



# Newsletter of the Kansas Orchid Society

Sarah Pratt, editor

September 2018

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## KOS Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at Botanica at 2:00 pm, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, **unless noted differently**.

**September 16;** Gary Meyers: Guest Speaker on Draculas

**October 21:** Repotting and show discussion

**November 1 & 2** (tentative) Fall Show

**December 2** (tentative) Christmas party & Orchid Bingo

## NEW MEMBERS

New KOS members receive a free orchid plant when they attend their second meeting. Contact Sarah Pratt at [svcsjp@gmail.com](mailto:svcsjp@gmail.com) and she will try to pick out something special for you.

## President's Palaver

I hope all of you are as excited as I am to hear Gary Meyer's talk on Draculas. Such an interesting group of orchids and bizarre to say the least. I hope you will come out and hear Gary's talk. The society spends a good deal of money to get our speakers in, so please come to Botanica on the 16<sup>th</sup> to hear his talk.

This cool weather continues to favor orchid growth. We have a lot in bloom now and will be bringing some for show and tell. Since the onset of cool weather, a lot of the orchids are putting out a lot of new growth. We have increased our fertilizer amount to assist this new growth. Phalaenopsis seemed to really like the extra food.

All of this rain has had some other effects. Some of our orchids aren't drying out like normal and we have had some rot. We have only been watering every 2-3 days just to allow them to dry out. One of the worst vices is overwatering orchids. It is the root of all evils and one that amateurs tend to do. So during this wet period, watch your watering and allow plants to dry out between watering.

See you all on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Max C. Thompson  
President

<http://www.kansasorchidsociety.org>

Also visit our Facebook Page

# Kansas Orchid Society

## Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2018

The meeting was held at Botanica and called to order by President Max Thompson at 2 pm.  
No new members or visitors attended.

**Minutes:** The July 15, 2018 minutes were amended to correct the "Ask the Experts" Program panel members of Bryon Rinke, Elizabeth Vanderlip and Susan Tompkins (rather than Donna Nelson, as published). Bryon Rinke moved to accept the minutes with this correction. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction above. (Note from Editor: This correction has been made in archived copy of minutes)

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Ethridge discussed our current financial position and filed the Treasurer's Report for audit.

**Committee Chair Reports:** Garden Council, Kathy Ethridge: Botanica is sponsoring a pumpkin carving October 10-13. They will have a band and food from a local restaurant to view the carvings. See the web site for more details. Botanica has ordered and will plant 6000 mums, 60,000 tulips. & 10,500 pansies this fall. Botanica news: night path lighting to be installed, the Lego Exhibit is coming next May over Memorial weekend and staying for the summer, and the March 9<sup>th</sup> garage sale.

### **Announcements**

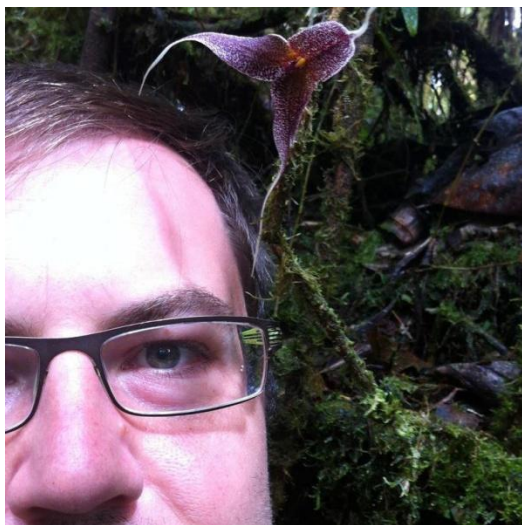
- September meeting guest speaker is Gary Meyers on "Draculas".
  - Mark Sanborn's father passed away 2 weeks ago. Our deepest sympathies.
  - Bryon Rinke found neem oil extract at Walmart (the recommended type). He suggested using it on thrips at a rate of 2 tablespoons per 1 gallon of water, using NO soap or other sticking agents, three times, 7 days apart, at 7 or 8pm (thrips are more active at night).
  - SWROGA Fall Members Meeting is September 21-22 in Shreveport.
  - The KC Mid America meeting is October 27-28. They have a large orchid show with vendors from almost everywhere, including overseas. Ecuagenera Orchids from Ecuador will be there and will bring plants you may want if you pre-order. See their web site.
- Meeting adjourned 2:30.

