Next Meeting: March 11, 6:15pm | All Peoples Unitarian Church | 4936 Brownsboro Rd, 40222

ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
March 2026
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Just when I think I really cannot handle any more cold, snow, and ice, the sun starts to peek through the clouds and reminds me that spring is not really all that far away! I hope you have appreciated a little hint of spring as well. I've begun looking over each of my plants and have repotted many. Any plant that is showing new root growth and a propensity to crawl out of its pot is being explanted and repotted. Well, I hope to get to many of them, anyway! I always have plans to do more than I possibly can.

I hope you are getting excited about the upcoming orchid events. We have the Cincinnati

Orchid Show coming up on March 21-22. Here is a chance to add to your orchid collection! We plan to put in a 50 sq. ft. display, so we will need many of your blooming plants. Please also be thinking about whether you can help set up the display or bring the plants home from Cincinnati.

We next have the KOS orchid sale at the Plant Show in Owensboro on 3/28. A KOS crew is driving down with plants to sell. This should be one of our major fundraising events this year. Thanks to all those who are helping with this.

In April, we have the Paristown Spring Festival (Apr 19). Kristie Kennedy has volunteered to help at the KOS booth, where we will likely sell Pinguicula (as orchid companion plants) and give out information about our show. We need at least one other KOS member to accompany her, so check your calendars! There is also an orchid show in Indianapolis (4/24-25). We will talk more about these events at our upcoming meetings.

Things are already moving behind the scenes to make our 2026 Show a success. The planning committee met recently (Stephen Benjamin, Sal Locasio, Debbie Hanna, Pam Martin) and reviewed the steps involved in putting on a show. We have sent out invitations to vendors and have already received some positive responses. Judges have been invited to add us to their calendar. Expect emails from the committee regarding the show in the next few weeks and months.

I am attaching a copy of the flyer for the 2026 Show at the end of this newsletter.

Anne-Marie has forwarded some useful and interesting orchid information from the AOS which you can access here:
Winter orchid care:
https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/seasonal-orchid-care/winter-orchid-care

Orchid trivia:
https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/houseplants/orchid-facts

And don't miss our March 11 monthly meeting. Jenn Coy will fill you in on our speaker for this month.

Here is our Zoom link:

Topic: KOS March Meeting
Time: Mar 11, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=87623537915

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123
Passcode: 021021

Jan Smith, President
jansmithroberts@gmail.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

This month our speaker comes to us from up north in Canada! Deborah Boersma, will be talking to us via Zoom about Tolumnias: Small but Mighty. As we have been seeing them more and more at shows; she will be discussing these adorable little plants that come in varying colors and patterns. Going through how Tolumnias are used in hybridization, showing us some spectacular hybrids and covering some cultural requirements.

Deborah's interest in orchids was sparked by a trip to Hawaii and she has been under their spell for over 30 years. She started with a few plants and her mixed orchid collection expanded exponentially with the construction of a greenhouse in 2014. She joined the Windsor Orchid Society in 2013 to gain more orchid knowledge and found herself in the Presidents position six months later. She is very active member of the WOS, involved in fundraising and publicity and has recently taken on the role as Show Chair.

She is an Accredited judge in the AOS judging program at the Great Lakes Judging Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan and enjoys presenting and educating audiences about orchids. She was the recipient of the Orchid Digest Diamond Award in 2016 and invited speaker to the WOC Tainan in 2024.

Academically, Deborah has a degree in Chemistry and spent her first years of work as a researcher in medical microbiology and infectious diseases at both the University of Calgary and Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alberta. She recently retired from St. Clair College in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, where she taught chemistry for over 28 years. She now has time to enjoy her passion for orchids, gardening, photography and travel.

Jennifer Coy, Vice President
jenn_koi@hotmail.com

KOS March Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: March 11, 2026

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 March Meeting
Time: Mar 11, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=87623537915

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.

March
- Sweet: Leah Shelbourne
- Salty: Larry Atwood
- Savory: Heidi Boel

April
- Sweet: Danette Willias
- Salty: Maddie Morris
- Savory: Jen Morris

February Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2026

Meeting started at 6:30pm.
A total of 30 members were present.
There were two new guests in attendance.
The previous minutes were approved.

