



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

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

## **The President's Corner**

Hello orchid friends,

2020 has been a challenge for organizations such as ours. However, KOS continues to be active despite the pandemic!

We have a monthly meeting coming up on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on Zoom. The information to connect to the meeting is listed below. Sam Tsui will speak on Multifloral Paphiopedilums after our brief business meeting (see the vice-president's notes this month for more information).

We will discuss our upcoming orchid auction, to be held on September 16. We have 20 lovely plants ready to auction off to raise some money for KOS and give us a chance to catch up a bit with our orchid friends. Details will be discussed at the meeting.

Be sure to peruse the orchids for sale on [orchidinnusa.com](http://orchidinnusa.com) and notify me of the plants you wish to buy. I will place the order by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Remember, Sam Tsui will not charge the KOS a speaker's fee if we order at least \$750 in plants from him. Everything on his website is discounted by 10% for KOS during this time, including plants

that are already "on sale". You can order on your own or send your requests to me if you don't mind picking up your plants at my home. This will save us some shipping fees. If you order on your own, be sure to mention the KOS to get the discount and to get the purchase credited to KOS.

We will also be discussing a virtual orchid show that KOS will be hosting later in September!

Please send me your photos of your blooming plants for inclusion in the virtual Show and Tell for September. These can be sent by email or text. I need them by Friday, September 4 in order to enter them for September. If they are later, they will be entered for October.

### **Topic: KOS September meeting**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4490770513?pwd=UzRYNmU3TktQV1VJMFNwbXpPdGFNZz09>

**Meeting ID: 449 077 0513**

**Passcode: 123456**

**One tap mobile**

**+16465588656,,4490770513#,,,,,0#,,123456# US  
(New York)**

**+13017158592,,4490770513#,,,,,0#,,123456# US  
(Germantown)**

### **Dial by your location**

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+49 69 7104 9922 Germany  
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**Meeting ID: 449 077 0513**

**Passcode: 123456**

**Find your local number:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/krG4lDcnl>

Jan Smith, President

[smithroberts@mac.com](mailto:smithroberts@mac.com)

## **The Vice President's Corner**

Greetings from the Vice President:

Hello everyone! Our September meeting will, once again, be by Zoom (see details from Jan). Our speaker for this meeting will be Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn, Ltd. Sam's biographical information is shown below and, as already indicated, Sam is giving members a discount on any orchids we purchase from him for a period of time 2 weeks prior and 1 week following our meeting. You may order your orchids through Jan if you are willing to pick them up at her home. This will save you some shipping costs but also feel free to order and have them delivered to your home. If you do so, please let me know your order total (by email - [deanna7736@yahoo.com](mailto:deanna7736@yahoo.com)) so I can keep track of the total for KOS.

Sam Tsui was born and raised in Hong Kong and traveled to the United States at the age of 22. He attended Illinois State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

He began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types, he became a serious

Paphiopedilum grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with Paphs. and continues that work today. In 1995, as he became more involved with Paphs., he started selling them commercially. First, he grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. Then, in 2004, as the business grew, he purchased six acres of property and built his first 6,000 square foot commercial greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

In the past 27 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world traveling to shows, promoting sales, and lecturing. Sam currently fills orders from around the world and attends over 20 orchid shows/conferences a year. He also presents approximately 25 Paphiopedilum programs/lectures to orchid conferences, societies and groups annually in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe. Over the past 23 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. As a result of his breeding program, his orchids have been honored with more than three hundreds awards from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America and European Orchid Congress.

I sincerely hope to see all of you on the Zoom meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Deanna Day, Vice President

[Deanna7736@yahoo.com](mailto:Deanna7736@yahoo.com)

## **A Note from our Plant Doctor**

Hey friends,

Hope your summer has been happily growing along. Unfortunately this growing season is fast drawing to a close. I saw my first flock of migrating geese, powdery mildew is starting to form on the pumpkin vines, and mornings have a wisp of coolness in the air. What makes me pull the plug

and bring things in? The combination of cool and wet! That spells disaster from rots and fungus. I know some folks who like to push this season out as far as possible, but unless you are able to keep the rain off your plants as the nights get cooler, do consider bringing them in sooner than later.

Mealy bugs:

Like most orchid lovers, I've had my share of these pests. Just about the time you think you have them gone, they pop up again.

This winter, I thought I had them, not once but several times, and always on just 1 bench. Now I am thorough when I go after them and for the most part, get them. But this was ridiculous! The minute I stopped, they were back. It wasn't until I went to put everything outside that I figured out what was going on. My Bay Laurel! Yup, they were on my tree which was feet away from this bench. I never spray it because I use the leaves in cooking. These little critters must fly! So a word to the wise: check all of your companion plants in or near your growing space (All plants – I recently found out that predatory/carnivorous plants can get mealy bugs too. Go figure, the bugs avoids being eaten!). Also here's a suggestion for spraying for mealies. One must be persistent and not miss a spray day or you'll need to start all over.

