



# ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS, ORCHIDS

A Communication Instrument for Society Members and Others

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Volume II Issue 9  
September-December 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.**

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## September-December News!

### Comments from Jean Rogers, President

Remember that **DUES are DUE**. If you are coming to the December meeting, you can pay them then. If not, please mail a check to Joy Prout at 129 NE Edgewater Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. Still \$25 individual, \$30 Household. Or, you can go to the website and pay with PayPal.

So Wonderful to SEE IN PERSON so many of you at Antioch Park for the October meeting and on the Zoom meeting in November. And to see new members too!! We will get to do a lot more of that coming up!! Starting in December, we have the Merriam Community Center rented for meetings each month. We are so lucky that Kristy Charland discovered it. There is much more room, good ventilation, good light, no train whistling by and no hand-dryer ready for take-off. December will be the Holiday Party and Awards banquet. There will be a festive ambiance, our own Megan Mayo and Michelle playing Christmas music, lots of raffle items and a little surprise for each member household. The room is about 56' x 56'. There will be room to have 1-6 people at a table, however you feel comfortable. The Society will provide the meat and the membership will bring sides and desserts. Susie will be sending out a sign-up sheet. I do hope you can attend!!! Then in January we will start Hybrid Meetings. We have some details to work out and equipment to buy. Then we'll have some trial (and I'm sure 'error') to go through. So, we appreciate that you all are so helpful and patient, and we'll get this figured out. It will be great to actually be able to sit and have a conversation with another orchid lover yet keep connected to those who can't attend whether by distance, health or weather!!!

*I hope you have had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that this Blessed Season is peaceful and joyful for you.*

*Tis the giving season, if you get new orchids or have oldies and have questions, remember - 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](mailto: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. <https://secure.aos.org/store/register-renew> 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, but most both!! We are trying *Rodrumnias* (*Tolumnias*) from Edgar Stehli. Twenty members have purchased 20 of the copper cross and 21 of the yellow cross. These are small plants, let's share a lot as they do well, or not so well, and help each other. Please share pictures when yours blooms. These will be handed out and paid for at the December meeting. Thanks to Kristy Charland for organizing this project again!!



Rodrumnia Orchidom Valentine x Self x  
Tolumnia Wave Dancer 'Copper Sun' AM/AOS  
#ESW45



Rodrumnia Orchidom Valentine x Self x  
(Tolumnia Orchidom "Joy Time" x Rodrumnia  
Orchidom 'Joyful Dancer') #ESW42

## Facebook Group

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909878999427064/?ref=share> It is easy to post your precious orchids and get oooohhs and ahhhhs from other members. Or something is going on and you want to ask someone – post it on this website. If you need Facebook help (I know I did and still do!!) contact Kristy ([charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 exciting news! The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City has a new meeting location. It is a very spacious room at the Merriam Community Center, where we feel we can spread out and be Covid Safe. December will be our first event there with our annual holiday party and awards. In addition to in-person meetings, starting in January we will also be offering the meetings on Zoom for those who want to watch from home.

**OSGKC's new meeting location: Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street**

### **Sunday, December 12, 2021 Holiday Party and Year-End Awards**

This will be a fun event featuring a holiday meal of turkey and ham provided by OSGKC for members and their guests. Members are asked to bring a side dish. This year we will be having live music from our member Megan Mayo and her daughter. Awards for those who've been submitting plants for ribbons judging will be announced, including the Orchidist of the Year. More details will be in your email in-box soon.

### **Sunday, January 9, 2022 Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City monthly meeting.**

Featured speaker: Mark Prout, American Orchid Society Judge: "Eye of the Beholder"

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS

1:30 -4:30 p.m.

We have a Beginners' Group and a Culture Roundtable discussion prior to the featured speaker. Guests are welcome.

[www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) and find us on Facebook

**Each meeting will be held in person at the community center as well as available via Zoom.**

### **Sunday, February 13, 2022 Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City monthly meeting.**

Featured speaker: Peter T. Lin, Diamond Orchids, "Miniature Vanda Species and their Hybrids"  
more information at [diamondorchids.com](http://diamondorchids.com)

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS  
1:30 -4:30 p.m.

We have a Beginners' Group and a Culture Roundtable discussion prior to the featured speaker. Guests are welcome.  
[www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) and find us on Facebook

**Each meeting will be held in person at the community center as well as available via Zoom.**

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### ***Last Month's Speaker Summary by Cindy Meyer and Crystal Remington***

#### **"Tolumnias, Growing Tips, and Exciting New Hybrids"**

**Jeanne Kaeding**

**11/14/2021**

We welcomed Jeanne Kaeding to discuss Equitant Oncidiums which are called Tolumnias. They are small but beautiful! W.W. Goodale Moir was a pioneer with these small plants, increasing interest and information. Tolumnias have two distinct growth habits, either small compact or stoloniferous with long rhizomes between growths. The main Tolumnia species types:

- Pulchella: large full lip/flowers with many flowers, with a long spike.
- Triquetra: adds red color with patterns, short inflorescences, with a small lip and smaller flowers.
- Guianese: large petals with skinny lips and brings yellow color
- Henekenii: (unique bug like) deep red color, interesting shapes, with few flowers
- Veriegata: wide distribution "variable",
- Urophylla: rare tetraploid, large lip, but has few flowers.

Jeanne discussed the unique genomes of Rodrumnia (similar to Tolumnia hybrids) which emphasizes genes over six generations but is from Rodriguezia Burgundy

To have success, Tolumnias need: good water, well drainage, high humidity, good air movement, bright light and warmer temperatures (similar to many other orchids). Remember Tolumnias are twig epiphytes: they dry quickly, grow off tree branches and like rain water. In Jeanne's experience sphagnum moss on a mount is the best type of media to use with these bare rooted plants, but you must allow them to dry out between watering. Or you can try wine corks in a clay pot. Tolumnias are vibrant with spots and different colors especially when working with many hybrids, keep in mind the colors can change over the years. These happy little plants are a must have for any orchidist.

### ***Last Month's list of suppliers from the chat at our Zoom meeting thanks to Susie Hanna.***

#### **Orchid Supply Sources:**

Robert's Flower Supply for a variety of supplies: [Orchidmix.com](http://Orchidmix.com)

Repot Me for potting media <https://www.repotme.com/>

Petco, for cork from the reptile section you can order online,

Tarzane Group for thumb pots and mounts: [www.tarzanegroup.com](http://www.tarzanegroup.com)

Kellys Korner for wide variety of supplies: <https://www.kkorchid.com/>

Old Time Pottery in Independence for pots

Bens Lawn and Garden Center, Blue Springs

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### ***News from Orchid Conservation Alliance***

As many of you know, the Orchid Conservation Alliance is concerned with preserving orchid rich habitat in land trusts, like the Nature Conservancy. The OCA's year-end newsletter tells what they've accomplished in the past year, despite the pandemic. There's also some information about the ecotours. Please see their web

page: [orchidconservationalliance.org](http://orchidconservationalliance.org)

Thank you so much for your help and your time,

Kathy Barrett, AOS



## Orchid Conservation Alliance

### Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.



*Dracula gigas* (L), *D. trigonapetala* (R)  
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

*Dracula lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)  
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see *Orchids in the Wild*®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: [www.orchidconservationalliance.org](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org)

## 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.

Creve Coeur Golf/Ice Arena  
11400 Olde Cabin Rd  
Creve Coeur, MO

For the remainder of 2021, and through April 2022.  
Second Saturday of the month starting at noon..

## August OSGKC Judging

12 members submitted 28 blooming orchids for judging and show in August.

Thanks to the following members for submitting orchids for judging in August:

Megan Mayo, Donna Klehm, Dipti Solanti, Brian Donovan, Dr. Dan Schlozman, and Kristy Charland

### **Blue ribbons:**

Rlc. Krichaya Delight 'Paradise' by Megan Mayo – Cattleya (C.) category, Dendrobium (Den.) NOID by Donna Klehm, Oncidium (Onc.) NOID by Donna Klehm, Vanda (V.) Robert's Delight by Dipti Solanti, Paphiopedilum (Paph.) Wossner Stonarmi by Brian Donovan and Aergs. Punctata by Brian Donovan – Species Category

**Red ribbons:** Cattleya (C) (Precious Jewel x Jalapa) grown by Dr. Dan Schlozman, Mtssa. Aztec 'Nalo' Oncidium (Onc.) category by Ariel Paulson, Dendrobium (Den.) kanburiense by Brian Donovan – Species category, and Ascf. Peaches Vanda category by Kristy Charland

**White ribbons:** Rby. Golden Tang by Dr. Dan Schlozman – Cattleya category, Cattleya (C.) schroderae 'Droopy' by Ariel Paulson, and E. garciana by Dr. Dan Schlozman – Species category



### **August Orchid of the Month** (drum roll)

Vanda Robert's Delight

By Dipti Solanti

### **Members Choice:**

Dendrobium kanburiense  
by Brian Donovan



## November 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](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

This month -Send by the end of the day **Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

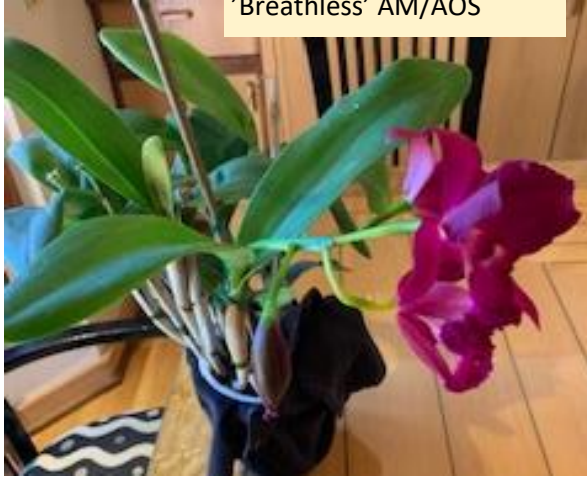
## Blooming Orchids for Show and/or Judging.

