



**Orchid News**  
**Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.**  
**June 2019**  
**Louisville, KY**

Newsletter Editor: Gloria Teague, [glorchid@iglou.com](mailto:glorchid@iglou.com)

**June 2019 Speaker:** Steve Frowine  
Orchids and their Culture

Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
Immanuel United Church of Christ  
2300 Taylorsville Road  
6:30 pm, Social hour, 7:00 pm Meeting

## **From the President**

Hi Everyone,

We had another fun and profitable Locust Grove. Last year the weather was almost PERFECT, this year not so perfect. The vendors have said each year it rains 'ONE DAY' and they were right. We totally lucked out last year with weather.

A big thank you to Linda Solley-Kanipe, Deanna Day and Heidi Boel for doing a superb job with their committee. We'll discuss the "pros and cons" about this year's Locust Grove.

We'll also discuss and most probably vote on how to move forward with members who pass away and their families. It was tabled at the last meeting. This meeting we will vote on it.

We'll continue our discussion on our show, our wine and cheese and MORE volunteer work. The other societies are doing LOTS of volunteer work and in this aspect "We need to keep up with the Jones".

I hope everyone's orchids are looking good now that it's spring. Most of mine are outside but some are still under lights, a combination. They're definitely either getting new growth or blooms. Happy growing.

Look forward to seeing everyone at this meeting in June.

Also, please let me know if you plan on attending the Loudiniao dinner on June 6th. This dinner is to honor ANYONE who helped with the Home and Garden Show and Locust Grove. Email ME please.

Ruth Schneider, President  
[rblschnei@gmail.com](mailto:rblschnei@gmail.com)

## From the Vice President

We have an exciting guest speaker for our June meeting. Steve Frowine, an internationally known horticulturist, speaker and author of several orchid books, including *Orchids for Dummies* will be speaking to us, "All About Orchid Culture". He has spoken to our group in the past and was very well received. He will bring copies of many of his books, which I'm sure he would be glad to autograph for us.

His presentation will complement the new publication by the AOS on Orchids and Their Culture. All those who ordered a book will be able to pick it up at the meeting. (Please bring cash or check for \$14). I have an extra 15 books, so if there are others of you who would like to have one, they will be available at the meeting as well. See you then!

Jan Smith, Vice President  
[smithroberts@mac.com](mailto:smithroberts@mac.com)

**Future Programs:** *July 11<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)*, Leon Glicenstein, Habenaria; *August 14<sup>th</sup>*, Waterfront Botanical Gardens speaking about KOS pairing with them for our Fall Event at their new building; *September 11<sup>th</sup>*, Jennifer Sutton, Growing orchids in a greenhouse; *October 9<sup>th</sup>*, Francisco Miranda, Brazilian orchids; *November 13<sup>th</sup>*, open; *December 11<sup>th</sup>*, Holiday Party.

## Minutes

The KOS monthly meeting was held at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at 7:00 pm on May 8, 2019. President Ruth Schneider presided.

There were multiple members present, but no guests present.

The minutes from the April meeting were discussed, approved, and seconded without corrections.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Linda Solley-Kanipe. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report by the members.

## Old Business:

The president noted that a new order for KOS name tags is to be submitted and requested a list of members requesting name tags.

The Locust Grove event, which will be occurring this weekend, was discussed. There will be two TV spots to promote the event which will be recorded at the show. Ruth Schneider and Sal Locascio will be in the interview on Friday morning. There will be a second with Reed Yadon on Saturday morning at 0730. Volunteers were requested to appear in the spot. Linda Solley-Kanipe and Jan Smith volunteered to participate in this event. Co-chairman for the Locust Grove show Linda Solley-Kanipe provided information regarding parking for workers and requested that more members sign up to work in our booth on Saturday and Sunday, with a sign-up sheet provided.

Co-chairs Dick Humke and Catherine Luckett discussed the KOS Fall Orchid Show and Sale which will be held September 27-29, at the St. Matthews Episcopal Church at 330 N. Hubbard's Lane. Invitations to participate have been sent out to all the vendors who were present last year. Thus far, there is one vendor who may not be able to attend because of a conflict. Three new vendors have been contacted, including a grower, an orchid supply vendor, and an artist who creates life-like orchids out of clay.

## New Business:

Condolences from the society were offered on the occasions of two deaths recently.

Member Debbie Hanna lost her 23 year old son in a tragic accident last week. The society sent a flower arrangement to the visitation.

