



ORCHID NEWS

Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.
January 2024
Louisville, KY

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The President's Corner

Letter from the President:

Happy New Year's to all of my orchid growing friends! May your year be filled with happy growing, an abundance of flowers, no bugs, and peace.

As always, January finds my orchids sleeping soundly as the light hours have diminished. They were stubborn little things this year, not wishing to go to sleep! Before too long, it will be time to start increasing the light hours again, waking them up and launching what I hope will be another fabulous growing season.

While our orchids are tucked in for a long winter's nap, many of the Kentucky Orchid Society members have not been napping but hard at work getting 2024 off to a great start. Unlike

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other years, The Home, Garden & Remodeling Show at the Kentucky Convention Center is being held February 2-4, 2024, instead of March. This endeavor requires lots of planning, cheery KOS members to volunteer and greet the public, and beautiful orchids in bud or blooming for sale. There will be much more about this great event at our January meeting being held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at All Peoples Unitarian Church, 4936 Brownsboro Road. Beginners Corner, The Plant Doctor, and social time start at 6:15 pm followed by the business meeting, an educational program, Show and Tell, and plant raffle. A good time is guaranteed.

Our vice president has also been hard at work scheduling monthly, informative as well as entertaining educational programs for the society. This month's featured speaker is Stephen Benjamin, a virtual fountain of beneficial information and tips for growing orchids, sure to satisfy the needs of beginners and seasoned growers alike. More information about his presentation can be found in the Vice President's Corner.

Enjoy the Newsletter! I'm hoping to see you all at the meeting.

Pam LaRocco, President
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The Vice President's Corner

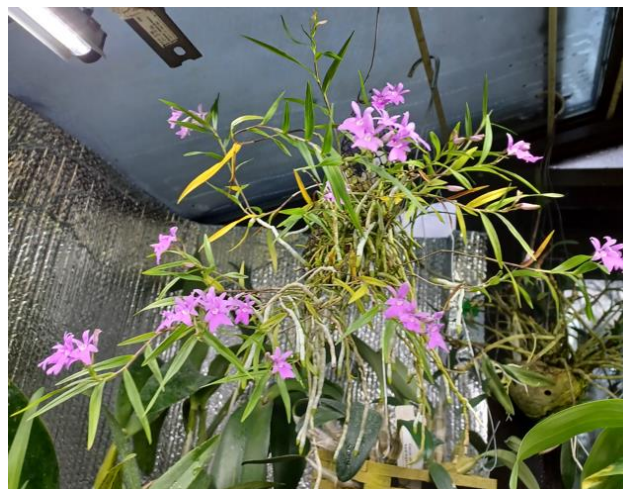
Letter from the Vice President:

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Let 2024 be a successful year in orchid growing and blooming. Spending time with our orchids lets us enter a different world surrounded by beauty, as there is always something blooming. I

spent some time in the greenhouse earlier this afternoon. Some Cattleyas and Cattleya crosses are blooming, many Paphiopedilum orchids are either blooming or sending up a bud. Some Dendrobiums are blooming and others are sending out flower buds and keep us in suspense! For the first time since I've owned the plant, *Oerstedella centradenia*, is blooming so prolifically, I have not been able to count the many flowers. This plant started out as a tiny little thing in a small clay pot at the 2018 Cincinnati spring orchid show. Amongst all the orchids purchased this little one in its small paper sack was dropped and as expected, the clay pot broke. That was the start of the agony this little plant endured the following years. Until in 2020 when it was mounted on a gutter guard tube with small bark, sphagnum, and some clay beads, hung on the edge of a LED light, and it took off. Daily watering, early in the day as it likes to dry up before nightfall. It did not like being potted when growing in our greenhouse. Patience, trial, and error but with the understanding that orchids are tough creatures!

Being rewarded with blooms when one finally gets it right, is what makes growing orchids so rewarding.



We are planning an exciting number of speakers, hands on events, orchid shows participation, and

of course our community involvement, all for 2024.

Hope to see all of you at our first meeting, next Wednesday January 10th, 2024!

Happy orchid growing.

Anne-Marie Blancquaert, Vice President
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KOS January Meeting

Second Wednesday of the Month

Date: January 10, 2024

Time: Beginner's Corner & Social time - 6:15pm
Business meeting - 6:30pm
Speaker - 7:00pm

Format: In-person

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

December Meeting Minutes

KOS Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2023

There was no business meeting in December due to the KOS Holiday Party. Awards for 2023 were presented and the membership enjoyed a potluck style meal. Thank you to all who participated!