Linda was absent, therefore there was no treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- The members were reminded to maintain the Church doors closed when coming in and out of the building.
- Orchid Digest update by Pam: There are new articles and seminars on the Orchid Digest website. The website has a section where people can put in their information and receive a free copy of their magazine.
- AOS magazine update: Anne Marie finally received the January issue. In the AOS corner, there was an article on Feb 12: Happy roots, happy orchids. On March 3rd there will be a Greenhouse chat.
- Anne Marie shared information on pest management using safe products.
- Zoo orchids: No progress so far due to the weather issues.
- Reminder that some project plants are available for members who haven't paid their dues.
- The KOS participated with plants at the Three Rivers Orchid Society Show thanks to Steve who drove the plants and stayed for the show. Our society received a few ribbons from our orchids. We did a 25sqft display and won a red ribbon for it. We also had two best class ribbons: one for a Cattleya (Steve Benjamin) and one for Den. Mini Snowflake (Jan Smith) as well as many others.
- Our show this year will be September 26-27 (corrected, the dates announced at the meeting were incorrect): Steve Benjamin and Jan Smith will be co-chairs. A co-chair in training will be Leah Shelburne.
- Survey about moving the winter meetings to Saturday mornings: 24 members responded. 22 were in favor of the change. The Board will discuss it further and the change will likely happen Oct-March of next year.
- MAOC: There was a presentation on February 1st titled "Madagascar, a Land of Many Contrasts" by Ron Parsons. The link to this seminar was sent to all KOS members.
- KOS social media management: Shannon Schmit hasn't followed through with her initiative to run our social media pages. We are looking for anyone interested in taking over this task.
- Kentucky Plant Show: March 28th at Owensboro Convention Center. The following members will go to sell our plants: Pam, Danetta, Deanna, Michelle, Sal and Jen.

New Business:

- Waterfront Botanical Gardens has asked the KOS to give three educational presentations on orchids:
    - General Care and Culture of Orchids (May 14)
    - Oncidiums (June 25)
    - Semi-hydro potting (Sept 16)
    - For the last two, we will need volunteers for potting orchids, sending plants as examples and promoting KOS. The talks will be in the evenings from 6-7:30pm.
- The GCOS show will be on March 21-22. Jan will be away but can lend her greenhouse to collect the plants participating. We need volunteers to set up and tear down our orchid display.
- Indianapolis Show will be on April 24-26. Volunteers needed to set up and tear down. We will put up a 50sqft display, so get your flowers ready!

- Paristown Garden Show will be on April 19. We will participate to provide information and sell Pings to attract interest to the society. Two volunteers will be needed.
- Speaker next month: Deborah Boersma from Canada. Zoom lecture on Tolumnias "Small But Mighty". Will include culture information.
- Name tags: a pad was available on the front table to gather names of people who need a new nametag.
- T-shirts with KOS logo: we asked if there was interest in getting T-shirts with our logo from the company we order our ribbons. They have very good quality fabrics.
- Show & Tell was done by Pam. 1st place Carla C. and Larry. 2nd place Ethan.
- We had a nice talk by Jeanne Reinhart on "Building a Bog in Your Backyard"
- Raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Yania Raquel Martinez Ondaro, Recording Secretary.
yaniayyoe@yahoo.ca

Show & Tell Winners – February 2026

1st Place: Cattleya (Princess Bells x Lucille Small) x Cattleya Johnette Bowers 'Madona'
- Carla Cates

1st Place (tie): Cyc. Wine Delight
- Larry Atwood

2nd Place: Zygopetalum (Blue Hawaii 'Dark Petals' x Advance Australia 'HOF'
- Ethan Tewalt

Three Rivers Orchid Society Orchid Show

From Stephen Benjamin

The weekend of Feb 7th, we exhibited a 25 sq ft display in Ft. Wayne, IN. This was at the Three Rivers OS show and was held at the Ft. Wayne Botanical Gardens. I want to thank everyone who lent their plants to help us show off and please their visitors. It was a small show put on in conjunction with a main house theme of Fairies, so there was lots of traffic. Our display finished second, but our plants did really well and included two Best of Classes. The difference between us and first was probably that I had to make handwritten plant tags rather than our standard computer made tags. Just need to remember for next year.

Kentucky Orchid Society Show & Sale Flyer

Here's a preview of the flyer for the KOS Orchid Show & Sale happening later this year

February 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