**Deadline for submissions was November 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the December 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](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com) by December 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Cattleya Category**

Ctt. Ann Komine  
'Breathless' AM/AOS



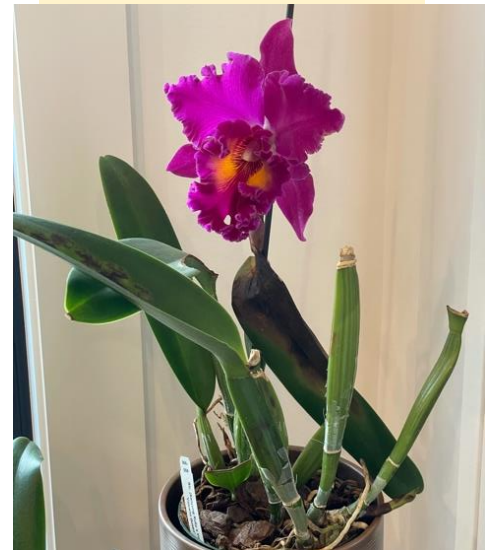
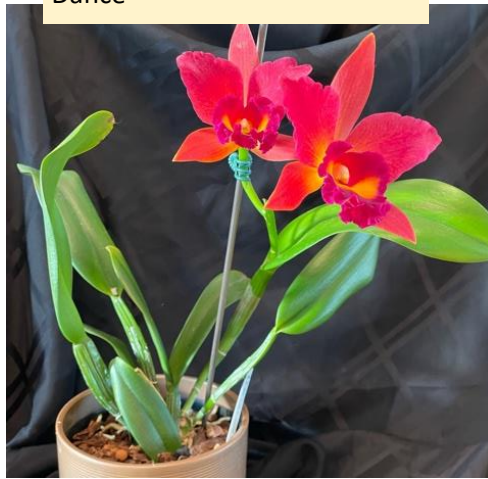
C. (Circle of Live x Life's  
Melody)



Rlc. Fritz Nickolaus 'Spring  
Dance'



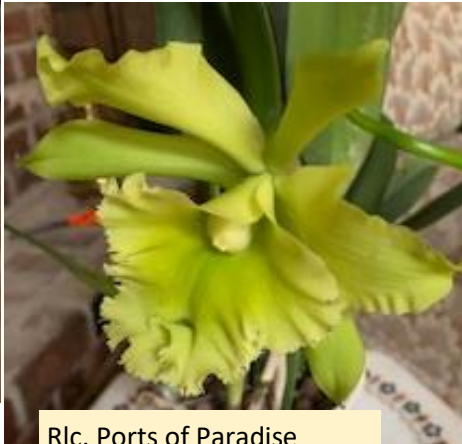
Rlc. Kalim Smith's Kahelelani  
'Volcano Queen'



Lcn. Rosemarie



Bcn. Maikai 'Mayumi' HCC/AOS



Rlc. Ports of Paradise  
'Emerald Isle' FCC/AOS



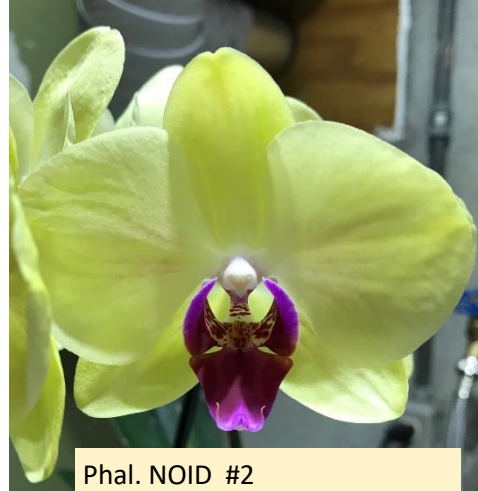
C. NOID #1



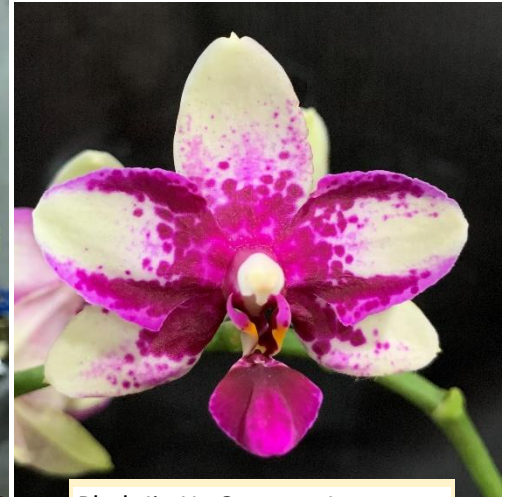
C. NOID #2



Phalaenopsis NOID #1



Phal. NOID #2



Phal. Jia Ho Summer Love  
'Little Pixie' HCC/AOS





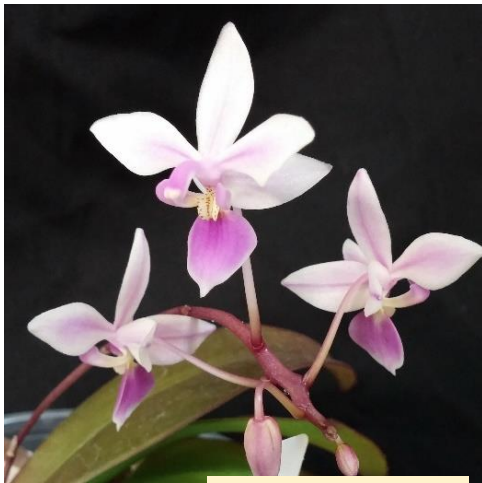


Phal. bellina



Plectrelminthus  
caudatus—first bloom

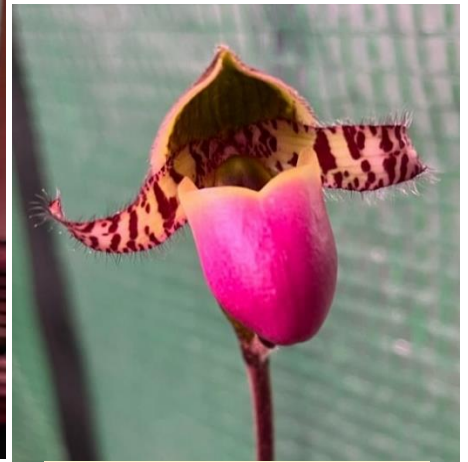




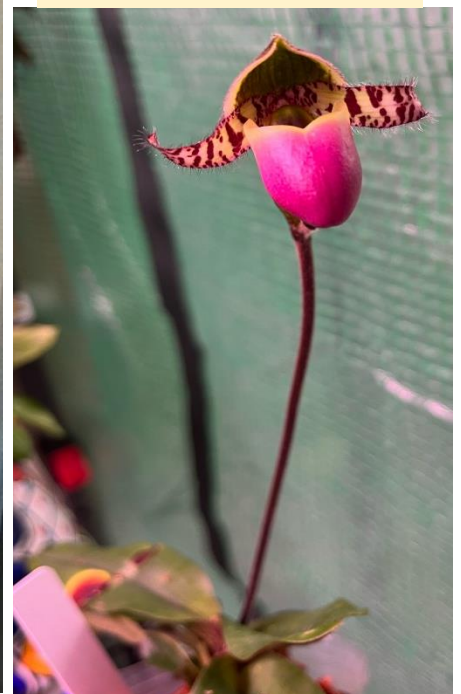
Phal. equestris var.  
leucaspis



Paph. delenatii f. vinicolor



Paph. liemianum



Paph. Blenhill 'Iluka'



