



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

Newsletter Editor: Gloria Teague, glorchid@iglou.com

The President's Corner

Hello everyone.

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last "President's article" for our newsletter. I have enjoyed serving as your president for the last two years, but wish at least one of those years could have been more normal! (I'm sure we *all* wish that the last two years could have been in some way normal.) My experience as president has been somewhat unique, but I believe that we have held together fairly well as a society and have been able to continue to enjoy our hobby and add to our knowledge base about orchids. I hope you have enjoyed the variety of educational opportunities that have come our way, some due predominantly to the pandemic and the generosity of our sister organizations in sharing their speakers so freely.

Our last meeting of the year is upon us. It will be a full meeting. The winners of the Topmiller and Fanelli Awards will be announced. Beginner, intermediate and advanced growers who have shared their plant photos with us for virtual Show and Tell will also be announced. The Japs Award will be given to the member who has contributed the most to the society in the last year. The winner of the Project Plant competition for 2021 will be revealed and we will see photos of what the cross of the Br. nodosa and C. valda produced. We will also share some photos of the 2019 and 2020 plant

projects. The 2022 plant project will be announced. We will take a few minutes to reminisce on the KOS events of 2021. We will then hold an election for our new board of directors. Finally, we plan a bigger raffle than usual, so be ready to "take home" a plant. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets! You don't want to miss out.

What we won't do, sadly, is share a meal and visit in person, but I hope that this will be the last in person Holiday Dinner that we need to skip. We will share the spirit of the holiday and visit online. We will visit from 6:30 to 7:00 and then start our agenda then.

Get your boosters and encourage all your acquaintances to get theirs! It is our way out of this mess.

The link to our meeting is:

Topic: KOS December 2021 Holiday Zoom Meeting
Time: Dec 8, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09>

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123

Passcode: 021021

Jan Smith, President

smithroberts@mac.com

The Vice President's Corner

From the Vice President:

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday.

As we prepare for our December meeting, remember that we will not have a speaker. Instead, we will be giving out year-end awards. I know you are looking forward to that. I can't wait to see the photos of the orchid displays and find out who wins the awards. I'm sure this meeting will be fun and exciting.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone! Please join us on Zoom.

Deanna Day, Vice President

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Minutes

KOS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Nov. 10, 2021

We had 16 attendees. The minutes of the October meeting was approved and seconded as presented in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was presented by Linda Solley-Kanipe and was approved by the membership present.

Old Business:

Orchid orders for Russ Vernon have been completed. The delivery date and method of pick up will be handled by Jan Smith and Pam LaRocco on Sunday. The next vendor we support will be in January from Natt's Orchids in Chicago.

There were lots of people participating in the November Show and Tell. You need to get your plants pictures in the Friday before our monthly meeting. The pictures of Show and Tell plants need to go to Jan Smith and Pam LaRocco. Jan posts them and Pam judges them. Also let them know if any of your plants are minis and/or standards.

The KOS storage room break in: We are waiting for insurance company to follow-up with L. Solley-Kanipe.

President Jan Smith had a call from Jefferson County Master Gardner's Club requesting a presentation during 2022. Sal Locascio volunteered to do a repotting demo when a date is decided

President Smith announced that the Board decided to make a \$250 donation to Illinois State College, Prof. Larry Zettler, to continue education and research on orchids.

New Business:

The New Officers nominating committee will suggest a slate of officers for the 2022 year. An email will be sent to the membership for review.

The December meeting will be virtual. These awards will be presented for the end of year:

Fanelli, Topmiller awards, and for the member who contributed the most during this past year.

Winner of Club Project award Br. nodosa and C. valda, for 2021.

Displays Pictures awards.

Ribbons for Beginner, Intermediate and Accomplished Growers from Show and Tell.

Our member Dick Humke has donated Clivia plants for purchase by members for a \$5 to \$8 donation to KOS based on size of plants. Thanks Dick.

Reminder that Orchid Digest subscription renewals start now for 2022.

Eric Sauer will present Maxillarias' info tonight after our meeting. See email for zoom connection.

Show & Tell--- info for this month was provided by Pam LaRocco. Review the plants on our website. Thank you Pam.

Plant Raffle for members held this evening.

Topmiller

1st Place - Epi. porpax. - Debbie Hanna

Tie

1st Place - Onc. Marguerite #1 - Michelle Berry

Fanelli

1st Place - Paph. spicerianum - Jan Smith

Tie

1st Place - C. bowringiana - Carla Cates

2nd Place - Monnierara Millenium Magic

'Witchcraft' - Jan Smith

Meeting adjourned.

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary

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Hi fellow AOS reps,

I'm writing to see if you'll pass these ads to your newsletter editor. I'm hoping they can run in your next newsletter.

As many of you know, the Orchid Conservation Alliance is concerned with preserving orchid rich habitat in land trusts, like the Nature Conservancy. The OCA's year-end newsletter tells what they've accomplished in the past year, despite the pandemic. There's also some information about the ecotours. Please see their web page: orchidconservationalliance.org

Thank you so much for your help and your time,

Kathy Barrett

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

Catasetinae Plant Culture

Cycnoches, Catasetums, Mormodes, and Clowesia

The cultural information below is a generalization and will apply in most situations; however each grower and growing environment is different. I encourage you to make adjustments based on your own experience and growing conditions.

