

Southern Tier Orchid Society

Executive Board

President

John Zygmunt 607-798-1861 ziggy798@msn.com

Vice President

Carol Bayles 607-275-9090 cjb4@cornell.edu

Treasurer

Jane Trey 607-724-5358 jtrey@stny.rr.com

Secretary

Linda Mandeville 607-227-1563 |rmandeville@stny.rr.com

AOS Representative

Pete O'Connell 607-423-1202 petermoconnell@yahoo.com

Members-at-large

Anne (Tinker) Quain 607-797-1383 anneetinker@yahoo.com

Sharon Voorhees 607-739-7898 sassvoor@gmail.com

Ben Cabot 607-723-1746 bcabot@gmai1.com

Newsletter & Membership Linda Mandeville 607-227-1563 Irmandeville@stny.rr.com

Show Chair Anne Quain Web Page

http://www.storchidsociety.com/

May 2018 NEXT MEETINGS:

May 20, 2:00 First United Methodist Church
Meeting is Downstairs for repotting!

** June-August: Summer hiatus

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss our May meeting: ** REPOTTING CLINIC!! ***

**Note: we will meet <u>downstairs</u> for the repotting clinic, so please use the rear entrance and parking lot!

Meeting NOTES

This month's meeting will be our annual repotting clinic, where members will be demonstrating how to repot, mount and divide orchids of all types!

Meeting location: May 20th, we will meet <u>DOWNSTAIRS</u> in the First United Methodist Church (please use rear parking lot and rear entrance):

First United Methodist Church 53 McKinley Ave. Endicott, NY 13760

EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the 5^{th} day of each month to the editor.

If you have difficulties with the electronic format of this newsletter, please contact the webmaster at: southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com

President Message

Thanks to all who participated in the show at the mall. By all accounts it was a great success. We received many nice compliments from the public. The vendors did better than last year. The judges seemed to have a good time and we were fortunate to have signed up some new members.

Our next meeting will be on May 20 at 2:00 pm downstairs at the church. For new members, it is the First United Methodist Church on McKinley Ave in Endicott. Park in the back and go in the back entrance, downstairs to the left. By tradition, this will be our "repotting clinic". The purpose of the meeting is to demonstrate how to repot an orchid. It is not to repot member's orchids at the orchid society's expense. In the past, we have purchased bare-rooted seeding orchids which we pot up. Thanks to Pete O'Connell, we were able to purchase young Cattleya plants in 2 1/2 inch pots from a Hawaiian vendor at a reasonable price. The plan is to have members repot most of these plants into 3" pots with new media provided by the orchid society. We will also accept 1 or 2 overgrown plants from any member that needs dividing and repotting. Please limit pot size to around 6" as we will have a limited supply of media. One of the divisions will be returned to the member; the rest will be placed for a raffle. We will have two raffles. In the first raffle, all memberships (a family is a membership) will receive a ticket for one small repotted Cattleya orchid for free, compliments of the orchid society. Any leftover plants, plus divisions of plants that members bring in, will be in a second raffle. The cost of these raffle tickets will be \$2 each to help defer the cost of the purchased plants and repotting supplies.

We welcome our new members and hope you will continue to join us for a possible picnic in August and our auction September 16th where you can get some nice orchids at below retail prices.

John Zygmunt STOS President - 2018

Meeting Minutes for April

STOS President, John Zygmunt, called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and accepted to approve the March 2018 Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report:

Jane reported that we currently have a balance of \$9095.00 in our STOS account.

Committee Reports:

- Show Committee:
 - John reported that typically, we have 8-foot tables for our displays; however, this year, we will be supplied with 6-foot tables only. The 8' tables are an extra cost to the Mall, so this year, they will provide only the 6' tables. Anne notified Syracuse of the change.
 - STOS Display: Instead of having two tables together, at a 90-degree angle, we will separate our two STOS Display tables this year, and have one across from the other. We will need members to help with the display and also to bring in their flowering orchids to

include in the display. Plants bought at today's auction can be entered for judging at the show (but not cultural award)

- Set-up will begin at 2:00 Friday
- Register your plants before the show is recommended; forms are available on the STOS
 Website; otherwise, all plants must be registered by 7pm on Friday.
- We still need information table workers for Saturday and Sunday; please see Jane Trey to sign up
- Pizza and drinks will be provided for Member's helping with the set-up on Friday evening.
 Judges breakfast will be at 9am on Saturday (judges only please!). Members working at the Show may partake of the Phil's Chicken luncheon on Saturday at noon.
- Sunday: Raffle will be at 4pm, with tear-down and clean-up at 5pm.