Paph. helenae



Paph. Katrina



**Other Category**



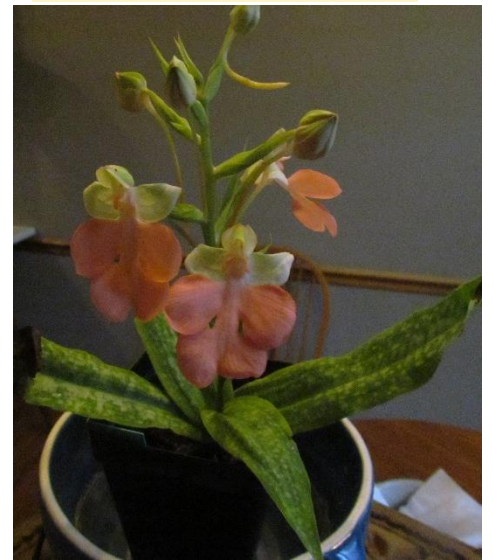
Lycaste Fabienne



Cynodes Wild Rainbow



Habaneria Regnieri (Flamigo)  
'Rubenesque' AM/AOS



Den. Razzle Dazzle





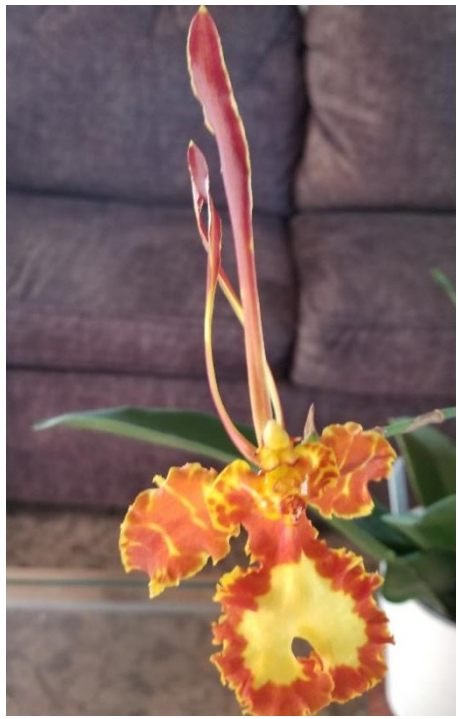
Tolu. Tequila Sunrise



Onc. Wildcat 'Green Valley'



Dgmra Shibumi 'Purple Rain'



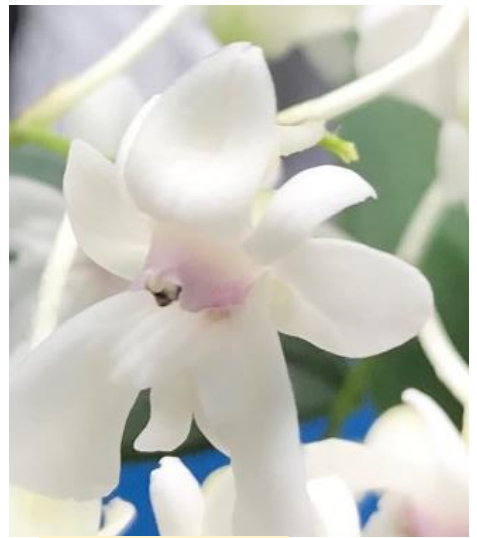
Psycho. Mariposa



Den. moniliforme 'Sankanou'



Den. aberrans #1



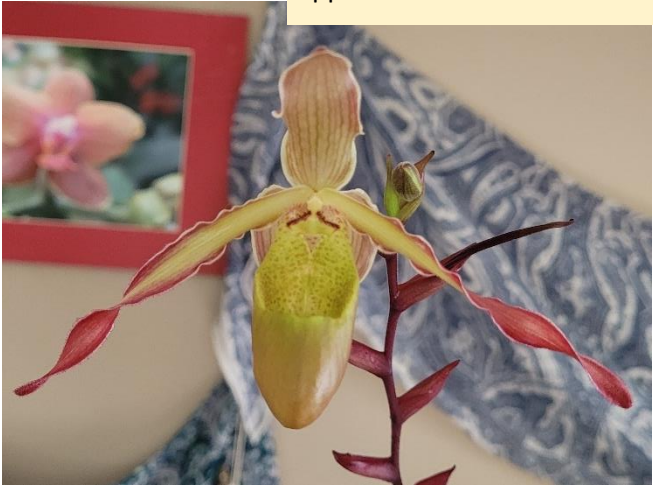
Den. aberrans #2



Den. moniliforme 'Yamato-nishiki'



Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice



**NOT for JUDGING – just for your VIEWING PLEASURE!**

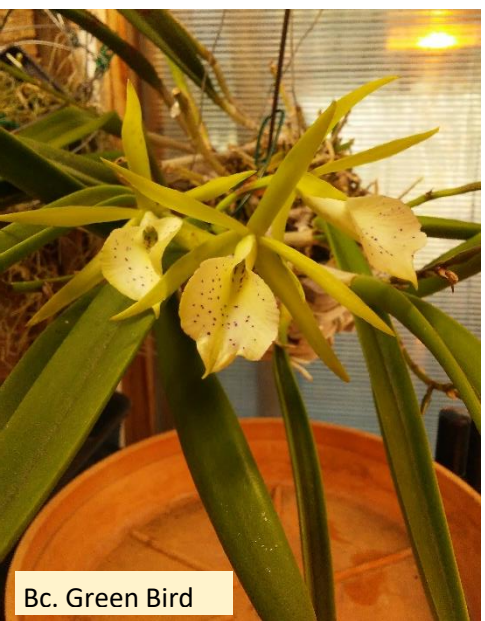
From Susie Hanna and Al Clinton



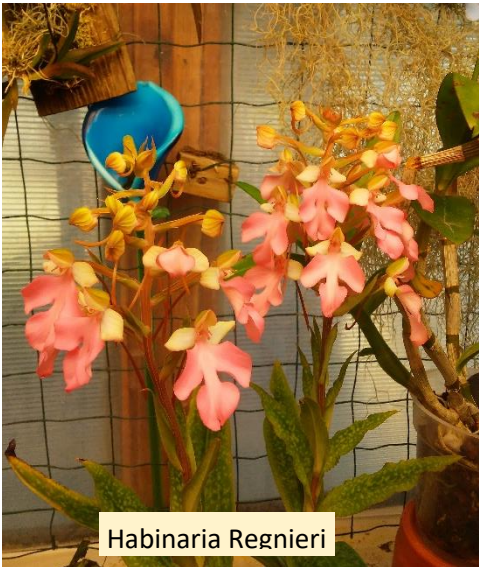
Vanda Pakchong x Mae



Lc. Jalapa x Maikai



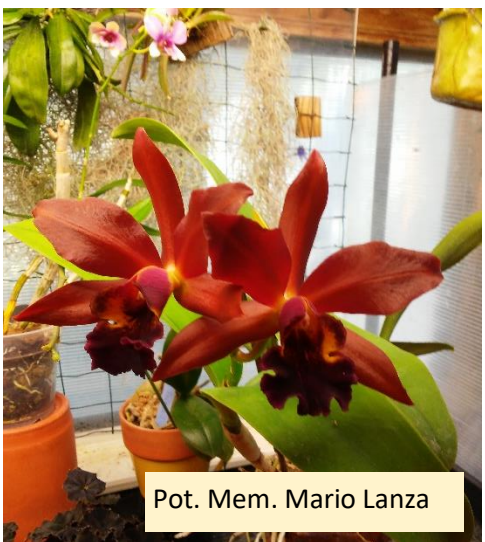
Bc. Green Bird



Habinaria Regneri



Barkeria shoemakeri



Pot. Mem. Mario Lanza

**From Susan Tompkins**



Bulb. rothschildianum



Vanda (Tristar Blue x Bitz's Heartthrob)



Dendrobium Anucha Flare

**From Kristy Charland**



Phal. Tetraglyph

**From Cindy Hobbs**



Blc. (Kaboom 'SVO' x William Farrell 'Native Son')

**From Jim Pyrzynski**



Eria hyacinthoides

**From Mark and Joy Prout**



Den. Illusion



Paph. Wellesleyanum

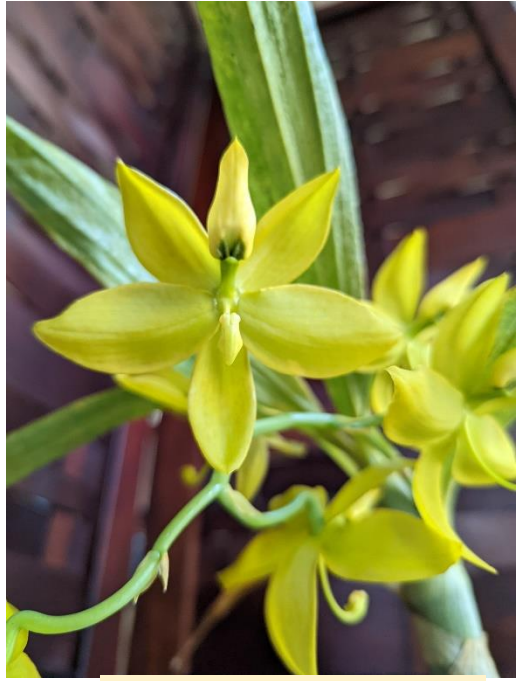




Bulb. neilgherrense  
(syn. senile)



