

Key West Orchid Society

Newsletter

Jay Pfahl, President

Liza Bray, Editor

Sunday, 19th January 2025 – 1:00 West Martello

KWOS Meetings

19 January

16 February

28 February - 2 March Orchid Fair
West Martello

16 March

20 April

16 May - Trip to Redland

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.

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

17- 19 January 2025

Miami Dade County Fair Expo
Center

10901 SW 24th Street
Miami, FL 33165

The first meeting in 2025 of the KWOS will be back at West Martello. Our speaker will be Jason Downing, PhD, of Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and Director of the Million Orchid Project.

This project is well underway at Fairchild, including a converted school bus, which has been made into a traveling orchid lab. A STEM project, it goes to various schools, demonstrating to students the propagation of orchids, and its aim is to return a million Florida and Caribbean basin orchids to compatible habitats in South Florida.

Currently, our joint project with the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanic Gardens is in its nascent stage, but with over 1000 seedlings of native South Florida/Caribbean Basin orchids growing at Fairchild, it bodes well for the future ability for these seedlings to be planted into their native habitat, thus ensuring their continued existence.

December Meeting

Lynn Bentley-Kemp, PhD, retired professor of photography at the University of Rochester, and latterly at the College of the Florida Keys was our speaker. She started out in analogue photography, using film and SLR cameras, noting that digital photography was much easier, in that entire rolls of film were no longer necessary, although she uses both in her work today.

She gave us many tips for orchid photography, but that the most important were the quality of the light, the focus or sharpness, and the composition or design of the shot. The use of backlighting can provide so many additional variations, that it would take a photographic encyclopaedia to list them all.



Dr Lynn Bentley Kemp acknowledging Kitty Somerville's Bc Mary Dodson (C schilleriana x B nodes) as First place members' choice

Dr Bentley-Kemp now uses an iPhone 15 and noted different apps available in adding drama to photographs. She demonstrated composite photographs that she created with layout applications, using different photos in quadrants, then using an overlay of the main photo.

Some of the apps she recommends are Snapseed, Histogram, Juxtaposer, and Layout. All these apps are available for the iPhone but require work to learn to use them properly. Even so, the iPhone alone has great range, but again one must learn to use them. Yes, it is point and shoot, but for outstanding photos, you must do your homework.

As for the members' plants, Dr Bentley-Kemp's first choice as a species was Jay Pfahl's New Guinea dendrobium, while Pam Van Soest's cattleya was the best hybrid. But the member's choice was Kitty Somerville's Bc Mary Dodson (C Schilleriana x B nodosa).

Asked about the best possible equipment for orchid photography, the answer is, as always, the one you have with you.

After the meeting, members first chose their Christmas gift plants, and then enjoyed a sandwich and salad lunch from Goldman's Deli in the gazebo outside the chapel.



Cattleya (Pam van Soest)

Future Meetings

The February meeting will be here at West Martello

Orchid Fair

Plans for the Orchid Fair are surging ahead, and as usual, we will need volunteers to fill all the various tasks essential to putting on an event of this sort. Sign up sheets will be on hand at the next meeting in February.

Tamiami International Orchid Festival

While there is no KWOS sponsored trip up to the Tamiami International Orchid Festival, there might well be private interest in such a trip.

If you are interested in going to the festival, please email me at lizabray@mac.com and I will try to put together those interested.

"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 and Facebook

All Memberships Are Renewable on January 1

Membership Application- 2025

Please Print LEGIBLY! Especially your email address. Sending the monthly newsletter via email saves KWOS time and \$\$\$\$\$\$.

Please fill out this form and mail with your check payable to 'KWOS' (\$35 for an individual or \$55 for a family household), to:

**Leigh Coolidge
28568 John Silver Rd.
Little Torch Key, FL 33042**

or bring it to the next meeting.

Questions? - contact us at *keywestorchidsociety@gmail.com*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (LEGIBLY PLEASE!)

Phone: _____

Circle one: New Member Renewal Update

Rc'd by _____ Date _____ Check _____ Cash _____