



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
September 2025
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Hello orchid lovers! By the time you read this, our 36th annual Show and Sale will be history. I hope it goes as well as anticipated! There certainly have been a lot of people putting in a good deal of effort to make it work. Thus far, it looks like the weather will be good and we have more vendors and more groups displaying than at any time in the past. We will, of course, review it at our next meeting. Although I will have a long list of people to thank, I want especially to recognize Stephen Benjamin, my co-chair, for working tirelessly to get more vendors and more Orchid Societies to participate with

us. I'm sure we will be recognizing many others of you for your assistance!

Orchidfest was held last weekend in Dayton, Ohio. It was also bigger and better than in the past. We had several members who displayed their orchids. Karen Bloom entered a Cattlianthe Panache Amphora that received an AM/AOS award with 81 points! She gave it the grex name 'Princess Sarah'. There are three pictures of it attached. Congratulations, Karen! There were at least 5 other of us who displayed plants and received many ribbons! There are also some pictures of some of those plants. We also got a sneak preview of Lady Orchid House, who makes orchid jewelry and who will be one of our new vendors this year.

I want to pass on an idea that can be useful for all of us. When you repot your orchids, make out a duplicate tag and put it in the bottom of your pot. That way, you are protected from losing the identity of a plant when you send the plant to a show or just accidentally knock the tag out of your pot. This idea is courtesy of Stephen Benjamin. Thanks Stephen!

Orchidfest Pictures:



Next Meeting: September 10, 6:15pm | All Peoples Unitarian Church | 4936 Brownsboro Rd, 40222



This is the link for the Zoom meeting for next week's monthly meeting:

Topic: KOS Admin's Zoom Meeting
Time: Sep 10, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Next Meeting: September 10, 6:15pm | All Peoples Unitarian Church | 4936 Brownsboro Rd, 40222

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=82481192438>

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123

Passcode: 021021

Jan Smith, President

jansmithroberts@gmail.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

I am excited to let everyone know about our September speaker, Tom Harper! Tom is one of the top Phalaenopsis breeders in the U.S.! His bio says it all. Tom will be speaking to us on American Orchid Society judging. He will have plants for sale, so come early to get the orchids that call out to you before someone else grabs them! Happy growing!

Kathy Revell, Vice President

kathyrevell@yahoo.com

Tom's Biography:

Stones River Orchids

9373 Clovercroft Road

Franklin, TN 37067

Home and business - cell - 615 - 305-2868

Tom began growing orchids on a windowsill in 1967. By 1975, he had registered his first

orchid hybrid and founded Stones River Orchids as a business. A long-time supporter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, Tom served as its President, Vice-President and Mid-American Editor (the MAOC newsletter).

Tom is also a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) in 1989 and has served in many responsible positions including Vice President, President, and IPA Journal contributor on many occasions. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President of the Alliance and is the Southeast Region 12 Representative.

He has been an active member in the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee since 1967 serving as President, Vice President, and Trustee. He was Show Chair for the Mid America Orchid Congress (MAOC) and Tennessee Capital Orchid Show in Franklin, TN in March of 2015. The event was the 50th anniversary of the MAOC.

Tom assisted in writing and editing the Phalaenopsis species section of the soft cover Ortho book entitled Complete Guide to Orchids. He has written several articles on Phalaenopsis for Orchids, Orchid Digest and the IPA Journal. He assisted in editing Phalaenopsis - The Genus in Pictures released by the IPA in the summer of 2015.

Tom has traveled coast to coast and internationally speaking on various aspects of Phalaenopsis. Tom lectured at the 16th World Orchid Conference in 1996 in Brazil, and the 19th WOC in January 2008 in Miami. Additionally, he was invited to speak in March 2005 and again in 2007 at the Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium in Hsinying, Taiwan, Republic of China. He returned to Taiwan in 2010 and plans to

travel there again soon. He spoke at the 15th Annual International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting in the United Kingdom in June 2009. In 2015, he was invited to speak on Phalaenopsis at the Redlands International Orchid Festival in Homestead, Florida.

In 2008, he received his first FCC/AOS on Dtps. Brother Success, 'Laura' (The highest award given by the American Orchid Society) at the Heart of Dixie Show in Huntsville, Alabama.

He has been an accredited American Orchid Society judge since 1984 and is based in the Atlanta Judging Center. In the fall of 2014, he moved to Senior Judge after 30 years as an active judge and remains active in judging regional orchid shows today.

