



Newsletter of the Kansas Orchid Society

Sarah Pratt, editor

July 2018

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KOS Meeting Schedule

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

July 15; Ask the Experts: Question and Answer Session 2:00 @ Botanica

August 19: Greenhouse Basics, Sarah Pratt

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 and she will try to pick out something special for you.

President's Palaver

Well another hot, dry day in July. Boy this weather can be hard on orchids. I went to the greenhouse last week and walked in the door and was hit by a wave of heat. A sensor had malfunctioned and shut down the coolers. It was 101F before I manually turned them on. Some orchids didn't like it much but for the most part, they seemed to have weathered the storm. We have been repotting on weekends trying to catch up as best we can. Stanhopeas were the focus this week. We found buds starting on some of the early bloomers and those will probably abort. We discovered some wire baskets with sphagnum liners that are really just the thing for them. As you may know, stanhopeas bloom from the bottom. The liners were dry and we planted in a combination of more sphagnum and bark. When watered, the sphagnum expanded about 10X. We hope we can get some good growth this year and some of the later ones will go ahead and bloom. We have had trouble with thrips and some Cattleya scale. Acephate (Orthene) takes care of the scale. I ran out of Neem oil so searched online and bought some more. This product was more highly refined (70%) and hygroscopic (your word for the month). We sprayed 2 times with it and seems to work. It is an insecticide, fungicide, and miticide. We have had trouble with sooty mold on our grammatophyllums and notice the new growth seems clean. I shipped in some more after the first purchase and we are using it without any other insecticides added. I will give you further reports on its efficacy as time progresses. It is a natural product from the Neem tree from India. It has broad uses and can safely be used in the house and around pets. In some countries it has been used for medicinal purposes (I tasted it and it is very bitter!). Another thing going for it, it is relatively cheap and it puts a shine on your leaves.

Don't forget this month is our panel month "Ask the Experts". You can bring in your plants and questions and hopefully, they can answer your questions and look at your plants.

Max C. Thompson
President

<http://www.kansasorchidsociety.org>

Also visit our Facebook Page

Kansas Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2018

The meeting was held at Sarah Pratt's home, & after a great meal and tour of her greenhouse was called to order by President Max Thompson at 2:35 pm.
No visitors or new members attended.

Minutes: Bryon Rinke moved to accept the minutes as published in the last newsletter. An unknown member seconded the motion (I wasn't quick enough!). The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

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: John C. Pair Horticulture Research Center is closing IF we do nothing. Please write to object as this is the research center that tests plants for our area, etc.

Announcements

Half of Orchid Production in the Big Island of Hawaii has been lost due to the volcano eruption that started on May 5th and is continuing to this day.

Grace Lynn Clay Flowers will have a booth at the November Wichita orchid show.

Meeting adjourned 2:47.

Program: Picnic and a "Grow Out" context. Everyone wishing to participate picked out an Oncidium Gower Ramsey to take home

Respectfully submitted,
Wanita Wright, Secretary

Get it on your calendar early: October 26-28
Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting and Show
Location: [Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO](#)

Newsletter Articles

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



The Gower Ramsey Growing Challenge

Every member of the KOS is welcome to take home a 2" pot of a seedling Onc. Gower Ramsey. This is the classic 'dancing lady' orchid and is very easy to grow. These 2" pots contain a seedling that came out of the plug tray this spring and are at least one and probably two years from blooming.

Take one home, work your magic and we will see who can get their plant to bloom first. The winner will get a fabulous prize!! What kind of prize you ask.....well, it's a surprise!! All members may take a plant, but the commercial growers are not eligible for the prize.

Frequent updates on progress will be documented in the newsletter.

If you were not able to attend the June picnic, there will be additional seedlings available this month so that all can participate!

The raffle will return this month: a number of very nice plants will be available for you. Opportunities can be purchased for \$1.00 each or 11 for \$10.00

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



Summer orchid growing hints

Our hardest season for growing orchids is without a doubt the summer. Temperature control is minimal. Sunlight, although controllable with shade cloth, can heat the greenhouse up to temperatures well over 100F. Outdoor growing also presents some of the same type of problems we have in the greenhouse. If you keep your orchids indoors, most of this does not pertain to you. You can just make sure your orchids are far enough from the windows to keep them from burning.

Below are some of the things we do to help get our orchids through the hottest days - usually July, 1 - Aug 15. It is **extremely** important to get your orchids through the summer with as little stress (on them) as possible. (I can't help you with your personal stress - sorry.) Allowing the summer heat to stress your orchids will delay or eliminate their ability to grow and thrive during the cooler fall weather - when most orchids are doing what they need to do to get ready for the winter blooming season.

Make sure the orchids you're taking outside can survive the heat. In the mid-Atlantic area it is simply too hot for most cool growers to even survive, regardless of how you treat them.

In summer months, when temperatures are over 90F, orchids shut down and basically stop. In order to accommodate this, you need to substantially reduce fertilizer. During periods of high temperatures we use **no** fertilizer. Only RO water combined with some well water. Straight tap water is okay too, as is most well water. We always adjust our water to a Ph of about 5.5. If you use a TDS meter, 150 total ppm is a good target. Ec should be kept around 200mS.