Long term member Pat Zurschmeide passed away recently. She had requested that no flowers be sent. It was decided that the club will name the Best of Class Award in our Fall Show in her honor. She was a very active member for years and served multiple roles on the Board. She had recently been quite interested in growing miniature orchids.

There will be a gathering at Louvino's Restaurant in Middletown at 6:30 pm on May 21<sup>st</sup>, to celebrate our success in the Home and Garden Show and Locust Grove Show. Anyone who contributed to the events in any way is invited. Everyone will cover the cost of their own food and bar bill.

The next Board meeting will be May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Starbuck's at Shelbyville Rd and Hurstbourne Lane. Everyone in the society is welcome to attend.

The President opened an initial conversation regarding the possibility of making presentations on orchids to middle school students in the future. This will be discussed at future meetings.

A presentation was made on Dendrobium Orchids by Barry Jones, who is currently president of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society, an orchid judge, and a long term vendor at our annual show.

Barry Jones also judged the Show and Tell plants.

### **Standard:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – *phalaeopsis* unknown - Heidi Boel

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – *miltonia* unknown - David Seligson

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – *oncidium* Chaculatum 'Golden Pacific.)  
Oncda. Chaculatum (Onc. Charlesworthii (1910) x  
Onc. *maculatum*) - Dick Humke

### **Mini:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – *phalaeopsis* unknown - Ruth Schneider

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - *phalaeopsis* unknown - Jan Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - *phalaeopsis* unknown – Heidi Boel

The raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting is June 12th.

Submitted by Jan Smith  
[smithroberts@mac.com](mailto:smithroberts@mac.com)

**Note:** Hi folks, I have changed my main indoor light system to LEDs so I have a nice Sun System Light reflector shade , 600 watt High pressure sodium Bulb, and ballast for sale. It hung from a stand i had in my downstairs rec room. I have been using this for about 4 -5 years and have been generally very happy with it. I only used it in the winter months - once I brought my plants in from the outside during the summer. The bulb works but it would probably be best to purchase a new one if you are interested in the light. They are available at New Earth Garden center in J-town.

I am offering it for sale for \$50.....THATS A REALLY GOOD PRICE. You can go on line and check out what a new one would sell for.

Also, I will offer my services in setting it up for you if I can. I'll bring tools and help to get it up and running.

You will need to hang it from a stand, shelving arrangement or the ceiling. It comes with a 15 ft. cord for the light and a 7 ft. cord for the ballast, so it can fit/stretch about anywhere. The light spread will be about 5' by 2' area. Send me an email if you are interested.

Sal Locascio  
[sallocascio48@gmail.com](mailto:sallocascio48@gmail.com)

***KOS June Show and Tell***







*Photos courtesy of Jan Smith*



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[www.kyorchidsociety.com](http://www.kyorchidsociety.com) or on Facebook  
at Kentucky Orchid Society

# Growing Healthy Orchids Indoors



Many orchids are rewarding indoor plants. Once a home owner has succumbed and bought his or her first orchid, or received one as a gift, meeting a few cultural requirements will coax the plant to flower again.

Orchids are far tougher and hardier than most people think, and are, by and large, extremely adaptable. There is a long-standing myth that orchids are difficult, if not impossible, to grow, especially without a greenhouse. With at least 20,000 species and some 100,000 artificial hybrids, there are some notoriously fussy orchids. But there are many rugged, popular, easy-to-grow types that adapt to the temperatures and light conditions found on the average home windowsill. Explore the options

and assemble a collection that will put forth exotic flowers year-round.

Orchids are different from other houseplants. Unlike ferns, philodendrons, palms and Swedish ivy, orchids do not grow in soil. Potting an orchid in soil is actually one of the best ways to kill it. Most orchids in the wild are not rooted in the ground, but instead attach themselves by thick roots to the sides of trees and on branches. Clinging to the bark, the plants absorb water and nutrients from the air and rain and whatever drips down the tree. They are adapted to surviving when rain is scarce, hoarding water in thick leaves, stems and roots

## Watering

In the house, orchids are grown in pots filled with chips of bark, stones, treefern or some other loosely packed material, which keeps roots well-aerated and permits water to drain quickly. Nothing -- repeat, nothing -- kills an orchid faster than letting it sit in a water-logged pot, since a lack of oxygen will cause the roots to suffocate and rot. Water orchids thoroughly, usually about once a week, then allow them to dry slightly before watering again. Orchids are better equipped to withstand periods of forgetfulness than they are to being overwatered.