Tom's business, Stones River Orchids, is a 2000 sq. ft. nursery based in middle Tennessee at Franklin, a short drive south of Nashville. Since its establishment in 1975, it has focused on Phalaenopsis orchids, both in growing and eventually in breeding the next generations. In 2002, Tom retired from his full time career as a college administrator and focused full time on the orchids. The business model currently provides blooming orchids (mericlones) to the floral market of plant shops and florists while providing time to continue hybridizing especially the novelty Phalaenopsis. We are considered boutique or backyard Phalaenopsis breeders providing a limited number of plants and crosses to interested Phalaenopsis fanciers. Thank you for your interest.

KOS September Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: Beginner's Corner & Social time - 6:15pm
Business meeting - 6:45pm
Program - 7:00pm

Format: In person and on zoom

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

Zoom Meeting:

Topic: KOS June 2025 Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 11, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=82481192438>

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123

Passcode: 021021

Reminder - Snack Signup:

This is a reminder that if your name is below, you signed up to bring a snack to one of the monthly meetings.

September

Sweet: Standly Mathias

Salty: Larry Atwood

Savory: Rhonda Bridges

October

Sweet: Ethan Tewalt

Salty: Jennifer Coy

Savory: Morris Spillman

November

Sweet: Danette Willias

Salty: Heidi Boel

Savory: Jan Raeger

August Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, August 13, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Janet Smith, president.

There were 36 people present including one visitor.

The minutes were approved.

No treasurers report- but the auction was very profitable.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Pam stated we are finally getting Orchid Digest- she will pass around a sign-up sheet for borrowing it.
- Pam talked about were to see native orchids in KY- Pine Barren, Natural Bridge and Bernheim. She suggested getting a group together to see the orchids.
- Pam sent a sign-up sheet around for refreshments for September, October and November.
- Janet thanked everyone who brought something to picnic and said the picnic was a great success.
- Orchid Fest is Aug 21-24. Includes MidAmerica meeting. Registration (\$75) includes access to the pre-view party, vendors orchid show, all speakers, meals, snacks and drinks, a goody bag and a \$ 25 gift certificate to spend on a vendor. Can pre-order

Orchiata bark and sphagnum moss.

Go to Ohiovalleyorchidfest.com to register.

- Stephen gave an update on the KOS show to be held September 6-7. Will set up on September 5th. Vendors will be Natts, Ecuagenera, Dancing Dogs, Orchids & More, Mi Ling, Anytime Orchids, Flasks and Flora, Lady Orchid house. You can pre-order from any of the vendors. But please do so by 8/18. There will be a repotting table. Please sign up for set up, tear down, work at the welcome table, information table, clerks. Please bring a dessert, side dish or salad, the meat will be provided. Please solicit donations for the raffle, please take a flyer and a yard sign.

NEW BUISNESS:

- September meeting - Tom Harper will be talking on AOS judging and selling orchids
- Work Orchid Conference will be in Dresden Germany March 26-29, 2026. Anyone interested in going as a group, please contact Kathy or Danetta. Full registration is 300 euros, there will be over 50 lectures, exhibits, dinner and refreshments.
- Stephen Benjamin talked about how to register plants and how to optimize presentation of plants for the show.
- Show & Tell: 1st Zygonisia Cynosure "Blue Birds" - Standley Mathias
- 2nd Vaughnara Key Lime Stars - Michelle Berry
- Raffle was held

Next Meeting: September 10, 6:15pm | All Peoples Unitarian Church | 4936 Brownsboro Rd, 40222

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Danetta Willias, Recording Secretary
danettabw@gmail.com

Show & Tell Winners - August 2025

1st Place: Zygonisia Cynosure "Blue Birds"

- Standley Mathias

2nd Place: Procatavola Key Lime Stars

- Michelle Berry

Orchid Books

Below are the titles from two new books that have been reviewed in the New York Review of Books. They deal more general with what has happened and still is happening in the world of orchids at large. Reviewed by Jenny Uglow.

Maybe some people are interested and maybe the library may purchase a copy if there is interest.

This is the link to the article, but I'm not sure if you will need a subscription to read it.

<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2025/06/12/orchid-frenzy-the-lost-orchid-sarah-bilston/>

Below are the titles in case the link does not work.

Orchid Frenzy

The discovery of a Brazilian orchid with huge red-and-purple flowers (talking about Cattleya labiata of course!) in the early

nineteenth century set off a mania for the exotic plants in Victorian England.

The Lost Orchid: A Story of Victorian Plunder and Obsession

by Sarah Bilston

Saving Orchids: Stories of Species Survival in a Changing World

by Philip Seaton and Lawrence W. Zettler

It is not very often that books about orchids are being printed these days.

Enjoy !