Laelia rubescens var. semi-alba



Cyc. (Richard Brandon x)



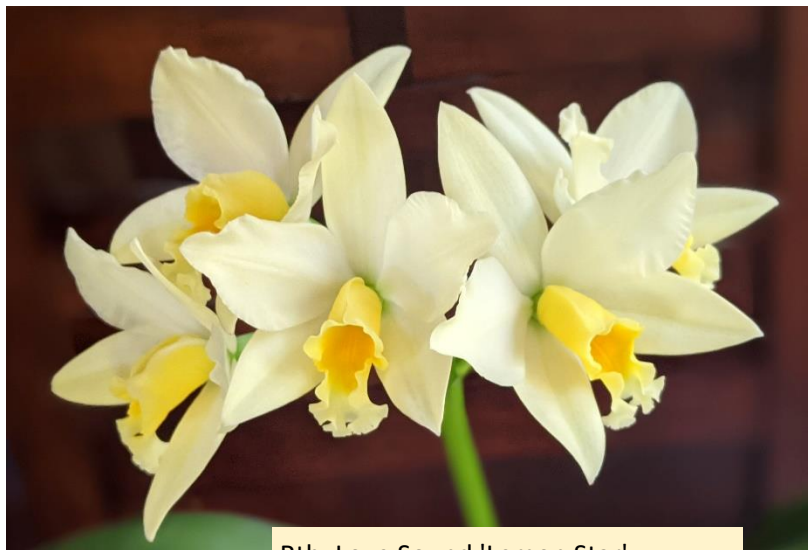
Habenaria Galah



Aerangis luteo-alba var. rhodosticta



Paph. Wössner Helene



Rth. Love Sound 'Lemon Star'

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# For Fun and Learning!!

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

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



**From Megan Mayo**

**Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc.) Krichaya Delight 'Paradise'**

The Rlc Krichaya Delight 'Paradise'.

Temp 70

Humidity 46%

Lights LED on 10-12 hours

Water 1x weekly with very light fertilizer 1/4 strength MSU



**From Donna Klehm**

**Dendrobium NOID and Oncidium NOID**

Those 2 are in my east bedroom window. They are located nearest the window and get natural light. Watered once a week and fertilized lightly every other week with fertilome orchid food. Temps are on the cool side-night 62, day 66. They are in a big plastic tub with lots of other orchids so humidity is probably around 50%.



**From Brian Donovan**

**Aerangis (Aergs.) punctata – Species category**

I bought this from New World at a show in 2018. I asked Kristen Uthus to point me toward the smallest mini, and this is the plant she recommended. It took a couple of years for it to bloom. I grow it mounted with a ball of sphagnum moss. I wait until the moss is completely dry before watering again (so, I water it about three days a week). I think it can grow better with less moss, so that a change I'm making this year. It likes a lot of light. I keep it indoors over the summer because an errant squirrel could easily trample it. It's a rewarding species because it takes up very little space and the flowers are nearly twice the size of the plant. The only downside is that, like other species of this genus, the flowers don't last for much more than two or so weeks, so enjoy it while you can.



**From Brian Donovan**  
**Paphiopedilum Wossner Stonarmi**

I bought this from Windy Hill in 2010 and it's only bloomed for me twice (this year and last). So, I can't say that I have any special skill in getting it to bloom except for having extra patience. Perhaps it overheard my threats to send it to the compost pile. Its stubbornness might be related to its lineage. It's a primary hybrid of *Paph. stonei* x *Paph. armeniacum*. *Paph. armeniacum* is from the *Parvisepalum* Alliance of Paphs, and *Paph. stonei* is from the *Coryopedilum* Alliance. The two don't necessarily play well together, and *armeniaceum* has a reputation for being difficult due to its love of colder temperatures. I've grown it in bright light (somewhere

between Phalaenopsis light and Cattleya light), outdoors in the summer under a light shade cloth, and fertilized it weakly weekly. Since Glenn Decker visited our Society (2018?) I've been growing my Paphs in his recommended mix: 6 parts medium grade fir bark, 12 parts fine grade fir bark, 3 parts horticultural charcoal, 4 pts large perlite or sponge rock, and 1.5 parts cracked oyster shell.



**From Dipti Solanti**  
**Vanda (V.) Robert's Delight**

It's a bare root orchid. Stays on my screen porch in summer. In winter hang in my southside window. For watering I put its roots in bucket full of water for couple of hours one or two times a week. I spray water on the roots when i get chance. Every 2 weeks i put fertilizer in my bucket of water.



**From Brian Donovan**  
**Den. kanburiense – Members Choice**

Most of the year I water it every day, but slightly less after it drops its leaves. It seems tolerant of a range of conditions, and I don't think it needs a hard winter's rest like some Dendrobiums. It's mounted on a stick. I fertilize it weakly/weekly with Jack's 30-10-10 (less often in the fall and winter). It likes a lot of light – I have it about 2 inches from an LED shop light bulb. I purchased this from Andy's about a year ago. We'll see what Year Two brings but, so far, this has been one of the easiest micro-mini Dendrobium species I've experienced. The flowers last for 3-4 months, and it likes to bloom!

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## Outside OSGKC Resources

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### *Kristy's Korner*

November 23, 2021

#### **Hello orchid fans!**

This month I thought it might be helpful to find a few sources for supplies for you. Here's what I've found so far.

For cork, try Petco.com in their reptile supplies. They are always running sales, and especially at this time of year. You might have to do some sawing to make smaller pieces, but that's fairly easy.

J & L Orchids (jlorchids.com) have been advertising that they have Orchida in several sizes, so check them out. You might have to call because I didn't find it on the website.

Fred Clarke sunsetvalleyorchids.com usually has kiwi bark in different sizes for sale, and says he will have AAA New Zealand Sphagnum Moss in stock mid-December.

Carter and Holmes carterandholmes.com has some nice wooden baskets for sale. And Lowes.com also carries wooden baskets on their website.

Kelly's Korner (kkorchid.com) has a variety of supplies on their website. Better call first to make sure it's been updated with current stock.

Akatsuka Orchids (akatsukaorchid.com) has fertilizers and several media mixes on their website. And, check out their very popular annual calendar for 2022. They are specialists in Cattleyas.

I'm off tonight to celebrate my dad's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday!

BE WELL! Happy Thanksgiving!!

Kristy

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We thank Carter and Holmes for granting permission to reprint the following article.

## Tolumnia Care Sheet



These charming miniature Dancing Lady orchids are native to the Caribbean and surrounding areas, including the Bahamas, Cuba, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Formerly known as 'Equitant' Oncidiums, this easy-growing group loves warm, bright weather. Bloom colors range from bright cheerful reds, oranges, and yellows to delicate pastel pinks, cream, and lavenders. Most carry darker markings or spots in interesting patterns. Most will flower in the later winter and early spring, though some varieties can bloom freely year-round with the right care.

### LIGHT & TEMPERATURE

Grow these in bright light, with good air movement. The brighter the light, the more air must be supplied to avoid burning. Generally 2000-3000 foot candles is sufficient. Some blushing or freckles on the foliage is normal in bright light conditions, but if your foliage is a deep red-purple, move into less light.

### POTTING & GROWING MEDIA

Tolumnias are truly epiphytes and must be grown in a fast-draining media to avoid rotting the tiny roots. There is no one mix that works best, but we have found two different ways that have good results. The first is a sphagnum moss media mixed with Spongerock, tree fern, and charcoal. This keeps the mix very open while retaining some moisture. Even though this mix *can* hold water for long periods of time, these *should not* be kept with 'wet feet'. Wait until the media dries completely and then drench thoroughly. The other is a loose mixture of chunks of tree ferns and charcoal. This media will need watering much more often than the first, but you are not as likely to have stale media from overwatering. You can also grow Tolumnias mounted on pieces of cork, tree fern slabs, or other substrate.

### WATERING AND FERTILIZING

As stated above, allow the roots to dry before watering again. Depending on your conditions, this could be every 2-3 days or once a week. Watch new purchases closely for the first week or so to gauge what your schedule might be. Generally, we fertilize ours every third or fourth watering with a balanced food such as Grow-More 20-10-20. The more often you water, the more often you can fertilize. During the warm growing months, fertilizer can be applied as often as once per week. Increasing the humidity around your plant will mean watering less often and also increase the life of your blooms.

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We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these 2 articles on Dividing Orchids



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

# Winter Orchid Tips



## Baby It's Cold Outside!

For most parts of the country, winter is in full swing. The midwest and eastern states have received their share of snow already. The shorter and often dull days, along with cooler temperatures, affect our orchids in both good and bad ways.

