

Key West Orchid Society

Newsletter

Jay Pfahl, President

Liza Bray, Editor

21 November 2021 Meeting

KWOS Meetings

The regular meeting schedule is as follows for 2021-2022:

19 December 2021

16 January 2022

13 February 2022

Orchid Fair: 11-13 March 2022

24 April 2022

15 May 2022

19 June 2022

KW Garden Club

Check with Garden Club on continuing meetings for potting, rooting, weeding, etc., and general clean up.

KW Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden

Check with the Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden regarding their schedule.

The first meeting of the KWOS since the beginning of the plague – 18 months ago – will be held at West Martello at 1:00PM on 21st November.

This will be our only meeting since February 2020, and we hope to see a huge turnout to welcome Quest Orchids, who will have a presentation as well as orchids to buy. There will also be a raffle.

Notices

There will be no Christmas luncheon this year, due to the lingering effects of the plague, but we will have a December meeting on the 19th. The board is looking at some sort of food service but it will be discussed at the November meeting.

The Key West Garden Club will have plants for sale before our meeting. The club's annual sale takes place 19-20 November, so put that on your calendar.

KWOS is planning an Orchid Fair from 11th to 13th March 2022. Now is the time to start preparing your plants for showing. Sign-up forms for the various tasks will be forthcoming at the January and February meetings.

This will be our first public fair since 2019 and we hope to get a very large attendance, from visitors as well as locals. To this end, committees are being set up to create publicity, accept and register plants for showing, and catering, as well as sign-up sheets for staffing on setup and show days.

For obvious reasons, dues were not collected last year, but we will be collecting dues for 2022, beginning in January 2022. The appropriate forms will be supplied at that meeting, as well as attached to the next newsletter.



The photo to the right is from Sharon Douglas, but she doesn't have its identification.

I am reprinting part of the April 2020 letter from Jay Pfahl, just to remind us of how our world changed since then.

Letter from Jay Pfahl

Hi All! I hope you are safe and well. I was on an orchid trip to Colombia when the world changed. I am stuck here, comfortably, for the foreseeable future.

I decided that I would send a letter to you all since we are all so busy.

I flew into Medellin on March 3rd and met my good friend José. We proceeded from the airport to the town of San Rafael and then descended to the river to a nature reserve called Campo de Manitiales. It has a great hotel. They have four different waterfalls, a hot spring and lots of primary forests at elevations of 1300 to 1800 meters.

*Each day we arose at five AM to get breakfast; get on the paths and then hike up, and up, and up. These forests are always wet and slippery. One of our first orchid finds was this *Maxillaria guadelupense* which we found hanging over the edge of one of the waterfalls, turns out it has never been found in Colombia before. The flower is about one inch wide.*

*We went higher on the river and at an even taller waterfall we found *Phragmipedium schlimii* in flower. This is a very rare slipper orchid and at this location there were thirty-four or so plants in flower growing on rocks; the flower is about 1 ½ wide.*

*José and I always get excited when we find a *Lepanthes*. I have no idea what species this is yet but it is amazingly pretty. The leaf is about 1" wide. So the flower is tiny!!!*

I will send more as time allows. Stay safe. I hope to see you all some day soon. The Colombian government is not saying when there may be more international flights. The good thing is we are safe and comfortable here.

Bogota only has 500 or so cases and they have taken it very seriously here. We are under a stay at home order with a \$1000 fine if caught outside your property. I have not been outside our apartment building since March 17th. The good news is that anything can be delivered, as that was the norm before the quarantine.

Bogota has 300 hospitals with over 7000 ventilators and they are hardly using any at this point. The entire country has 2900 cases and it goes up by about 100 a day, very steady but not a huge spike, like in New York.

So all in all, we feel safe and may not even hurry back even if allowed to, as Key West only has one hospital and forty ventilators.

AIR Hugs, Jay Pfahl

Jay was not able to return until September of 2020.

Notes from elsewhere

In June 2021, a rare Mediterranean orchid was discovered growing on the roof of an office building in the City of London. A colony of 15 small-flowered tongue orchids, *Serapias parviflora*, was flourishing on the 11th-floor roof garden of the Japanese bank Nomura.

It is not yet known how the plants came to be there but their seeds can be dispersed thousands of miles by wind. The species was first seen in Cornwall in 1989 but died out 20 years later. The orchids are typically found in the Mediterranean basin and the Atlantic coasts of France and Portugal.



