



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
January 2023
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that all of us have a happy, productive and blooming 2023! Our upcoming meeting will be held on January 11 at All Peoples Unitarian Church (4936 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 40222). Doors open at 6:15 pm. Please use the Hearth Room Door located right next to the front entrance. We have been using the patio door due to construction on the front entrance but that is complete and we will be using the Hearth Room door from now on. The lighting at this entrance is much better and it will be easier for all of us! If you can join us in person, please do so. If not, the meeting and most importantly the speaker presentation will be available on Zoom.

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Our speaker for this meeting will be Marni Turkel. Please see VP Anne-Marie's article about Marni and her presentation. The Zoom link is at the bottom and is also available on our website (www.kyorchidsociety.com).

As we begin this new year, we can start thinking about some of our major events. The first of these events is the Louisville Home & Garden Show which will be March 10-12, 2023 at the Kentucky Expo Center. Next is the Locust Grove Gardener's Fair, usually the weekend of Mother's day. These are opportunities for us to educate people about orchids as well as sell plants and make a little money for the club. Like most large-scale events, it takes a village! We need lots and lots of volunteers to pull these off. Most of the work is not done on the days of the event but rather before and after the event. We have to unpack, water and price orchids, set up the booth/tent, transport orchids, set up tables, man the booth on the days of the event, take everything down...you get the picture! It's work but it's also lots of fun. It's a really great way to get to know your fellow members. We have committed to participating in the Home & Garden Show (March 10-12) and it is approaching fast! We will talk about it at the January meeting and you will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Please check your calendar and pencil in KOS if you are able to volunteer some of your time. We will announce other events as they become scheduled.

The other thing I'd like you to think about is running for office. I know we have many months before we elect a new slate of officers, but I wanted to put the idea into your head. Being a KOS officer is another way to help our organization grow. You don't have to be an orchid expert! You just have to be willing to contribute ideas and a little time. New Ideas foster broader horizons.

I hope to see all of you in person at the meeting or on Zoom!! As always, call, text or email me with any questions.

ZOOM LINK:

KOS Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: KOS Admin's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123

Passcode: 021021

Deanna Day, President

Deanna7736@yahoo.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

Happy New Year to All!

Hope this year will be a successful one for all of us! Good health and wonderful blooms in our orchid collections.

Most of us weathered some very cold temperatures this past Christmas, for those with greenhouse(s), hope no harm did come to your plants!

We are starting the year with a culture talk. Marni Turkel is our first speaker, she will be talking via Zoom (She resides in California and prefers not to travel much anymore) about 'Coelogyne, Dendrochilum and Related Genera'. Bio is attached.

This year we have planned more culture talks on the request of our new members and also, we oldies in growing orchids, can always use some refresher/reminders since orchid culture does evolve, ever expanding, as we learn more about their native growth habits, get more information about grow lights, grow media etc.

We are making use of three sources for presentations being, known speakers, our membership in American Orchid Society and our members. You can look forward to interesting monthly talks. The earlier send out invitation to our members to share their experience with us, is still standing. I had some great replies which you will be able to enjoy this spring.

Hope to see you at this month's meeting!

Best wishes for 2023!

Anne-Marie Blancquaert, Vice President
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Kentucky Orchid Society speaker for January 2023 meeting

Date and Time: 11th January 2023 (second Wednesday of the month). Social time 6:15 to 6:30, business meeting 6:30 to 7:00, speaker at 7:00

Place: All People Unitarian Church, 4936 Brownsboro Rd, Louisville, KY

Format: hybrid meeting, Marni talks via Zoom. Members can attend in person or dial in from home.

Speaker: Marni Turkel

Title: Coelogyne, Dendrochilum and related genera. (culture)

Marni's Orchid Biography

Marni Turkel (pronounced tur KELL) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and has been growing orchids since 1980. She grows in four greenhouses in Santa Rosa with approximately 1250 sq ft of growing space. Her main interest is in miniature species but plenty of larger plants have crept into the collection as well. Marni has been a contributor to Orchids magazine with her series called 'Well Worth the Space' and 'Give It a Rest'. Her articles have been translated into Dutch, German, Portuguese and Swedish for international publication. Photographs of her plants have been featured in articles noted orchid publications including Orchids Magazine, Orchid Digest, Richardiana, The Orchid Review, and The Australian Orchid Review. She currently shares her photographs and knowledge on OrchidsForum.com and FaceBook.

