



Orchid News
Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
September 2021
Louisville, KY

September Program: Video presentation by Stephen Benjamin and Sal Locascio

Newsletter Editor: Gloria Teague, glorchid@iglou.com

The President's Corner

Hello everyone.

While it was a very hard decision to cancel our Annual Show and Sale again this year, the subsequent pandemic news confirms that we made the correct decision. We now have more cases of Covid in Kentucky than we have had at *any* time previously in the pandemic. Hopefully, yesterday's announcement of full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine will result in many more people getting a vaccine.

If there are any KOS members who have not yet been vaccinated, **please** rethink that decision. I worked in the hospital last week and gave at least one consultation every day on patients who had developed new heart disease as a part of serious Covid infection. Most were in their 40s and 50s and all but one had not been vaccinated. Interestingly, all these previously unvaccinated people were willing and anxious to get experimental treatment for their Covid infection, but had not been willing to get a medically proven safe vaccine that would likely have prevented their life-threatening infection to start with. I spend a good deal of my time educating people on all aspects of their health and feel it necessary to add my voice to those who are pleading for people to help themselves. Remember, there is really no cure for Covid once you get it and

it is very difficult to see patients suffering horribly as we try to help their bodies fight it off, too often unsuccessfully.

Moving on to KOS business, our next meeting will again be virtual on Zoom on September 8. It will feature our very own Stephen Benjamin giving a virtual tour of his greenhouse. Stephen will also have several plants which we will auction at the end of the meeting, so you will have a chance to acquire new plants for your collection. As many of you know, he specializes in mini-Cattleyas, but has a variety of types of plants that he grows beautifully. I am looking forward to seeing what he brings to sell!

We will once again have a virtual raffle of several plants at our meeting. Deanna will fill you in on how to get into the raffle for this and subsequent months. I have already notified Immanuel Church of Christ that we will not be using their facility in September or October and we will decide later about subsequent meetings.

In order to thank the vendors who were willing to come to our show this fall, and to give us the opportunity to acquire new plants, we have elected to have a "Vendor of the Month" over the next several months. We will put in a group order for plants from Barry Jones in September. Barry is a KOS member, an AOS judge, and a long time vendor at our shows. I will soon have a final list of

available plants and prices for your consideration and will announce at the upcoming meeting the date by which you need to submit your orders. I will then arrange to get the plants to my house for distribution to you. The attached list is what he has available at present, but it may change somewhat after this weekend's Ohio Valley Orchid Fest (with some additions and subtractions). This will at least give you a chance to look up the plants on the list to see what interests you. Barry usually has a number of lovely miniatures for sale at our shows.

Attached you will find two interesting articles written by Anne-Marie Blanquaert-Bruyninckx. Many thanks to her for sharing and I hope they inspire others to try similar "experiments". Happy Orchiding!

Zoom info for our meeting
KOS Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: KOS September Monthly Meeting
Time: Sep 8, 2021 06:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFRR3dSYUFRnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09>

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123
Passcode: 021021
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,4911551123#,,,*021021# US
(New York)

Jan Smith, President
smithroberts@mac.com

The Vice President's Corner

From the Vice President:

Hi everyone! Another month has flown by and we are preparing for our September 8 meeting. This meeting will once again be via Zoom so please make a note of the link information in Jan's article.

The presentation for this meeting was jointly prepared by two of our members, Steve Benjamin and Sal Locascio and features a video tour of Steve's greenhouses and orchid collection. We had scheduled this presentation for our August meeting but due to the last minute move from in-person to Zoom, we were unable to show it. I know it will be very interesting. Steve started out when he was very young with a passion for plants and has maintained that passion. He has a degree in Biology from Xavier University and is also an experienced and accredited AOS judge. His collection is quite diverse but centers on Cattleyas. I'm really looking forward to this video.

We will have a plant raffle at this meeting and we have 8 nice plants for you! I have sent you an email with pictures of the plants and the procedure for joining the raffle. If you need more information please contact me.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Zoom meeting on September 8th!!

Stephen started out very young with a passion for plants. At five I was 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, and now retired.

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 grand children ages 21-29, and two great grandsons 4 and 9.

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."

Thanks to Steve and Sal for putting this presentation together.

Deanna Day, Vice President
Deanna7736@yahoo.com

Minutes

KOS VIRTUAL MEETIN MINUTES August 12, 2021

We had 19 attendees. Accepted corrected minutes updated by the President and Secretary. There was no treasurer's report this month.

Old Business:

Waterfront Botanical will not be publishing our meeting dates any longer.

Members can still send in pictures via email for Show & Tell judging to Jan & Pam.

On this upcoming Sunday the Board and the Show committee will meet to decide on the viability of having a show this year.

Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn has plants for sale for those members interested in placing an order.

Reminder of Orchid Fest program on 8 August 27 - 29 in Kettering Ohio. At this point approximately 6 people from KOS will be going.

