



**Orchid News**  
**Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.**  
**January 2020**  
**Louisville, KY**

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***Happy New Year Everyone!***  
***It is time to pay your dues!! See Linda Solley-Kanipe.***

**January 2020 Speaker:** Brian Spitler,  
The Diverse World of Dendrobiums and Their Cultural Requirements

Wednesday, January 8, 2020  
Immanuel United Church of Christ  
2300 Taylorsville Road  
6:30 pm, Social hour, 7:00 pm Meeting

## **From the President**

Welcome to the KOS 2020 experience! I hope it will be a busy and enjoyable year and that everyone finds a way to join in the fun and learn more about orchids, which should be our top priority.

At our January meeting, we will be discussing the new format for Show & Tell, which will not only allow us to share our blooming plants with each other, but will also be an opportunity to learn about how to display our plants to best advantage for shows and in our homes. The revised structure will have categories for novice, intermediate and advanced growers with awards in each category at the end of the year. More

explanation to come, but you should decide which category best describes your orchid growing ability. Think about it now so that we can display your January plants in the correct category.

Beginner: Growing < 3 yrs and/or <25 plants  
Intermediate: Growing 3-10 yrs and/or 25-100 plants  
Advanced: Growing > 10 yrs, >100 plants, &/or winner of Best in Class award in a AOS show

I hope to keep the website up to date with information about upcoming meetings and reports on our activities. Please visit it and give me feedback at [www.kyorchidsociety.com](http://www.kyorchidsociety.com).

The calendar below was compiled by Dixie McCulloch several years ago, but the information is very pertinent today! A copy of the full calendar can be found on the website, so you can check every month to find out what you should be expecting from and doing with your orchids.

See you January 8!

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

## From the Vice President

I sincerely hope that everyone had a great Holiday season and has had time to relax and refresh.

As your new Vice President I am excited and a little nervous to begin this new year with KOS. I will take all the help you have to offer for speakers and topics for our meetings. I really want our meetings to be fun and productive. Please send me your suggestions! I look forward to a great 2020.

The speaker for our January meeting is Brian Spitler. We are excited to have Brian join us and talk about the Diverse World of Dendrobiums and Their Cultural Requirements. Many of you may know Brian as he has been active in supporting the KOS and presented to the Society.

He has been growing orchids for more 25+ years. He has experience growing orchids in diverse climates including California's hot dry deserts, coastal climates, as well as in the midwest.

Extensive travel has allowed him to visit in situ locations of orchids such as Sweden, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Colombia. He will be visiting Japan this coming year in order to see *Neofinitia* in situ.

As an American Orchid Society judge he has visited many Regional and National shows and judged internationally. As past President of the Cincinnati Orchid Society he was instrumental in marketing and educational endeavors which include the website and online payment systems, initiation and leading of the Beginners Group, and a two weekend endeavor in introducing the public to orchids via the local Home and Garden Show, as well as creating and funding a speakers restricted fund. He feels these endeavors are vital to the future of societies. Having international orchid grower friends and visiting many growing facilities throughout the U.S. and abroad, he has developed extensive knowledge of both the commercial and hobbyist market.

Although Brian is not a vendor, he has enough orchids to provide plants for sale. He will bring newly imported *Paphiopedilums* from the German breeder Helmar Bach in addition to some others such as *Phragmipediums*.

Deanna Day, Vice President  
[Deanna7736@yahoo.com](mailto:Deanna7736@yahoo.com)

## Minutes

The KOS held its annual Holiday Celebration on December 11, 2019. A delicious pot luck buffet was served along with a wonderful roast turkey!

Annual awards were presented to the KOS members who had the most "points" gathered in the monthly Show and Tell feature. The awards included:

Henrietta and Wilbur Japs Award for outstanding service to the society in 2019: *Sal Locasio*  
Clara Fanelli Award for non-miniature plant culture: *David Seligson and Jan Smith*  
Jim Topmiller Traveling Trophy for miniature plant culture: *Jan Smith*

President elect, Jan Smith, thanked everyone for their outstanding participation in society events in the previous year and invited them to look forward to an interesting upcoming year.

