

FEATURED MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHTS



Bryon K. Rinke

Our featured member this month is Bryon Rinke. He has a great passion for orchids and is a great resource. I have not asked a question yet that he cannot answer! His memory for names is truly impressive!

He grew up in Medicine Lodge, KS. Bryon went to Newman University in Wichita, KS and got his degree in Health Sciences. He lived there for 22 years, then moved to Winfield, Kansas 16 years ago. He works at William Newton Hospital in the Radiology Department.

1. How long have you been in the Kansas Orchid Society?

I joined KOS in 1982. I went to the orchid show at the Wichita Zoo, and Max Thompson sold me my first Phalaenopsis orchid.

2. How did you start growing orchids?

My best friend in high school, Mike Schnelle, bought 5 large flowered Cattleyas from Stewart Orchids in California. Once he bloomed them my interest was piqued. I started off growing Cacti and Orchid Cacti.

3. What do you like about growing them? And what do you dislike?

Like: There is nothing more exciting than seeing a brand-new orchid in your collection bloom for the first time.

Dislike: It takes too much of my money in buying them.

4. How many orchids do you have and where do you grow them?

Max and I have about 3000 orchids in our collection. We grow in the greenhouses at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS. I started off growing orchids under a 2-foot-long fluorescent light. Then moved up to 3 tier, 4-foot-long fluorescent lights. Then I met Max and took over his greenhouses.

5. What do you particularly favor? and why?

I love Pleurothallis because some of them never stop blooming and the flowers and plants come in all shapes, sizes, and colors.

6. Which orchid is the most difficult for you to grow?

It used to be Brassavola nodosa, but we have 5 of them now and they are doing well. So, another orchid we can't grow are Disa's from South Africa. Like they say in South Africa, Disa's Die.

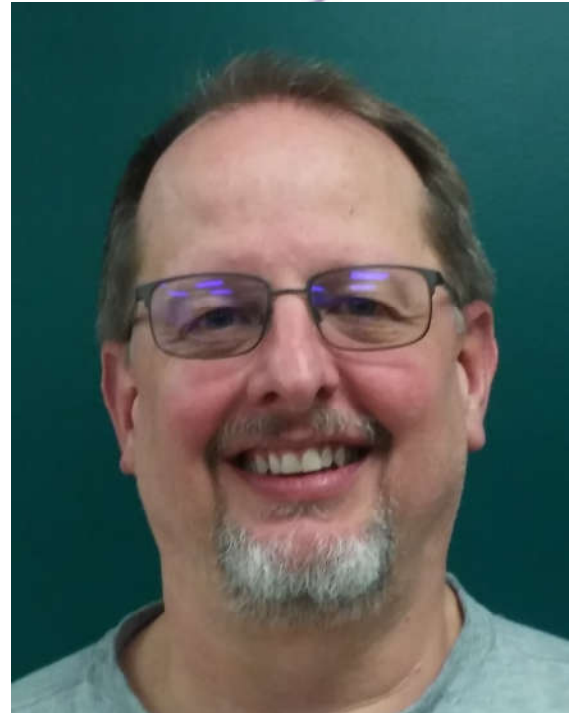
7. Do you have a bloom of which you are proud?

Yes – Lepanthopsis rinkei. The first orchid species named after me was very special. I ran around the house screaming and yelling with excitement when I found out.

8. Any experiences you would like to share with others? words of wisdom?

When I started to grow Phalaenopsis, I would cut off the roots that didn't grow into the pots and found out they die quickly!

Words of Wisdom: DON'T OVERWATER, IF IN DOUBT IF YOU NEED TO WATER, WAIT ANOTHER DAY.



9. What are your other passions?

I love to travel to other countries to see orchids in their natural environment. I love watching Basketball, especially KU, WSU, and K-State.

10. Please tell us one thing we do not know about you.

I HATE TO EAT VEGETABLES!

I have had 7 species of orchids named after me.



The above picture is Bryon's first species orchid that carries his name:
Lepanthopsis rinkei Bryon CBR

1. *Lepanthopsis rinkei*
2. *Pleurothallis neorinkei* (*Acronia rinkei*)
3. *Pleurothallis* (*Acianthera*) *rinkei*
4. *Pleurothallis* (*Acianthera*) *bryoni*
5. *Scaphosepalum rinkei*
6. *Pleurothallis* (*Kraenzlinella*) *rinkei*
7. *Pleurothallis* (*Sarcinula*) *rinkei*

I also named an orchid after Max Thompson

1. *Epidendrum maxthompsonianum*