trained as a Quality Assurance Chemist and did that for 7 years. I decided on a career change and went to dental school. In 2005, I finished my residency in hospital dentistry and moved back to Kansas City. I am still working in my private practice and at KU Hospital.
- 7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." I used to sing opera and worked as an undercover security officer. Now that was fun!
- 8. Birth Month and Day" June 13
- 9. Do you have any pets? I have 2 Irish Red and White Setters. They are my everything outside of my husband and work;)



Birthday June 30th

Mark and I saw orchids at the ViCli Orchids booth at the Lawn and Garden show years ago. We went to their greenhouse and picked out 2 orchids. Mark was able to rebloom them and he was hooked. So, we joined OSGKC around 1998 or 99.

Peloric phals are my fav, and Mark grows them for me. I occasionally inspect them for critters.

The university I went to, had a cougar (Chimega) as a mascot. I helped take care of her: food, walks around campus, basketball games.

I am retired from Sprint IT. Just getting used to sleeping in later-no 5am mtgs with India anymore.

No sleeping in for me, since we got 2 puppies. We're negotiating with them on feeding times(they want 5am). I'm trying to move the time later.



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!

School is out for summer but that doesn't mean we should stop learning. Orchids are a continuing education. Take the mystery out of orchid judging. Learn to see what the judges look for at the judging table. Most orchid Judges are orchid growers just like you. They have been trained to look for quality in an orchid.

The AOS Judging System is willing to help you learn by building core competencies. The goal of educating students is to bring each up to a general level of knowledge/proficiency in: *The Handbook on Judging*, judging procedures, Genera most often seen (both species and hybrids), research, analysis, and communication in a variety of settings, and ultimately how to judge an orchid.

The life of a student judge involves homework, papers/presentations and hands-on judging experience at judging centers and orchid shows. Traveling to centers/shows beyond your local judging center is a great way to broaden your experience. Attending AOS Members Meetings affords wonderful opportunities for meeting expert orchid growers who will be happy to share their knowledge with you.

American Orchid Society judges are dedicated volunteers who serve the membership and the orchid-growing public through participation in the Society's judging system. Each judge has made a sincere, long-term commitment, and gives much of their personal time and resources to the program. AOS Judges are not compensated for their services or travel to various judging events. All for the love of orchids. To learn more about <u>orchid awards and judging visit https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx</u>

<u>ORCHIDPRO</u> 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 at monthly orchid judging. Visit often to view quality and outstanding culture in awarded orchids. https://op.aos.org/award



Award No: 20213764

Cattleya violacea
'Redondinha'
AM/AOS (80 points)
Hawaii Judging Center
Exhibitor: The OrchidFix Nursery, Inc.

Award No: 20211342

Cattleya intermedia var. amethystina 'Emma's Delight' AM/AOS (88 points) Florida North-Central

Award No: 20213759

Cattleya lueddemanniana (Lara)
'Dark Jewel'
AM/AOS (81 points)
Hawaii Judging Center
Exhibitor: Island Sun Orchids

Photographer: Glen Barfield Judging Center Photographer: Glen Barfield

Exhibitor: Matthew Riesz Photographer: Wes Newton

The three cattleya species pictured above are a sample of the orchids seen monthly at AOS judging centers throughout the Americas. They all received an Award of Merit, scoring 80 points and above.

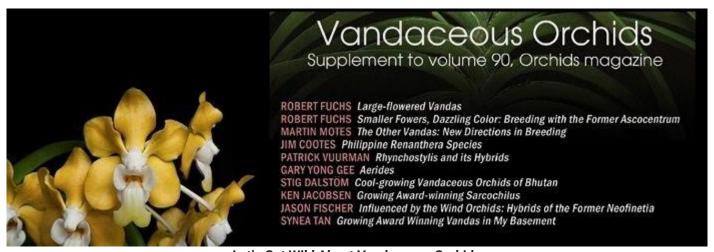
https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-judging-centers.aspx

https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-awards.aspx

As we move into the second half of 2021, more judging events are beginning to take place. Be sure to visit the Events on the AOS website to find your area monthly judging dates and show events that include judging. If your society is thinking about putting together an orchid show soon, now is a good time to review the Affiliated Societies page on the AOS website for guidance.

https://www.aos.org/news-events/event-calendar.aspx

https://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx



Let's Get Wild About Vandaceous Orchids

The AOS 2021 supplemental issue will go in-depth with this family of orchids.

