



Newsletter of the Kansas Orchid Society

Sarah Pratt, Editor

June 2023

Inside this issue

President's Palaver; pg. 1
2023 Meeting Schedule; pg. 1
Minutes March 2023 Meeting; pg. 2
Definition; pg. 2
GPJC Awards from OKC; pg. 3
Details about the Auction; pg. 4
Orchids in the Wild, pg. 5
AOS Corner: pg. 6

KOS Meeting Schedule

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

June 18: Auction

July 16: Highlights of travel experiences in other countries re: orchids
August 20: (TBA)
September 17: Show Prep
October 6, 7th Fall Orchid Show & Sale
November 19: (TBA)
December 3: Christmas 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

I think we have had a great year so far with all the shows in the area, informative meetings, awesome tours, and it will only continue to get better. I feel very lucky to have been able to go to Doug Needham's home last month and tour his beautiful glass home, yard and gardens and home as well as meeting him and his lovely wife, Jackie. I also enjoyed meeting and talking with the members of Oklahoma Orchid Society; everyone was so nice and welcoming. I think it would be great if we reciprocated next year.

While I'm on the subject of the Oklahoma Orchid Society, I learned that they signed up around 30 new members either during their show in early May or immediately after. This increase was during a time when many orchid and other flower societies are experiencing in membership. I would challenge everyone to come up with ideas to increase membership. If you have ideas, please get with me or any other board member to discuss.

And... for the big event. This month, June 18, is our Annual Auction. We will have our normal business meeting at 2:00 prior to the auction but will keep it as brief as possible so we can move on to the auction. If you want to purchase plants, but like me you don't know about the care required by each different species or hybrids, come to the event 10-15 minutes early to look over all the plants and ask questions about whichever you're interested in. And lastly, bring lots of patience and money. Cost of purchases are considered charitable contributions.

Lastly, did you send in your favorite recipes to Blake for the recipe book he is doing? Send recipes to Blake at blakekruse335@gmail.com.

See you all soon!

Susie Sutton, President

Kansas Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2023

The May meeting of the Kansas Orchid Society was hosted and held at the home of Doug Needham in Stillwater Oklahoma in conjunction with the Oklahoma Orchid Society. There was no official business meeting.

A tour and presentation of the intricacies of Doug's Greenhouse was the main event. Raffle and auction plants were available.

Picnic and social time followed. Extremely good time was had by all.

Our thanks to Doug, his wife Jackie and the members of the Oklahoma Orchid Society for their gracious hospitality.



Inside the 'cool' house

Orchid definitions

MERICLONE --

A technique of tissue culture removal utilizing actively growing tissues like the shoot tip, buds, etc. from the donor plant to produce new plants.

The resulting plant is an exact copy of the original plant used in the cloning process.



Oklahoma Orchid Society Show and May GPJC Awards

Show Trophy: 'Orchids Kicks on Route 66'
Exhibitor: Brian Truong



Phalaenopsis Liu's Berry 'Trinity'
AM 81 pts.
Exhibitor: Jana Butcher



Phalaenopsis Walnut Valley Purple Pixie
'Molly Bender' AM 82 pts.
Exhibitors: Max Thompson and Bryon Rinke

Sarcochilus ceciliae
'Bryon Rinke' CCM 82 pts.
Exhibitor: Bryon Rinke



Phalaenopsis Brother Love Hero
'Max' AM 82 pts.
Exhibitor: Max Thompson



Kansas Orchid Society Annual Orchid Auction

at Botanica, the Wichita Gardens, 701 N Amidon St, Wichita, KS

June 18, 2023 @ 2:00 pm Free Admission



- **Open to public**
- Any member can donate plants for the auction
 - Please make sure they are pest free and labeled (even if NOID)
- All proceeds go to the KOS (and can be considered charitable contributions)
- Spread the word to your friends and fellow plant fanatics!

ORCHIDS IN THE WILD

Kathy Ethridge, Conservation Rep.

The genus *Spiranthes* encompasses a captivating and gorgeous variety of orchids, which exhibit an array of distinctive morphological traits. The flowers are typically small and white or pinkish, and arranged in a spiral around a central stalk, hence the moniker "ladies' tresses." *Spiranthes* is the most familiar orchid in Japan and has been cherished for centuries, even appearing in the Manyoshu, Japan's oldest extant anthology of poetry. For a long time, it was believed that the *Spiranthes* on the Japanese mainland constituted a single species: *Spiranthes australis*. However, while conducting extensive field surveys focused on Japanese *Spiranthes* specimens, Suetsugu came across several populations of an unknown *Spiranthes* taxon with hairless flower stems, on the mainland of Japan. The unknown taxon often grows alongside *S. australis* but blooms about a month earlier, thus leading to reproductive isolation between the two taxa. Given that *S. australis* is characterized by a hairy flower stem, the hairless individuals may represent an overlooked species. Consequently, Suetsugu and his colleagues embarked on a comprehensive and multifaceted ten-year study to determine precisely how these plants differed. Specimens were collected from various locations in Japan, Taiwan, and Laos.

By integrating results from DNA analysis, morphology, field observations, and reproductive biology, Suetsugu and his associates discovered that it is a cryptic species that exhibits a high level of molecular divergence, albeit with minimal morphological differentiation. The fact that the "common" *Spiranthes* is actually divided into two species is likely to pique the curiosity of the general public. The discovery of a new flowering plant species in Japan is considered an extraordinarily rare event since the flora of this region has been extensively researched. However, the new species reported here can even be found growing in commonplace environments such as parks and lawns. Some specimens used to describe this new species were collected from private gardens and balconies. This discovery of new species concealed in common locales underscores the necessity of persistent exploration, even in seemingly unremarkable settings!





Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



Take Advantage of your AOS Reciprocal Admission Program benefit this Summer

- Did you know that as an American Orchid Society member, you receive free and discounted admission to 345+ botanical gardens, conservatories and arboreta nationwide?
- It is YOUR passport to public gardens across North America!
- Download the list of participating gardens from the AOS website.
- Please be sure to read the guidelines to use the program benefits before visiting.

Upcoming Webinars



Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:30 PM EDT

Dendrobiums of New Guinea

Join Carol Klonowski, an AOS judge, as she takes to the jungles of New Guinea for a fascinating tour of orchids that grow nowhere else. *Member exclusive webinar.*



Last, but not least

RECIPE



NOTICE! - Orchid Society Cookbook

Remember Blake Kruse is creating a
Cookbook for Great Plains Region and
members of the participating Orchid

Societies. Please send your recipes and any stories

or anecdotes to blakekruse335@gmail.com.





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