



Orchid News
Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
July 2020
Louisville, KY

Newsletter Editor: Gloria Teague, glorchid@iglou.com

The President's Corner

Hello orchid friends,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone staying healthy and spending lots of your extra time learning more about orchids. There certainly have been lots of educational opportunities made available to us through the generosity of our "sister" organizations in Dayton, Cincinnati, and Memphis! I encourage you to participate in as many of these as possible. You should also check out the AOS website as they are making their educational videos available to everyone (they are usually reserved for members). You can watch these live or you can download and watch them on video at your convenience. I will continue to send you information on these opportunities as they occur.

I encourage you to support the growers who are sharing their knowledge and experience with us. Many are offering discounts and they need our support to keep their businesses going in these challenging times. Go to their respective websites and check out the wonderful plants they have available.

We are going to try our own online presentation during our next meeting on July 8. We will start our

usual business meeting and then will feature Stephen Benjamin in a pre-recorded video presentation on "Mounting Orchids on Plaques". Stephen will be attending the Zoom meeting and will be available to answer questions about his presentation. I hope you all can join us! I will send the directions for the meeting in a separate email nearer the time of the meeting.

Please check out the KOS website where I am publishing the Show and Tell entries. We are growing some beautiful plants! You will also find Beginner Corner articles by Anne-Marie. I've included one of those with this newsletter. As you all know, she raises some lovely plants and I thought you might enjoy her "Formulas for Orchid Media".

I hope we get to have an in-person meeting in August. If not, we will "get through this together"!

Jan Smith, President
smithroberts@mac.com

The next KOS monthly meeting will be a virtual one on Zoom. It will start at 7:00 pm on July 8 with the business meeting, which we will limit to 30 min and then move on to a presentation on mounting orchids by Steve Benjamin. There will be time for questions and answers afterwards.

This is the meeting information:

Topic: July KOS Meeting

Time: Jul 8, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124902372?pwd=Q25qTlIwVGthZmR6MHpFNzRpZXVJUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 2490 2372

Password: 000000

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82124902372#,,,0#,,000000# US
(New York)

+13017158592,,82124902372#,,,0#,,000000# US
(Germantown)

Dial by your location

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 821 2490 2372

Password: 000000

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124902372?pwd=Q25qTlIwVGthZmR6MHpFNzRpZXVJUT09>

I will include this information in the newsletter and will try to send an email the day of the meeting.

Jan

The Vice President's Corner

Greetings From the Vice President:

For the month of July, we will once again have a "virtual" meeting. Jan has given us the details for connecting and we hope to see all of you there.

Our speaker this month is one of our own members, Steve Benjamin. Steve has graciously agreed to present a session on mounting orchids. I'm always learning something new from all of our members and this will be no exception! I can't wait to hear what Steve has to say. Steve was nice enough to provide us with a little bit of personal background, which I've included below. Thank you, Steve!

Steve Benjamin:

I started out very young with a passion for plants. At five I began breeding African Violets in my bedroom, at seven started breeding Roses. At nine I stumbled on to Orchids while trying to buy a fishing boat. My first ones were cut flower standard Cattleyas from Bob Sanker in Cincinnati. I grew them under lights and had mild success, but began purchasing various miniature orchids from J&L so that I could have more plants in my limited space. After I got my degree in Biology from Xavier University, I moved to Kentucky to help them make Bourbon. I spent 27 years in the Bourbon industry, and most recently with several other local companies.

I am an accredited AOS judge, I have served as show chair for many shows including four Mid-Americas. I have been the Vice and Center Chair for the AOS Cincinnati judging center, and Training coordinator twice.

I am married, with two grown children, four grandchildren ages 18-26, and one great grandson 5 with another one due in July.

