

Key West Orchid Society

Newsletter

Jay Pfahl, President

Liza Bray, Editor

Sunday, 16th April 2023

1:00PM

West Martello

KWOS Meetings 2023

16 April

21 May

18 June

Summer meetings to be decided

KW Garden Club

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

KW Tropical Forest & Botanical 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

19-21 May 2023

Fruit and Spice Park
Redland, Florida

The April meeting of the KWOS will present Mark Margolis of Mark's Catasetums in Miami. Mr Margolis was born in Brooklyn and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin. After gaining a masters' degree from Barry University, he taught Science in the Miami Dade County public schools for over 30 years.

He was introduced to orchids by Phyllis Lerner, who made the famous cross *Catasetum Raymond Lerner*, and while touring with Jones & Scully, he fell in love with this group.

Decades later, his interest in catasetums is as strong as ever. Mr Margolis is a backyard grower in Kendall and has received over 80 awards for his plants. He has over 600 plants from this family.

An aside for members who have only been interested in orchids for the past thirty years: *Jones and Scully's orchid nursery "Orchidglade" led the field away from cut flower production to hybridizing orchids for the orchid hobbyist. By the 1970's when wearing orchid corsages fell out of favor, Orchidglade fully transitioned to a new world where people didn't wear orchids, they grew them in pots and baskets in backyard shade and greenhouses and on windowsills in their homes. It was known worldwide as the source of the finest orchids. Sadly it all came to an end in August 1992 thanks to Andrew, utterly destroying their greenhouses and growing facilities. However, many of their hybrids are still being grown in Taiwan.*



Paphiopedilum Vanguard, voted Best in Show

There will be plants for sale and there will be a raffle.

Key West Orchid Fair

Our 2023 Orchid Fair was held 3 – 5 March at West Martello. Members brought plants in for display on Thursday, 2nd March, and all were duly entered into our display system.

We had five new vendors this year, Ecuagenera, Jim-N-I Orchids, Just One More Orchid, Orchids 365, and Kazumi Garden.

Right now we have interest from four additional vendors for next year's fair. Vendors this year were very happy with their sales and have committed to coming next year.

One of the major hindrances to becoming a vendor here in March is the outrageous cost of hotel rooms. To this end, members of the board have made guest rooms available to our vendors. As we have known most of them for years, it is more like having an old friend visit. Next year we will be looking for guest rooms for our additional vendors.

Frank Smith, who manned the front desk and membership sales, and Connie Kirkland, who ran the raffle, both estimated more than 250 people per hour. We believe this is a significant advance on attendance over last year.

Members' Plants

This year, we had access to the Bird Cage, and Marina Hightower was responsible for designing and placing the most attractive display of the magnificent members' orchids. The display was so beautiful that many of the fair attendees, when asked to vote on their favourite, were unable to make a choice. So, there were more than five votes for all the orchids in the fair. In all, more than 1700 votes were cast in choosing the best orchid in the show.

The *Best in Show*, now named the *Florence Bousquet Award*, went to Jay Pfal's Paphiopedilum *Vanguard*. The award is named after our past president who sadly died earlier this year. She was a well-known figure in the Keys, having run a restaurant with her late husband on Sugarloaf, and then working for years as banquet manager at the Holiday Inn. After many losses, orchids became her passion and she won multiple AOS awards for them.



Florence Bousquet

Food

While we were very sad to have lost our food truck from last year, Kathy and Tom Buckard did an admirable job of running the food sales, which more than broke even! In the future, we would like to get another food truck, freeing up space for more vendors.

Sharon Douglas, chair of the event, has been working since the close of the fair in 2022, and has wrought major changes, from having modular display units built, to simplified systems, which hugely contributed to the success of the fair. Working with members of the KW Garden Club, she has been able to improve innumerable aspects, from display to operating systems. By so doing, she has eased the burdens on the volunteers.



V. Florence Bousquet
(Fuchs Orchids)

As usual, one of our major problems is storage space: our new modular systems, as good as they are, need to be stored some place. If you have any extra space – a premium, we know – please volunteer.

Bylaws

The Board of Directors of the Society are proposing that the current by-laws of April 2019 be revised to provide a more current and flexible framework for the Society to operate under as well as providing a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities of the Directors.

The revisions are posted in the **Information Center** on our website. An email vote is required so that we have a record of who has voted, and to validate the quorum requirement.

Votes will be accepted up to our next monthly meeting on April 16th, so please find a few minutes to give this some thought and vote.

Redlands

After listening to a horror story about a charitable organisation driving vans, the board has decided that liability laws have numbered the days of KWOS hiring two vans and driving up to Redlands: it cannot happen in the future.

That said, we will investigate the possibility of hiring a fully insured bus to go to Redlands, and the feasibility will be determined by how many members sign up. The April meeting will be the only chance to do this.

February Meeting

Arthur Chadwick, noted cattleya grower in the Richmond, Virginia area, was our speaker for the February meeting, and gave us an in-depth look at his favourite orchids, cattleyas. Since the first discovery of *c. labiata*, in South America in the early nineteenth century, they have become the layman's idea of an orchid, and their popularity has never lessened.

The second large flowered cattleya *c. mossiae*, wasn't discovered until 1836. But by mid-century seven different varieties of large flowered cattleyas were being imported to Britain, and noted gardeners, employed by the aristocracy, learned methods of propagation necessary to feed the growing market for the blooms. Chadwick and Son Orchids was founded in 1989, and has since become one of the best-known cattleya growers in the country.

The remainder of the February meeting was devoted to the upcoming orchid fair, begging for volunteers, and outlining procedures for submitting plants for show, plants for sale, times for submission, submission forms, and sign-up sheets.



Mac's Orchids at Fair



Three different Vandas that have one parent in common



Vice president Leigh Coolidge awarding Best in Show to president Jay Pfahl.



One of the workshops in the Butterfly Garden



Raffle desk at entrance of fair

