



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
May 2026
Louisville, KY

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Newsletter Editor: Michelle Berry
michorchid22@gmail.com

The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

My European vacation was wonderful, but it is nice to be back in Kentucky, where our beautiful spring welcomed us home! Orchid activities have occupied much of my time since our return. On April 18, Sal Locascio and I went to the Plantfest, which was held at the Ky. Fair and Exposition Center. We had an information booth only, but were able to ascertain that this event holds lots of promise to replace the Home and Garden Show as one of our big fundraising events. There were 30 or more vendors, all selling plants or plant-related items. By 2 pm, the organizers said they had >1000 people already through the doors. Many of the vendors

had less than half of their stock left when it ended! Several KOS members staffed a similar booth the next day at the Paristown Spring Fair. Both events generated a good deal of interest from the crowd, and hopefully some new members.

On Mother's Day weekend, KOS staffed a booth at Locust Grove, our other big fundraiser! The event was a lot of fun, and many KOS members participated in selling the orchids. Linda will give us a report on the financial profit from the show, which is vital in helping pay for our speakers.

We participated in the Central Indiana Orchid Show in Indianapolis on April 25-26. The KOS display, assembled by Anne-Marie Blanquaert, her husband Walter, and Stephen Benjamin, won a blue ribbon. KOS members entered 51 plants and brought home 38 ribbons! Pictures are attached. Many thanks to those who transported plants and supplies to and from Indianapolis and who sent plants for display. Thanks, too, to those who helped with Paristown and Plantfest. And, of course, for the many members who helped with the Locust Grove event. KOS members are generous with their time and talent!



Although we had a "cool spell" for Derby weekend, the traditional beginning of spring in Louisville, it is now time to get your orchids outdoors for their "summer vacation". If you see new roots forming, it is an ideal time to repot those plants that are crawling out of their pots, or that have been in that same organic potting material for 2-3 years.

We have an old friend, Edgar Stehli, visiting for our next meeting, and he will bring plants for sale!! Don't forget your wallets and prepare to learn about how to care for some of the miniature orchids. Jenn will fill you in on further details. We will also have a few of the plants left from the Owensboro sale on the raffle table. They have been blooming beautifully in my greenhouse. Hopefully some will still be in bloom at meeting time.

If you can't join us in person, use the Zoom link below!

For those of you who are growing in LECA, Karen Bloom has a suggestion for transporting orchids in LECA. You can order silicone T plugs that will fill in the holes in the side of the pot temporarily. They come in different sizes. I ordered 5mm ones from Amazon and they work great! If you are sending your plants to a show, for instance, plugs can be used while the plants are in transit (those transporting the plants will

be happy to know this).

Jeanne Reinhardt, who spoke with us earlier this year on setting up a bog, called me to say that she had learned that she had given some incorrect information. In building the bog, she had told us that the sand could be what is termed Play Sand. However, she has since learned that Play Sand at Lowe's and some other places is not silica sand, which is what is needed. Pond sand (for the pond filters), however, is acceptable. Apparently, the pH of the play sand is not conducive to building a healthy bog. If you are building your own bog, make sure you get silica sand!

Topic: KOS May Meeting

Time: May 6, 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

Jan Smith, President

jansmithroberts@gmail.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President:

Too many orchids? Too few places to add new orchids? Deciding if that last bit of hope is still with an orchid so you can't toss it yet but want a new one? Well, this month's speaker Edgar Stehli is going to help with that! He'll be talking to us about miniature orchids! He'll help you figure out

what kind will work for you, and which are easy to grow. He's also bringing plants to sell!! So you'll be able to add more to your collection.

Here's a bit about Edgar Stehli.

My interest in orchids began when I was just six or seven years old. I found a plant growing in the roadside ditch near our house in North East Ohio. When my father got home from work, I dragged him over to see my discovery. He said "Oh! That's an orchid." My first orchid find was a *Spiranthes* (probably *cernua*). A few years later my family drove to Alaska and back. On that trip, I found a *Calypso bulbosa* in Wyoming and several other orchids in Alaska and Canada. While in high school, I began growing some tropical orchids, and soon had a small collection. While in my final year at Case Western Reserve University my orchid collection moved to Florida with my parents. Sadly, I never saw them again (the orchids that is!). Also in my last year, I met Kim Sante who was working at the Cleveland Garden Center, now known as the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Eventually Kim and I were married in Kenya, Africa. Shortly after we were married we built a sun room on the corner of our house. This of course allowed my orchid collection to get a little out of hand. Finally in 1999 we began selling our plants to area florists, then through the orchid shows. We called our new business - Windswept in Time Orchids. We now attend close to fifteen shows a year, where our plants and exhibits have won many awards

Thank you,

Jennifer Coy, Vice President

jenn_koi@hotmail.com

KOS May Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: May 13, 2026

Time: 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.