Each special issue is underwritten by donations from orchid growers like you.

https://secure.aos.org/donate

Reprint from:

ORCHIDS CONTENTS June 2017 Volume 86 Number 6

TOM'S MONTLHY CHECKLIST JUNE: THE MONTH OF TRANSFORMATION

By Thomas Mirenda

Have you ever wanted to just chuck it all? To start over, erase past mistakes, buy some fine new clothes, take a hot shower and feel like a brand-new you? Have you ever inadvertently said the precisely wrong thing in a conversation and hurt or upset someone you cared about, or would like to care about? Wouldn't it be great to just press a reset button and have all those awkward moments vanish? I have always liked to think that our basic core values stay with us all our lives, and though we may change outwardly, inside we remain the same. As I mature, I have come to realize that the brash

young man I once was has indeed changed. It is no longer so important to be always right, to get all the attention, even to believe I am "special." Though the following statement changes the definition of the word, truly, we are ALL special.

June is a month that heralds development and transformation, both in our orchids and in our lives. The summer season is both a shift from academic pursuits to more hedonistic ones as well as a chance to balance, catch our breath, rest and assess, and change direction if need be. Before the stresses of summer heat materialize, this month may very well be the very best one to promote growth and progress in our plants and in our lives. Past cultural mistakes can now be corrected. Observant growers will witness rapid advancement practically daily at this time of year. It can be incredibly satisfying and most exciting. For me, it is actually more exciting than the onset of flower spikes.

LIGHTNESS The onset of summer marks the sun's ascent higher in the sky and increasing day length. This can have profound effects on your plants if you take advantage of it. Although most of our cultivated orchids grow in semishady conditions under a canopy of leaves, there is much to be said for natural light. After all, people spend hundreds of dollars on lighting systems that replicate sunlight, so why wouldn't you use the real thing if you had access to it? This is one reason why I recommend that everyone who can do so put their plants outside during these months that have generally excellent weather. It is, of course important for you to understand the light requirements for your individual plants so you can place them correctly. Cattleya light might burn a phalaenopsis and, phalaenopsis light will not induce vandas to flower.

AIRINESS Another reason to bring plants outside is to take advantage of the fresh air and gentle air movement. Fans, cool pads and vents are important tools to replicate orchids' epiphytic environments. But again, if the perfect conditions are outside under your willow, beech tree or covered patio, why not take advantage of that proximity? Fresh, naturally humid air will encourage excellent root growth, which will in turn produce big fat pseudobulbs on oncidiums, lycastes and catasetums. Many of these will grow incredibly fast this month if...

YOU FEED THEM June, with its optimum environmental conditions, has the potential to completely transform young plants if you supply them with the necessary nutrients and sufficient water. Many different quality plant foods abound — there are many excellent ones in the pages of this magazine. Although orchids generally do not need too much fertilizer (plants can make their own food after all) light fertilizing can sometimes do wonders, especially this month. Look for new leads on many orchids especially cattleyas, dendrobiums and cymbidiums. By the end of June these can often have grown 6 inches (15 cm) or more.

MOISTURE Because orchids are often so tough and leathery, we can sometimes forget they are mostly water and need plenty of it when in active growth. I often compare orchids to succulents such as aloes, euphorbias or even cacti. We think of these plants as being desert-adapted, and they are. But even most desert plants experience a short rainy season, or have extraordinarily long tap roots to gain access to water that they store in their succulent tissues for tougher times. For most of our epiphytic orchids, spring and summer is that time when moisture and nutrients are stored. It is definitely time to step up on our fertilizing and watering duties. Do not miss the opportunity for growth and transformation that June promises us each year.

— Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com).

You can view articles dating back to 1933 in the digital **ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** archives. https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx



From the AOS website...

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. Join us for an exciting live auction, a splendid gala banquet with gourmet dinner, live entertainment with music and dancing in a beautiful historic setting.



Make your plans now to meet us at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this important 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.

https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings/schedule.aspx

WHAT ARE WEBINARS?

It's easy to find the <u>scheduled</u> <u>webinars</u> and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here:



REGISTRATION REQUIRED: http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx

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



Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

OSGKC.org

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

ORCHID SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

President – Jean Rogers jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com

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

Membership:

Visit www.OSGKC.org and click the "membership" link, and then under PayPal click donate
Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household

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:

www.OSGKC.org 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 www.osgkc.org for updates and changes to our program schedule.

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 – Ariel Paulson, Karen Schorno, and Jen Winter – Check out their Bios and pictures in Google Docs.

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

November, 2021

TBA

December, 2021

Party, Party, Party!!!