The NOPES HIKE to view orchids in the wild has been cancelled.

All members should check their email on Sunday night regarding a decision about the upcoming KOS Annual Show in September.

New Business:

Pam LaRocco suggested an all season's year round oil bug spray to members available at LOWES – All Season Horticultural Oil by Bonide. Amazon offers a similar product called Year Round Spray Oil by Summitt. Dilution for these is 2.5 Tbsp per gallon of water.

Check the web site for Show & Tell info for this month.

No raffle was held. Meeting adjourned.

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary
sallocascio48@gmail.com

Visit us at our website
www.kyorchidsociety.com or on Facebook
at Kentucky Orchid Society

Some Show and Tell winners from the past year



Phal. no name
Heidi Boel



Phal. no name
Heidi Boel



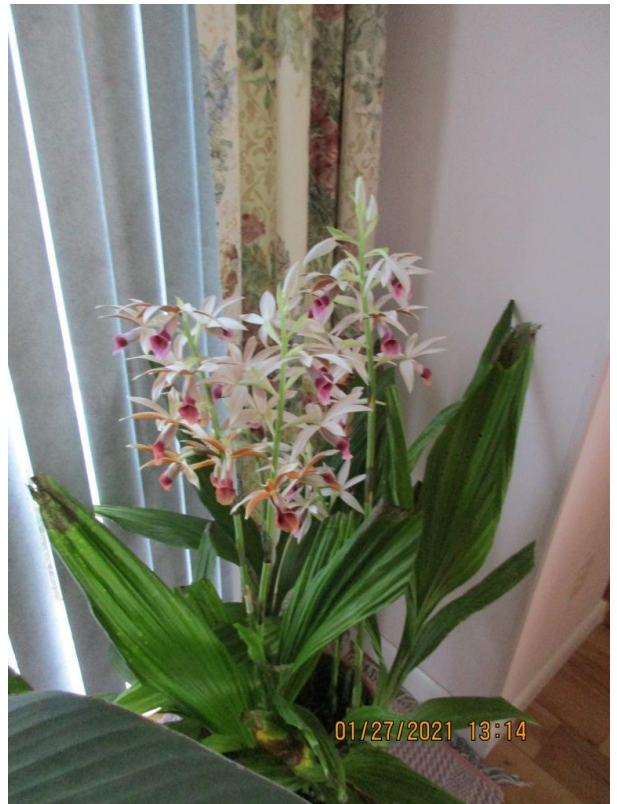
Den. Poper Red
Larry Atwood



Paph. Mele Moon
Anne-Marie Blancquaert



Dtps. Lioulin Sparrow 'Taida' Violet Butterfly
Jan Smith



Phaius tankervilleae
Anne-Marie Blancquaert



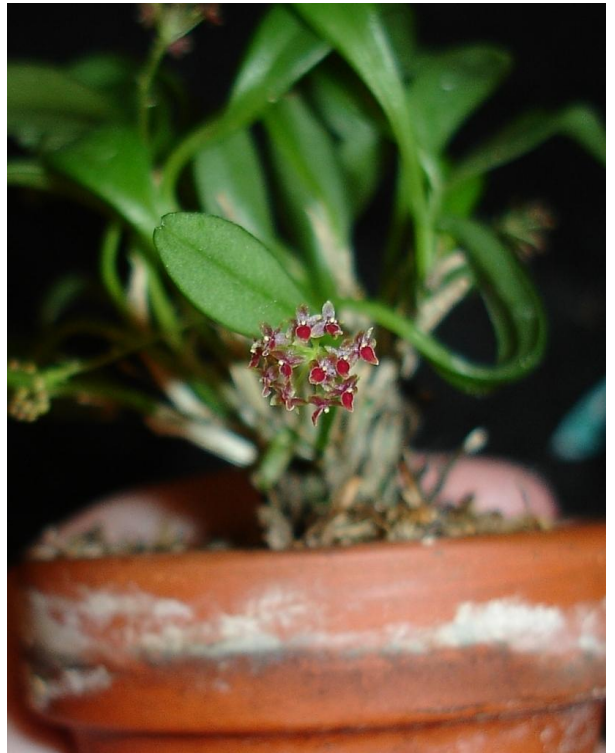
Cym. unknown
Linda Solley-Kanipe



Phaius tankervilleae
Jan Smith



Den. kingianum 'Albert West'
Larry Atwood



Platstele beatricis
Laura Dittmeier



Ctt. Ladybug 'Zora Lee'
Jan Smith



Den. densiflora var. albor
Anne-Marie Blancquaert



Phal. unknown
Heidi Boel



Aer. Punctata
Stu Fleischaker



Paph. Angles Flight
Anne-Marie Blancquaert



Enc. Cochleata
Anne-Marie Blancquaert