Pam LaRocco introduced the club project for 2020, Dendrobium Buttercup, with instructions on its care. She reminded us that if you get a spike on your project from last year (Dendrobium Pink Sparkle), send a picture to her via email or bring it to the next monthly meeting. There is an award for the first flower! If you have questions about your new plant throughout the year, bring the plant and/or your questions to the monthly meetings and get input on its care.

Outgoing president Ruth Schneider presented a program celebrating the successes of KOS during her two year tenure.

Dues were collected for the upcoming year.

Everyone was wished a Happy Holiday and New Year.

Jan Smith, President/Acting Recording Secretary  
[smithroberts@mac.com](mailto:smithroberts@mac.com)

### **2020 KOS Club Project**

Friends, Happy New Years! This year's club project is a medium to standard sized Phalaenopsis Dendrobium called Den. Buttercup. It's a cream-colored flower with a blush and very floriferous, blooming multiple times a year. We will recognize the first one to flower, but the award will be given for the Best Plant at either the November or December 2020 meeting. We also intend to have several times throughout the coming year for members to display their club projects. More info to follow.

The plant is a warm grower, low light lover which should grow in the same conditions as a Phalaenopsis.

There are several left. If you want one and were not able to attend the 2019 Holiday Party, they will be distributed at the January meeting, first come first served.

**Plant Doctor and Beginner's Corner will be back by popular demand for the 2020 year.**

They are held between 6:30 & 7pm.

Plant Doctor is available every month. Bring in your troubled plants. We will try our best to determine what is ailing them. But do keep them isolated from other plants brought to the meeting.

Beginner's Corner will be held on months when our speakers are not offering plant sales.

Pam LaRocco, The Plant Dr.  
[pamlarocco@hotmail.com](mailto:pamlarocco@hotmail.com)

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

# Orchid Growing Calendar

## January

Temperature range:

	Day/degrees	Night/degrees
Cool House	55	50
Intermediate House	61–65	59–61
Warm House	70	66–70

Winter can be the most difficult season for your orchids. During the winter the days are shorter, when watering, soak plants thoroughly and do so only in the mornings, making sure your plants are dry before nightfall. The lower the temperature the less you should water. However, artificial heat often causes serious drop in humidity and overly dry conditions in your growing area. Be sure to watch your plants closely to insure that they do not get too dry. Space heaters and home furnaces create their own set of problems. They will be running more, thus drying out the air. Dry air can cause bud blast. Always remove old flowers or dead leaves, as they can be carriers for insects or fungus.

This time of year plants may be fed a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 at half strength every other week. An occasional application of a fertilizer with a higher middle number for bloom initiation can also be used for the spring blooming plants.

You should keep a close eye out for orchid pests in the greenhouse. One of the main ones this time of the year is aphids. They can start up and cause considerable damage to your plants if not controlled right away. Some good controls I use are: Malathion—WP 1 tsp/gal; Diazinon—WP 1 tsp/gal; Orthene—WP (only) 1 tsp/gal; plus several others that can be used. The only thing to remember is to alternate the sprays so the aphids will not build up an immunity to them. Slugs and snails are another problem during this time of the year. The two baits that I use are QUE Slug and Snail granules, that I just sprinkle on the pots, or Slug-Spray 50 WP—1 tbs/gal, that I spray on everything in the greenhouse every two weeks until the slugs and snails are gone. (Written by Ronald A. Sellon.)

**Cattleya and Laelia:** The temperature should be moderate with minimum 60–65 in the day and 54–59 at night. The potting mix should not be allowed to get completely dry. Keep plants that have new growth showing a little more moist. Watering and feeding needs are at a minimum, over watering and over fertilizing can cause rot and soft growth.

Cattleyas that have completed their flowering should be kept on the dry side until their normal growing period begins in spring. Go over each plant and remove the dried skin on the pseudobulbs, which is a favorite haven for scale, but be careful that you do not injure the eye at the base of the pseudobulb.