First the good news; cooler temperatures and/or shorter days send the signal to many orchids that it is time to flower. Inflorescences on many *Phalaenopsis* (left) and *Cymbidium* hybrids should be well developed by Christmas. Be on the lookout for bugs that think of your precious orchid buds as tasty winter treats. Mealybugs will be the most likely suspects. Fortunately, these soft-bodied pests can be easily controlled with one teaspoon castile soap (we use Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap) in a quart of water in a hand sprayer. This safe home treatment may require several applications every other day until control is achieved. Don't be tempted to mix any chemical control, even one as benign as soap, stronger than recommended.

It is a good idea to begin staking *Phalaenopsis* spikes before they get too far along. We will have a photo essay in the April issue of ORCHIDS magazine showing how to prepare orchids for display, but for now there is a brief explanation of how to [stake a Phalaenopsis here](#). Certain *Cattleya* species bloom on cue for the holidays, notably *Cattleya trianae* and *C. percivaliana* (although both bloom across wider seasons in nature). It is a

good idea to stake cattleyas also, as the flowers will display better. Decorating the home with blooming orchids can provide colorful accents that are always admired by guests. If you have any orchid shows nearby at this time of year, try to make the time to attend one and pick out a few plants that will bloom reliably at the holidays for years to come.

## Orchid tips for winter...



*Cattleya trianae* 'Mary Fennel'  
HCC/AOS

- If you are a windowsill grower, the light will be entirely different at this time of year. Assess it carefully and make any necessary adjustments. A south window may be brighter due to bare trees and the sun being lower in the sky. Watch for sunburn and move plants back from the window or add a sheer curtain to cut down the light.
- Shorter days and gloomy weather in many parts of the country can cause plants to produce soft growths that are more susceptible to pests and disease. Some orchids will not flower if they do not receive enough light. If necessary, use a growlight on a timer to provide additional light in winter.
- Orchids grow more slowly in winter and will need less water and fertilizer. Most growers cut their fertilizer back to twice a month at half strength. Monitor orchids to keep them at their proper moisture level for their type. Generally, orchids will need about half as much water in winter as they do in summer. Some orchids must have a dry winter rest in order to flower. [Click here](#) to learn how to water your orchids.
- The loss of humidity as a result of forced air heating can take its toll on your orchids. Remember, most orchids grow optimally with 60-75% humidity. If your home is especially dry, and you will know by the way your own skin reacts to winter, provide extra humidity for your orchids. A tried and true method is to set orchid pots on trays of pebbles that are filled with water; just make sure your plant is not setting in the water. Misting a couple times a day can also help.
- Winter is cold, so protect plants from drafts. If buds start falling off of a *Phalaenopsis* inflorescence the first thing to suspect is a drafty window (second thing is ethylene gas from a nearby heater). Do not put plants close enough to a window to touch the glass!



If you happen to be lucky enough to live in an area where you grow your orchids outdoors year-round, don't be caught with your guard down. Even South Florida, the Gulf Coast and Southern California can experience damaging cold temperatures. Have a plan and supplies for covering or moving plants should cold weather be heading your way. Florida has an unusually wet winter. Keep an eye out for fungal infections on leaves, and especially Botrytis on flowers. Provide ample air movement and keep growing area free of plant debris.

Providing a little extra attention to your orchids at this time of year will get them through the winter in good health and bloom!!!

We thank Orchidbliss for allowing us to reprint this article for the education of the members of Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City



Of all the seasons, proper winter care for orchids can have the biggest impact on future flowers. These 8 tips will show you how to take care of orchids over the winter for beautiful, blooming orchids. Some of the links on this page may be affiliate links. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## #1 CHECK FOR BUGS AND WEEDS

When preparing orchids for winter the first item of business is to give them a thorough inspection to check for pests and pull out any weeds that may be growing in the potting media.

### SLUGS & SNAILS

For outdoor orchid growers, slugs and snails can be a real nuisance, eating orchid roots and leaves. [Sluggo](#) is marketed as a safe, effective treatment.

### APHIDS

Aphids love to suck the nectar from new growth. so look for them on new leaves, roots, and flowers. You can identify aphids by a cluster of soft-bodied insects on new, tender growth. To treat for aphids, (carefully) spray off your orchid with a blast of water from the hose. Then, follow-up with [insecticidal soap](#), rubbing alcohol or [neem oil](#).

### SCALE

Also check for scale, which unfortunately is not as easy to get rid of as aphids. These insects can be both soft-bodied and armored. These little beasts hide wherever they can, including around the sheaths surrounding pseudobulbs. Really, scale can hide in every nook and cranny imaginable. Armored scaled, also called Boisduval scale form a hard crust that can be scraped off with your fingernail.

Treatment is the same for both hard and soft-bodied scale. Using an old toothbrush and 70% rubbing alcohol scrub down your orchid, focusing under leaves, around pseudobulbs, sheaths, and rhizomes. Then, treat repeatedly with [horticulture oil](#).

## MEALYBUGS

Unlike scale, mealybugs do not glue themselves to their host and are easy to brush away. Mealybugs are also much easier to treat than scale. They look like white fluff and hide pretty much anywhere on the orchid. Treat with 70% alcohol if you find them. However, if mealybugs have infested the roots, you will need to use a [systemic insecticide](#).

## FUNGUS GNATS

If you see little black flies around your orchids, you probably have fungus gnats. Treat these pesky flies with [predatory mites](#).

## MITES

Spider mites and false spider mites are tiny orange-colored pests can be hard to see, but their results are not. If your orchid leaves are not smooth but instead have tiny indentations, your orchids likely have mites. To treat, use [insecticidal soap](#) or [horticulture oil](#).

## WEEDS

Now that you are bringing your orchids indoors, it is a good time to check the pots for weeds. Remove unwanted plants that may be growing in your orchid pots.

**TIP: Moss is not a weed. Rather, moss is a sign that all is well – that you have a healthy growing environment.**

## #2 DON'T THROW OUT A FROST-NIPPED ORCHID

If you waited too long to bring your orchid indoors and it was frost nipped, don't give up immediately. Give your orchid plenty of tender, loving care and it may survive.

Here's what to do if your orchid has been frost-nipped:

1. refrain from using fertilizer until the plant re-establishes its self.
2. use care not to overwater
3. keep plant away from drafts
4. add extra humidity
5. keep orchid away from direct sun
6. give your orchid time to recover

## #3 GIVE YOUR ORCHID THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE

How to keep orchids warm in winter: For many orchid enthusiasts, keeping our orchids warm enough throughout the winter months means bringing them indoors. For some orchids, the trick is to keep them warm enough, so that they don't freeze, yet cool enough to trigger blooming.

**TIP: bring orchids indoors once outdoor temperatures start dipping below 50°F/10°C.**

Cooler temperatures are important for many orchids to initiate flower spikes. Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums, for example, both benefit from cooler temperatures to trigger blooming.

Phalaenopsis, for instance, need temperatures for a few weeks down in the 50's-60's F/13° – 15.6° C. While Cymbidiums benefit from temperatures down in the 40's F/ 4.4°-7° C to initiate flower spikes.

Providing your orchid with proper temperatures in the winter will help enable them to bloom later on. Follow the guide below to learn how much cold an orchid can take, and how much cold they need to rebloom:

**Warm growers:** between 65° – 85° F / 18.3° – 24.9° C. Give these orchids winter lows between 65° – 70° F / 18° – 21° C and summer highs around 85° F / 29° C.

**Intermediate growers:** between 60° – 80° F / 15.5° – 26.6° C. For optimum care provide these orchids with winter lows of 58°-62° F / 14.4° – 16.6° C and summer highs in low 80s° F / 27° C.



**Cool growers:** between 50° – 75° F / 10° – 23.9° C. These orchids prefer winter lows around 50° F / 10°C and summer highs around 80°F / 26.6° C.

Surprisingly, sometimes the trick isn't how to keep your orchids warm in winter, it is how to keep them cool enough when it's too cold outside and too warm inside. For this reason cool growing orchids may be out of bounds, and that's okay. Stick with orchids that you can provide them with proper temperatures.

## #4 PROTECT YOUR ORCHID FROM COLD TEMPERATURES – EVEN INDOORS

Cold winter temperatures may seep through the glass if you are growing your orchid near a window sill. A simple remedy is to pull the curtains closed at night. This is likely enough of an insulated barrier to protect your orchids.

Indoor growers need to keep their orchids a safe distance from heating and cooling vents, as well as exterior doors. This will protect orchids from drying air and cold temperatures. [Humidifiers](#) are a good idea, especially during dry winter months.

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## #5 MAKE SURE YOUR ORCHID HAS ENOUGH LIGHT

If you live in an area with a lot of cloud cover or do not have enough windowsill space, supplementing your orchids with a [grow light system](#) is a great idea. Personally, I wouldn't be able to grow nearly as many orchids without grow lights.

