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# ORCHID NEWS

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Kentucky Orchid Society, Inc.  
November 2023  
Louisville, KY

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## The President's Corner

*Letter from the President:*

November is here and so is Autumn weather. I'm sure by now all of you have your orchids moved inside and ready for winter. We will still experience some lovely weather, but temperatures are going down and may even get too cool for your cool growers!

November is traditionally election month. We have listed the proposed slate of KOS officers in this newsletter. Please look it over and be prepared to vote.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 8 at All Peoples Unitarian Church. Please bring your blooming plants for Show & Tell. We will have a raffle, of course, and we will be instituting our new policy - wear your name tag and get 1 free

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raffle ticket! If you don't have an "official" name tag, I'll have stick-on ones for you to use.

The American Orchid Society has just announced a series of online classes. They are free to members and only \$10 for non-members. See below:

In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Master Gardener's Program, the AOS Education Committee is proud to present "Orchids for Everyone". This is a 6-class master series that will begin on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

The first class is Nov 1 at 7:00 pm. The registration for the "Orchids for Everyone" master class has gone live: <https://extension.psu.edu/campaigns/orchids-for-everyone-workshops-webinars>

Some things to note:

- There are 6 classes in this series, and you have to register for each one separately. **Registration will close 2 hours before each class. All times are Eastern.**
- The page that lists all of the classes defaults to "Date Posted". If you sort by "Start Date", you can get a list of all six classes in order.
- When you click the "Register" button, you will come to a page that says the class cost is \$10.00. This will be waived later on in the registration process for AOS members. AOS members can register for these classes for free as part of your membership benefits.
- You will have to create an account with the PSU Extension group to register; however, you can use your Facebook, Google, or Twitter accounts to sign up.
- At the "Identity Confirmation" page, there is a drop down menu for "Registration Type". Click this and click

on the "American Orchid Society Member". This is the designation that gets AOS members their free registration.

- Everything else from this point on is pretty straight forward.

These classes will be run live and be recorded. At the end of the series, they will be available to AOS Members on our Webinars page. Contact the Education Committee at [education\\_committee@aos.org](mailto:education_committee@aos.org) if you have any questions. See you in there!

I hope to see all of you at the November KOS meeting!

Deanna Day, President  
[Deanna7736@yahoo.com](mailto:Deanna7736@yahoo.com)

## The Vice President's Corner

*Letter from the Vice President:*

The second half of October was a great time to work in the garden and allow the last of the orchids still out, to enjoy the unusually warm weather. This all changes with the start of November. Temperatures take a dive and all our plants should be inside. Orchid wise, part of our caring will become easier, now that they are all together. On the other hand, we need to keep an eye on insects that may hide deep in the leaf folds. Even after treatment, some insects may linger and 'the kill' is not instant when using a systemic. Being inside, closer together, constant temperatures all provide the right conditions for insects to flourish! Be vigilant and treat appropriately.

The Central Ohio Orchid Show was the last of the shows for 2023. A brief review of how KOS did at

the different shows this year and a look at next year's show schedule!

These last two months of the year will be busy, the slate of newly selected/elected officers will be announced, our November program (8<sup>th</sup>) being an introduction to the use of clay beads as growing medium (hands-on, instructor Pam LaRocco) with the 'potting' of our project plant in containers and clay beads (LECA meaning lightweight expanded clay aggregate) provided by the society. We end the year with our yearly Christmas dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December and the installation of the new officers. At this meeting we will discuss some of the programs for 2024.

See the President's Corner above for a notice that all members of AOS received, and it was reiterated at the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October (AOS Fall meeting), for a free seminar series we can sign up for in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Master Gardener's Program, consisting of six lectures alternating between Wednesdays and Tuesdays in the evening or late afternoon. Below are the available seminars. Have a look, there is always something new to learn!

- 11/1 - 7PM - "Introduction to Orchids" - Barb Schmidt
- 11/7 - 7PM - "The Most Popular Orchids and How to Identify Them" - Janeil Payne and David Vandenbroek
- 11/15 - 5PM - "How to Repot, Divide, and Mount Orchids" - Jay Balchan and Eron Borne
- 11/21 - 7PM - "General Orchid Care" - Russ Vernon
- 11/29 - 7PM - "Pests, Diseases, and Troubleshooting Problems" - Ron McHatton
- 12/5 - 7PM - "Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Native Orchids" - Bob Sprague

Happy growing and see you on the 8th!

Anne-Marie Blancquaert, Vice President  
[ambblancquaert@frontier.com](mailto:ambblancquaert@frontier.com)

## 2024 Slate of Officers

*KOS 2024 Slate of New Officers as presented by the Officers Committee at the October meeting and to be voted on at the November meeting*

Deanna Day - Past President

Pam LaRocco - President

Anne-Marie Blancquaert - Vice President

Linda Solley - Treasurer

Sal Locascio - Recording Secretary

Jen Coi - Corresponding Secretary

Jan Rager - Member - at -Large

## KOS November Meeting

*Second Wednesday of the Month*

Date: November 8, 2023

Time: Social time 6:15 to 6:30, business meeting 6:30 to 7:00, speaker at 7:00pm

Format: In-person

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

# October Meeting Minutes

*KOS Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2023*

Attendance: 23 members attended. Welcome to 3 guests - Andrea Pena, Leesa Kaufman, Wende Skillman.

