

FEATURED MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHTS



Jean Paul & Stephanie Adams

Our featured members this month are Jean Paul and Stephanie Adams. They moved from Boynton Beach, Florida last August. They both grew up in Wichita, so they are back home now!

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

One of the first things they did was come to the Fall 2017 orchid show and join the Kansas Orchid Society!

2. How did you start growing orchids?

Stephanie dabbled a bit when she originally lived in Kansas from 2010-2012, but says she was never successful ("probably because I tried to repot them in SOIL! NO!!") In 2014, she found an orchid show presented by the Delray Beach Orchid Society in Florida, and that is where she rekindled her love for the orchid and decided to try again (of course with the correct media this time!).



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

Stephanie: Orchids are the most exotic plants - I love them because each one is so unique, and it brings great joy and peace to watch them grow and flower. Orchids have taught me a lot about patience too. My biggest dislike is that they sometimes pass away .. It never gets any easier to have to put one of my babies to rest, no matter how many plants I have. Each one has a special place in my heart.

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

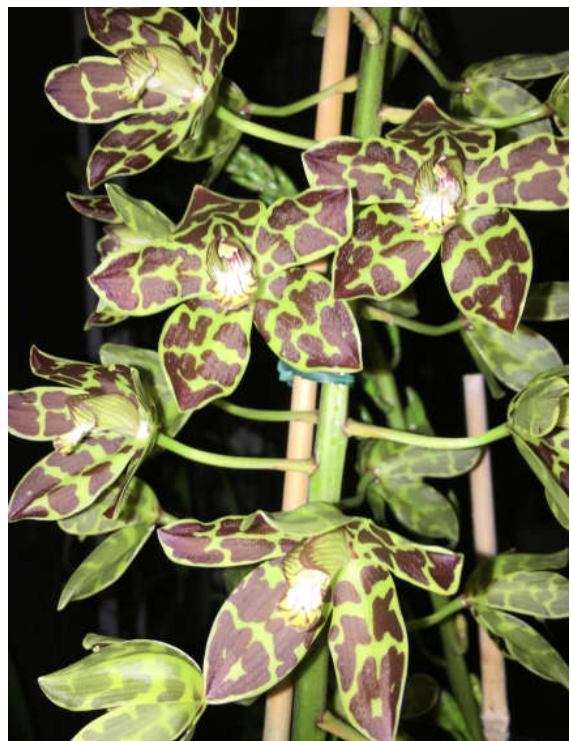
I used to have 173 orchids of several varieties before we moved back to Kansas, but after selling some and killing lots more, I think I am close to about 100 plants left. We grow them outdoors until temperatures drop, but also have a 9'x9' space in my basement. I have two LED lights, a couple of fluorescents and fans for circulation. I'm still trying to find their "happy place".

5. What do you particularly favor? and why?

It really depends on what day it is! Ha-ha. I do love dendrobiums - they are hardy plants that have grown well in both Florida and Kansas, and I enjoy their starry-like flowers and cane pseudobulbs.

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

The Catesetums - I have killed all of these plants within 3-6 months of purchasing.



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

Oh yes!! I would love to share several that I have had bloomed over the last few years, but if I must pick just 1 ...

GRAMMATOPHYLLUM 'broga tiger' (see to left and above)

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

My experience living in Florida with orchids definitely made me spoiled! It was such a blessing to be able to grow such a variety of orchids outside and let mother nature do her thing. Plus, the orchid shows!! I recommend if anyone makes a trip to south Florida in the future, to visit between Nov - May. There are so many shows to go to and vendors from all over the world. Last year I was fortunate enough to visit the Redlands International Festival and it was amazing! I can't wait to go again someday.

Moving back to Kansas has been challenging for the orchids, trying to get them acclimated to their new climate. Sadly, many have passed on to orchid heaven already.

So, I am ready to learn how to grow orchids here in Kansas, and with what better help than you guys!! We are so glad we found an orchid society here to share the passion!



9. What are your other passions?

Paul and I both enjoy traveling and scuba diving - the main reason we moved to Florida actually! We also enjoy cooking together and spending time with our 3 dogs, Blu, Cinnaminnie and Billy. I (Stephanie) also enjoy growing other tropical plants, such as Plumerias, Stephanotis (Madagascar Jasmine), and banana trees.

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

Paul - I was born in Saigon, Vietnam. My father worked for Conoco Phillips and met my mother there. I lived in Thailand in my childhood, but grew up primarily in Wichita, KS. We plan to travel there in the near future to revisit some of the places I grew up.

Stephanie - I love Zumba! I became an instructor in Florida and was teaching 7 classes every week for the last 2 years. It was such a gratifying experience and I miss it so much. I hope to be teaching here in Wichita soon!