



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
December 2023
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Well, this is my last newsletter message as President and I have to say that it has been a great 2 years. I appreciate the privilege of serving as the society's president and thank all of you for your help and support.

Our Holiday party will take the place of the December business meeting on December 13. Please plan to arrive at 6:30 or before. If you haven't done so already, please let Linda Solley-Kanipe or me know if you are coming and whether or not you will bring guests. You are encouraged to bring a side-dish, salad, or dessert. Please let Linda know that you will bring. KOS is providing the Turkey & Ham and the beverages. We have a very capable decorating committee that will make everything

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look pretty and I'm sure the whole event will be lots of fun.

We will not have Show & Tell at this meeting so please don't bring any blooming plants. We will be giving out a number of awards and also looking at the year in review. This event is always fun! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Deanna Day, President
Deanna7736@yahoo.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

Where has the year gone? It is December, last month of the year and the start of winter. The month of family get togethers, holiday season and for us plants people and gardeners, the shortest day is upon us (21st or 22nd). After that the days will lengthen slowly but surely! A new spring will be on its way!

And 2024 is a leap year! We get an extra day!

The year 2023 was a very good year for our society. We participated in many shows and brought back many ribbons and awards. Outreach in the community was successful as well. The joy of orchid growing was shared with many, and many people got started with their first orchid. Many new members joined our society.

Programming for next year will be somewhat similar as this year was. More people will introduce us to their growing space so we can learn from each other. If we call this 'where we grow our orchids', another series could be named 'how I grow my blooming, award winning

orchids'. Again, we will depend on our members to make presentations and let us in on their way (secrets?) of making these great plants bloom. There may also be another 'hands on' session, who knows?!

This month's meeting is very relaxed, being together, celebrating the season and sharing a meal. Recharging our orchid battery, kind of! Getting us ready for another year of enjoying, growing, and sharing orchids and information. Thanks to everyone for a great year and see you on the 13th of December!

Anne-Marie Blancquaert, Vice President
ambblancquaert@frontier.com

KOS December Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: December 13, 2023

Time: 6:30pm, Holiday Party!

Format: In-person

Location: All Peoples Unitarian Church, 4936 Brownsboro Rd, Louisville, KY 40222

November Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2023

Attendance: 35 members attended.

October meeting minutes approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report - Report approved by the membership.

Old Business:

1. S. Benjamin reported that the Columbus Show was a success. KOS earned many ribbons and 2nd place for our display. Congrats to Karen Bloom who earned four awards for her one plant! He thanked those that provided plants.

2. Pres. Day commented about our upcoming December Holiday Potluck dinner party. A signup sheet is available to let us know what you are bringing. Please RSVP now to give a count for the party which will start at 6:30pm on our regular meeting date. J. Rager will supply table decorations.

3. J. Smith provided new Show & Tell cards tonight for our members.

4. Pres. Day announced that new snack sheets will be circulated.

5. Pres. Day reminded us that dues for next year are due.

New Business:

1. Pres. Day announced that the 2024 HG&R SHOW will be FEB. 2,3 & 4th. Mark your calendars! Please sign-up to help at our Jan. 2024 meeting.

2. The slate of new officers for 2024 was presented to Pres. Day by the officers

committee: they are---Past Pres. D.Day, New Pres. P. LaRocco, VP A. Blancquaert, Treas. L. Solley, Sec. S. Locascio, Recording Sec. J. Coy and Member-At-Large J. Rager. These were approved by the membership. M. Berry will be Newsletter Editor.

3. Pres. Day introduced P. LaRocco who provided our plant project for 2024 and the use of LECA Beads to repot your plant in. Thank you Pam.

SHOW & TELL conducted by J. Smith & S. Benjamin

RAFFLE & Adjourn - 8:30pm

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary
sallocascio48@gmail.com

Show & Tell Winners - October 2023

Topmiller:

1st Place: Gomezea Moonshadow 'Tiger's Tail'
(Gom. Hornet x Gom. Big Bee)

- Anthony Springate

2nd Place: Bulbo. Wightii
(Species)

- Jan Smith

Fanelli:

1st Place: Oncostele Eye Candy 'Pinkie'
(Onc. Catatante x Onc. Barossa Delight)

- Leesa Kaufman

2nd Place: Phal. Unknown- Pink big lip

- Larry Atwood

EDUCATION: Watering Using Leca

By Pam LaRocco

Watering with Leca is very simple.

HOW: You must fill the pot/container all the way up, allowing the extra water to drain rapidly out of the 2 holes on the side of the pot. To conserve water (I really don't like to do this. I like the benefit of a little extra water flushing through) you can plug the 2 holes in the side of the pot with your fingers until the pot is full, then release and let the excess water drain out. **DO NOT just fill the reservoir at the bottom of the pot.** The water flushing through the pot rinses the Leca by removing the waste particles, evenly brings moisture to all the media, and restores the chemical balance in the pot. Failure to water thusly will eventually bring root and plant decline and death. The pot turns into a stagnant, toxic "swamp" of chemical waste.

WHEN: I'd suggest at least weekly. But in pinch you can go until the reservoir is empty. Possibly more frequently when the environment is hot or dry. The great news is you can't overwater!

FERTILIZER: A weekly, weak solution is best. How much to use is hotly debated. The suggestion is to maintain a nitrogen level (N) between 25-50 PPM. Around 25 is the target Fertilizers have an N-P-K rating. That's the 3 numbers listed on most product Ex: K Lite is 12-1-1. If you are using KLite, MSU, or Gro-Better an 1/8 tsp. per gallon should work fine and give you about 28ppm. Remember, the media offers no nutrients in and of itself. However, the plants have access to fertilizer water continually in the bottom inch of the pot.

November Show & Tell Gallery

Kentucky Orchid Society members and visitors brought their flowering orchids for Show & Tell. Thank you to Stuart Fleischaker for photographing the orchids.





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