Program: Sarah Pratt, "Greenhouse Basics"  
Followed by refreshments, Show and Tell and plant raffle.

Respectfully submitted,      Wanita Wright, Secretary

## Newsletter Articles

If you have articles, **please send them on or before the 5th of the month to Sarah Pratt at [svcsjp@gmail.com](mailto:svcsjp@gmail.com)**



## Our Guest Speaker: Gary Meyer, Ph.D.

Pictured with *Dracula spectrum*

Gary Meyer's interest in orchids began when he was a freshman in high school in Michigan. He had already replaced much of his dad's beloved lawn with hundreds of perennials and North American native plants, partly in an attempt (futile, unfortunately) to attract hummingbirds. Among this plant collection were several *Cypripedium* species, which ignited his curiosity about orchids from other parts of the globe. He found a photograph of *Masdevallia vietchiana* in a library book that rendered him helpless to resist the pull to pleurothallids. Shortly there-

after, he laid eyes on a line drawing of *Dracula chimaera* in a J & L Orchids catalog, and has been enslaved by draculas ever since.

Gary started growing draculas in his parents' basement in 1990, with some degree of success. However, college, then medical school, and finally graduate school became unavoidable distractions for him. By the time he finished his Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2003, he thought he had managed to completely kick the orchid addiction.

In February 2003, Gary moved from Ann Arbor, MI to San Francisco, CA, and within two weeks of his arrival, found himself face to face with a pure yellow *Dracula gorgona xanthina* (owned by John Leathers) at the Pacific Orchid Exposition. The addiction was immediately revived, stronger than ever. Fifteen years later, Gary now maintains several hundred *Dracula* plants (along with a reasonable dose *Masdevallias*, *Lepanthes*, *Cyrtorchilums*, and *Anguloas*) in his greenhouse in Pacifica, CA.

Gary has been travelling to Colombia and Ecuador since 2005 to observe *Draculas* in the wild and visit collections of South American *Dracula* growers. He lives two to three months per year in Medellin, Colombia to facilitate his field explorations. Gary also put his scientific background to work on *Dracula* by studying the molecular taxonomy of the genus with Ken Cameron, Ph.D., director of the herbarium at the University of Wisconsin, and continues to describe new species and relocate lost species in conjunction with his South American colleagues.

By day, Gary is the Director of Clinical Analytics at IntrinsicQ Specialty Solutions, where he studies how US cancer patients are treated with pharmaceuticals. He is currently President of the Pleurothallid Alliance and owner of Colombian Orchid Imports, which imports orchid species from Colombia for sale in the United States.

Gary's talk, *Dracuphilia: A Gothic Romance*, will cover the history of the genus *Dracula*, distribution of species, concepts in taxonomy and biology, and Gary's orchid explorations in the wild. The talk will additionally delve into the often conflicting effects of human interest on orchid conservation.

On a personal note: If you would like to recycle your wine corks or packing peanuts, just bring them to any KOS meeting. Sarah Pratt

# Upcoming AOS Webinars

Go to [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) to register



## **Judging Webinar: Judging the Oncidinae (AOS members only)**

Ron Midgett, Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Join noted speaker and orchid breeder, Ron Midgett as he discusses the history and judging trends for this complex group, the Oncidiinae, that have had so many names.



## **Greenhouse Chat (Open to all)**

Ron McHatton, Thursday, October 18, 2018

Join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Please send your questions to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by October 15th. Please include pictures.



# AOS Corner

## Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest Deadline is November 30, 2018!