Plant Auction Committee:

- O John explained that Auctions are our main source of income, along with member's dues
- o By request of the membership, miniatures were ordered for the auction
- Decision was made to have 50 plants at the April auction: 20 miniatures and 30 regularsized
- John already received some of the miniatures, and has reported/mounted them all!
 They're off to a good start!
- Special thank you to John and Peter for all their hard work in obtaining and caring for some extra-special plants for today's auction!

• <u>Program Coordinator</u>:

- o Wade Hollenbeck is scheduled for November; Krum is interested in speaking also
- Website Committee: Pete O'Connell and John Zygmunt
- Newsletter and Membership: Linda Mandeville
- Facebook: Ben Cabot and Marissa Cuthberson
- <u>Library Committee:</u> Jnx. The library "procedure" needs to be updated. Currently requires a "3-day notice" to check out a book. Should update to allow borrowing during meetings.

Old Business: None

Show Table:

Because of today's auction, there was no Show Table for today's meeting.

Raffle and Refreshments:

• We then we broke for some delicious, light refreshments

Auction:

After a short refreshment break, John explained the "rules" and procedures for the auction. He, with the help of Luis, conducted the auction. Thanks to Jane Trey and Lori Cabot, also, for tracking and tabulating the all the sales! Every plant was sold, and members went home with some lovely, flowering plants! Big thanks to John and Peter, who went above and beyond to make this year's Spring Auctions such a great success!

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Mandeville, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Jane Trey presented the treasurer's report, stating that we currently have an account balance of \$9,162.

Welcome, New Members!

The STOS would like to send out a special "welcome" to our New Members who signed up at our 2018 STOS Orchid Show! We welcome you all to our orchid-loving family!

- Marlena Amalfitano
- Pretti Agarwal
- Cheryl Caister
- Barbara Dessel
- Sadev Dhillon
- Betty Gianakos
- Annie Lam
- Mary Markovitch
- Sandra Oliveri
- Holly Peay
- Tamar Powers
- Laurel Shaefer

We hope to see you all at our May 20th meeting/repotting session!! ©

April STOS Orchid Show

Our 2018 STOS Orchid Show at the Oakdale Mall was a great success! Thanks to all of our members who worked so very hard to make this year's Show a success! We received many compliments from the public, the vendors, and the judges on our beautiful displays! Below are some photos of our 2018 displays:



Jane Trey & Linda Mandeville's display



STOS Display

May 15th Meeting—Repotting!!!

Be sure to attend the May 15th meeting for our annual repotting clinic! We will be meeting <u>downstairs</u>, so please park in the church back parking lot, and use the back door. Learn from our experts the proper way to repot your orchids! There will be demonstrations/instructions on how to repot, mount and divide orchids of all types! "Learn by doing"...and repot your very own orchid to bring home with you!

Potting Up Plants

There are two general growth habits among orchids - sympodial and monopodial - and how you repot them differs a bit.

Sympodial plants - cattleyas, dendrobiums, etc. - grow on a rhizome, with each plant maturing and blooming individually. Those that are currently on the plant that have already bloomed will generally not do so again, although there are some exceptions, most notably in dendrobiums. The time to repot is after blooming, when new growth has begun and you can see the "nubs" of new roots forming. In the case of monopodial plants like phalaenopsis or vanda, which only have a single growth that will bloom again and again, look for the emergence of new leaves and roots as your signal.

If the older growths of sympodial plants - those on the opposite end of the "chain" from where it is blooming - are old and very shriveled, it is safe to cut the rhizome and throw them away. The older pseudobulbs do serve as "storage tanks" for the rest of the plant, and still provide some photosynthesis, and this is true even if they have lost their leaves. If they are too far gone however, they may be removed.

If the plant is large, with six or more pseudobulbs with leaves, you might consider dividing it into two clumps, and the old "back bulbs" might sprout new growth, giving you another plant to enjoy or share. Never reduce the plant to less than three bulbs plus a new growth.