Starting in 2009, Marni expanded her work with orchids to include propagation of orchids from seed and has set up a flasking lab of her own to take the process from start to finish and sell flasks of many of the orchid species in her collection. After working for over 43 years as a potter, she has retired from ceramics to pursue orchids full-time.

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Minutes

KOS MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2022

Attendance: Approx. 35 members attended the annual Holiday Party.

Old Business:

1. No old business.

New Business:

1. President Day welcomed all to the Holiday Party. It has been 3 years since we have met for this event.
2. Christmas Party - President Day recapped all the events (Locust Grove, Annual Show, & Belknap Fall Fest) that the club was involved in during 2022 and thanked all for their hard work which contributed to making it a successful year.
3. President Day tallied the annual awards given to members for their hard work:

Here is the list of awards winners:

Show & Tell: Beginner

- 1 - Stu Fleischaker
- 2 - Deanna Day
- 3 - Jim Lardner

Show & Tell: Intermediate

- 1 - Michelle Berry
- 2 - Karen Bloom
- 3 - Sal Locascio

Show & Tell: Experienced

- 1 - Larry Atwood
- 2 - Anne-Marie Blancquaert
- 3 - Jan Smith

Topmiller Award - Heidi Boel

Fanelli Award - Larry Atwood

Japs Award - Linda Solley-Kanipe

Adjourn.

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary

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December Holiday Party Pictures

Due to the holiday party, Show & Tell did not take place in December. Here are some pictures from the party instead.





December 2022

Catasetinae Growing Tips

By Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, <https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com>

2022 Catasetinae Growing Tips Newsletter

Now that winter has really set in, your *Catasetums* and *Cycnoches* will have matured their growths and for the most part finished flowering, there are always a few late bloomers that should be on their way to dormancy soon. *Mormodes* will be finishing up their bloom season, and now it's time for many of the *Clowesia* hybrids to flower.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. The yellowing and dropping of leaves signal the beginning of dormancy. By now you should have stopped fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency, simulating the end of the wet season in nature. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Those of you in Florida and the southern states will have dormant plants now, and it's possible that some of you may start to see the first beginnings of new growth.



These six plants illustrate the progression of Catasetinae into dormancy, from left to right: 1) leaf tip yellowing, 2) leaf yellowing, browning and abscission, 3) more yellow leaves, tip die back and leaf drop, 4) obvious missing leaves at base, 5) two leaves remaining, 6) leafless plant.

Some Catasetums, Cycnoches, Clowesia and most Mormodes begin their flowering season at the end of the growing season, coinciding with the changing environmental conditions, and the onset of leaf yellowing and in dormancy. In these cases, it is natural for the flower inflorescences and blooms to begin while you are reducing irrigation frequency. Some plants don't even start to develop inflorescence until well after all water is stopped and the plant is totally leafless!

The gradual backing off of watering frequency and an increasing longer dry interval is accepted by the plants without complaint, of course there is the exception. If your plant pseudobulb shows signs of shriveling during late season usually one or two watering's will quickly plump it back up.



A shriveled pseudobulb



After one watering and a day later, it's plumped back up.

Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged. I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in December with a full complement of green leaves, it's time take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 4-5 days then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Allow the media to dry and wait 5-6 days before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition.

By late December, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

It is best to keep the plants in nearly the same light levels as in the growing season: target 2000-2500 foot candles. It is easy to download a Foot Candle Reader app for your phone.

If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all *Catasetinae* experience seasonal changes in the daylight hours per day. This adjustment is important for all your orchids.

Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

I shared this idea with the last newsletter, and it's worth sharing again.

If you've had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants, due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers in locations with low winter humidity.



Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot, for best results it should be 2-3" away. The water reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers using this method.

As my Catasetinae go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of the words of Shelley: "*If winter comes, can spring be far behind?*"

Good growing and Happy Holidays!

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez

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