



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
June 2022
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

From the President:

Summer is here! We've already had a couple of 90° days and I'm sure there are more to come. Stay cool! I hope everyone had a good Memorial Day weekend.

Our June 14 meeting will have a couple of minor changes. Sojourn East Church is having their Vacation Bible School the week of our meeting, so we will be meeting in the Auditorium. When you arrive, just go in the door and turn left instead of right. You will see the sign saying "Auditorium". We will not need to set up chairs, the room is already set up. We'll begin the meeting at 6:30.

Newsletter Editor: Michelle Berry
michorchid22@gmail.com

The Vice President's Corner

Letter from the Vice President June 2022:

We will not be able to have any food at this meeting. Please do not bring food and you may want to have dinner or a snack before coming to the meeting.

We will not be able to have in-person Show and Tell at this meeting. For this meeting only, please do not bring your blooming plants to the church. We will, however, do photo show and tell. Please send photos of your plants (one close-up of the flowers and a full shot of the plant) to Pam LaRocco and Debbie Hanna as soon as possible. Please also send a photo to Jan Smith for the website.

We would like to request that everyone attending the meeting please wear a face mask. Covid seems to be on the rise again and we want to make sure that all our members are safe.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. If there is anyone who needs a ride to the meeting, please let me know and we will make arrangements for someone to pick you up.

Deanna Day, President

Deanna7736@yahoo.com

Our second meeting in our new location and again a little different than the first meeting. Change seems to be a constant in today's world, we need to adapt and we can. We will have our meeting with a well known and knowledgeable orchid grower from Indiana, Russ Vernon from New Vision Orchids. Russ is thinking of retiring from active breeding and hybridizing orchids, but will still share his knowledge with societies, we can still ask him to give talks which he will gladly do. I'll attach his bio at the end of this letter.

Since we will be meeting in the auditorium (this by another name could be called the chapel), set-up will be nonexistent, but that also means no mess-making.

With the summer upon us, most orchids will be camping outside and enjoying the fresh air and mother nature's moisture. Careful for the sun though, find some shade!

Qua regional meetings it is calm, we are looking forward to the Ohio Valley Orchid Fest (26-28 August 2022) near Dayton, OH (Kettering to be exact). This 'Fest' is in conjunction with the Mid America Orchid Conference and gathers people from all over the mid-west and farther out! I attended via Zoom the MAOC meeting on 22 May with members from 25 different societies. It was rather interesting to hear the challenges and successes the different societies encountered during the pandemic. Our society is very fortunate to have survived pretty much unscathed! Although Zoom does not replace personal contact, it has been a life saver for many societies who embraced it!

There is lots of information out there for those interested in Orchid Fest at the website:

www.ohiovalleyorchidfest.com . Two internationally known speakers (Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons) and so far, they have 13 vendors listed. More to follow later for those who are interested.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 14 June!

Stay cool!

Anne-Marie Blancquaert.

ambblancquaert@frontier.com

RUSS VERNON BIOGRAPHY

Russ grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Early on he had an interest in plants, helping in the yard and growing cacti purchased with his allowance. His parents and grandparents were all interested in various aspects of horticulture.

When Russ was 12 years old, his uncle arrived with 6 orchids saying, "If you can grow those darned cacti, you ought to be able to grow these." And a career was launched.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University majoring in horticulture/floriculture. He has worked for Orchid by Hausermann, A&P Orchids, Ball State University's Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat.

In 2004, Russ and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. The company specializes in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, Miltoniopsis, Cattleyas, and Lycastes. The biggest area of focus is hybridizing, wholesale and retail sales. Russ also lectures to various orchid societies across the country and conducts workshops on orchid culture.

Russ is a judge of the American Orchid Society and is past President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and Past President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and serves on their Conservation Committee. He and Anita have two daughters.

Minutes

KOS MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2022

Attendance: 35 Members. Welcome to Robert & Beth.

Minutes of last meeting - Motion to approve by the membership.

Treasurers Report - Motion to approve by the membership.