## #6 REDUCE WATERING ORCHIDS IN WINTER

You are probably wondering: how often do you water orchids in winter? During winter months most orchids slow down their growth, some even go into a dormant phase. During the winter, instead of watering every week, for instance, water your orchids about every 10 days in the winter.

Though Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums still require regular watering as they do not have water storage in the form of pseudobulbs, keep an eye on the potting media to make sure that these orchids do not dry out, nor stay unduly moist. I know that sounds tricky, but you'll get it.

## #7 FERTILIZE ONLY IF YOUR ORCHID IS ACTIVELY GROWING

Do you fertilize orchids in winter? The answer is a definite maybe. Yes, do fertilize your orchid if it is actively growing during the winter. If you see new roots emerging, or leaves growing, do continue to fertilize your orchid throughout the winter.

If, on the other hand, your orchid is developing buds, dormant, resting, stressed, diseased, or newly potted, hold off on the fertilizer until it is actively growing leaves and roots again.

## #8 DISCOVER EASY ORCHIDS THAT BLOOM IN WINTER

Do orchids flower in winter? Some do!

Some orchids bloom during the winter months, while others slow down their growth waiting for warmer weather. Other orchids go completely dormant. Here is a list of easy to grow orchids that bloom in winter.

- [LYCASTE SKINNERI](#)
- [EPIDENDRUM](#)
- [BRASSAVOLA](#)
- [CYCNOCHES](#)
- [CYMBIDIUM](#)

## ENJOY THE SEASON

Generally speaking, most orchids do not require as much care during the winter months. After inspecting for pests, bringing them indoors to a safe, well-lit space and seeing to their humidity needs, your orchids will need fertilizer only if actively growing and will require less water than they do during hot, summer months. With fewer demands from your orchids, you'll be able to enjoy the season!

To help you further, start by downloading my free cheat sheet to see where to cut the orchid flower spike after blooms have faded to trigger re-blooming. [Click here, for the cheat sheet. It'll be super helpful.](#)

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## Let's Get to Know Each Other

### OSGKC Members!

(So sorry my dead computer caused me to miss birthdays in a timely manner but still want to get to know you.)



Cindy Leech

Birthday September 7

In the spring of 2017, I happened upon an OSGKC orchid exhibit while visiting Loose Park in Kansas City, MO. Being a flower lover I decided to check it out. I was wowed by the beauty and fragrance as I entered the room where the orchids were being exhibited. I was blown away by the many varieties of orchids represented. I met some very friendly orchid growers at their information table and before I knew it, I had signed up as a member and I've been growing orchids ever since. I've had my greatest success with phalaenopsis, though I also have five other varieties that have survived my care though not all of them have bloomed again. Currently, I am growing them in a sunroom where I am able to control the humidity and this past season most of my plants have spiked, some for the first time since owning them. So exciting! My favorite orchid at the moment is the cattleya. I especially love the scented ones. I have my master's degree in special education and I retired from teaching last summer. I have six adult children and three grandchildren. An interesting fact is that I lived in New Zealand from



1982-2000 and then Australia for one year. All of my children were born in New Zealand. I've been back to visit three times since my move to Missouri in 2001. On my last visit in June/July of 2019, I took photos of giant cymbidium orchids growing in the ground in my friend's flower garden (so envious!).

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## OCTOBER



*Mark Prout*

Birthday October 12th

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join OSGKC?)  
1998
  2. How long have you been growing orchids?  
1997???
  3. What got you hooked?  
Reblooming our first orchids
  4. What type of orchid is your favorite?  
The ones currently in bloom
  5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can)  
All over the house
  6. What was/is your profession or training – are you still working or retired?  
Journalism/PR Retired
  7. Complete this statement: “One surprising fact about me is...”  
I have interests and pastimes besides orchids
  8. Birth Month and Day  
October 12
- 



*Brian Donovan*

Birthday October 25th

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

I joined the OSGKC in 2008.

2. How long have you been growing orchids?

I've been growing orchids since 2007.

3. What got you hooked?

Someone gave me an orchid as a gift and I promptly killed it. I bought another one. Within a few months I owned a dozen.

4. What type of orchid is your favorite?

My all-time favorite is Phalaenopsis equestris because it's always up to something. I love Paphiopedilums. Lately I've been interested in Latouria Dendrobiums. I especially love miniatures, but if I had unlimited light and growing space I would grow a lot of Cattleyas and Brassavolas.

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

I grow them in a windowsill and under lights. I put most of them in a shade house during the summer.

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

I'm a historical sociologist. I've been a professor in the Sociology Department at KU since 2001. My latest book, American Gold Digger: Marriage, Money, and the Law from the Ziegfeld Follies to Anna Nicole Smith, examines the "gold digger" stereotype in American culture.

7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..."

One surprising fact about me is that I'm a massive fan and aficionado of house music. I also have a wide appreciation for disco and other forms of dance music.

8. Birth Month and Day"

October 25

9. Do you have any pets?

Natalie and I have seven cats (four Cornish Rexes, two Lykois, and a domestic short hair): Squirrel, Otter, Bunny, Aardvark, Wee Possum, Myshka Mouse, and Snape

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## NOVEMBER



### *Iva & Frank Stribling*

Birthday November 4th

My husband Frank is not an orchid grower but an orchid enabler. Before going to a OSGKC Auction I had 2 orchids. I joined OSGKC at the Auction and bought 5 plants for myself and one for a friend. When Vi-Cli sold her mature orchids for \$5 each shortly after the auction I bought 20 and some supplies. My membership is over ten years.

Phalaenopsis orchids are my favorite both the Mini & the full-size ones. I grow my orchids and many other plants in my basement Greenhouse. I will try any other kind of orchid at least twice.

I am retired from doing Tax Returns and now have plenty of time to do my favorite thing, which is to propagate all kinds of plants! Playing with my plants is always a pleasure.

Pets add joy to my life. Our dog (Lizzy), two toads (Claude & Maria), 4 goldfish, and worms to feed the toads. My birthday is November 4th, our sons learned at an early age Mom only wants plants with roots on them for gifts.

One surprising thing about me is I am good at fixing items, it seems I have a mechanical ability.



## *Crystal Remington*

Birthday November 9th

1. How long have you been in OSGKC (When did you join the OSGKC?):  
November 2019

2. How long have you been growing orchids? I didn't start to get serious until joining the society, but my first phalaenopsis was in 2013 a gift from my husband.

3. What got you hooked? Attending one of the Auctions!



4. What type of orchid is your favorite? Dendrobiums

5. Where and how are you growing orchids? (include pictures if you can) Mostly along my windowsills, but I recently created a growing space in my basement under lights.

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

7. Complete this statement: "One surprising fact about me is..." I invented and hold a patent on a contact lens.



8. Birth Month and Day" November 9th

9. Do you have any pets? Yes one orange cat named Miss Morris

## Jean Rogers



Birthday November 10th

I Joined OSGKC in fall of 2015 after moving here from Omaha Nebraska where I was a Home Ec/Culinary teacher. I retired that year and moved here to be near my daughter and her family including 3 grandchildren - a baby, 2 year old, and 4 year old. I grew up on a farm in Iowa. My family always had 2 big gardens and lots of flower beds. Fortunately, I grew up loving the outdoors and gardening rather than hating it. So when I moved here my daughter urged me to apply to the K-State Master Gardening program. I did that and was accepted. On the first day of class, we all had to introduce another member. It was through those introductions I learned of Cindy Hobbs, President of OSGKC at that time. WELL!!! I had a few orchids I had accumulated over the previous 15 years and that really caught my attention. I was determined to meet her, and that I did at lunch. She invited me to an orchid meeting, I went. Almost immediately she had me on the Membership Committee with her. Then I added the position of Vice President in 2018 and President in 2020. Those ORCHIDS!!! They had me hooked 20 years ago with their beauty, but I really didn't know a thing about growing them. It is amazing that I still have one of my 1st orchids - Den. Woon Lang. I still love it and it has won an AOS award for me. I still LOVE Dendrobiums but now, I guess I love Cattleyas. And oh, I can't forget that I now have a new love for Paphs. and Phrags. Oh, and then there are Tolumnias and Barkerias that are SOOOOO sweet!! And Phals., oh, the Novelty ones are so precious and long lasting. I love Maxillarias with their coconut aroma (I just can't get them to bloom or Epidendrum!!!) My daughter said early on after I moved here, "Mom, you're not going to be a CAT lady in your old age, you're going to be a PLANT lady, and that I guess I am. When we bought our home here, I immediately hired a remodeler, and had a grow room built out into the back yard. That is where I spend most of my time. I've even moved my computer so I can sit amongst my orchids - That's where I am most of the time, and where you see me on our Zoom meetings.