Catasetinae have a distinctive growth and rest period (dormancy). For best plant growth it is important to understand and respect these growth phases. When the plants are in active growth maintain constant root zone moisture and fertilize regularly. This is essential to optimizing the development of new growth. When the plants are dormant little or no water is needed as the pseudobulbs store enough moisture and nutrients to survive the dormancy.

Catasetinae plant culture is not difficult. All it takes is an understanding of the seasonal growth patterns. The plants' vegetative state signals to the grower their changing needs. Interpret the signals and make the appropriate cultural adjustments. Here is what to look for:

Early spring:

Catasetinae begin their new growth in early spring. However, watering should wait until the new growth has well-developed new roots. This means you should let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5" before you begin watering. Let me emphasize this point. Wait to water until the new roots are well developed. The waiting to water is not easy; my natural instinct is to begin watering when I see new growth, but I have learned through trial and error that it is better to wait to water than start watering too soon. I also believe that Catasetinae roots deteriorate during dormancy, and in the following year they are not as effective at taking up moisture and nutrients. This makes the new roots vital in the plants' health. This reinforces the message about not watering too early.

Mid-Season:

Once the new roots are sufficiently developed, this is the period where the plants are rapidly developing their new pseudobulbs. There is a surprising amount of growth that occurs in these 3-4 months; often the plants will double their size. Due to this, the plants require constant moisture and regular fertilization. In most cases, irrigation will be needed 2 or 3 times a week. A balanced fertilizer at full strength is suitable for this rapid growth. Light levels at or above those suggested for *Cattleya* will help insure strong good growth and flowering. This is the time when the fruits of your labor will begin to pay off as the flowering season is in underway.

Late Season:

Sometime after flowering, in the late autumn the plants will begin to enter the dormancy phase. Understanding the signals of the onset of dormancy and the factors triggering it are important to a healthy plant culture. The plant's first signals are the yellowing and browning off of the leaves, at this time stop fertilizing and reduce watering by one-half and when most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off cease watering altogether. The general rule to follow is: by the 15th of November stop fertilization and reduce watering by one-half. Most leaves should have yellowed or fallen off by the 1st of January. However, if the plants still have leaves all irrigation should be stopped at this time.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors; the maturity of the pseudobulb, shorter day length, cooler day/night temperatures, and a reduction of root zone moisture. In most of the country dormancy occurs naturally; however when the plants are cultivated in warm growing areas such as in South Texas, Florida, Hawaii, or in the home or under lights sometimes dormancy needs to be encouraged. I have found that stopping watering in early January regardless of the number of green leaves will trigger the dormancy.

Note: Watering during dormancy should only be done if the plant shrivels severely. Usually a single irrigation is sufficient to restore the bulbs.

Here's a summary:

- As the new growth develops wait to irrigate until the new roots are well-developed and are 3 to 5" long. (Don't be in a hurry to water; it is better to wait)
- Irrigate and fertilize frequently while the plants are in active growth.
- Stop fertilization and reduce irrigation by one-half around by mid November.
- Cease watering by the 1st of January.

Light levels: Catasetinae like light levels comparable to Cattleyas at about 2500-4000 foot candles (fc) However, the plants are widely adaptable and do well with light levels as low as 1500 fc and as high as 5000 fc. For optimal growth I suggest a Southern exposure or a location where all the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light

Potting mix: For mature plants I have been using a 3:1 of mix of fine 'Kiwi Bark' and medium Perlite. For seedlings up to a 3" pot size I like to use New Zealand sphagnum moss with the bottom 1/3 of the pot filled with Styrofoam peanuts. However, this genus is not too particular in what it is potted in, and any well drained media will work well.

Containers: I prefer to grow in plastic pots; however clay pots, baskets, and cork slabs will all work. Catasetinae don't like to be over potted; select a pot size that will allow for 2-3 years of growth.

Fertilizer: When in active growth, regularly use one teaspoon of your favorite fertilizer per gallon of water.

Air movement: Catasetinae enjoy abundant air movement. If you are growing in a green house use air circulating fans. Also, hanging the plants allows for maximum air movement around them and often they do best hanging.

Repotting and Dividing: Is done as the new growth is just starting to develop and before the new roots start to show. (Remember no watering until the roots are well established, 3-5" long). Unlike most orchid plants Catasetinae do well when divided in to 2 bulb pieces. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of my plants between 2 and 5 bulbs.

Insect pests: Catasetinae are generally pest free. However spider mites are attracted to the soft leaves of these plants. Spider mites are quite small. They live and feed on the undersides of the leaves. Take care in checking for them as the plants are developing the new leaves and control them with a recommended miticide from your garden center. Although the leaves will drop off during dormancy this is not an excuse to not treat for them.

Please feel free to contact me on any question regarding the growing of this genus. Once the basics are understood they are very rewarding.
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