Old Business:

1. Dues: President Day asked that we please send to Linda or pay on Venmo (@KOSadmin). 40 members have paid to date. Once paid, you can pick up your club project plant from Jan or Pam.

New Business:

1. L. Solley will chair the upcoming Locust Grove weekend event. Members are needed to volunteer to setup, work the show & teardown on Sunday. Approx. 100 Plants have been ordered to sell at the show. Schedule of 2 shifts of 3 people needed between 10 - 4:30 each day. Linda will contact Pam Martin to assist with Signs and Flyer sheets about our Sept. Show.

2. P. LaRocco congratulated all the members who received ribbons at the recent Cinn. And Indianapolis shows. We all should be proud of our growing efforts over the winter.

3. Reminder that our annual show will be 9/30 - 10/2 2022 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church once more. Vendors will be Natts, Windy Hills, Rainbow Orchids, Ecugenera, Orchid Outlet, Mei Ling (clothes) and Sue Phillips selling handmade orchid pots. More info TBA.

4. President Day has listed dates for upcoming shows & Events:

October is Picnic month

December is Christmas Party

5. Thank you to S. Locascio and Jan Smith who put on presentations this past month to Master Gardners and Paristown Spring Fest.

6. Walter is selling G. Hartmanns orchid cups and saucers...thank you Walter.

SHOW & TELL: P. LaRocco presented winners. Check Website for winners.

PLANT RAFFLE: Winners were drawn for members.

Meeting Adjourned.

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary

sallocascio48@gmail.com

Show & Tell Winners - March 2022

Topmiller:

1st Place: Phalaenopsis Unknown - green/white lip - Karen Bloom

2nd Place: Phalaenopsis Unknown - peloric - Larry Atwood

Fanelli:

1st Place: LCx. Schilleriana (L purpurata x C.*intermedia*) - Steve Benjamin

2nd Place: Phalaenopsis Unknown peloric - white /multiple tone pink splashes - Larry Atwood

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

My First Orchid Show and Competition

by *Scaphosepalum merino* (transcribed by Anne-Marie Blancquaert)

Let me introduce myself and as most of you know, name giving is something humans do, because what's in a name? It seems that there is a desire by humans to name everything, it makes communicating easier, allows for endless books and articles to be written but to us plants it really doesn't matter what or if we are given a name! We will grow and bloom where conditions are favourable. Looking in the botanic literature that humans compile, name-giving seems to be of the utmost importance to taxonomists, these people make a living of naming, classifying, renaming, re-classifying all members of the plant kingdom. I was duly impressed!

I belong to the family of the Orchidaceae, subfamily: Epidendroideae, tribe: Epidendreae, subtribe: Pleurothallidinae and genus: *Scaphosepalum* (abbreviated as *Sppm.*)

My genus has been known since 1888 under the *Scaphosepalum* name, however in 1849 Reichenbach described one member of my genus as *Masdevallia verrucosa*, which was later changed to *Pleurothallis verrucosa* to be further separated and getting our final name of *Scaphosepalum*. The name comes from the Greek "scaphosepalos" which means 'with boat like sepals' referring to the shape of the lateral sepals, which is the identifier for our genus!

My species name comes from an Ecuadorean collector of species orchids G. Merino, I flowered for the first time in cultivation at Ecuagenera nursery. He found me in Cordillera del Condor near Paquisha (at 1400 meters), in Zamora-Chinchipec province in south eastern Ecuador. It is a fact that also I came from Ecuagenera, via River Valley Orchids in Dayton and ended up on the raffle table, was picked up by my current owner and live happily in a greenhouse in southern Indiana.

When I arrived in Indiana (on St. Nicholas day 2020), I was a small plant, it took me a while to get used to my new environment being winter and all, but by February 2021 I felt at home and began blooming, have not stopped since. As you can see on the photographs, as a youngin started out with three flower spikes, now a more mature orchid there are twenty-three flower spikes!