Spray at 3-day intervals (I formerly used a 5-day cycle but a friend convinced me that 3 was essential)

Use a soap mixture every 3rd spray day. The mechanical kill helps to keep them from becoming resistant to the pesticide.

Make sure you let your spray get into the potting medium, especially around the plant stem.

Use different types of insecticides, a systemic and a contact. For example: Systemic such as Bayer Insect, Disease, and Mite Control and a contact like Safari or Malathion.

Don't mix these together! Use the Bayer 2 times, use a soap-based spray then the contact kill 2 times, then the soap-based spray. Remember, 3 day apart! You will probably have to repeat this cycle more than once.

Check for bugs regularly. If they return, do it again.

So I think I finally have them gone but am waiting to see.

Pam LaRocco

[pamlarocco@hotmail.com](mailto:pamlarocco@hotmail.com)

## Minutes

### Virtual Meeting Minutes

There were approximately 39 people that participated on line.

Treasures Report: Received no new income in the month, took care of expenses like the Storage unit. On hand savings of \$7500.00. A donation to Larry Zettler, our speaker, will be made to cover his speaking fee. Report approved by membership. Our July meeting minutes were approved by the membership.

Our annual show tentatively scheduled for October 24-25, 2020 is cancelled.

Deanna Day reported that the speaker for September is tentatively Cordlia Head. She will be talking on Edwardian Cases. Sam Sui is scheduled for October. He will waive his fee if the club can put together an order of \$750 for plants with a 10% club discount. President Jan Smith will coordinate a club order to the membership. Karen Uthus is tentatively scheduled for November.

Emmanuel Church informed us that they are not ready to open up. They will store our tubs for us until we can get together in person to plan for the future of meetings.

Show & Tell: Pam LaRocco has been judging Standard and Mini orchids, as well as all plants ranked by grower and experience. Check our Website for monthly results. Please provide a close-up shot of your bloom and an overall shot of the complete plant to Jan or Pam. Also any background info about propagating your plant. Plants need to be entered before the Friday before an upcoming monthly meeting.

President Jan Smith suggested the club put together a September on line plant auction. Pam LaRocco has some divisions, plus we have approximately 25 plants left over from HG&R and donated plants by members. Overall consensus seemed good to do this auction. More information to come.

See the American Orchid Society site for future presentations held by AOS for free. The AOS magazine has an article by Larry Zettler on Cuban orchids. He was our August Speaker as well, speaking on the Ghost orchids of Cuba and Florida. Thank you Professor Zettler.

Meeting adjourned.

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

**Show and Tell** orchid judging via email, Pam LaRocco is the judge.

## **KOS Show and Tell**

August 2020

### **TOPMLLER**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Brassavola sp. 'Mickey Mouse',  
Debbie Hanna

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Bulbo. Miniatum, Debbie Hanna  
Vandachostylis Charm 'Blue Star'

### **FANELLI**

1<sup>st</sup> Place V. garayi Carla Cates

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Phal. Unknown. Janet Crafts

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

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

## **Beginner's Corner**

### **To stake or not to stake, could that be a question?**

Let's be blunt, orchids in nature do not grow in pots, nor is someone going out there putting stakes on the flower spikes, just like no-one is driving the ice truck to deliver the weekly ice cubes!

Orchids in nature attach themselves to different substrates, be it a tree trunk, a tree branch, a rock or in leaf litter in the forest. Although very few of us have seen orchids in their natural habitat, some of us may have seen them growing outside in Florida or southern California attached to a tree.

The Phalaenopsis you acquired came in all likelihood in a clear plastic round pot (may have been put in a more decorative ceramic container), wrapped in a clear plastic sleeve and the spike(s) were staked on metal or wooden 'rods' with plastic clips. Everything straight to make them all fit snugly in a plant flat.

All this is to make it easy to get the plant from the production greenhouses to our living rooms. When surfing the internet there are short videos available from some commercial growers in the Netherlands who produce more than 10 million orchids (Phalaenopsis) for the world market each year. It'll let us understand why the plants come the way they do since most steps in the production/growth process are automated (except the meristem culturing).

In nature your Phalaenopsis would grow horizontally so that no water can collect in the crown (they are so very susceptible to 'crown rot') and when the flower spikes appear, gravity will take care that they bend downwards. Some breeders with greenhouses will duplicate this growth habit and hang them mounted on wooden boards, great in a greenhouse not very convenient for our living rooms.

