



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
June 2026
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Hello orchid lovers! We FINALLY seem to be in true summer mode in the Ohio Valley, and I am happy to see it. I hope you are also enjoying the warm weather and spending time outdoors.

We are participating in our last "away" show this weekend in Memphis Tennessee. Stephen Benjamin has once again stepped up and taken our plants to the show, and set up the KOS display. Included below is a picture of our display in Memphis.

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Our next big event is our summer picnic, which will be held at Debbie Hanna's home on July 25. Many thanks to Debbie and her husband for their hospitality!

Our speaker in June is a member of the AOS Board of Directors. Jen will tell you more about her and her topic. But, I'm pleased to announce that the AOS Board will hold their fall meetings in association with our Annual Show and Sale on Sept 25-27. This is an honor for our society. One of the board members will give one of the seminars at the show and the Board members will be present for our lasagna dinner on Friday evening, as well as present for much of the show. Be sure to save your hard orchid questions for them!

Plans for the show are in full swing. Vendors this year include Natt's, Windy Hills, Anything Orchids, Flask and Flora, Mei Ling, HC orchids, and Maneki Hill Orchids. Two of the vendors are new to our show and bring some variety that we usually do not see. It should be exciting! We will soon be looking for help from all members to put on an outstanding show!

Be warned that traffic getting to the meeting may be quite a problem, so leave as much time as you can to get to the meeting. As most of you know, I-65 is closed from the Watterson Expressway to Jefferson street. This will last until August 1, so we will have the same problem next month. Of course, they are still working on the Brownsboro Rd and Watterson interchange. If you can take the Westport Road exit to get to the meeting, it may be easier for you to get there on time.

If you can't be there in person, join us by Zoom!

KOS Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: KOS June Meeting

Time: Jun 10, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=88641587453>

Meeting ID: 491 155 1123

Passcode: 021021

I'm including the AOS notes on care of your orchids during this time of year in a separate section later in the newsletter.

Jan Smith, President

jansmithroberts@gmail.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

Hello,

Here is the speaker information for our June speaker.

Our speaker this month is Barb Schmidt. She is going to be talking about "Orchids: Rooted in History". It will explore orchids from ancient origins to becoming the beautiful house plants we know and love today. We'll get to learn why they grow on every continent except Antarctica. It will make you rethink that dainty and finicky little plant growing on your table in a way you didn't consider.

Barb Schmidt holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry and a secondary science teaching certificate. She has spent the past 20 years cultivating orchids and advancing orchid education nationwide. She maintains the instructional website www.basorchidcare.com and teaches regularly for Longwood Gardens, the New York Botanical Gardens, and the Smithsonian Associates.

Barb joined the AOS Education Committee in 2017. She has received the AOS Certificate of Meritorious Achievement in Orchid Education in 2020 and was elected to the AOS Board of Trustees in 2021. She held the position of Chair of the Education Committee 2022-2026, guiding initiatives such as the Junior Flower Show, QR Code-enabled orchid care sheets, and educational posters and video for society orchid shows.

In 2026, Barb began her second term as AOS Vice President, focused on two priorities:

strengthening support for Affiliated Societies and elevating the visibility and impact of the AOS brand. Her work reflects a clear vision, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to advancing orchid education at every level.

Thank you,

Jennifer Coy, Vice President
jenn_koi@hotmail.com

KOS June Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: June 10, 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 May Meeting

Time: May 13, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4911551123?pwd=ZnV2b3VFR3dSYUFnUlcwU2hEVjR2UT09&omn=82571793504>

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.

June

Sweet: Heidi Boel
Salty: Philomena
Savory: Deanna Day

July:

Sweet: Debbie Hanna
Salty: Need a volunteer
Savory: Anne-Marie

Orchids, Flask and Flora, Maneki Hill Orchids, and H & C Orchids.

- Vendors not coming this year are Dancing Dogs, Ecuagenera and Orchids and More.
- We will need a lot of volunteers for different jobs when the time comes.
- We signed a contract with the Church for meetings on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month from April through September and for meetings on the second Saturday mornings at 9:30 to noon from October through March.
- Reminder that if any member needs a nametag, please email Jan.
- Waterfront Botanical Gardens-KOS is presenting three educational talks on orchids. One on general care and culture of orchids (May 14), one on Oncidiums (June 25), and one on Semi-Hydro potting (Sept 16) The last two will include potting of orchids. Will need volunteers to help students as they pot, send plants as examples, promote KOS.
- KOS brought home around 38 ribbons from the Indianapolis Orchid Show on April 24-26.
- Paristown Garden Show was on April 19, and our table generated a lot of interest.
- On April 18th, we participated in Plant Fest at the Fair Grounds with a table. This show was similar to the Owensboro plant show. We didn't sell plants there, but we will consider it for next year as it is a big plant-only show with over 40 vendors.

May Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, May 13, 2026

Call To Order

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

- We had four new guests in attendance.
- The previous minutes were approved.
- Linda gave the Treasurer's report: KOS did well at Locust Grove Garden Fair. We had total sales of \$2696. After deducting the cost of buying the orchids (\$2200), and paying for the booth (\$75), we had a profit of \$407. KOS account has a positive balance of \$3547 in the bank. We also made donations to NOPES students and to the Judging Center and have money left over.

Old Business:

- Orchid Digest: No update from Pam. She hasn't received the magazine yet.
- Orchids mag/AOS-Anne-Marie was absent.
- Official KOS membership list was sent to the members via email from Jan.
- KOS Show is September 26-27; Steve gave an update on the preparations. The Church is booked, the judging is taken care of, AOS show trophies and ribbons have been ordered. The Judges of Cincinnati have been notified, and the orchid societies will receive the notice this month. The vendors confirmed so far are Lady Orchid House, Nat's, Windy Hill, Mei's Creations, Anything

New Business:

- Memphis Orchid Show will be on June 5-7th at the Memphis Botanical Garden. We need a volunteer to bring plants home. Steven will take the plants there. Get your plants ready for the show!
- Shirts-Jan brought shirt samples for people to check the sizes and materials. We will start taking orders soon.

- We have around 40 plants left from Locust Grove that we will sell to the club with a 10% discount. Jan will send out a list of what is left and people can come to her greenhouse to buy the plants. The plants that remain will come to the June meeting to be sold there.
- June's meeting speaker will be AOS speaker Barb Schmidt. Topic to come...

Show & Tell Winners:

- 1st Place, *Phal lindenii*. Owner: Stu Fleischer
- 2nd Place, *Catasetum sanguineum*. Owner: Jim Temple

Speaker: Edgar Stehli, owner of Windswept in Time Orchids gave a very entertaining talk on Miniature Orchids.

- Raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Yania Raquel Martinez Ondaro, Recording Secretary.

yaniayyoe@yahoo.ca

Show & Tell Winners - May 2026

1st Place: *Phal lindenii*

- Stu Fleischer

2nd Place: *Catasetum sanguineum*

- Jim Temple

Upcoming Events

KOS Annual Summer Picnic - Saturday, July 25th
(More information below)

Kentucky Orchid Society Show & Sale -
September 26-27

KOS Annual Summer Picnic & Plant Auction

July 25, 2026

Hi friends! Summer is here and the time for our annual KOS Picnic and Plant Auction is just around the corner. As always, the club will provide Barbeque, buns, and all the paper goods. As members, we are asked to provide a dessert or side, enough to serve ourselves and family plus extra to share with the group. Everyone brings their own beverage. RSVP is a must so that adequate meat can be ordered and purchased for all. When you RSVP you will need to know how many people are coming and what you are bringing. We will try our best to encourage a good variety of food and balance between food and dessert. Please bring your own beverages.

The plant auction follows lunch and plants are member-provided. So please begin now to make divisions of your larger plants or set aside a plant or two that you'd like to rehome to make room for something new. New is good, right? Please send me a photo of your plant and flower if available and its name. Make sure to have some sort of a label on the pot when you bring it. I will send out a "catalogue" of all plants being auctioned by Friday, July 24, so please get these to Pam LaRocco by text or email well before that. My contact info is in the KOS Directory.

Here's what you need to know:

- DATE: Saturday, July 25th
- TIME: Noon to 3:30-ish
- PLACE: Debbie Hanna's home in LaGrange

RSVP: Sign-ups will be at the June and July meetings (How many people/ what you will bring)

Contact Pam LaRocco by text or email.

- RSVP before **JULY 18th** to Pam

I look forward to seeing all of you! The food and social time are always the best. The auction is definitely spirited, and the auctioneers and our KOS "Vanna White" are a riot.

American Orchid Society Monthly Checklist for May and June (reprint)

Orchid care notes for this time of year

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs. They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimatized. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.



Cattleya purpurata, formerly in the genus *Laelia*, is without a doubt one of the most stately orchids to bloom in this season. © G. Allikas

Paphiopedilum

The *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum*-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths. Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.



Paphiopedilum Maudiae types may need staking for best presentation


Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. *Phalaenopsis* potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. *Phalaenopsis* are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

Kentucky Orchid Society Show & Sale Flyer

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



**KENTUCKY ORCHID
SOCIETY**

**2026
show & sale**

- AOS judged show
- orchids for sale
- free admission
- daily seminars
- potting table
- daily raffle

**SEPT 26 10-5
SEPT 27 12-4**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
330 N Hubbards Lane

find us online at kyorchidsociety.com

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

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