I'm amongst the smaller in my genus at 8 cm (3 ¼ ") and 12 cm (4 ¾ ") flower spikes, however the smallest one is *Sppm. rapax* which gets only between 1.5-3.5 cm tall (¾"-1.5") and the tallest is *Sppm. antenniferum* at 30 cm (12") tall. There are currently 52 different ones of us described!

My flowers are about 5 cm (2") wide because of the horn like structures, have a look at some of my close-up photographs!

I love the greenhouse life, which means I prefer humidity in the 60-80% range, bright light but no direct sun though! My preferred temperatures are at night 50-65F while during the day 60-80F. I hate, hate it when my roots dry out, keep me evenly moist with regular fertilizer and I'll be ever so thankful! I do love those breezes in the greenhouse! As mentioned above, once I start blooming, it is hard for me to stop because each spike has successive flowers (between 8-12) and I keep sending up new spikes, hence the show never really ends!

I came planted in a plastic net basket in sphagnum moss, this is being replaced every 8 months, however, I would do as well on a mount.

In April 2022 to my great surprise, I was taken out of my greenhouse, supported in a clay pot and packed up with other orchids in a car. Driven north for what felt like a long time, to another greenhouse (Garfield Conservatory, Indianapolis) and entered in a show with competition. Being one of the smaller plants I ended up in the front on a low table (I was an unhandy plant since there was this large hanging wires that were too difficult to remove). Before the display was complete, four of my flowers were knocked off! How does one envision a plant of my small stature to compete when before it even starts, I get mutilated?! They stick a name tag on one of my leaves and left me among other orchids some of which I had never seen before! Fortunately for me, the display and show were in a greenhouse, however, it was way hotter than at home, the humidity helped though. That's how I spent my first night away from home!

The next morning some of us got hauled away and were looked at, fussed over, discussed over, measured, written up, photographs taken, never before in my life, did I experience something like that! There were so many blooming orchids at that place, it was encouraging to see but also overwhelming and a little scary being of small stature! Later that morning people came around and placed coloured ribbons amongst the orchids, some they hang on the plants, others were placed next to the plant. Being of small stature, two ribbons were placed next to me, no idea what that was all about. One was a small blue ribbon, the other a larger lilac one which made we wonder what it all meant? After all the ribbons were awarded, people started coming in, so many people all passing by and looking at the blooming orchids. I was amazed! Fortunately for me, some of my companions were Paphiopedilums which I knew personally since we share the greenhouse at home.

They having much larger and more showier flowers than me, drew some of the attention away from me, however, that large lilac ribbon made people want to come up close and look at my flowers. Oh my!

Another night was spent away from home and I started missing home. The following day was slightly different, no being pulled away, just more people coming in and looking at all the blooming orchids. Later that day, the people who had moved us to Indy started arriving, which meant that we could go home again. And then it happened again, in all the commotion of moving and placing us back in our carriers, another of my flowers was knocked off!

I'm not sure that the show life is for me? My three Paphiopedilum colleagues just basked in having been at the show, their sturdy flowers can withstand all that moving about, although some of them only had white ribbons!

I've been home for about three weeks now and am back used to my old familiar place in my greenhouse, still blooming, although having lost five flowers I was a bit disillusioned and had to think if I should make more spikes. A little fertilizer and some TLC made me reconsider and all is well that ends well!

My photographs!



Frontal view of my flower



Side view of my flower

When I was young!



Me (*Scaphosepalum merinoi*) in Feb. 2021

Now as a mature plant, with 23 flower spikes.

Me (*Scaphosepalum merinoi*) with the ribbons they placed next to me at the show. I was placed in the strange 'flowerpot' that belonged to the purple ribbon (Best of Class)!



I'm still curious to know against whom I was competing?

Information sources:

<https://wiser.directory/organization/pleurothallid-alliance/>

https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z/letter-s/scaphosepalum.aspx?gclid=Cj0KCQjw1ZeUBhDyARIsAOzAqQK2kvADUtw4GUopL5d0LBnGakhkjVAPgptooCfFz6ROXgwtE5MLa68aAppkEALw_wcB

<http://www.orchidspecies.com/scaphmerinoi.htm>