May

Sweet - Yania Martinez

Salty: Pam LaRocco

Savory: Linda Squires

June

Sweet: Heidi Boel

Salty: Philomena

Savory: Deanna Day

July:

Sweet: Debbie Hanna

Salty: Need a volunteer

Savory: Anne-Marie

April Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2026

Call To Order

Meeting started at 6:34pm.

- A total of 32 members were present.
- There were three new guests in attendance.
- The previous minutes were approved.
- Linda gave the Treasurer's report: KOS paid multiple yearly bills and have a positive balance of \$5400.00.

Jennifer Coy and the speaker were running late, so we had the Show and Tell done by Steven while we waited for them.

Show and Tell winners:

- 1st Place, Phal display. Owner: Yania Martinez
- 2nd Place, Yellow Phal, No ID. Owner: Beth Dlutowski

Stuart brought baby phals from a cross he did himself with his mom's orchids. He had sent the seed pod to a lab in Michigan to grow. Each member was able to get at least one baby phal.

Old Business:

- Orchid Digest: No update from Pam. She hasn't received the magazine yet.
- Orchids mag/AOS-Anne-Marie did a head count of how many members of KOS are AOS members. Upcoming AOS webinars:
 - 04/21/2026, 8:30pm: Members only, live webinar on Cattleya alaoirii, by Jojo Beaubien.
 - 05/02/2026, 8:3pm: Free live webinar. Greenhouse chat with Ron McHatton
- Zoo orchids (Sal/Linda)- no updates.
- Official KOS membership list will be sent to the members soon.
- KOS Show is September 26-27; Co-chairs Jan Smith and Stephen Benjamin; Debbie Hanna,

Sal Locasio and Pam Martin have agreed to train as co-chairs.

- The vendors confirmed so far are:
 - Lady Orchid House, 3 tables
 - Windy Hill, 3 tables
 - Mei's Creations, 2 tables
 - Anything Orchids, 3 tables
 - Flask and Flora, 3 tables
- FYI-We have 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.
- KY Plant Show: Thank you to all that helped- We took 60 orchids and sold 55. We made \$775.00. This Show will happen once a year. Next year it will be in Frankfort with 30-40 vendors.
- Reminder that if any member needs a nametag, please email me. The orders will go out soon.
- Waterfront Botanical Gardens-KOS to present three educational presentations 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.
- GCOS show was on March 21-22 thank you to everyone that participated, especially the set-up crew (Danetta, Anne-Marie and Walter, Stephen Benjamin) and the tear down crew (Anne-Marie, Walter, Carla, Larry). We won several ribbons.
- Indianapolis Show April 24-26: we will have a 50 sq ft table. We will need two people to set up and two to tear down.
- Paristown Garden Show-April 19; cannot sell pings or orchids, as we are a non-profit and the organizers are limiting sales to vendors who pay for their booths; we need to take

chairs and a table, as well as literature and a few orchids to attract attention Kristie Kennedy and Jan Rager will be going.

New Business:

- Board met 3/16; decided to donate \$250 to each of these non-profits: NOPEs, Cincinnati Judging Center, Laary Zettler's conservation efforts.
- Plant Fest-April 18 at the Fairgrounds, we were offered a free booth in return for giving a talk. There was not enough time to set up the sales and so we agreed to give a talk and set up a booth to talk about KOS, but not to sell orchids. Further information is to come. If it looks like it works well, we may participate fully next year.
- May meeting-speaker next month will be Edgar Stehli, owner of Windswept in Time Orchids. Presentation topic to come... Besides his presentation, he will bring plants for sale.
- Shirts-next month, sample shirt will be brought so that shirts can be ordered

Speaker: Professor Chrisopher Satch gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation on "Orchid Physiology", understanding orchids to grow them better.

- Raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Yania Raquel Martinez Ondaro, Recording Secretary.

yaniayyoe@yahoo.ca

Show & Tell Winners - March 2026

March Show & Tell winners were not published last month. Here they are!

1st Place: Gur. skinneri

- Yania Martinez

2nd Place: Odors. Kenneth Biven 'Santa Barbara'
HCC/AOS

- Larry Atwood

3rd Place: Phal NOID

- Danetta Willias



Paristown Garden Show - April 19, 2026

We had a table set up with information about the orchid society. Thanks to those who helped!



Show & Tell Winners - April 2026

1st Place: Phal Display

- Yania Martinez

2nd Place: Phal. NOID - Yellow

- Beth Dlutowski



Upcoming Events

Kentucky Orchid Society Show & Sale -
September 26-27

Recent Events

Plantfest Expo Louisville - April 18, 2026

We had a table set up with information about the orchid society and gave a talk. Thanks to those who helped!



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

March 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*