Once we decide to 'pot' them up and grow the plants vertically, the scenario changes.

Do we have to stake the flower spikes? That depends on many factors, mostly convenience for us. Where do we grow them? How neat/organized are we and how do we want them to look? It goes without saying that the flower spike will be very much helped by staking. These spikes can get tall and heavy with flowers. Being staked gives support and prevents us from accidentally breaking them when watering or checking our plants. Is it necessary? Personal preference.

A friend of mine who rescues Phalaenopsis after blooming so they do not end up on the compost pile or in the trash, grows his rescues in a sunny breakfast area on large baker's racks. He will stake some of the plants on the top shelves as there is plenty of space for the spikes to go up, however on the lower shelves he does not stake. He allows the spikes to arc and since this is more natural for the spikes, they get strong as they grow, resulting in a wonderful display of flower spikes at eye level.





Figure 1 Some staked, some natural arching

Figure 2 Natural arc of large Phalaenopsis

If the flowers are why we grow them, it behooves us to take care of the flower spikes and display them to the fullest. I grow mine on the windowsill in the living room (the greenhouse is too cold at night in the winter). I stake the flower spikes, which brings the flowers more at eye level, makes it easier for watering and prevents the cat from taking a swipe at them. It also lets them make use of the light provided by the large window.

Since the flower spike can be ‘trained’ while it is growing, a certain fashion has developed for shaping these spikes. A favorite for a long time has been ‘the waterfall’ where the spike is bent in an inverted U to make it look like the flowers ‘fall’ down. This is still used in large orchid displays that are put up each year in different botanical gardens.

If you want to stake you will need stakes which can be bamboo, metal and for the miniatures one can even use chopsticks or skewers. Plant ties which are green twist ties, or plant clips or the insect clips which were fashionable, add a little whimsy but detract from the flowers and are not used on plants submitted for judging.

The stakes, if metal, can be slightly bent so as to imitate the arching of the spike in nature. Figure 5 has a selection of plant stakes. The top two are the old-fashioned stakes which clip on the side of a clay pot and will ‘support’ the flower spike. There are three small bent metal stakes for small flower support and an assortment of ‘sticks’ bamboo, metal, wood, plant ties and clips.



Figure 3. Arching stake follow spike curve.

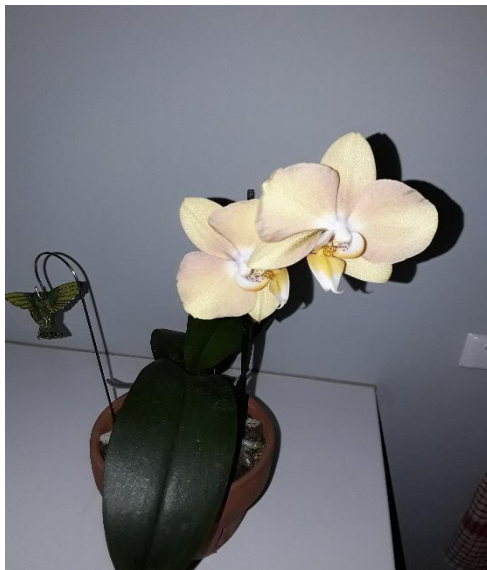


Figure 4. Miniature stake just visible



Figure 5. Assortment of stakes and clips

Other genera of orchids grow a straighter spike, such as the *Paphiopedilums* which do not need staking. However if one travels with them to society meetings or judging centers staking is a must to prevent accidental breakage.

### Summary.

1. Staking is warranted in many cases because we grow orchids differently than in nature hence, they can use the 'support'.
2. Staking can be esthetically pleasing and needs to be considered when showing orchids for judging (from an esthetic point as well as safety).
3. Staking protects the growing flower spike which is more delicate.
4. Staking is a personal preference.

Below are two more examples of staking by 'necessity' from my own greenhouse.

A *Phragmipedium* that I grow develops flower spikes that keep on growing. There are one to two flowers open at once, but the spike keeps on growing with more flowers opening. That goes on for some months. Since these get pretty tall, I will stake them to protect them from accidents in the greenhouse. See figure 6.



Figure 6. *Phragmipedium* Sts. Apprentice 'Carmen Bouquet' X *Besseae flavum*.



The lower flower stumped me at first until I realized that when the flower fell off it got pierced on a leaf lower down. This warranted a picture, what are the odds?

Some *Oncidiums* do get large spikes and those will need some staking just for ease of mind as they seem to be flimsy. Because again, in nature these spikes would be arching downward. The spikes do not have the weight or substance that *Phalaenopsis* spikes have but the final effect is there because of the sheer number of small flowers.



Figure 7. Used 5 ft garden stakes as one spike was 4 ft

Anne-Marie Blancquaert.