Birthdate: November 10th





## *Richard Warren*

Richard Warren joined in a family membership with Jean Rogers the year he retired which was in 2019. He doesn't partake in the growing of orchids. He helps carry them outside in the spring and carry them in in the fall. Sometimes he waters them when they are outside. And he tells me they are pretty when I carry in a newly opened flower.

He was in the gas/oil business most of his career. Prior to retirement, he was President/General Manager of the power plant on the island of Roatan, Honduras for 11 years. In retirement he manicures the yard and takes care of snow removal etc.

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## *RaeAnn Meyer*

Birthday November 25th

I have been growing phals for many years and over the years just started collecting the orchids I like. I joined the OSGKC after my two daughters Crystal and Cindy brought me to a meeting. I grow mainly indoors under lights and in windows. I am a paramedic. My favorite Orchids are cymbidiums.





## *Jim Pyrzynski*

Birthday November 27th

My first encounter with orchids was way back in high school in the 1950s. We had moved to the Chicago suburbs and there was a nursery about a mile away. In the greenhouse there were some orchids, some Cattleyas and some Epidendrums. I was fascinated by them. I also learned via some library books that there were orchids in woods and wetlands in the area. Eventually I found various lady's slippers and other orchids.

But other things got in the way, like military service – which took me to the Omaha area where I currently live. It seemed like an orchid desert, but eventually I found some Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) in a nearby preserve. But there were no opportunities for growing orchids under my living situation. I got a civilian job at the base but lived in an apartment. I also pursued my college education at night and lived in an apartment – more limitations. It wasn't until I moved to a house in the late 70s, that I figured I could get my hands dirty in a garden and also with orchids. A cousin of mine, who had become an authority on native orchids, sent me a copy of an AOS Bulletin which contained an article that he had written. Finally, I became aware of a whole world of orchids out there. In those days, when you got the monthly Bulletin, the first thing you did was to go to the ads in the back half of the magazine and pore over the various offerings. It was the start of orchid mania. I was a computer systems analyst for the Air Force, but I am retired now. And with retirement, taking care of my orchids and my canine companion, Hank, fills most of my days.

My favorite types of orchids are – species, particularly slipper orchids, cattleya alliance, some terrestrials – in fact, the weirder the more I am interested in them. I avoid cool growers because I can't provide the proper environment. But if I could .... Masdevallias and Draculas would be everywhere.

I grow under lights. I have a variety of different lighting situations. I had some HID lights but ran into a problem recently with the ballast so I switched to LED fixtures of various types. I also have fluorescent fixtures – some are T10, some T5. And I have an induction light. In the summer months, many of the plants go outside. I keep them in a converted dog kennel that is 6 foot high, 6 foot wide and about 18 feet long. There is netting and shade cloth wrapped around much of it to protect it from squirrels and birds, and to tame the Nebraska winds. I also grow some plants in my garage during the winter months. I keep some Bletillas and Cypripediums in there to give them a dormant period. I also grow some European terrestrials under lights in the garage during the winter months (they go dormant for the summer).

I've been a member of OSGKC for a few years. I joined when I visited a show at Loose Park and set up a display for the Greater Omaha Orchid Society (GOOS). I've been a member of GOOS since the late 1980s. My birthday is November 27.

One surprising fact about me is when I retired, I returned to school. I took a large number of photography courses at a community college. And after a bit of a break, I decided to take some other courses – in horticulture. I still look at the offerings and may take something else (I did try my hand at an artisan bread course too).



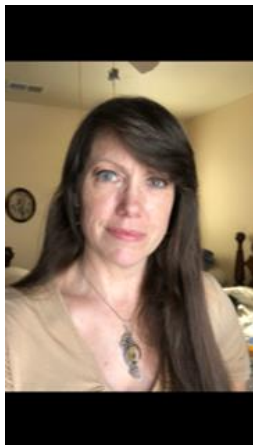
## DECEMBER



*Cindy Hobbs*

Birthday December 1st

1. 2000
  2. 21 years
  3. Joy & Mark Prout shared their blooming plants and took me to Family Tree open house
  4. All varieties of Cattleya
  5. Outside in summer under trees and windowsill in winter.
  6. I retired in 2015 after a 40-year career in IT
  7. I grew up in Hutchinson, Kansas
  8. December 1
  9. Not any more – love dogs.
- 



*Heidi Stoker*

Birthday December 5th



My name is Heidi Stoker and I joined OSGKC three years ago when my daughter and I attended an Orchid show and stopped at an information table and talked with a very nice woman named Joy.

I received my first Orchid about four years ago as a gift. It was labeled an “ice cube” Orchid. I have been growing African Violets for more than 30 years and always use room temperature water for them so could not

believe I should put ice cubes on my new Orchid so I did some research on the proper care and sure enough ice cube watering is not recommended! I have been slowly adding to my Orchid collection and grow them with my other house plants in my dining room which has large south and west windows.

I started my career as a Veterinary Technician in 1986. In 2006 I picked up a dog and ruptured a disc that required surgery to repair. The plan was surgery in the morning and home by evening with a few weeks of rest and back to work. When I woke up after the surgery my entire left leg was paralyzed. Needless to say I did not go home that day. I was in the hospital for more than a month adjusting to my new and painful life that I am still dealing with. I have undergone 8 major spinal surgeries, countless procedures, multiple implants, and years of physical therapy. One of my mental therapies is caring for my plants. Another type of therapy is stone cutting and metalsmith jewelry making.

We live on a small 80 acre farm where we grow hay and crops, raise chickens and Guineas and pasture sheep for the neighbor during the summer months. We have two dogs and three cats



*Annie Heath*

Birthday December 18th

Hi my name is Annie Heath. This is me with my 7month baby girl.

I joined OSGKC IN 2019 I think. I've been growing orchids for at least 5 years. My mom got me hooked. She always has had a green thumb and the orchids were always so pretty. My favorite type of orchid would have to be the Lady Slipper. I have my plants in my dining room in the SW end of the house. They seem to like it there, at least the phals do. I've gotten several reblooms this past year. I no longer work due to covid and recently having a baby. So my new job is to be a full time mom! One surprising fact about me is that I'm kind of a nerd.

About random subjects. Lol I was born Dec 18. Exactly a week before Christmas! We have several pets. A bit of a suburban farm; chickens, a goose, two cats, a new puppy, a rat, a corn snake, and 4 fish. A regular petting zoo!

Hope everyone has a great new year and may all your plants bloom!

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*Amanda Matthews*



Birthday December 20th

I just joined OSGKC last month and am so excited to learn with everyone to expand my knowledge about orchid care. I also love to reach out to meet new people.

I've lived overseas as a missionary for more years than I can remember, and orchids grew in my backyard--not that I had a vital part to play in that. I really didn't know what I was doing and kind of took them for granted. When I moved back to the USA three years ago with my 2 adolescent children (finally back home), I almost collapsed during the first winter. (In Brazil, it was 60 to 80 year-round.) Besides prayer, I urgently needed 'green' to make it. Not really a plant person or having a green thumb, I adamantly decided to change that. I chose orchids because my mother grew them and if I was going to flood my home office with any random plant, it might as well be orchids to honor her. In retrospect, I'm so thankful I chose orchids.

I continue my work as a theologian and pastor, as I counsel and work with women's groups--just not overseas anymore. Maybe one day I'll go to another country, but for now, it's good to be home. As a side hobby, I keep orchids and blog about them. With the tons of research that I had to do to learn how to grow orchids indoors, I set up a small website to share what I'm learning. Finding information seemed so hard, and I wanted to share my experiences so others could have access to what I struggled to learn. It is called Orchideria.

My favorite orchids are Cattleyas; Catasetums are the runner-ups. I like the Catasetum because it reminds me that no matter what we go through, better and brighter days are just a few months away. My problem area is Dendrobiums. I have so much to still learn about them.

My birthday is December 20th; a day where you'll find me reading a book with my cat Midnight on my lap and a cup of hot chocolate in my hand



*Mike and Usha Rafferty* were delighted to learn about OSGKC a couple of months ago and signed up right away. We've been growing a small collection of orchids (perhaps if you could ask the plants they might call it more like "punishing"). And despite our best efforts, most have survived and a few even paid us back with an occasional bloom. The one sure thing that we know about orchids and orchid growing is that we have so much to learn and are delighted and honored to be in the company of people who can teach us so much.

We have lived in the Cedar Creek community in Olathe for 16 years. Mike is a retired pharmaceutical research chemist and Usha is a regulatory affairs specialist. Our careers took us to multiple places in eastern US, but we met here in Kansas City and had always considered this area our true home. Usha continues her work to develop novel cancer therapeutics, and Mike devotes quite a bit of time volunteering through the K-State Extension Master Naturalist program to help preserve and expand the natural areas around us. Other interests that we share are travel, theatre, art, and food. Our daughter Jena (pictured below) lives in the Detroit area

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# **News from the AOS - Look for our Society name below!!**

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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!

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY RECOGNIZED AFFILIATES** **The Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award (DASSA)**

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.