September meeting minutes approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report - No report available.

## Old Business:

1. Vice-President Anne-Marie thanked Janet Crafts for ordering new name tags for several members of the club. She suggested that any member wearing their new name tag starting at the next meeting will earn one raffle ticket compliments of the club.
2. Pres. Deanna commented and thanked everybody for their help in making our show last weekend overall very successful.
3. Show Co-Chairs Jan & Stephen commented about KOS winning the AOS Best Display Award. People commented about the friendliness of KOS members toward the public and how organized the show was. Stephen noted that there were 297 plant entries for the show: 278 were plants, 19 were Arts. AOS judging chose 18 plants to review and gave out 8 AOS Awards. Congrats to the winners.

## New Business:

1. Pres. Deanna announced that we have been invited to the Columbus, Ohio show on Oct, 27-29. S. Benjamin is attending and will set up our club display. Would any members be available to assist and go to the show to assist with teardown? The club will pay for a hotel room for Saturday if interested in going. Contact Deanna or Stephen if interested.

2. The slate of new officers for 2024 was presented to Pres. Deanna by the officers committee. They are: Past Pres. Deanna Day, New Pres. Pam LaRocco, Vice Pres. Anne-Marie Blancquaert, Treas. Linda Solley, Sec. Sal Locascio, Recording Sec. Jen Coi, and Member-At-Large Jan Rager.

3. Pres. Day announced that MAOC will offer a free Zoom presentation on 10/15 for all interested. Watch for an email.

4. V-P Anne-Marie gave a presentation on how she set up her Greenhouse. Thank you Anne-Marie

SHOW & TELL conducted by Pam LaRocco

RAFFLE & Adjourn - 8:30pm

Sal Locascio, Recording Secretary  
[sallocalascio48@gmail.com](mailto:sallocalascio48@gmail.com)

## Show & Tell Winners - October 2023

### Topmiller:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Paph. barbigerum fma. alba 'Green Gold' x Paph. villosum fma. aureum 'Glory Gold'  
- Jan Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Paph. leucochilum 'Super Red Spots' x Paph. thaianum 'Perfecto'  
- Anne-Marie Blanquaert

### Fanelli:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Phal. Macciatta 'Not a Latte'  
- Larry Atwood

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite x Calanthe Grouville 'HR Red'  
- Jan Smith



# Central Ohio Orchid Society Show

*Recap by Jan Smith*

KOS entered a display in the Central Ohio Orchid Society Show in Columbus, Ohio on October 27-28<sup>th</sup>, with entries from Sal Locascio, Stephen Benjamin, Jan Smith, and Karen Bloom. Many thanks to Stephen Benjamin, who took the plants to the show, set up the display and took the display down on Sunday, getting home well after 11 pm! That is really above and beyond the call of duty! The display received a red ribbon and there were multiple other ribbons awarded. In fact, only 3-4 plants that we entered did not get a ribbon. Special recognition goes to Karen Bloom, whose *Oncidium Wildcat* won a blue ribbon, Best of Class Trophy, and Best of Show Trophy! Outstanding, congratulations, Karen!



# EDUCATION: Leca, Preparation for Use

*By Pam LaRocco*

Leca must go through at least 2 soaks to be fully effective. Some would say more. Why?

- Leca needs to be rinsed and washed to remove residual chemicals used to enhance the firing process in its production
- It must be fully wet from the interior to the exterior of each ball to effectively wick water from the reservoir at the bottom of your pot to the pellets at the top

## Preparation Steps:

1. Rinse and drain your Leca to remove all the powdery substance that clings to it
2. Soak in the best quality water available to you for ½ hour or longer. Pour off and drain. (Many people suggest repeating this process multiple times)
3. Cover the pellet to be used completely with the purest water available to you (Suggestions: Reverse Osmosis, rain, or distilled water). If the best you can use is city water, use it. Add 1 tsp of magnesium sulphate (Epson Salts) and 1 tsp of Calcium Nitrate per gallon of water used. Another optional additive is Dyna-Gro/Superthrive K-L-N rooting hormone at the rate of 1 to 2 tsp per gallon of water. Soak overnight (minimum), preferably for 24 hrs.
4. Drain. Rinse well. Use while still wet.

**DON'T MISS OUR PROJECT PLANT HANDS-ON WORKSHOP at the Nov. 8th meeting. We'll share some special tips to get your babies off to a great start!**



# KOS Orchid Show & Sale Gallery

Kentucky Orchid Society hosted the annual KOS Orchid Show & Sale on October 7-8. Thank you to Stuart Fleischaker for photographing the displays and orchids. Here are a few of them!















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