Anne-Marie

Beginner's Corner: Orchids as Houseplants

Anne-Marie Blancquaert graciously shares her Beginner's Corner presentation

Paphiopedilums as houseplants

- Slipper orchids have nice flowers.
- Leaves of some are mottled.
- Not too difficult to grow as houseplants as their requirements are similar to Phalaenopsis.
- They are rather different than Phalaenopsis or Cymbidiums which are easier to find in stores/garden centers.
- Quick facts
 - o Flowering time is variable.
 - o Repotting is done after flowering, from February to June.
 - o Size about 15-30 cm (6in-1ft) in height and width.
 - o Prefer filtered light shaded from direct sunlight in spring and summer, bright light in winter.

How to grow:

- They are terrestrial, do not produce pseudobulbs at the base of their stems.
- In a shaded place in summer with protection from direct sunlight, move to bright unshaded light in winter.
- The green-leaved are cool growers, temperatures range of 10-25°C (50-77°F) with min. in winter of 10-13°C (50-55°F).
- The mottled-leaved require higher temperatures, min. night 18°C (65°F) and daytime temperature of 20-30°C (68-86°F) with high humidity.
- Generally, flower from November to March, but flowers can appear at any time of the year.
- Flowers last up to three months, may need support (staking).

Watering, humidity, fertilizing:

- Water regularly in spring and summer.
- Allow medium to dry out a little between waterings.
- Avoid overwatering.
- Reduce watering during winter months, do not let the medium dry out completely!
- Avoid overhead watering and wetting the leaves.
- Do not mist lady slippers, instead increase the humidity by using a humidity tray.
- Fertilize every two to three weeks, reduce strength and frequency in winter.
- Rain water is preferred.

Re-potting:

- After flowering between February and June.
- Use appropriate medium.
- Do not overpot.
- Use a pot that just fits the roots.

Propagation:

- Only offshoots with a good root system should be broken off the mother plant to plant as stated above.

Pests

- Similar as other orchids. Mealybugs like to hide in the leaf folds and may require special attention!

Cultivar selection:

- *P. Maudiae*: green and white blooms with strongly striped dorsal sepal.
- *P. insigne*: more cold-tolerant slipper orchid, coppery-gold colouring to the flowers.
- *P. niveum*: large petals with slightly frilled edge, all in snowy white.
- *P. Pinocchio*: lime green dorsal sepal, pink pouch, off-white side petals with maroon spots on them. (primary hybrid of *glaucophyllum* x *primulinum*). Sequential bloomer, lasts for months (up to two years!)

Phalaenopsis as houseplants

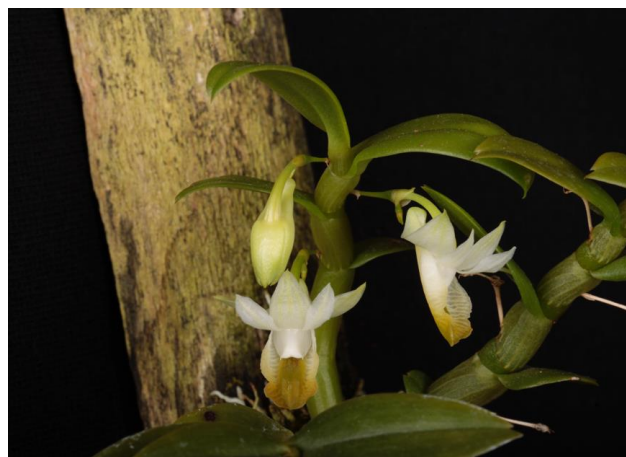
- Phalaenopsis like people's home conditions and temperature and if placed in front of an east, west or south window with protection from direct sun, will do fine.
- Watering every week when grown in bark mix, or every 10-12 days if growing in sphagnum moss. (Remember to take the orchid in its flimsy plastic pot out of the decorative pot when watering. Orchids hate wet feet!)
- Fertilize weekly/weakly and flush with water every fourth watering.
- Use rain water if possible, careful with softened water as high salts will kill the orchid.
- Keep humidity up by using humidity trays or pebble trays.
- Flower buds drop if exposed to extreme temperatures - they're especially sensitive to cold draughts, careful in cold weather where you buy your orchids.
- Grey, shriveled roots mean they're too dry - give them a mist to increase humidity
- Use rainwater or boiled water for misting and watering - they don't appreciate the chlorine in fresh tap water (let the chlorine evaporate overnight). Also, make sure water is at room temperature
- Don't mist the flowers: this can lead to unsightly spots on the petals
- When they've finished flowering, cut the flower spike back to the highest node, and they may well re-flower.

Other types of orchids that can be grown as houseplants.

- Zygopetalum, will add scent to your collection of orchids. Their wonderfully speckled flowers are borne all year round and come in different shades of olive green, brown, white and purple.
- Jewell orchids.

August Show & Tell Gallery

Thank you to the members who brought their blooming orchids for Show & Tell and to Stuart Fleischaker for taking pictures of them!





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