We called for DASSA nominations back in June. Thank you everyone for your submissions. We were pleased to get a diverse group of submissions from the Caribbean to Canada and across the USA. Each society in their own way has supported and fulfilled the mission of the AOS as demonstrated by their submissions. The nominations were reviewed by the Affiliated Societies Committee and submitted to the AOS Board of Trustees.

The original plan was to recognize our affiliates in person, at the Centennial Celebration Town Hall, at the AOS Members Meeting, held this fall. We were a bit disappointed when it was announced that the fall meeting was to be virtual, as this stubborn pandemic continues to upend our best laid plans.

DASSA recognition was given to all six of the societies that submitted their nominations at the virtual Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, October 30. They were announced by AOS President, Robert Fuchs. If you didn't have a chance to attend, the Town Hall meeting is posted on the [AOS webinars](#) page. The winners were also recognized in our [Affiliated Societies Facebook](#) Group immediately following the AOS Virtual Meeting. The six awarded societies will be included in the special Centennial booklet available at the Spring AOS Members Meeting. Each Society will receive also a commemorative DASSA plaque.

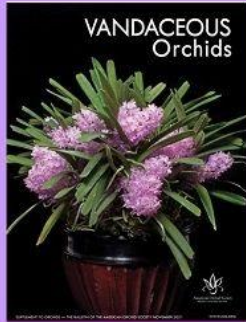
### **• Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City**

- San Francisco Orchid Society
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society
- Southern Ontario Orchid Society
- St. Croix Orchid Society
- Tampa Bay Orchid Society

**Congratulations all! Keep up the good works!**

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NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR! Put This On Your 2022 Calendar  
[REGISTER HERE](#)



# AOS Speaker's Day

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!  
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4834617917122351119>

Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement, this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.

Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) **Kim Feddersen** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
- 3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture



**ORCHIDS**  
The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society

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December 2014 Volume 83 Number 12

TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST

Reprint

## December: The Month of Gifts

By Thomas Miranda

They say it is better to give than to receive, but I am not so sure that is entirely true. Sure, seeing the joy and satisfaction on a loved one's face as they unwrap that perfect present you hand selected and lovingly wrapped for them can be an absolutely sublime pleasure. But it can be equally sublime to be on the receiving end of the transaction too. Gifts are not always material things. All of us have been blessed with unique combinations of talents and abilities that are ours alone, bestowed upon us by some benign force. We have also all been given our own unique sorrows, burdens and insecurities by forces that seem random, unfair and arbitrary. Yes, gifts are not always all that pleasant to get, and often involve

dutiful responsibility and conscientious effort to preserve and protect them once received.

At the Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection, we are occasionally entrusted with legacy collections. These often consist of beloved, pampered plants that were carefully nurtured by someone's loving care for many decades. Thirty-year old specimen plants can be really magnificent and such extravagant gifts make our collection even more special. But having such plants entrusted to us is a serious responsibility. It is our stability and commitment to collection excellence that allows people to have enough confidence to gift us with such outstanding treasures. Indeed, it is truly wonderful to "receive."

**GIVE ME A BREAK** With the shortest daylengths of the year coming up this month, many orchids need a serious rest at this time. Deciduous orchids such as catasetums, lycastes, nobile dendrobiums, habenarias and several others require extremely dry conditions in winter and can be seriously harmed by over exposure to water. Once a plant shuts down its metabolism for the season, a soaking will most likely make that plant rot away. Even plants that retain their leaves, such as cattleyas, oncidiums and phalaenopsis are still growing more slowly or gearing up to bloom and do not require nearly the amount of food and water they did in the spring and summer seasons.

**GIMME SHELTER** In temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere, most orchids are being sheltered from the cold in greenhouses, light rooms and windowsills. Tropical orchids would not survive outdoors in colder climates. It is imperative that your growing area be well insulated from cold. Check to be sure there are no cold drafts or greenhouse cracks and that heaters, cold-alarms and circulating fans are in good working order. A little attention to winterizing your set up now can prevent serious heartbreak when the extreme cold weather hits.

**GIVE AND STAKE** Cymbidiums and phalaenopsis have been elongating their spikes this month and are starting to bud up nicely. As the buds fatten, spikes need additional support, or they will sag or even become pendent. This might be attractive on a mounted or hanging-basket plant, but virtually all potted orchid plants should have their spikes supported with a stake. Always try to do this before the flowers open or they might be angled funny. There is nothing more disconcerting than facing an orchid where the flower is sideways, or worse, upside down, because it was staked too late.

**GIMME SOME LOVIN'** This may sound a little crazy, but over the years, I have noticed that orchids can pick up on my mood. When I am distraught, so are they! They simply do not grow as well. When they all get the same care, and I am just going through the motions, they muddle along with me, but do not really thrive. However, when I admire and appreciate them all as individuals and take the time to enjoy and learn about each plant's individuality, it is then that my greatest growing successes come my way. I believe the plants can sense when they are truly admired and appreciated. If you give them that simple act of commitment and love, they will pay you back with the greatest gift of all, their spectacular flowers.

— *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](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)) ORCHIDS Magazine ([aos.org](http://aos.org))*

## HAVE YOU VISITED THE [OrchidMarketplace.com](http://OrchidMarketplace.com) ?

View this quick [video](#) to see how it all works.



<https://aos.wistia.com/medias/we4i8onm3c>

Although [The Orchid Marketplace™](http://TheOrchidMarketplace.com) is a curated collection of the world's top orchid, and related product vendors that offer a **minimum 5% discount** to ALL active AOS members, it is accessible to all orchid fanciers whether or not they are members. You will want to encourage everyone to browse this program often to look for Orchids, Jewelry, Books, Potting Media and more!

When members sign up for a two-year AOS membership they get **\$30 off a minimum \$100 purchase** from *each* Elite Partner (terms and conditions may apply). Urge your society members to become AOS members now to take advantage of this new member benefit.

This new, improved program will replace the Orchid Source Directory. It is designed to be mobile friendly, and fully searchable by keyword/genus, location, or featured products. <https://marketplace.aos.org/>

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### **WHAT ARE WEBINARS?**

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

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



# Webinars - On Demand!

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



Sign on to the AOS Website

## Watch Recorded Webinars Any Time

Topic	Greenhouse Chats	Species and Hybrids	Culture	Pests and Diseases	Judging
Feature	Greenhouse Chat Webinars are indexed by topic	Learn about well known and unknown orchids	Learn about best care practices in your orchid collection	Understand what's bugging your collection and control tips	Sit in and learn the judging aspect along with criteria to grant an award

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](mailto: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](mailto:jeanierogerswarren@gmail.com)

**Vice-president** - Kristy Charland

[charland.ek@outlook.com](mailto:charland.ek@outlook.com)

### **Membership:**

Visit [www.OSGKC.org](http://www.OSGKC.org) and click the  
"membership" link, and then under PayPal  
click donate

Dues \$25 Individual, \$30 Household

Membership chair: Anna Archibald

[annalibald@gmail.com](mailto:annalibald@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Jean Rogers

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### **On the web at:**

[www.OSGKC.org](http://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/909878999427064/>

**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](http://www.osgkc.org) for updates and changes to our program schedule.

### **December 14, 2021**

Party, Party, Party!!!

### **January 9, 2022 OSGKC monthly meeting.**

Featured speaker: Mark Prout, American Orchid Society Judge: "Eye of the Beholder"

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS

1:30 -4:30 p.m.

We have a Beginners' Group and a Culture Roundtable discussion prior to the featured speaker. Guests are welcome.

[www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) and find us on Facebook

**Each meeting will be held in person at the community center as well as available via Zoom.**

### **February 13, 2022 OSGKC monthly meeting.**

Featured speaker: Peter T. Lin, Diamond Orchids, "Miniature Vanda Species and their Hybrids"

more information at [diamondorchids.com](http://diamondorchids.com)

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS

1:30 -4:30 p.m.

We have a Beginners' Group and a Culture Roundtable discussion prior to the featured speaker. Guests are welcome.

[www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) and find us on Facebook

**Each meeting will be held in person at the community center as well as available via Zoom.**

### **Sunday, March 13, 2022 OSGKC monthly meeting.**

Featured speaker: Kelly McCracken, High Desert Orchids,

"Miniature Cattleyas"

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS 1:30 -4:30 p.m.

We have a Beginners' Group and a Culture Roundtable discussion prior to the featured speaker. Guests are welcome.

[www.osgkc.org](http://www.osgkc.org) and find us on Facebook

**Each meeting will be held in person at the community center as well as available via Zoom.**

### **Sunday, April 10 OSGKC Annual Orchid Auction**

Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater Street, Merriam, KS

2-4 p.m.

*Our annual orchid live auction of an amazing variety of orchids, many in bud or in flower. Live auction as well as plants for sale starting at \$5. This is our main fundraiser and loads of fun.*

***We are planning an in-person auction, depending on the situation with Covid.***