**Cymbidium:** Keep them moderately moist but not wet. Plants in bud should be given more water and fertilizer. Later varieties are just beginning to push up their flowering stems; watering frequency and volume is important to support the development of the inflorescence. Cool temperatures are beneficial.

The early flowering varieties, which end their flowering this month, should be allowed to rest. They need less water. A daily misting of the pseudobulbs and foliage to prevent dehydration is enough.

**Lycaste:** Watering tapers off now as the spikes start growing. Start staking soon to better position the flower spikes so as not to interfere with each other. Bright filtered light will increase stem strength. Do not readjust to a different direction than they are growing, as this ultimately will cause twisted stems.

**Paphiopedilum:** Reduce water only slightly. The temperature should be as given above for intermediate house. Plants developing buds should be kept a little warmer.

Standard hybrids are in about the middle of their blooming season, so enjoyment is the key word. They still require watering and light feeding, especially if they are in the drier home environment. More light will help to set buds for the spring and summer bloom season.

If any early flowering varieties have finished blooming and the potting material is in poor condition or the plant overcrowded, repot. If you are growing on a windowsill, use a pebble tray

with water in the pebbles, to increase humidity. Keep water out of the sensitive pouches; accumulated moisture shortens flower life. Watch for insects on the foliage, particularly red spider mites.

**Phalaenopsis:** Warm house temperatures are required, with higher humidity. Phalaenopsis have no resting period. Be careful that the potting mix does not dry out. Bud development requires more light in order to prevent yellowing.

Constant air circulation is essential to avoid the heartache of Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves. Fertilize sparingly with a liquid or granular formula, and only when the medium is moist. Begin careful monitoring for scale and mealy bug on the inflorescence and under sides of leaves.

Stake the spikes so the flowers will be shown to their best advantage.

**Dendrobium:** Burmese and nobile types require a strict resting period, according to most growers. There is much to be learned about these orchids but it is generally felt they need high light, very little water, and humidity as low as possible at this time of year. Continue the water sparingly, or not at all, those species that require a dormant period before flowering this spring (Den. aggregatum, Den. chrysotoxum, Den. farmeri, Den. densiflorum and Den. nobile or its hybrids). As the buds begin to emerge, gradually increase the watering frequency and amount. Be cautious that the evergreen type hybrids are not exposed to temperatures below 60 degrees or plants in flower may drop their leaves and buds.

**Deciduous Orchids:** Orchids such as Calanthe, Pleione, etc., are to be kept completely dry. There are a few, like Catasetum, Cycnoches, and a few others, that are kept moderately dry (this also includes Odont. grande).

**Masdevallias:** At this time the growth cycle starts, and repotting should be done. Keep cool, around 45 degrees both day and night, and provide plenty of air circulation and water. Fertilizer may be applied all year long, but at this time use 30-10-10 alternately with 10-30-20.

**Vandaceous genera:** Light, or the lack of it, becomes a challenge this month. Observe the growing area carefully to locate the brightest spots in the house where you can place your Vandas and Ascocendas. Do not make drastic transitions; instead gradually move plants from the darkest levels to the brightest upper levels to avoid leaf burn. Fertilize moist baskets or pots at least twice this month if light levels are sufficient. Many of the popular Thai hybrids and the African angraecoids begin their winter flowering now, so watch for signs of inflorescence; “help” them away from the main stem of the plant to insure proper display. Maintain high humidity in the root zone, particularly for those plants in slatted baskets. Mist the roots daily with a light spray from a spray bottle or hose.

Check for red spider and thrips. Phalaenopsis type Dendrobium: Keep warm and watered all year long. On these species you have to be guided by their geographic origin. The Dendrobium group is so varied that no one set of cultural requirements fits all.

Information for these culture calendars is taken from *The AOS Bulletin*, *Orchid Digest*, a book *Orchids and How to Grow Them* by Gloria Jean Sessler and some of my own experiences. Compiled by Dixie McCulloch