



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

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## May 2013

### NEXT MEETINGS

**\*\*May 19, 1:00** First United Methodist Church of Endicott

**\*May 19: Annual Repotting Session!**

**\*\*Note:** Meeting starts @ at 1:00 p.m for Post-Show discussion

### IN THIS ISSUE

- **May 19<sup>th</sup> - Repotting Session!**

### May Program Note

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!



### EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributions, including pictures, to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed. Contributions must be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:southerntierorchidsociety@gmail.com)





### STOS Best in Class Winners:

- **Oncidium Orchid not for AOS judging** -- John Zygmunt  
Oncidium hybrids, including Equitants  
Best in Group Classes 45-52 (Rosette)
- **Masdevallia decumana AOS**  
Pleurothallid alliance - miniature (6" or less, NOT including inflorescence)  
Best in Group Classes 53-58 (Rosette)
- **Exhibit Table A -- CNYOS**  
Exhibits by orchid societies affiliated with AOS with plants arranged for effect  
Best Exhibit in Show (STOS Award, AOS Award for Excellence)

### STOS First Place Winners:

- **First Place:**  
**Epi. Crystal Valley X Immorataphyllum** - Donna Coleman  
Cattleya Alliance (Laeliinae) Hybrids, excluding Cattleya.
- **First Place:**  
**Pot. Hawaii Prominence 'America'** - Linda Mandeville  
Cattleya Alliance (Laeliinae); Cattleya hybrids, intergeneric hybrids, red.
- **First Place:**  
**Phalaenopsis - white w/ yellow markings** - Linda Mandeville  
Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance (Sarcanthinae);  
Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, White with markings.
- **First Place:**  
**Phalaenopsis - pink w/ markings** - Linda Mandeville  
Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance (Sarcanthinae);  
Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, Pink with markings.
- **First Place:**  
**Phal. Dou-Dii Perfume 'Orchis'** - Donna Coleman  
Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance (Sarcanthinae);  
Phalaenopsis hybrids and Doritaenopsis, Other colors with markings.
- **First Place:**  
**Dendrobium Love Memory 'Fizz'** - Linda Mandeville  
Dendrobium Alliance (Dendrobiinae); Dendrobium hybrids - Nobile types.
- **First Place:**  
**Dendrobium Aussie's Chip** - Peter O'Connell  
Dendrobium Alliance (Dendrobiinae); Dendrobium hybrids - all other types.

- **First Place:**  
**Dendrobium Ueang Pheung AOS OK** - John Zygmunt  
Dendrobium Alliance - miniature (6" or less, NOT including inflorescence).
- **Oncidium Orchid not for AOS judging** -- John Zygmunt  
Oncidium Alliance (Oncidinae); Oncidium hybrids, including Equitants  
Best in Group Classes 45-52 (Rosette)
- **Wils. Castle Issa 'Hilo Bay'** - Linda Mandeville  
Allied Oncidium genera: hybrids and intergenerics other than above
- **Masdevallia decumana AOS OK** - John Zygmunt  
Pleurothallid alliance - miniature (6" or less, NOT including inflorescence)  
Best in Group Classes 53-58 (Rosette)

**Exhibits:**

- **Potting Media for Orchids** - John Zygmunt  
Table 1 - John Zygmunt Educational
- **NYS Native Orchids** - Charles Ufford  
Table F - Native Orchids of New York

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## Potting Up Plants

[\(Courtesy of First Ray Orchids\)](#)

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 premoisten 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