I bought my first house when I was 24, and within 3 weeks of moving in, I enclosed the front porch to make a greenhouse. I again started with miniature species mostly, until I filled it up and then added a greenhouse to the back of the house. With all this new space, I went wild and purchased hundreds of compots and flasks; mostly Cattleya allied hybrids, and they thrived. I waited for them to grow up and they started blooming! Winter of 1989, while I was spending Christmas with family in Gatlinburg, the electricity went out and the entire greenhouse froze! It took me a while to recover and get started again but I did, this time I built a greenhouse 3/4

underground. It is approx 600 square feet and has withstood two episodes of a week at a time (and a couple shorter episodes) with no heat and as low as -9F, with only minimal damage to my plants.

My collection is diversified but centers on Cattleya allied. I have been lucky enough to have more than 50 AOS awards, half to Cattleya allied plants. I do some of my own breeding and sow my own seeds. With such a small greenhouse, I normally only grow out maybe 30-50 plants, but have shared many flasks out to other growers and have already had an award to a plant of one of my crosses.

Deanna Day, Vice President
Deanna7736@yahoo.com

Minutes

We had no minutes because of the meeting cancellation due to the Coronavirus-19 closures.

Show and Tell orchid judging via email, Pam LaRocco is the judge. The May Show and Tell winners will be published in the July newsletter.

Show and Tell KOS May 2020

Topmiller

First – *benopsulbophyllum* [Bulb.] *speciosum* -
Anne-Marie Blanuacqert

Second - *phaleanopsis* unknown – Heidi Boel

Fanelli

First- *laelia purpurata* now *epipactis* [Epcts.]
purpurata var *carni* – Carla Cates

First - *dendrobium* [Den.] *densiflorum* var. *albor* 8-
Anne-Marie Blanuacqert- Bruyninckx

Second - *paphiopedilum* [Paph.] Deperle (Paph.
primulinum x Paph. *delenatii*) - Carla Cates

Second *phragmipedium* [Phrag.] *phragmipedium*
Phrag. (*Phrag. longifolium* x Phrag.

humboldtii) - Dan Dolach

June 2020

Topmiller

First - *bletilla* [Ble.] *striata* - Debbie Hannah

Second - *phaleanopsis* [Phal] Miva Breeze - Jan Smith

Second - *leptodes* [Lpt.] *pohliticoi* - Deanna Day

Fanelli

First – *phragmipedium* [Phrag.] Saint's
Apprenticent's (Phrag. Saint Ouen x Phrag.
Sorcerer's Apprenticent) – Anne -Marie
Blancquaert-Bruyninckx

Second – *dendrobidium victoria –reginae*
(Unknown x Unknown) - Anne- Marie Blancquaert
- Bruyninckx

Visit us at our website

www.kyorchidsociety.com or on Facebook
at Kentucky Orchid Society

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Beginners Corner

Orchid Media Formulas collected over the years.

- A. Formula for almost all orchids following the 7/1/1 ratio meaning 7 parts bark, 1-part charcoal and 1-part perlite.

Fine rooted: 7 small bark, 1 medium charcoal, 1 medium perlite

Thick rooted: 7 medium bark, 1 medium charcoal, 1 medium perlite

For terrestrial orchids: Use above formula but add equal parts potting soil to the mix (from Charles Wilson)

B. Lady slipper mixes

-Paphiopedilum mixes

- A 1. 50% fine bark mix
2. 40% #4 horticultural charcoal
3. 10 % coarse sand or fine perlite

- B 1. 5 parts fir bark
2. 2 parts Canadian peat
3. 1 part charcoal
4. 1 part extra coarse sponge rock #4
(Perlite)
5. 1 part ½" Stalite (LECA beads)
(AOS publication about slipper orchids)

Slipper orchid mix

6-parts medium grade fir bark
12-parts seedling or fine grade bark
3-parts horticultural charcoal
6-parts sponge rock or large perlite

1 1/2-parts cracked oyster shell
3/4-parts silica sand (pool filter sand)
(Glen Decker)

-Phragmipedium mixes

a. Bark mix: Orchidata at pH 5.5 will last about one year. Amend with powdered limestone, perlite, charcoal and peat/coco peat which holds lots of water, however if the humidity is 70% in your growing area no need to use the peat/coco peat. Miracle Gro houseplant mix can be added to the bark (50%) if using high drainage pots.

