

# Key West Orchid Society

Newsletter

Jay Pfahl, President

Liza Bray, Editor

**Sunday, 21st April 2024 – 1:00  
West Martello**

## KWOS Meetings

21 April

19 May

20 October

17 November

15 December

## KW Garden Club

Meets Mondays from 9:00 to noon for potting, rooting, weeding, etc., and general clean up. Stop in to help anytime you have a free Monday morning.

## KW Tropical Forest /Garden

Volunteers meet at the nursery every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 to 12 for propagation and to clean up the Garden. Come in and help anytime you can.

## Redland International Orchid Festival

17- 19 May 2024

Fruit & Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Avenue

Redland, Fl. 33031

The KWOS will hold its April meeting on Sunday, 21st April 2024. José Exposito, founder of Soroa Orchids, will present “An Orchid Survival Guide”.

José is a Senior judge of the American Orchid Society, past President of the Coalition for Orchid Species, and Vice President of the Redland Orchid Growers, the hosts and organizers of the largest International Orchid Festival taking place annually in the USA. He lectures on orchid growing and hybridizing all over the world including the past World Orchid Conferences in Rio de Janeiro and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Born in Cuba, his love and passion for plants and orchids has blossomed to over 30 years of growing, developing, and becoming one of the world's leaders in the orchid industry today.

There will be a raffle, and plants for sale. The meeting starts at 1:00PM; but get there early for raffle tickets, socialising, and looking at members' plants.

## March Orchid Fair

We were fortunate this year to have ten vendors including Ten Shin Orchid Nursery who came from Taiwan – a first! Ecuagenera from Ecuador returned for their second year; Orchids 365, who supply orchid accessories and gifts, also came back for a second time. Long term supporters of the KWOS include Mac's Orchids, Carlos of OFE, Quest Orchids, Jim N I, and Soroa. This year we introduced a members-only sale hour before the actual fair opening, which turned out to be very successful.

The display of members' plants in the Bird Cage was stunning, thanks to Marina Hightower's excellent sense of design. There were one hundred more votes for best in show this year than last.



*Jay Pfahl, President of the KWOS, presenting the Best in Show plaque to Leigh Coolidge*

We also introduced another innovation this year in purchasing radio spots on the three local stations. Although the numbers are not yet in, we will be looking at doing this again for future fairs.

## Election

The election for the new Board will take place at the April 21st meeting. The slate is listed below.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2024 Ballot

Entire slate

- President:  Jay Pfahl  
First Vice President:  Leigh Coolidge  
Second Vice President:  Sharon Douglas  
Recording Secretary:  Connie Kirkland  
Corresponding Secretary:  Liza Bray  
Treasurer:  Frank Smith  
Plant Chairman:  Rochelle Eannarino

Write-in Candidate:  \_\_\_\_\_



*Bc Golf Green Hair Pig*

## May Meeting

As our May meeting date falls on the last day of the Redlands International Orchid Festival, we are looking into a possible KWOS trip. We will send da sign-up sheet if we can arrange transport.



*Cattleya hybrid*

## Collaboration with the Key West Tropical and Botanical Garden

Here is the first announcement of our proposed joint effort with the Botanical Garden. This project has the possibility of being the most significant venture the KWOS has ever undertaken and we would very much like to see a large turnout of KWOS members to stress our commitment to this joint effort.

While we are still in the early planning stages, this effort is aimed at the conservation and propagation of indigenous orchids in South Florida and the Caribbean basin.



# Toppino Nature Chapel



**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**TIME 1:00 PM**

**SPEAKER**

**Leigh Coolidge - Vice President**

**Key West Orchid Society**

**TOPIC:**

**"To Save an Orchid"**

**Introduction to the Orchid and Botanical Garden Society's joint venture to conserve, preserve, and protect Florida Key's Native Orchids**

**Admission: \$5 pp non-members/Society Members FREE**

Sponsored in part by:



**5210 College Road, Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 296-1504 / [www.keywest.garden](http://www.keywest.garden)**

The Key West Botanical Garden Society, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation. Donations are deductible under the Internal Revenue Service Code.

The Garden is publicly owned and operated as a passive, natural resource-based public outdoor recreational site.

"Friends of Key West Orchid Society".

It is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1505314023598455>

You can request to join and will be admitted by the moderator (Leigh)

Website: [www.keywestorchidsociety.org](http://www.keywestorchidsociety.org) and Facebook