Using high levels of fertilizer will cause the orchids to have leaf tip burn, heat stress, and can burn and even kill roots. Continual use of high levels of fertilizer, during the hot months, will lead to a substantial decline in the orchid. Thin leaved orchids like Phrags, Ondidiums, and Lycaste are especially susceptible to leaf tip burning problems.

During the hottest time of the day, feel the leaves. If they feel hot, **lightly** sprinkle them with cool water. The orchids will immediately cool down. This is very helpful. Make sure the water is cool to the touch. Don't sprinkle too heavily. As long as the leaves are just sprinkled enough to cool them you don't have to worry about overwatering. This can even be done a couple times every day, if needed, as long as it is done lightly.

Periodically check for insects or other pests. While outside there a lot of things that can do damage including squirrels, chipmunks, the dreaded snail and slug and a host of insects. A lot people treat their orchids with a pesticide before bringing them back indoors. At least, give them a visual inspection. Look for snail and slug damage on the leaves or flowers. They spend most of the daytime hours hiding in the pots.

There are some orchids that do well in the heat. Some Catts and most of the "old regular" Vandas like it. If the roots are exposed, like Vandas growing in open baskets, you can still water them as usual. Orchids that have recently been classified into Vandaceous, like Ascots, Neos, etc will do better if treated as described above (low, or no, fertilizer).

If you have any questions, email me at info@msorchids.net or through the website - msorchids.net There is additional culture info on the website.

Great Plains Judging Center

Upcoming judgments are:
July judging: Saturday the 21
August judging: Saturday the 18
Southwestern College
Winfield, Kansas

Visitors with or without plants to be judged are always welcome. For more information contact Bryon Rinke or Sarah Pratt

We had a great judging in May with nine plants awarded.

Special congratulations to Max Thompson for exhibiting Paphiopedilum Frank Smith 'Max Thompson' which was awarded a First Class Certificate with a score of 90 points. The FCC is the highest award for flower quality available and generally less than 15 to 20 are given nation wide in any one year.



Three flowers on one 42-cm, sturdy, upright inflorescence and two buds on an immature inflorescence; sepals and petals chartreuse, heavily veined and tessellated maroon, puberulent; pouch chartreuse-gold, veined and spotted maroon internally; staminode maroon, hirsute, chartreuse centrally; substance heavy; texture waxy; specific parentage is (Paphiopedilum Norita Hasegawa 'Highlight' x Paphiopedilum rothschildianum 'Jamboree Zebra').



Loefgrenianthus blanche-amesiae 'Bryon' CBR/AOS

Exhibitor Bryon Rinke

Bulbophyllum Melanie's Star 'Timbucktoo' AM 80 pts.

Exhibitor: Sarah Pratt



Pleurothallis (Echinosepala) shuarii 'Bryon' HCC/AOS 77 pts.

Exhibitor: Bryon Rinke



Prosyclus (PROVISIONAL) 'Bryon & Max' HCC 87 pts.

Exhibitor: Max Thompson and Bryon Rinke



Epidendrum Panama Ruby 'Bryon Rinke' AM 82 pts.

Exhibitor: Bryon Rinke



Paphiopedilum Cam's Cloud 'Bryon' HCC 79 pts.

Exhibitor: Bryon Rinke



Phragmipedium Mardi Gras 'Anna' AM 80 pts.

Exhibitor: Jana Butcher

Stanhopea florida 'Timbucktoo' AM pts.

Exhibitor Sarah Pratt

American Orchid Society Corner

We thank the American Orchid Society for allowing us to use these items in our newsletter! Even if you're not an AOS member, there are lots of free resources available to everyone ... and of course we encourage you to join. AOS membership includes digital access to "Orchids" magazine, including digital archives of more than 350 issues dating back to 1932!

UPCOMING WEBINARS

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the All About Orchids tab. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of the monthly Corner.

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton Thursday, July 12th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Open to all*

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Director of Education and Science Officer, who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees.

Please send your questions and pictures to stillisch@cox.net by Sunday, July 1st.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8900783411585513217>

The Ghost Orchid Demystified with Dr. Lawrence Zettler Thursday, July 12th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Members Only*

Please join Dr. Lawrence Zettler, from Hitchcock College Illinois, as he discusses his fascinating presentation from the World Orchid Conference in Ecuador, November 2017, The Ghost Orchid Demystified: Biology, Ecology and conservation of *Dendrophylax lindenii* in Florida and Cuba.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8144085214905768963>

The Pleurothallidinae and their Pollinators with Adam Karremans Wednesday, August 8th, 2018 @ 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM EST *Members Only*

Come to learn about the amazing Pleurothallid orchids and the pollinators that make them possible with Adam Karremans from the University of Costa Rica.

Register now using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6381588967057338881>

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the seminar.

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view his presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP. *June 2018 Overtures – The Newsletter of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks 7*

WANT TO LEARN, BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE? The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.



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