Special Note

From Dick Humke

What a surprise it was to me to be presented with Orchid Digest's Diamond Award at our December meeting! I am so grateful for this and want to thank you all for this honor. I raised

orchids for 25 years, having as many as 100 at one time. But now I'm 92 and living in a retirement community, and I no longer have the space nor the controlled environment that we all know orchids need in order to bloom. I still buy one from time to time, hoping that I will be able to make it bloom again. And sometimes I can, but mostly I can't. I still read about them and admire them; and I wait for another show to come around. Thank you so much for this honor.

Dick Humke

Show & Tell Winners - 2023

Show & Tell awards were given out for each growing level category, Topmiller, and Fanelli, calculated by points totaled from each meeting throughout the year. Congratulations to the winners!

Beginners:

1st: Jim Lardner
2nd: Stu Fleishaker
3rd: Jennifer Coy

Intermediate:

1st: Sal Locascio
2nd: Heather Pollard
3rd: Linda Solley-Kanipe

Experienced:

1st: Larry Atwood
2nd: Jan Smith
3rd: Anne-Marie Blancquaert

Topmiller:

Jan Smith

Fanelli:

Larry Atwood

EDUCATION: What and When to move Orchids to Leca

By Pam LaRocco

We're winding down on the educational overview of using Leca to grow orchids. Please remember that so much information is available free to the public on First Ray's (my #1 choice) and Leca Addiction websites as well as many others. Ray also offers media, fertilizers (KLite), Kelpak, and many other beneficial products.

Now that you have begun growing your club project, Dendrobium Spotted Poni in Leca, I bet you're itching to grow others! It's addicting because it's so easy and success is almost certain. The following are some guidelines on when and what you might wish to choose next.

Rule #1 (and the most important): WHEN: Transfer or repot when the plant you choose is initiating a new growth. When a plant goes from bark, mount, or any other media it must replace its entire root system. If there is a new growth with the promise of new roots very soon, the process is made so much easier for the plant and reduces the possibility of plant loss. Please note that I said "reduces". When we repot our orchids there is always a possibility of plant stunting or death. Spring is usually a good time for this but again, wait on your orchid to give you the ok.

WHAT/WHICH PLANTS: Here are some tips

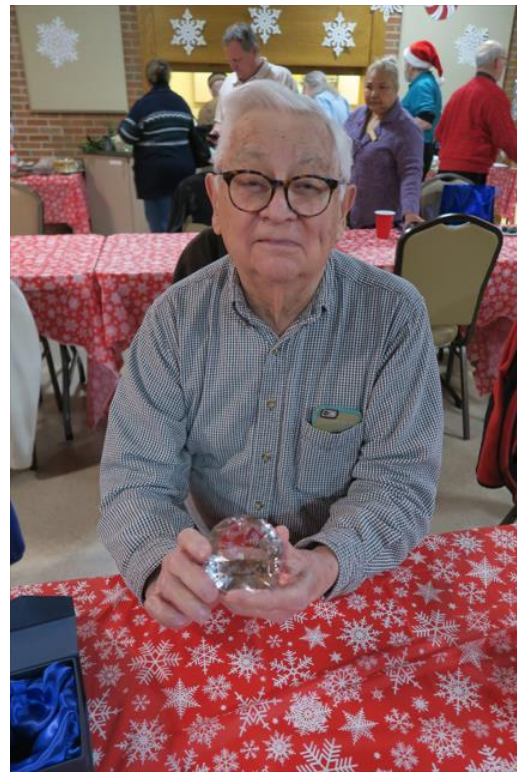
- My #1: Can I afford to lose it?
- Healthy plants: The better the health, the more able and faster your plant will be at growing a new root systems well.
- Plants that like moist medias: For me Phragmepidiums, Oncidiums, Restrepia, and Coelogyne have done well. For me, Paphiopedilums have done well also but are considerably slower at establishing new roots.
- Plants already growing in New Zealand Sphagnum or some other type of moss
- Divisions make good experimental plants.
- Lastly, if you've tried everything else and it's still failing, why not? Actually, I must say that I have been very successful in "raising the dead" and rooting plants in Leca. This however, is not the type of plant you want to judge your success growing in Leca.

February and increasing light are right around the corner! Keep watch and have some fun.

December Holiday Party

Thank you to Sal for taking pictures at the Holiday Party.





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