b. Semi hydroponic: Hydroton beads need to be prepared/washed to bring the pH down. Use deeper pots and drill holes ½" above the base but also higher up to allow better air circulation. c. High water retention mixes: 1. Sphagnum moss 2. Milled sphagnum moss 3. Growstone (recycled expanded glass = 100% silica, neutral pH) 4. Grow cubes (rockwool/ stone wool: spun basalt rock fibers) Prepare this medium outside as the dust is carcinogenic. Needs to be soaked to bring the pH down. The more water you can give your Phragmipediums the faster they will grow! (Jason Fischer)

C. Habenaria orchid mixes Medium needs to hold water during the growing period (spring through midsummer until the last flower falls off), keep watering but allow to dry between watering (plant is making new corms underground). When the foliage starts to die, stop watering and repot in a dry mix and keep dry completely during the resting period which will last till February/March. Then check weekly and start watering if something is poking through. Sphagnum mix which is used in plastic pots works the best. 1. 2/3 sphagnum long strands, good quality, chopped 2. 1/3 bark (Orchidata, Power: 9-12 mm) (about 20-25%) 3. Charcoal 4. Perlite (Jim Heilig)

D. Reed stem Epidendrum orchid mixes Since these grow outside in Florida and Southern California, they do well in garden soil. You can make your own using large or small bark amended with any combination of perlite, moss, charcoal, sand or gravel.

For Epi. cinnabarinum and Oerstedellas and their hybrids choose a fast draining mix of one-part

medium bark, one-part fine bark, and one-part perlite, replace the medium every 12 to 18 months. (AOS article from 1998)

E. Oeceoclades orchid mix Equal parts of peat, loam and sand. A mix of 1/3 fine fir bark, 1/3 perlite, 1/6 sand and 1/6 peat moss. Don't forget to fertilize since these media are rather poor in nutrients. (AOS personal communication with S. Svoboda 2013)

F. Stanhopea orchid mix 1. 70% small bark 2. 20% medium perlite 3. 5% fine charcoal 4. 5% fine hapuu (Hawaiian tree fern shreds), chunk peat moss or coir (Doug Pulley, M.D.)

According to Inge Poot (OAS webinar on Stanhopea), Stanhopea does not like repotting. She suggests removing the old medium and adding new medium without major disturbance to the plants. She uses either rockwool, sphagnum, osmunda (if still available) and warns that when using coconut bark rinsing it for seven days with daily water changes to remove the salts is a must. Stanhopea does not like salt!

G. Phaius mix 1. Equal parts of potting soil, soilless mix and compost. (What I use). 2. AOS suggests the following: • 1-part peat • 1-part soil or • 1-part loam, • 1-part rotted cow manure • 1-part peat.

H. LECA beads Lightweight expanded clay aggregate. The newest medium I am trying out because of a Psychopsis orchid that kept making new shoots but did not want to bloom. Researching I found an article by Dr. T. Mirenda stating that these orchids hate being transplanted and as such are prime candidates for clay beads. Ordered a bag, did the pre-washing till the pH was right and started testing.

(There is a good Webinar on AOS website by Ray Barkalow who has tested different types of orchids in clay beads.) I'm in agreement of what Ray Barkalow states in the webinar, the plants that have not grown in any medium (Keikis from Phals and Dendrobiums) do take to the medium right away and will be growing and having their roots in the beads within 4-6 weeks. Plants that come from another medium will take much longer. My Psychopsis is, after five months, has finally grown into the beads, made another new shoot but also has

what looks like its first flower spike. Others I tried follow the same pattern as the Psychopsis.

Commercial media Personal preference since a large selection is available from orchid growers and other commercial outfits. Happy orchid growing!

Anne-Marie Blancquaert

KOS June Show and Tell





KOS May Show and Tell



There are sooo many beautiful orchids in the May and June Show ant Tells to see please forgive me for not being able to show them all to you. Check out the KOS website to see them all!