Time to sharpen up those pencils and put on your thinking caps! The deadline is fast approaching for the annual Gordon W. Dillon - Richard C. Peterson Memorial Essay Contest. Don't wait until the last minute. The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families. **You do not need to be an AOS member.**

The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate suitable for framing. The contest was established in 1985 by the AOS Northeast Judging Center to honor the memory of two former editors of the AOS Bulletin (now Orchids). Gordon Dillon served as editor from 1943 through 1968 and again from 1970 through 1973. Richard Peterson's name first appeared on the masthead of the AOS Bulletin in April 1971 as associate editor. In 1973, he was named editor and, upon Dillon's retirement in 1977, he became the executive director, retaining his position of editor through 1984.

The theme for 2018 is: **Bells and Whistles: Ingenuity and the Orchid Grower.**

Orchid growers are famous for devising ways to accommodate their charges on the windowsill, under lights and in the greenhouse. Maintaining tropical plants in a desert climate, cool-growing plants in a tropical climate or warm-growing plants in subarctic conditions all demand ingenuity that you can share with readers of the *ORCHIDS* magazine.

The winning entry (if any) will be published in the June 2019 issue of *ORCHIDS* at the discretion of the editor. The winner of the prize will receive a cash award supported by the dividends and interest on an endowment from the Northeast Judging Region.

### CONTEST RULES

- The essay must be an original, unpublished article.
  - The contest is open to all persons except employees of the American Orchid Society and their immediate families.
  - Submissions must be no more than 5,000 words.
  - Manuscripts must be submitted in English and should be submitted electronically as MS Word or compatible word processor file.
  - Submissions will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. The decision of the judges is final. If no entries meet the expected criteria of excellence, the award will be withheld.
  - Artwork is not necessary for entering this competition.
- Nonwinning entries will be returned to the contestant if requested. Such entries are eligible for resubmission in subsequent contests. These nonwinning entries will also be considered for publication by the editor of *ORCHIDS* and may be used in *ORCHIDS* or other AOS publications with the written permission of the author. Published entries will not be eligible for consideration in subsequent contests.

### **Submit all entries to the Dillon/Peterson Memorial Essay Prize:**

Ron McHatton  
American Orchid Society at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
PO Box 565477  
Miami, FL 33256  
Email: [rmchatton@aos.org](mailto:rmchatton@aos.org)

There will be raffle plants this month: Opportunities can be purchased for \$1.00 each or 11 for \$10.00

# Spooktacular Orchids

## Kansas City Orchid Expo & Sale and The Mid-America Orchid Congress

October 26-28, 2018  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Independence, MO

Presented by The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City  
For more information visit [www.kcorchidshow.org](http://www.kcorchidshow.org)

*Dracula pastusiana*  
Photo © Lynn O'Shaunessy

## Kansas City Orchid Expo & Sale and The Mid-America Orchid Congress

October 26-28, 2018

Hilton Garden Inn  
19677 East Jackson Drive  
Independence, MO 64057

### *No tricks, only treats!*

- ◆ Orchid Show **Preview Costume Party**
- ◆ Banquet catered by **The Hereford House**, Kansas City's quintessential steakhouse since 1957
- ◆ Tour **Bird's Botanicals**, "The Orchid Cave"  
Friday 2-3 PM, Saturday 1-2 PM or 3-4 PM

### *Speakers*

#### *Roy Tokunaga*

H & R Nurseries, Waimanalo, HI

- ◆ **Flower Boosters**, including culture and nutrition guidelines

#### *Gary Meyer, Ph.D.*

Colombian Orchid Imports, San Francisco, CA

- ◆ **Dracuphilia: A Gothic Romance**
- ◆ **Gods and Monsters**, mythology behind names for *Dracula* species

#### *Larry Zettler, Ph.D.*

Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL

- ◆ **The Ghost Orchid Demystified**

For more information visit [www.kcorchidshow.org](http://www.kcorchidshow.org)

Hotel Reservations  
816-350-3000 / [www.hiltongardeninn.com](http://www.hiltongardeninn.com)  
OSGKC room rate is \$105 + tax



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