## Temperature

Another difference between orchids and many houseplants is that in nature most orchids experience a big difference between day and night temperatures. Manipulating the temperature of the home so it will drop at least 10 degrees at night, especially in autumn and

winter when many orchids initiate buds, will induce the orchids to set flower buds more readily. Achieve this by lowering the temperature on the thermostat. This little trick can mean the difference between an orchid plant that merely lives, and one that thrives and flowers.

Orchids are usually classified as warm growing, intermediate and cool growing, with regard to their temperature needs. Many tolerate exposure to warmer or cooler temperatures without suffering damage. The temperature groupings refer to the lowest temperature the orchid prefers during winter nights. Warm-growing orchids, such as phalaenopsis, sulk if temperatures drop much below 60 F.

Intermediate growers, such as cattleyas, prefer winter nights around 55° F. Cool-growing orchids, including cymbidiums and odontoglossums, are accustomed to winter nights of 50 F. At the other extreme, most orchids perform poorly when exposed to temperatures above 90° F.

## Light

Orchids are also classified into three other groups depending on the intensity of light they require -- high (3,000 foot-candles), medium (2,000 foot-candles) and low (1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles). Most orchids require plenty of light, preferably at least six hours a day. Many orchids can withstand more or less than the amount of recommended light, but providing more light enhances flowering potential.

Conversely, inadequate light prevents orchids from flowering, although they will grow.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. Dark green leaves are attractive, but signal there is not enough light. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom. Gauge light intensity with this simple hand/eye test: Put your hand 6 inches above the leaves and look at the shadows cast. A sharp-edged shadow means high light; a soft-edged shadow indicates medium to low light; no shadow at all means the light is insufficient for an orchid to flower.

Southern- and eastern-facing windows work best for orchids; western windows can be too hot in the afternoon; and northern ones are usually too dark. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn -- the leaves bleach out to white, ultimately dying and turning black -- so it may be necessary to reposition plants as the seasons change. Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Positioning sheets of Mylar or another reflective material in the growing area will increase usable light, a handy trick for the winter when light levels are often reduced.

## Artificial Light

Where windows with adequate light are unavailable, consider cultivating orchids beneath artificial light. Four 4-foot-long fluorescent tubes placed 6 inches apart side by side should do the trick. Two shop-light fixtures

with cool-white bulbs will suffice. Special grow lights, sold under various trade names, are considerably more expensive and extend the light spectrum. The grow lights may reap better results, although data on this are conflicting. Place plants 6 to 8 inches below the tubes. Put the lights on a timer set to operate the bulbs for 14 to 16 hours a day. Many orchids, such as phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums, will be content. Orchids requiring more light, such as vandas and cymbidiums, however, need natural sunlight or high-intensity discharge lights to bloom. A fluorescent fixture in a dimly lit window adds extra light to natural sunlight, too, and can mean the difference between flowers and no flowers. Orchids that do not flower often require more light.

## Fertilizing

Orchids do not require abundant doses of fertilizer. However, to maintain healthy plants and see blooms on a regular basis, apply a weak solution of 20-10-20 fertilizer once a week. Each month, water with plain water to flush out any accumulated fertilizer salts. Dilute the fertilizer to one-quarter the strength recommended on the package. When in doubt, give less rather than more. Switch to a blossom-booster fertilizer in the autumn, when many orchids are initiating flower buds. Blossom-booster is a fertilizer ratio with higher phosphorus and lower nitrogen, such as a 10-30-20 formula. Many orchids are winter bloomers, which makes them even more special as houseplants. They fill an often otherwise flowerless void in the drabbest of months. Peak

of orchid bloom usually occurs between December and April.

## Humidity

One of the things orchids greatly appreciate is adequate humidity. Fifty percent or more is necessary, but the atmosphere in most homes, especially those with dry, hot-air heat, is far below that. Raising the humidity around orchids will result in better flowering. Some tricks to increase humidity: operate a humidifier near the plants; place the pots on flat, black pebbles set in a tray in which water is added until it almost covers the stones ("Egg crate," which is the lattice-like plastic grid sold in hardware stores for suspension ceiling lights, is a good, more steady alternative to the pebbles.); group the orchids together; or cordon off the growing area with clear plastic (but continue to provide ventilation to prevent bacteria from becoming a problem).

Article furnished courtesy of the American Orchid Society