- 1) Water the plant well, wait 30 minutes and water it again. That softens to root mass and old medium. If the plant is already in Semi-Hydroponic culture using an inert medium like PrimeAgra, this may not be needed at all.
- 2) Remove the pot. If it's clay, give it a few good whacks and break it up. It's easier to pick of chards than to slide the plant out of the pot. If the plant is currently in Semi-Hydroponics, it will easily slide from the pot with minimal coaxing.
- 3) Remove as much of the old medium as you can, being careful to pry it away from the roots without breaking them. Don't worry too much of you do break them, just try to keep it to a minimum, and if you do break them, cut them off at the break. (I will sometimes trim roots of a healthy plant on repotting, as it tends to cause root branching, which helps get it reestablished.) If the plant is in Semi-Hydroponic culture, it is not necessary to remove the attached medium, as it cannot decompose.
- 4) Using a clean sterile blade or scissors, cut off any rotted or rotting roots. Good ones will be thick, firm, and white or green, although they could be discolored by the medium. Bad ones will be black or brown, soft and mushy, or if the velamen has already completely deteriorated, they'll appear only as a central "string." Try to untangle the roots as much as possible.
- 5) Once the cleaning and trimming is done, I find it useful to dust the root system liberally with cinnamon, which acts to dry the wounds and is a marvelous fungicide. The same is true of places where you cut the rhizome.
- 6) The pot you use should have room for 2-years' growth, which you can estimate from the plant size. If the plant has 1" between pseudobulbs, and you have four bulbs with a total length of about 3 inches or so,

then a five- or six-inch pot will do. Try not to overpot, as that can sometimes delay the reestablishment of the plant. For monopodial plants, select a pot that is about one- to two inches in diameter smaller than the total leaf span of the plant. (For some reason, overpotting does not appear to be as much of an issue with Semi-Hydroponics, but it still pays to stay within those guidelines.)

- 7) If you are using a traditional bark-based medium (even if that "bark" is coconut husk chips), place some crockery in the bottom of the pot for drainage. Those chards of the broken flower pot will work great. If you are using sphagnum, that is also a good idea, but if you're going into Semi-Hydroponics, do not add any filler to the bottom of the pot.
- 8) Presoak your medium. For bark, submerge it in hot water and let it stand overnight. I pre-moisten moss with hot water, and then wait until it cools before use. Moss must be damp, but not sopping. PrimeAgra gets soaked overnight as well, although hot water is not necessary. In all cases, I add one tablespoon per gallon of Dyna-Gro K-L-N and ten drops of SuperThrive per gallon of the soaking/wetting solution to spur on root growth.
- 9a) For sympodial plants going into bark, place and tamp down a mound of medium to the side of the pot, so it's deep at the side and shallow toward the middle. Place the "back end" of the plant right up against the side of the pot on top of the medium, with the newest growth toward the center of the pot. Add more medium to the pot, being certain to fill the spaces in-, around- and between the roots, tamping gently as you do. Continue adding medium until the rhizome is sitting right on top of it.

For monopodial plants, center a mound of medium in the pot, making it tall enough that the plant can be placed right on top of it. "Fan" the roots down and around the mound, and add and tamp medium until it's level.

Water the plant thoroughly, and let it drain. If you added stuff like K-L-N to your presoaking solution, use that for this initial watering.

- 9b) If using sphagnum, I prefer to fill the spaces between- and surround the roots before putting it in the pot, keeping the same up-against-the-wall or centered positioning, as appropriate for the plant. Make the whole "ball" about the size of the pot, and then stuff it in. The moss should be packed firmly enough to provide support, but not so tightly that it restricts air flow to the roots. Assuming you moistened the moss adequately, no "watering-in" is needed.
- 9c) If you are moving into Semi-Hydroponics, hold the plant in position and pour medium into the pot, shaking it gently to move the particles of the medium in between the roots. Keep adding until full. Fill the pot with water and let it drain, leaving the reservoir full.
- 10) Place the newly-repotted plant in "mild" conditions shady, humid, and warm and do not water it again until you see that the new roots are taking hold. Sometimes it is a good idea to place a plastic bag over the plant and pot to simulate a mini-greenhouse, if you feel that it will be difficult to provide the right conditions otherwise. If you prepared your medium correctly, and the plant is in a proper location, watering should not be needed for a few weeks, by which time your plant should be established and ready to go back to its normal growing conditions. If the medium does dry out in the interim, water sparingly, dampening, but not soaking the medium.

Courtesy of First Ray Orchids

Upcoming Meetings

May 20 ~ Repotting Clinic June-July ~ Summer break August 26 ~ Summer Picnic (to be confirmed!) Sept 16 ~ Annual Fall Auction!

<u>Please remember that these are tentative and subject to last minute change.</u>